

FlyEarth-07

This Project enables a BBC micro:bit (mbit) to be used to simulate the experience of flying in Google Earth Web. The mbit senses pitch and roll in its accelerometers, and sends keystrokes via bluetooth to a laptop running Google Earth in a browser. Video at [xixx](#). Code is written in blocks in MakeCode.

The BLE-HID (Bluetooth Low Energy - Human Interface Device) Extension by Bill Siever is used. Thank you Bill!

The purpose of this project is not only to enable young people to explore the world, it is also to provide an example of how to develop good engineering skills for making things work with teamwork. It's more fun and less work. The principles of systems engineering are encapsulated in Deming's Plan-Do-Check-Act. Learn how to use it and everybody will have a much better day.

Installation Guide

If you are new to mbit, please familiarize yourself at makecode.microbit.org and make sure you can download and run projects first.

Required Hardware

1. BBC MicroBit v2 recommended, with battery box and usb cable
2. PC with browser and internet connection. Tested with Windows 11 on an i7. Let me know how Mac and Chromebook work.
3. Google Earth Web, not the Earth Pro or mobile apps. they may not recognize keystrokes or render 3D buildings.

Installation Steps

In these steps '-'>' indicates the expected result.

In a browser on a laptop:

1. Open <https://makecode.microbit.org/> -> Make code opens
2. Click the 'Import' button at center right -> Dialog opens
3. Click button at middle top 'Import URL ...' -> Dialog updates
4. Enter this url as 'URL of the project' <https://github.com/4-R-Forum/flyearth-07>
5. Click 'Go Ahead!' -> Project opens showing 'on start' blocks
6. Connect mbit to PC with USB cable -> mbit lights come on
7. Click 'Download' button at bottom left -> Project downloads
 - if download fails, remove usb cable, reconnect and try again
8. Leds indicate roll and pitch, when you tilt the mbit
9. Remove the usb cable -> lights go out

Connect PC bluetooth to MicroBit

1. Open Windows Control Panel
2. Select Bluetooth and Devices

3. Make sure Bluetooth is turned on at top
4. Press 'Add Device' button -> dialog opens
 - Click 'Bluetooth'
5.
 - Click 'show all devices'
6. When connected BBC micro:bit shows as connected
7. If Bluetooth connection fails, go to the [TroubleShootingGuide](#)

That's the trickiest part of setup. Once you are connected you laptop will remember BBC Microbit and connect again easily. If not, repeat all the steps.

Release Notes

1. First release of FlyEarth-07. In work 12/15/2025