



Merlin Pilot Center Quick-start Manual

v2.7 August 3rd, 2024



IMPORTANT NOTES – MUST READ

Please provide any/all feedback on the forum page set up for that purpose, and “PLEASE” avoid any discussion on that page, just issues/error reporting.

Changes in THIS revision of the manual are highlighted in MAGENTA.

1. **Run Merlin AND your simulator as Administrator.**
For MSFS users you **MUST** run all three i.e. MSFS, FSUIPC7 AND Merlin at the same “level”, either **ALL** as Administrator or **NONE** as Administrator.
2. Airframe/livery validated and if not a “known” BA airframe and livery you will be unable to start a flight. Aircraft used are tracked in the database and aircraft at present unrecognized but determined to be valid will be added to the database. If you have an issue with something that should be validated, note it in the Merlin forum area – “Merlin Known Aircraft”.
3. Users of X-Plane FlightFactor and ToLiss aircraft should additionally be aware that there are specific structures that need to be used in order to have their aircraft/liveries recognized. This link will provide the details;
[IMPORTANT for X-PLANE members using FlightFactor and ToLiss aircraft. - Announcements - BAVirtual](#)
4. PIREP#s are automatically assigned when a flight starts, as opposed to being shown when a booking is placed. The PIREP # will be visible on the ACARS page, and additionally will be shown in the Flight Log on completion of the flight.
5. The folder for Merlin files/documents is C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS
6. Three log files are created for each flight flown. These files are located in your C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS/FLIGHTLOGS folder.
7. Log files for a particular flight/problem can be found named as follows;
 - a. If Merlin crashed/was closed with a **flight active** a file exists named **activeflight_state.txt** – **DO NOT DELETE** as this is used to recover your flight.
 - b. Data files for flights are named
<PirepID>_flightLog.txt, <PirepID>_pirepPos.tx, <PirepID>_FDMLog.txt and
<PirepID>_TakeOffData

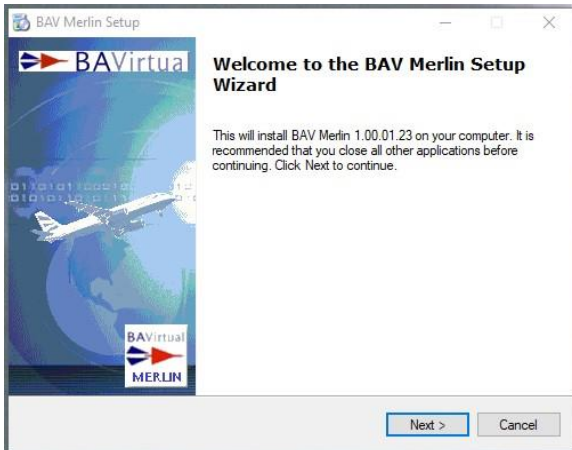
Merlin is “state” driven, meaning you cannot go back-and-forth between logical steps without completion of and information deemed a requirement to “proceed”.

The steps/states are explained below. The left hand TABS indicate availability and provide access to the various options within Merlin – if they are greyed-out the item isn’t currently available typically due to your progress in the Booking/Briefing/ACARS/Debriefing phases of a flight.

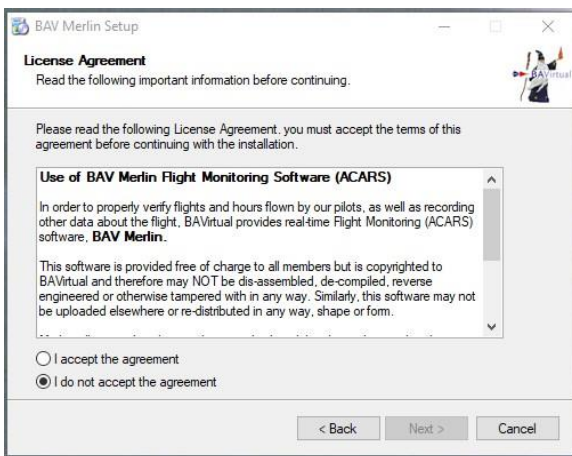
IMPORTANT LIMITATION for MSFS users, as of this release, MSFS is not successfully/reliably able to restart saved flights, this makes it very difficult for MSFS users to be able to recover from any sim or PC crashes successfully and reconnect to a Merlin flight in progress, for now you may encounter some lost flights, this is something MSFS/Asobo are working on and additionally the FSUIPC team are hoping their ability to save flights and reload them will be as useable in MSFS as it is in FSX/P3D.

Step 1 – Getting Started/Installing

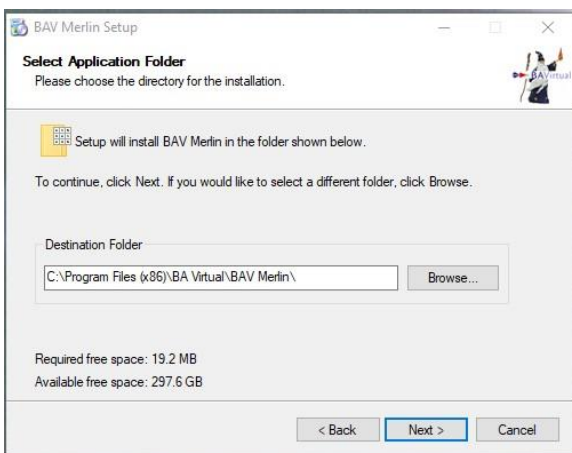
After downloading the Merlin installer, run the installer and you'll see this splash screen.



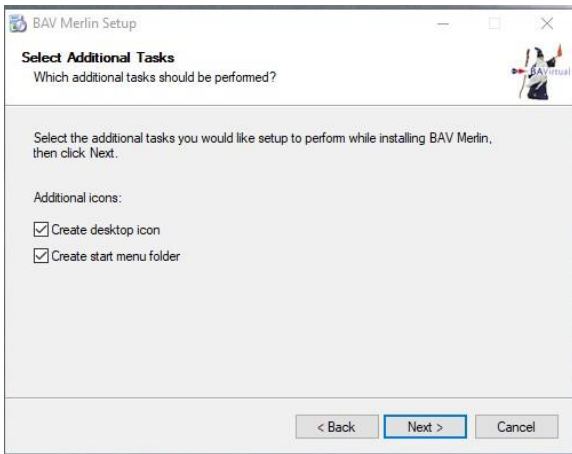
There is a license agreement to accept before you can continue with the install.



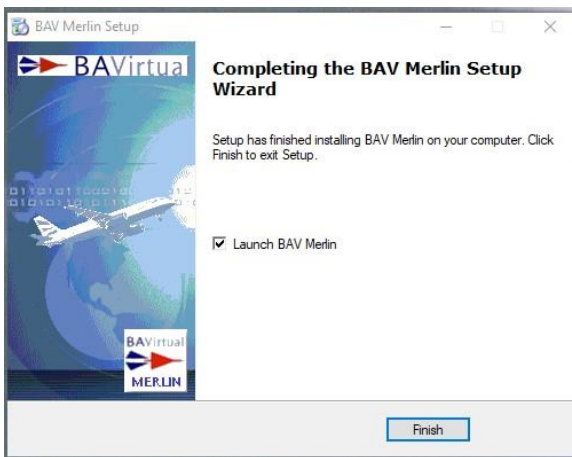
Then select the folder where you want to install Merlin.



Choose whether or not you want a desktop shortcut created and Merlin added to your start menu



Once Merlin is installed you can launch immediately if you wish.



Merlin, when first run, will create a set of files and folders in <username>\Appdata\Roaming\BAV_ACARS. This will include a config.ini file as well as some local databases, your BAV logbook and various other files.

ALWAYS RUN Merlin and your simulator as Administrator.

For MSFS users you MUST run all three i.e. MSFS, FSUIPC7 AND Merlin at the same “level”, either ALL as Administrator or NONE as Administrator.

Note: Merlin REQUIRES a version of FSUIPC (FS2004, FSX, P3D or MSFS) or XPUIPC (X-Plane) to be correctly installed in order for Merlin to communicate with the sim you are running.

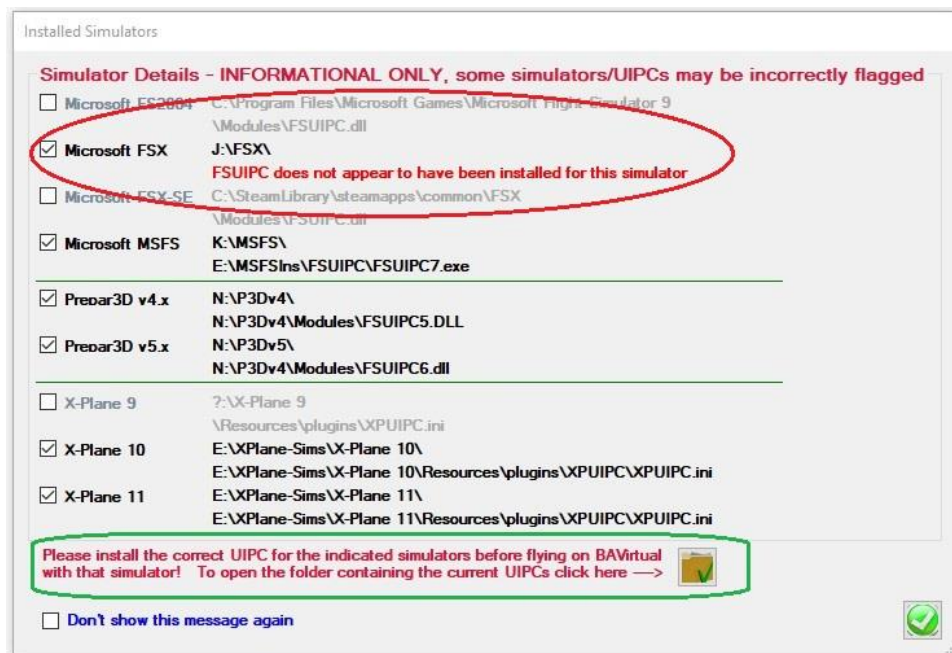
The installer loads the current versions (at time of release) of all UIPCs into a folder in your Merlin install folder, this is named “Connectivity UIPCs” and contains the current versions (at the time of this build) of each.

Step 2a – Pre-Login/Simulators Installed

When Merlin starts, you will be presented with an **informational screen** identifying the simulators detected on your system, and the associated UIPC versions, if detected, as shown;

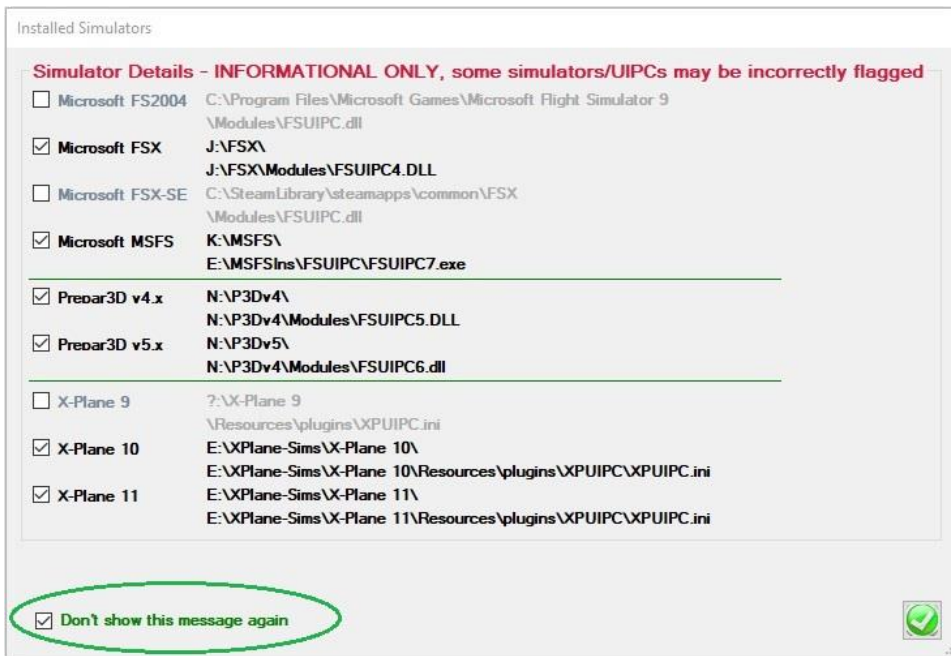


If the appropriate UIPC is NOT detected this will be highlighted in **RED** as shown;



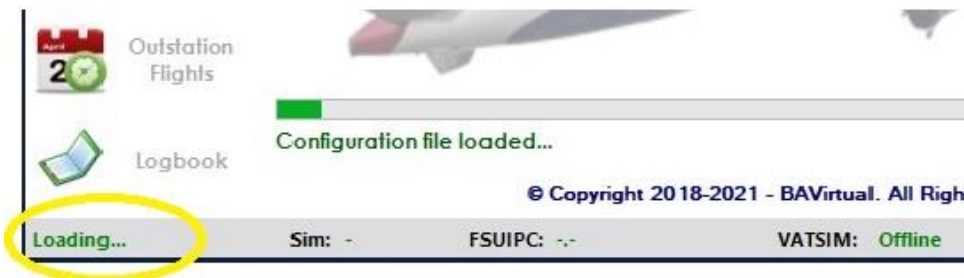
To assist in obtaining the various UIPCs, they are deployed with the install of Merlin and can be found by clicking the folder icon highlighted in **GREEN**, the path is <install folder>\Connectivity UIPCs.

There is a checkbox at the bottom of the screen to allow you to hide this message in future



It is defaulted to CHECKED and highlighted in **GREEN**, if your simulators appear to all be correctly configured, and defaulted to UNCHECKED and highlighted in **BLUE** if you have simulators that appear to be incorrectly configured. It's your choice to hide or show the screen on subsequent starts of Merlin.

You can at any time view this same information whether logged in or not, by clicking the bottom left area of the information bar in Merlin highlighted in **YELLOW**.



NOTE: MSFS is NOW included in the list, but there is not reliable/correct/consistent path to the product

FSUIPV7 is now a standalone application it is now able to be identified as to its location.

MSFS may still show as not installed, but this can be ignored if you know you have a good install.

This screen is for guidance/informational purposes only. In some circumstances the installed sim or UIPC MAY NOT be correctly shown, continue to login to check/confirm if Merlin has detected your sim/UIPC.

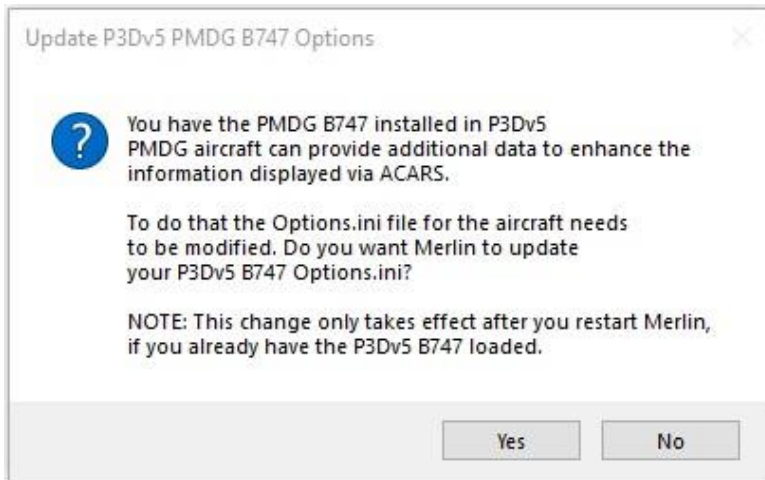
Step 2b – Pre-Login/PMDG Enhanced data reporting (Optional)

PMDG 737, 747 or 777 variants have the ability to provide enhanced aircraft data and this can be provided both in the ACARS/Flight Log and also the flightlog.txt file. PMDG require a setting be added to the <aircraft>_Options.ini file for the respective aircraft.

There is an [SDK] section in the <aircraft>_Options.ini file that needs to include a parameter “EnableDataBroadcast=1” for this enhanced data to be available.

If you want to turn this option on, Merlin will manage that automatically for you, for EACH aircraft you have in EACH sim it’s installed in.

You will see the following option displayed for **EACH AIRCRAFT/SIM** combination found;



It will identify the aircraft and simulator and you can choose to make the update or not using **YES/NO**.

IMPORTANT: This is shown **ONCE ONLY** for each newly detected aircraft/simulator option, if you wish to **CHANGE** your choice later you will have to either

- a) Manually edit the appropriate <aircraft>_Options.ini file yourself and add the lines
[SDK]
EnableDataBroadcast=1
- b) Edit the Merlin config.ini file and **REMOVE** the appropriate line that shows a particular PMDG aircraft has been processed e.g.
P3Dv5_PMDG-B747_Options=FALSE
The line above shows that the B747 was detected in P3Dv5 and the choice was made to **NOT** set the options on. You have to **DELETE** the line to allow Merlin to next time it starts identify that installed aircraft as **NOT** having been processed and allow you to change the state via Merlin.

Any newly installed PMDG aircraft will be discovered when Merlin is next run.

NOTE: There ARE the possibilities of false positives, i.e. seeing an aircraft that’s **NOT** installed, if aircraft have been installed previously and not fully/correctly uninstalled. Simply answering **NO** to the dialog is sufficient.

Step 3 – Login

There are several possible informational/error messages you MAY receive when first starting Merlin.

- 1) BAV Web site or Network Issue/Error.

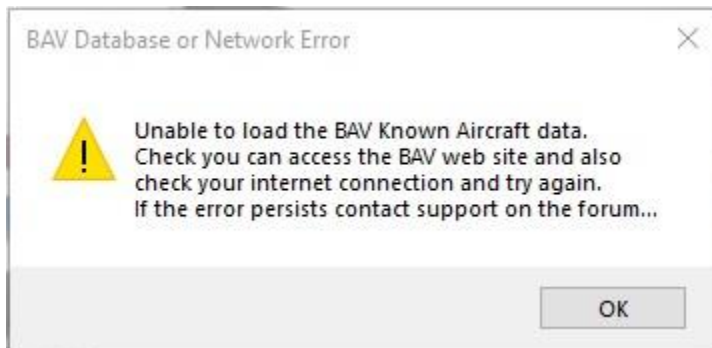
If the BAV server is down/unavailable OR your local network is unable to connect to the internet

- 2) Also, check your firewall settings allow Merlin to access the outside world.



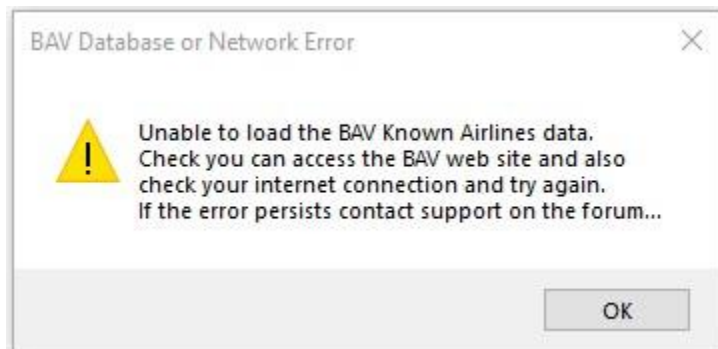
- 3) BAV Known Aircraft database Issue/Error.

If the BAV server is down/unavailable the Known Aircraft database is unavailable



- 4) BAV Known Airline database Issue/Error.

If the BAV server is down/unavailable the Known Airline database is unavailable



5) A newer release of Merlin is available and you need to upgrade before you can log in



If you receive this message, you can use the link to view the forum notes related to the new version and



also using the button you can download and install the latest version.

If you choose to download and install, you will be prompted for a location to save the installer file and then asked if you want to RUN the installer now.




NOTE: This same informational dialog will appear when you QUIT Merlin if a new version has been published while you had Merlin open.

Provided neither of the two issues above occurs you will be greeted by the Merlin Login screen shown below.

This is simple enough. Provide your <BAV ID> and <Password> and the "LOGIN" button will be enabled, see below, and so long as your credentials are correct, Merlin will proceed.



If you're unsure of your password and want/need to view the entry simply click the  to the right of the password entry and you'll see the field in plain text.



There's a check box option (Remember Me), to save you credentials if you wish.

You can also set Merlin for Auto-Login if you choose to save your credentials and it will automatically log you in with a 4 second countdown after you start Merlin.



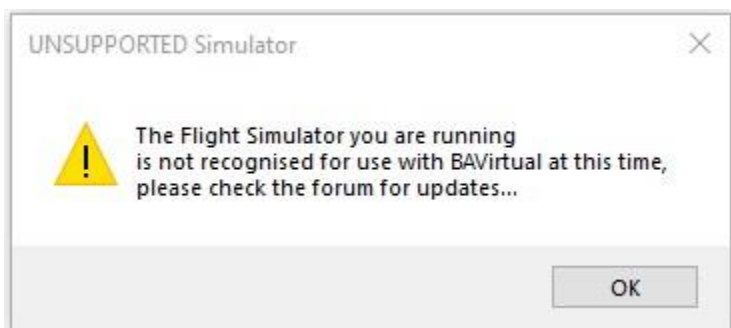
The 4 seconds allows you to turn off Auto-login if you wish and/or allows you to change the login options/Remember Me.

You can read the Release Notes at any time by clicking on the hotspot under the title bar release number



During login, the progress bar will show various “activities”, including loading your bookings, if any.

If you are attempting to run Merlin using a currently unsupported simulator/sim version, once Merlin gets to the simulator connection phase you will receive this warning, and Merlin will close once you click OK.

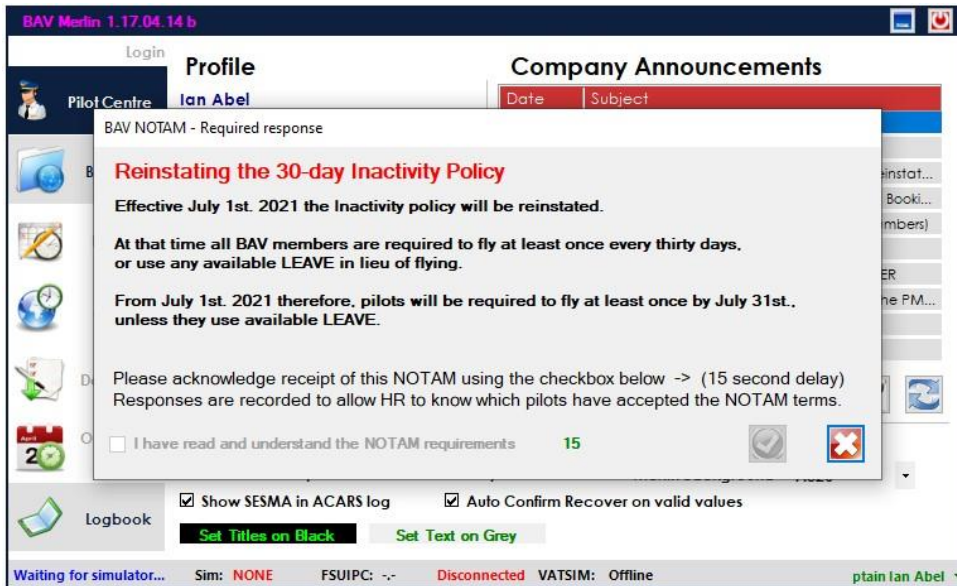



If you are successfully logged on, you will then move to the “Pilot Center” view.

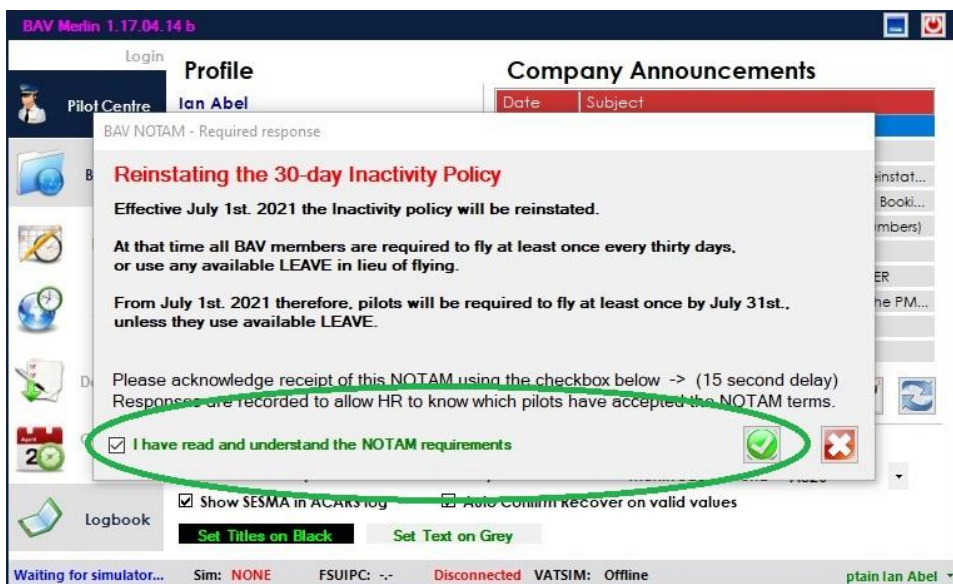
Step 4 –Pilot Centre, NOTAMs, Settings, Status bar, METARs/Stands and Logbook


NOTAMs with a required acknowledgement

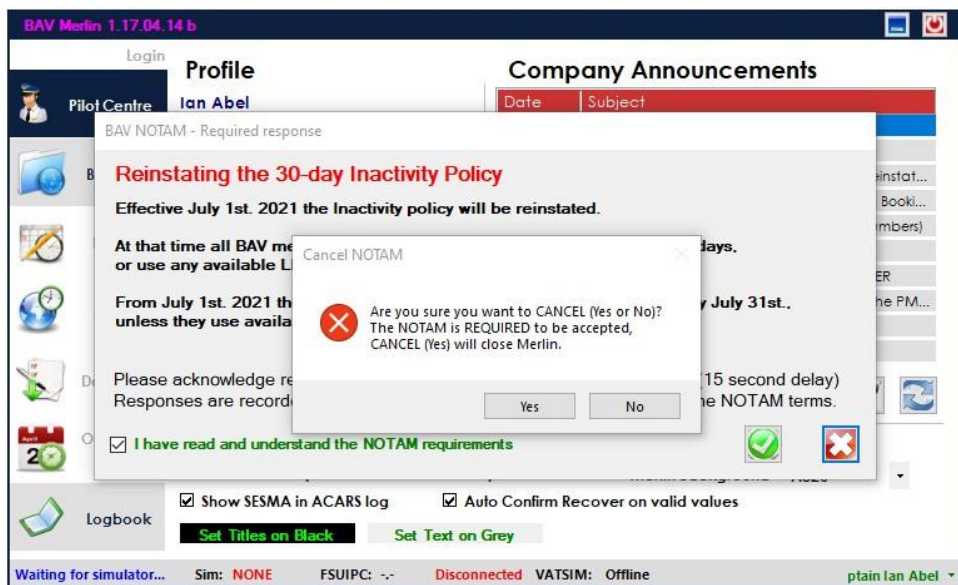
If there are NOTAMs that require positive acknowledgement from members, they will appear immediately after the login completes and will show as the example below. Such NOTAMs cannot be bypassed and will display with a 15 second countdown timer, to allow you time to read the NOTAM before being able to check the agree box and move on. Acceptance of the NOTAM is recorded to allow HR to know who has been informed of the content of such NOTAMs, which then enables them to target email members who may have not been flying and therefore missed an important announcement/NOTAM.



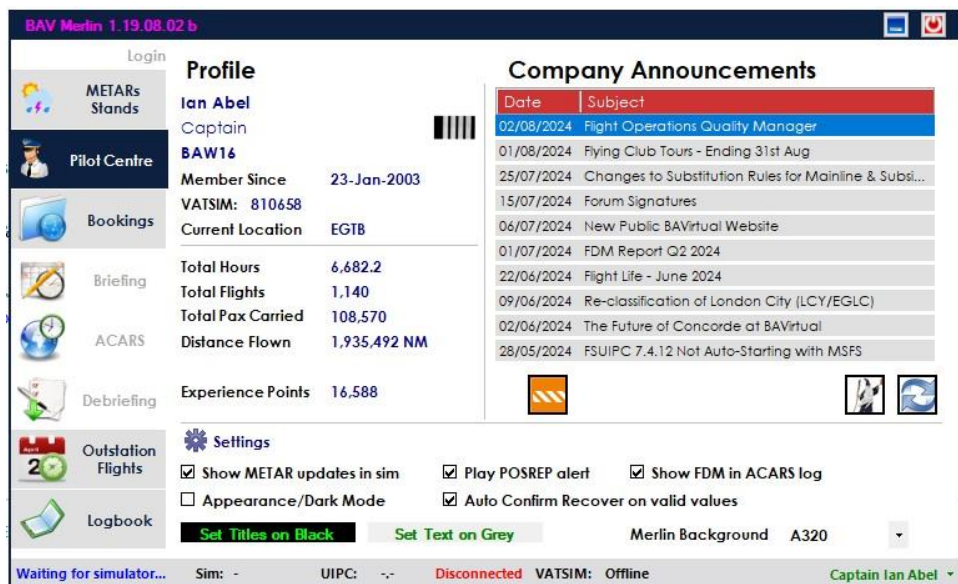
Once the timer expires the checkbox will be enabled and once that is checked the  button will be enabled to allow you continue.



If you chose to close the NOTAM using the  button you will see the following screen, and have the ability to return in case you misunderstood the NOTAM. If you CANCEL with the “YES” button Merlin will exit.



The landing page, once you LOGIN is the “Pilot Center”.



This page shows your profile details, available settings and Latest News/NOTAMs. Double-clicking an item in the “Company Announcements” will open that item on the forum in your browser.


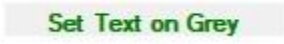
Latest News/NOTAMs can be refreshed using the lower right  button.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Merlin Pilot Center – Quickstart Guide can be viewed using the  button at lower right.

Settings

There are several Settings available, these allow you to;

- 1) Choose to show or hide METAR updates in your sim window. Updates are provided regularly for your destination or a diversion airport if you've declared a diversion. Default is SHOW.
- 2) Choose to turn OFF POSREP sound notifications. Default is PLAY.
NOTE: Without this you may miss a POSREP.
- 3) Choose to show FDM events in the ACARS live log, this will also display them in the message bar at the top of the simulator window.
- 4) Choose the Merlin appearance either with white backgrounds or "dark" mode.
- 5) Choose to automatically recover a flight without seeing the "Confirm" window if the sim settings are sufficient to allow Merlin to continue. Default is NOT Auto Confirm.
- 6) Choose a background for the login and various dialog screens. Several BA aircraft are available as well as the option to have NO background. Default is A320.
- 7)  - click to change the colour of Titles presented on a black background.
- 8)  - click change the colour of text presented on a grey background.

Status Bar

All status information in Merlin will provide feedback on the lower "Status" bar.

This includes the connectivity state of your simulator, the simulator version you're running, the FSUIPC version and connection status, and your sim network connection status.

The far right end of the status bar contains your NAME and is also a **drop-down menu**, providing access to various options. Several of these options are only available under various situations/phases of flight, see explanations below for details.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b interface. The top bar displays the title and version. The left sidebar contains navigation tabs: METARs Stands, Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Outstation Flights, and Logbook. The main area shows 'Live Data - BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB' with a timestamp of 22:17:37 z. Below this, flight statistics are listed: Flight Time (00:00:00), Duty Time (00:00:00), Flight Phase (On Stand), Distance Flown (--), Time To Go (02:35), Distance To Go (760.2 NM), and % Flown. Further down, altitude, heading, ground speed, fuel, and disconnect/pause times are shown. A 'Flight Log' table is visible, listing events like 'Instrument Lights On', 'Battery Master On', 'Recognition Lights On', and 'Parking Brake On'. At the bottom, status bars indicate connection to the simulator (MSFS2020) and VATSIM (Offline), along with the user name 'Captain Ian Abel'. A dropdown menu is open on the right, listing various actions: Cancel Flight, Complete Flight/File PIREP, Divert, File POSREP, Go Off-Duty(Resting), Log Out, BAVirtual Forum, BAVirtual WebSite, Report Issue, Restart Merlin/PC, and Exit Merlin.

Time-UTC	Code	Description
21:34:03	5005	Instrument Lights On
21:37:53	2002	Battery Master On
21:37:54	5006	Recognition Lights On
21:38:41	2001	Parking Brake On

The options include;

- Cancel Flight** – Cancels an active flight. There IS an “Are you sure” check/confirmation.
- Complete Flight/File PIREP** – available at completion of a flight if the automatic “completed flight” doesn’t occur.
- Divert** – brings up the Divert dialog. Only available when a flight is active.
- File POSREP** – allows you to file a POSREP, restarting the one-hour POSREP timer. Only available when a flight is active.
- Go Off-Duty (Resting)** – on long-haul flights, stops recording flight time and disable POSREPs. Toggled to **Return to Duty (Flying)** when activated. Only available for active flight over 5 hours long.
- Log Out** – returns you to the LOGIN screen/state. Always available.
- BAVirtual Forum** link – takes you to the BAV forum. Always available.
- BAVirtual Website** link – takes you to the BAV web site. Always available
- Restart Merlin/PC** – **used to exit Merlin with an ACTIVE FLIGHT, when you need to restart your PC. This preserves your flight so it can be restarted.**
- Exit Merlin**– closes Merlin, during an active flight, there’s an “Are you sure” check. Always available.

From the “Pilot Center” you can proceed to “Bookings” by selecting the tab available Bookings tab.

METARs/Stands

The METARs/Stands page is also available directly after login without your flight simulator being active. This contains the METAR for your last destination (useful when flying a return leg) and the METARs for the three London airports Heathrow, Gatwick and London City. Stand information for each is shown if available.

The screenshot shows the 'METARs/Stands' page. On the left is a sidebar with icons for METARs Stands, Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Outstation Flights, and Logbook. The main content area displays information for the last destination and three London airports.

Last Destination -> Wycombe Air Park (EGTB)
METAR: METAR Unavailable
Stand No: Unavailable
Handling: Unavailable

Heathrow (EGLL)
METAR: EGLL 022020Z AUTO 30005KT 270V340 9999 NCD 22/13 Q1011
Stand No: <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>
Handling: BA

Gatwick (EGKK)
METAR: EGKK 022020Z 23005KT CAVOK 20/17 Q1012
Stand No: <http://gatwickairport.com/flights/departures-results/?flight=BA>
Handling: Gatwick Ground Services

London City (EGLC)
METAR: EGLC 022020Z AUTO 27006KT 9999 NCD 24/14 Q1011
Stand No: 1-24
Handling: GGS London City

At the bottom, a status bar shows: 'Waiting for simulator...', 'Sim: -', 'UIPC: --', 'Disconnected', 'VATSIM: Offline', and 'Captain Ian Abel'.

Logbook

The Logbook page is also available directly after login without your flight simulator being active. Your local logbook contains details of all the BAV flights you have flown.

The screenshot shows the 'Logbook' page. It features a table of flight logs with columns: Date, Flt #, A/C, From, To, Dep., Arr., Hrs., Duty, Prep, and FDM. Below the table are search filters for Departure, Destination, Aircraft, From Date, and To Date. A yellow circle highlights four buttons: a red 'Reload' button, a magnifying glass search button, a circular arrow refresh button, and a circular arrow with a plus sign button.

Date	Flt #	A/C	From	To	Dep.	Arr.	Hrs.	Duty	Prep	FDM
2023-07-05	VFC01	C172	EGTB	EGTB	16:24	16:50	00:26	00:26	1293255	1
2023-05-24	VFC01	C172	EGTB	EGTB	15:36	15:38	00:02	00:02	1287759	
2022-05-25	BA9221K	B738	HRYP	FLKK	16:07	18:24	02:17	02:17	1234010	3
2022-05-24	BA9221J	B738	HUEN	HRYP	16:46	17:33	00:47	00:47	1233828	1
2022-04-26	BA9221I	B738	FKKD	HUEN	15:04	18:59	03:55	03:55	1229604	1
2022-03-30	BA9221H	B738	DNMM	FKKD	19:30	21:07	01:37	01:37	1224786	1
2022-03-30	BA9221G	B738	DGAA	DNMM	14:48	15:56	01:08	01:08	1224739	1
2022-03-29	BA9221F	B738	GFL	DGAA	19:29	21:50	02:21	02:21	1224621	
2022-03-29	BA9221E	B738	GBYD	GFL	15:12	16:31	01:19	01:19	1224585	6
2022-03-25	BA9221D	B738	DNKN	GBYD	15:48	19:53	04:05	04:05	1223935	1
2022-03-18	BA9221C	B738	LMML	DNKN	15:15	19:30	04:15	04:15	1222774	2

Search Options: Departure: ALL, Destination: ALL, Aircraft: ALL, From Date: 23/Apr/2009, To Date: 13/Jun/2024

There are **four buttons** on the logbook page;



to reload the Logbook from the server



to search after you've selected the various search criteria, and




to refresh the page, useful if you have done a search and then want to return to the complete list of flights



to resend a PIREP that appears to have not been uploaded on flight completion.



The  will ONLY become available if Merlin had detected a failure when filing the PIREP on completion of a flight and that flight is selected in the list. This will be “infrequent” and most likely on the last flight flown.

Date	Flt #	A/C	From	To	Dep.	Arr.	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep	FDM
2023-07-05	VFC01	C172	EGTB	EGTB	16:24	16:50	00:26	00:26	1293255	1
2022-05-24	VFC01	C172	EGTB	EGTB	15:36	15:38	00:02	00:02	1287759	
2022-05-25	BA9221K	B738	HRYR	FLKK	16:07	18:24	02:17	02:17	1234010	3
2022-05-24	BA9221J	B738	HUEN	HRYR	16:46	17:33	00:47	00:47	1233828	1
2022-04-26	BA9221I	B738	FKKD	HUEN	15:04	18:59	03:55	03:55	1229604	1
2022-03-30	BA9221H	B738	DNMM	FKKD	19:30	21:07	01:37	01:37	1224786	1
2022-03-30	BA9221G	B738	DGAA	DNMM	14:48	15:56	01:08	01:08	1224739	1
2022-03-29	BA9221F	B738	GFL	DGAA	19:29	21:50	02:21	02:21	1224621	
2022-03-29	BA9221E	B738	GBYD	GFL	15:12	16:31	01:19	01:19	1224585	6
2022-03-25	BA9221D	B738	DNKN	GBYD	15:48	19:53	04:05	04:05	1223935	1
2022-03-18	BA9221C	B738	LMML	DNKN	15:15	19:30	04:15	04:15	1222774	2

Searching can be performed using any combination of search options. The Departure, Destination and Aircraft lists are built from your flights, so will be limited to only those found. The date range is selectable.

Date	Flt #	A/C	From	To	Dep.	Arr.	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep	FDM
2018-01-19	BA8702	E195			16:31	17:50	01:19	01:19	444423	
2018-01-18	FC0116	E195			17:43	20:10	02:27	02:27	444323	
2018-01-16	BA9340N	E195			15:26	17:50	02:24	02:24	444046	
2018-01-15	BA9340M	E195			21:03	23:10	02:07	02:07	444037	
2018-01-15	BA9340L	E195			18:30	20:30	02:00	02:00	444018	
2018-01-15	BA9340K	E195			16:01	17:40	01:39	01:39	443908	
2018-01-13	BA9340J	E195			19:11	20:30	01:19	01:19	443745	
2018-01-12	BA9340I	E195			20:57	23:20	02:23	02:23	443620	
2018-01-12	BA9340H	E195			18:04	20:30	02:26	02:26	443593	
2018-01-07	BA9340G	E195			19:42	22:00	02:18	02:18	442763	
2018-01-05	BA9340F	E195			17:53	20:30	02:37	02:37	442740	

The logbook entries now contain an additional column on the right, showing the number of FDM events that occurred on a flight.

This is only for flights after February 1st. 2021 when the FDM reporting system was released.

Note: Avoid being “too specific” especially if you are including a date range, as you may simply not find matching flights.

If you double-click on a logbook entry you will see the flight details as shown below;

Flight Log Entry


Pirep # 1152082

Date	Flight#	Aircraft	From/To	Pax	NM Flown	Block Time	Depart	Arrive	Flt Time	Duty Time
2021-02-0	BA9902D	B738	KGCN - TNCM	184	2,858	05:53	18:20	00:13	05:53	05:53

Route: N0443F330 DCT TBC J76 SPS J58 HRV Q105 REDFN/N0439F350 Q105 BLVNS Q102 BAGGS Y290 SLUGO ULUBA1


Landing Data	Out Weight	Out Fuel	In Fuel	Taxi Out	Air Time	Taxi In	Network
-168 fpm 111 kts 2.35 g	75,747 kg	20,495 kg	6,035 kg	12 min	05:37	6 min	VATSIM 98 %

Show SESMA data

You can ALSO try and manually re-submit a PIREP using the  button in this window. Any PIREP can be attempted to be re-submitted in this way if it appears to not have been processed correctly.

If you RIGHT-CLICK on any Logbook entry it will open your Pirep on the BAVirtual web site.

There are two additional buttons on the Flight Log Entry screen that allow you to;

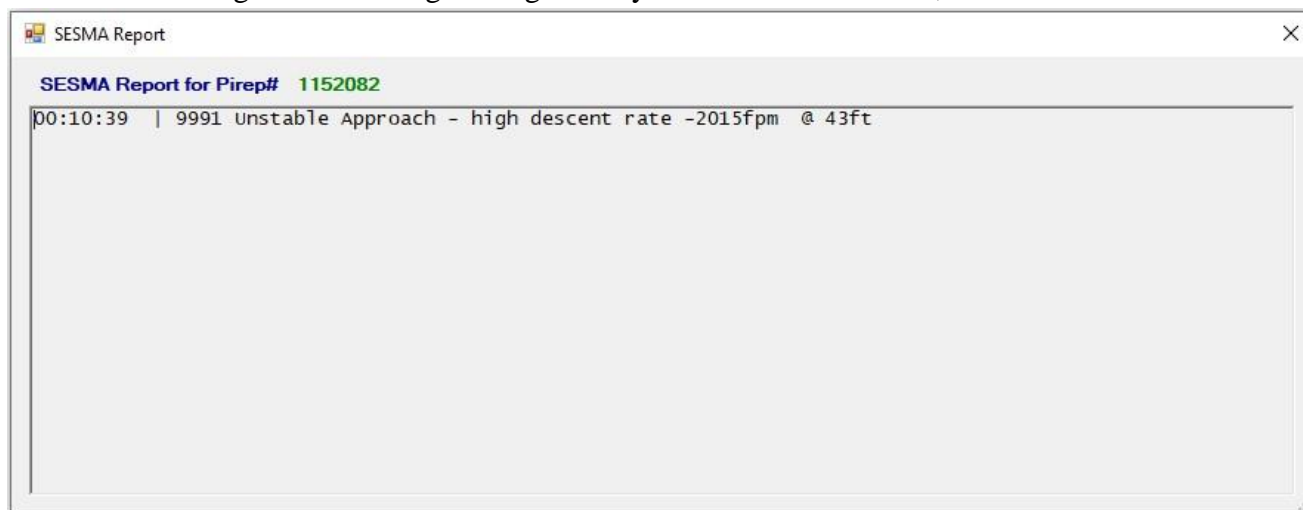
View the <pirepID>_flightLog.txt file created during the flight with the  which will display in a new window as shown below.

Merlin Pirep FlightLog

FlightLog for Pirep# 1152082

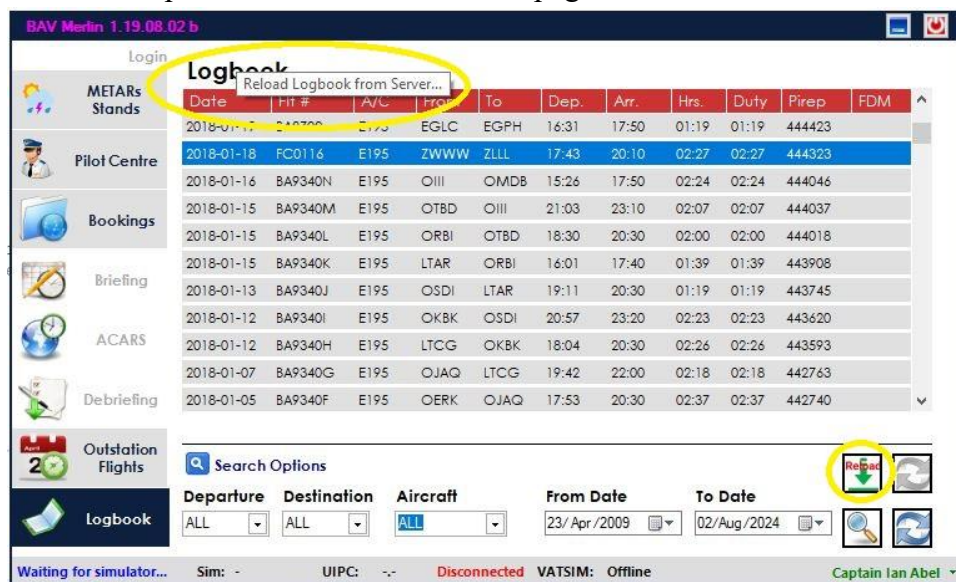
```
18:05:07 2002 Battery Master On
18:05:07 4008 Autobrake off
18:05:07 5000 Nav Lights on
18:05:05 1012 Flight Phase change from Cold and Dark to On Stand , Hdg: 210 , GS: 0 , IAS: 3 , FPM: 0 , Vis: 55.92 SM, Temp/DP: 6/3 , wind: 180/5
18:17:49 4008 Autobrake RTO
18:18:05 5001 Beacon Lights On
18:20:40 3001 Engine #1 Ignition/Start
18:20:40 1012 Flight Phase change from On Stand to Ready To Taxi , Hdg: 210 , GS: 0 , IAS: 6 , FPM: 0 , Vis: 55.92 SM, Temp/DP: 7/1 , wind: 200/7
18:20:40 1000 Logging Started -> BAVID: BAW16 Client: 1.15.02.02 Sim: P3Dv5.1 UIPC: 6.012
18:20:40 1001 Flight#: BA9902D Dep: KGCN Dest: TNCM Alt: TJSJ
18:20:40 1002 Aircraft: PMDG 737-800NGX WL British Airways virtual winglets
18:20:40 1003 Fuel: 20495 KG
18:20:40 1004 ---- Out Time ----> 18:20:40
18:20:40 1005 Lat: 35.96115 , Lon: -112.13546 , Alt: 6617 , Hdg: 210 , GS: 0 , IAS: 6 , FPM: 0 , Fuel: 20495 , CurrKG: 75747
18:20:40 1006 - FMC - V1/148kts - VR/149kts - V2/151kts
18:20:40 1007 Departure wx - Vis: 55.92 SM, Temp/DP: 7/1 , wind: 200/7
18:21:33 3002 Engine #2 Ignition/Start
18:21:42 1008 Lat 35.96115 , Lon: -112.13546 , Alt: 6617 , Hdg: 210 , GS: 0 , IAS: 6 , FPM: 0 , Fuel: 20485.59
18:22:08 5003 Taxi Lights on
18:22:10 5013 Runway Turnoff Lights on
18:22:30 9006 Paused - In Menu
18:22:51 9001 Unpaused
18:23:00 6001 Flaps 1' (0)
18:23:05 1008 Lat 35.96115 , Lon: -112.13546 , Alt: 6617 , Hdg: 210 , GS: 0 , IAS: 6 , FPM: 0 , Fuel: 20469.74
18:23:08 6002 Flaps 2' (1)
18:23:12 6003 Flaps 5' (2)
18:23:16 6004 Flaps 10' (3)
18:23:19 6005 Flaps 15' (4)
18:23:40 1012 Flight Phase change from Ready To Taxi to Taxi Out , Hdg: 210 , GS: 1 , IAS: 6 , FPM: 0 , Vis: 55.92 SM, Temp/DP: 7/1 , wind: 200/7
```

View the FDM log created during the flight if any FDM events occurred, also in a new window.



If your logbook appears to be corrupted, OR doesn't seem to match the details on the web page, you can reload the local logbook in three ways;

- 1) Use the hotspot under the "LOGBOOK" page title.

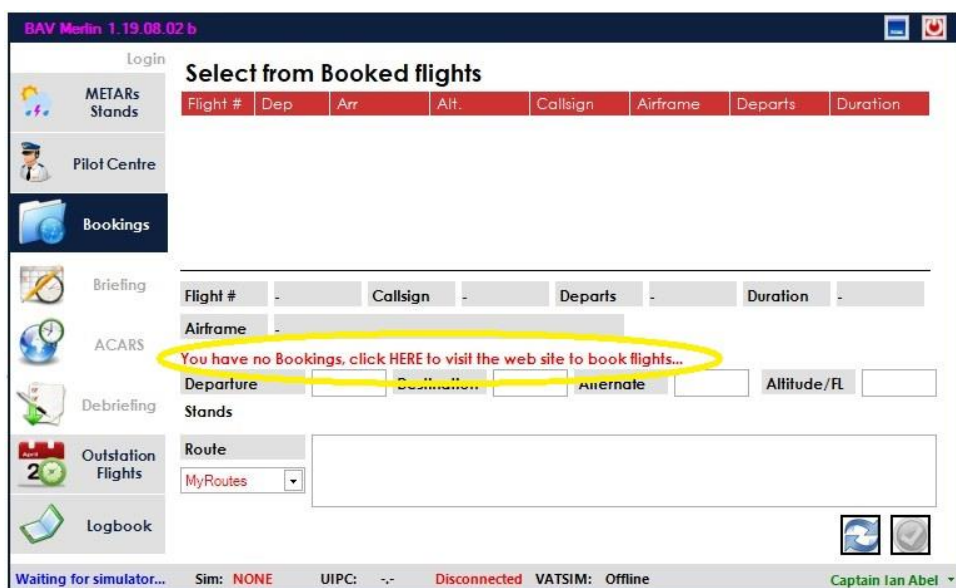


- 2) Use the RELOAD button in the lower right button group.
- 3) DELETE your logbook file named <pilotID>_Logbook found in the BAV_ACARS folder.

Step 5 -Bookings

The Bookings page.

Below is an example of the Bookings page if/when you have no bookings set up on the web site.



In that case you can easily access the web site for bookings by clicking on the line;

“You have no Bookings, click HERE to visit the web site to book flights...”

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Select from Booked flights

Flight #	Dep	Arr	Alt.	Callsign	Airframe	Departs	Duration
BA0113	EGLL	KJFK	KEWR	BAW33K	B77W	15:20	07:55
BA0308	EGLL	LFPG	EGKK	BAW308	A319	10:20	01:20
BA0324	EGLL	LEIB	LEVC	BAW248Z	A20N	14:00	02:35

Flight # BA0324 Callsign BAW248Z Departs 14:00 Duration 02:35

Airframe BA Mainline A320neo (G-TTN*)

Reminder: For scheduled flights, the Departure and/or Destination cannot be changed...

Departure EGLL Destination LEIB Alternate LEVC Altitude/FL

EGLL Stands <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>


Route N0453F390 MAX11F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT NARAK DCT GAI DCT LOMRA DCT ROCAN DCT PUMAL N859 BCN Z174 CORDA CORD1S

MyRoutes

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

If you have booked flights, you then see a scrolling list of bookings to select from as shown above.



You can refresh this list to see any added bookings using the  at bottom right.

For normal bookings you cannot change the Departure or Destination entries.

For “Flyins” you CAN, and there is a reminder providing that information. All booking details from the web site are imported into Merlin, so the alternate and route are already provided if they exist for the particular flight. These can be changed as necessary. Underneath the departure information, for a selected flight, you will see the stands used by BA at that airport, to help you position yourself at an appropriate stand/gate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You CANNOT PROCEED to the BRIEFING page until ALL fields are completed, i.e. **Departure, Destination, Alternate, Altitude/FL AND Route.**

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Select from Booked flights

Flight #	Dep	Arr	Alt.	Callsign	Airframe	Departs	Duration
BA0113	EGLL	KJFK	KEWR	BAW33K	B77W	15:20	07:55
BA0308	EGLL	LFPG	EGKK	BAW308	A319	10:20	01:20
BA0324	EGLL	LEIB	LEVC	BAW248Z	A20N	14:00	02:35

Flight # BA0324 Callsign BAW248Z Departs 14:00 Duration 02:35

Airframe BA Mainline A320neo (G-TTN*)

Reminder: For scheduled flights, the Departure and/or Destination cannot be changed...

Departure EGLL Destination LEIB Alternate LEVC Altitude/FL FL390

EGLL Stands <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>

Route N0453F390 MAX11F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT NARAK DCT GAI DCT LOMRA DCT ROCAN DCT PUMAL N859 BCN Z174 CORDA CORD1S

MyRoutes

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Even then, unless you are connected to a sim, you will NOT see the lower right  button activated.

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Select from Booked flights

Flight #	Dep	Arr	Alt.	Callsign	Airframe	Departs	Duration
BA0113	EGLL	KJFK	KEWR	BAW33K	B77W	15:20	07:55
BA0308	EGLL	LFPG	EGKK	BAW308	A319	10:20	01:20
BA0324	EGLL	LEIB	LEVC	BAW24BZ	A20N	14:00	02:35

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Outstation Flights

Logbook

Flight # BA0324 Callsign BAW24BZ Departs 14:00 Duration 02:35

Airframe BA Mainline A320neo (G-TTN*)

Reminder: For scheduled flights, the Departure and/or Destination cannot be changed...

Departure EGLL Destination LEIB Alternate LEVC Altitude/FL FL390

EGLL Stands <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>

Route N0453F390 MAX11F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT NARAK DCT GAI DCT LOMRA DCT ROCAN DCT PUMAL N859 BCN Z174 CORDA CORD1S

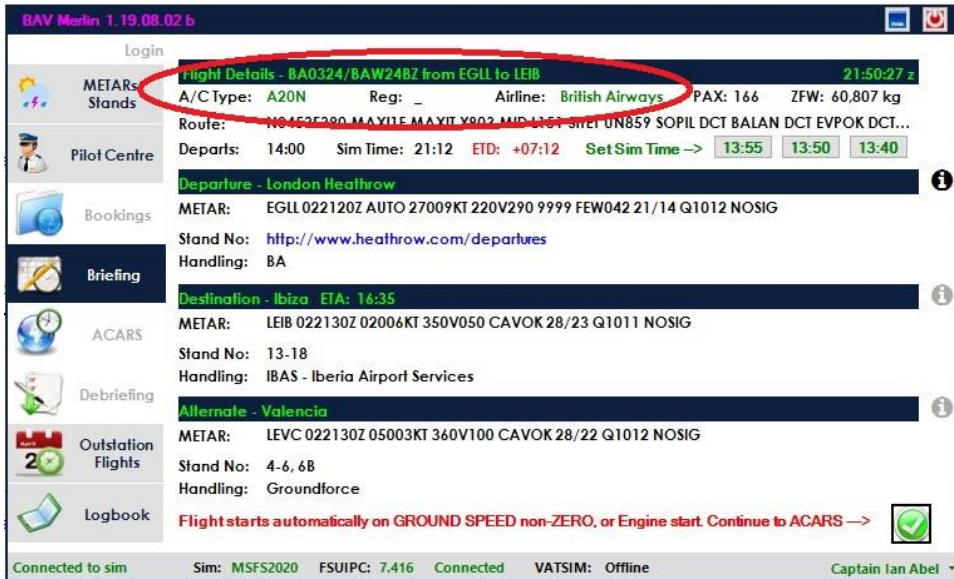
MyRoutes

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Once the sim is connected, the “Confirm Flight”  button will be available.

Step 6 – Briefing

The “Briefing” page.



BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Flight Details - BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB 21:50:27 z

A/C Type: A20N Reg: Airline: British Airways PAX: 166 ZFW: 60,807 kg

Route: N0453F390 MAXITF MAXIT Y802 MID L161 SITE UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT...

Departs: 14:00 Sim Time: 21:12 ETD: +07:12 Set Sim Time -> 13:55 13:50 13:40

Departure - London Heathrow

METAR: EGLL 022120Z AUTO 27009KT 220V290 9999 FEW042 21/14 Q1012 NOSIG

Stand No: <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>

Handling: BA

Destination - Ibiza ETA: 16:35

METAR: LEIB 022130Z 02006KT 350V050 CAVOK 28/23 Q1011 NOSIG

Stand No: 13-18

Handling: IBAS - Iberia Airport Services

Alternate - Valencia

METAR: LEVC 022130Z 05003KT 360V100 CAVOK 28/22 Q1012 NOSIG

Stand No: 4-6, 6B

Handling: Groundforce

Flight starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start. Continue to ACARS ->

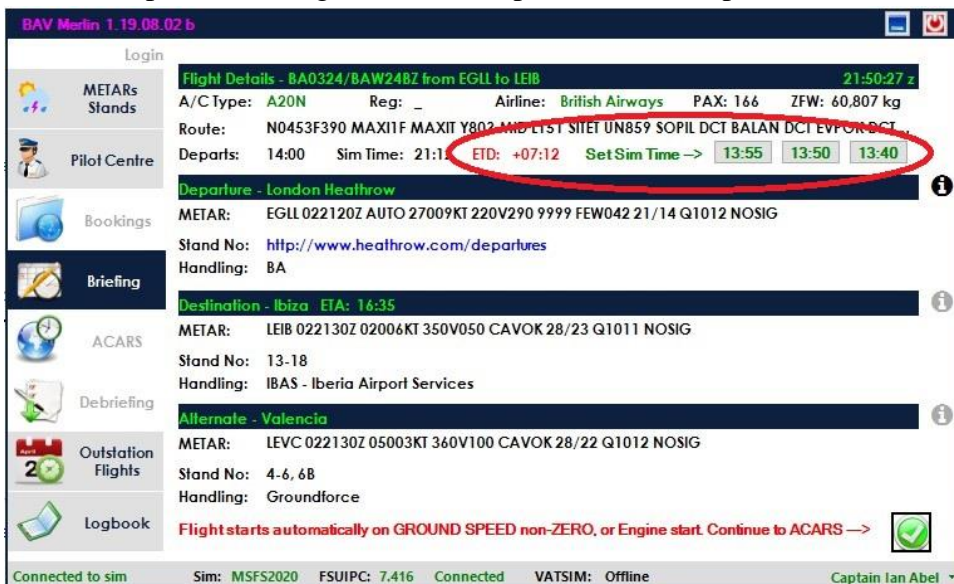
Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Moving to the Briefing page you will be provided with flight briefing details for you selected aircraft, Departure, Destination and Alternate airports.

Aircraft details are provided for the currently selected aircraft and are highlighted in **RED** for equipment not matching the required airframe/airline and **GREEN** for correct details. (see “Wrong Airframe” for details).

The departure time, current sim time and ETD offset from the flight departure time are provided together with buttons to allow you to set the sim for -5, -10 or -20 minutes prior to scheduled departure.

NOTE: At present setting the correct departure time is optional, this MAY CHANGE.



BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Flight Details - BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB 21:50:27 z

A/C Type: A20N Reg: Airline: British Airways PAX: 166 ZFW: 60,807 kg

Route: N0453F390 MAXITF MAXIT Y802 MID L161 SITE UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT...

Departs: 14:00 Sim Time: 21:12 ETD: +07:12 Set Sim Time -> 13:55 13:50 13:40

Departure - London Heathrow

METAR: EGLL 022120Z AUTO 27009KT 220V290 9999 FEW042 21/14 Q1012 NOSIG

Stand No: <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>

Handling: BA

Destination - Ibiza ETA: 16:35

METAR: LEIB 022130Z 02006KT 350V050 CAVOK 28/23 Q1011 NOSIG

Stand No: 13-18

Handling: IBAS - Iberia Airport Services

Alternate - Valencia

METAR: LEVC 022130Z 05003KT 360V100 CAVOK 28/22 Q1012 NOSIG



Stand No: 4-6, 6B

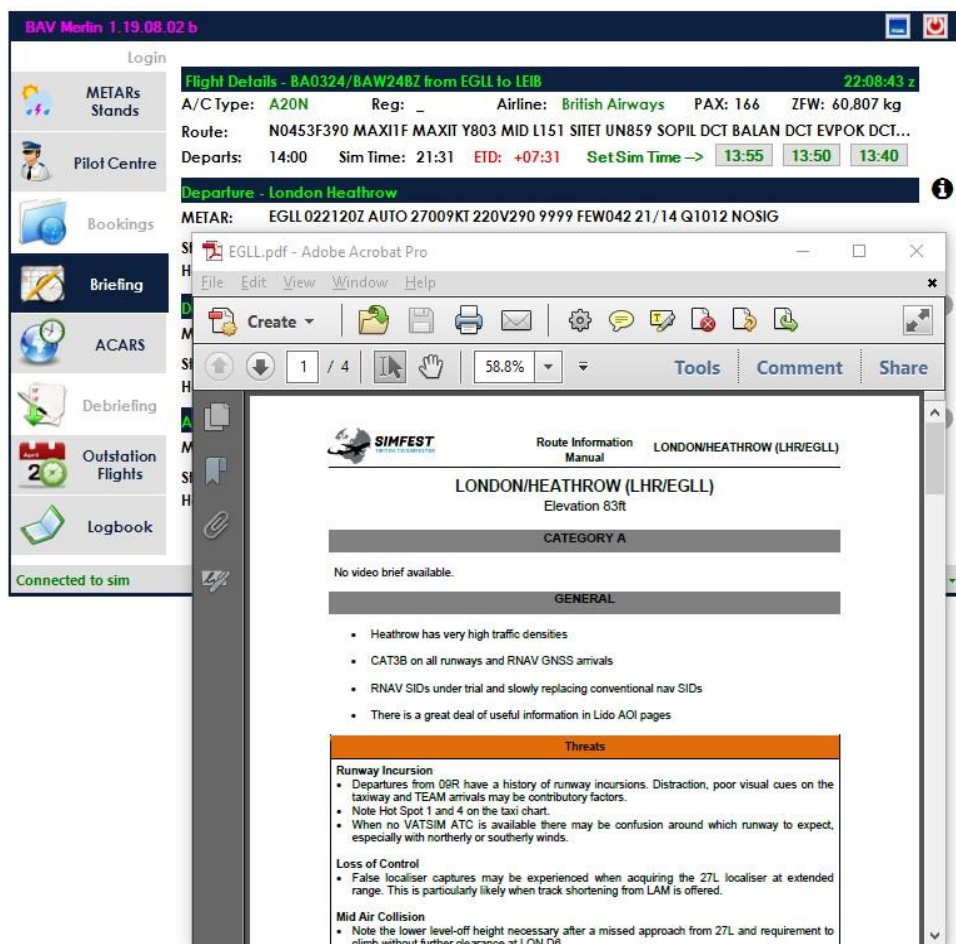
Handling: Groundforce

Flight starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start. Continue to ACARS ->

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Information includes METAR, Stand details and Handling Agent details. If the Stand details are provided on a web site, the link to that web site/page will appear in **BLUE** and can be clicked to take you to that web site/page.

Additional information for an airport may be available. The  icon to the right of each airport indicates the presence of a RIM(Route Information Manual) for the airport. If the icon is greyed-out ->  there is no RIM available. Clicking the icon will open the RIM in a pdf window.



The screenshot shows the Merlin 1.19.08.02.b interface. On the left is a sidebar with buttons: METARs Stands, Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Outstation Flights, and Logbook. The main window displays flight details for BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB. Below this, a PDF window titled 'EGLL.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro' is open, showing the 'Route Information Manual' for LONDON/HEATHROW (LHR/EGLL). The PDF content includes:

- Route Information Manual** LONDON/HEATHROW (LHR/EGLL)
- Elevation 83ft
- CATEGORY A**
- No video brief available.
- GENERAL**
 - Heathrow has very high traffic densities
 - CAT3B on all runways and RNAV GNSS arrivals
 - RNAV SIDs under trial and slowly replacing conventional nav SIDs
 - There is a great deal of useful information in Lido AOL pages
- Threats**
 - Runway Incursion**
 - Departures from GGR have a history of runway incursions. Distraction, poor visual cues on the taxiway and TEAM arrivals may be contributory factors.
 - Note Hot Spot 1 and 4 on the taxi chart.
 - When no VATSIM ATC is available there may be confusion around which runway to expect, especially with northerly or southerly winds.
 - Loss of Control**
 - False localiser captures may be experienced when acquiring the 27L localiser at extended range. This is particularly likely when track shortening from LAM is offered.
 - Mid Air Collision**
 - Note the lower level-off height necessary after a missed approach from 27L and requirement to climb without further clearance at LON OR.

Using wrong aircraft

If you attempt to proceed to the ACARS page using the  button with the wrong aircraft/livery, e.g. not the same aircraft as the one booked, you will see the following;



You will be able to return to the Briefing page and then change your aircraft accordingly.

If you attempt to start the flight from the Briefing page with the wrong aircraft/livery you will see the following;



Merlin will close, requiring you to start over with the flight.

Wrong Airframe/Livery – “known aircraft” database

BAVirtual requires that for scheduled flights i.e. non-event/flyin flights, the correct airframe matching the one booked be used. If you book an A320, and selected an A319 in you simulator you will be cautioned to correct the aircraft. Additionally, the livery should be a BA family livery, identified non-BA liveries will be restricted.

A database of “**known aircraft**” is maintained and updated when new variants are identified. If you try to use an aircraft that you feel/expect to be valid, two options exist;

- Aircraft selected while Merlin is running and you move to the briefing page, or attempt to move to the ACARS page or start a flight (staring engines or having a ground speed non-zero) are recorded on the server. This information is reviewed frequently (typically several times a day) and valid combinations added to the database. Once added they will be recognized by Merlin.
- You can post a message on the forum “**Merlin Known Aircraft**” thread noting you have attempted to use an aircraft that Merlin doesn’t recognize. So long as you’ve had the aircraft selected in Merlin as noted in “a” above, it can be reviewed and actioned.

You can proceed at any time to the ACARS (see note below) – Live flight data – page using the bottom right



button, provided you have a “known” aircraft/livery combination loaded.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The flight WILL start even on the Briefing page if;

- a) Ground speed is non-ZERO
- b) An engine is started

On the Briefing page you can highlight the ROUTE as shown below, clicking the Route you will get a dialog box showing the route and an opportunity to modify your route as necessary – perhaps a change from ATC.

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Flight Details - BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB 22:02:36 z

A/C Type: A20N Reg: _ Airline: British Airways PAX: 166 ZFW: 60,807 kg

Route: N0453F390 MAXI1F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT...

Departs: 14:00 Sim Time: 21:25 ETD: +07:25 SetSim Time -> 13:55 13:50 13:40

Departure - London Heathrow

METAR: EGLL 022120Z AUTO 27009KT 220V290 9999 FEW042 21/14 Q1012 NOSIG

Stand No: <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>

Handling: BA

Destination - Ibiza ETA: 16:35

METAR: LEIB 022130Z 02006KT 350V050 CAVOK 28/23 Q1011 NOSIG

Stand No: 13-18

Handling: IBAS - Iberia Airport Services

Alternate - Valencia

METAR: LEVC 022130Z 05003KT 360V100 CAVOK 28/22 Q1012 NOSIG

Stand No: 4-6, 6B

Handling: Groundforce

Flight starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start. Continue to ACARS ->

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Flight Details - BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB 22:01:33 z

A/C Type: A20N Reg: _ Airline: British Airways PAX: 166 ZFW: 60,807 kg

Route: N0453F390 MAXI1F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT...

Departs: 14:00 Sim Time: 21:24 ETD: +07:24 SetSim Time -> 13:55 13:50 13:40

Departure - London Heathrow

METAR: EGLL 022120Z AUTO 27009KT 220V290 9999 FEW042 21/14 Q1012 NOSIG

Merlin Route Update

Route

N0453F390 MAXI1F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK DCT NARAK DCT GAI DCT LOMRA DCT ROCAN DCT PUMAL N859 BCN Z174 CORDA CORD1S

Stand No: 4-6, 6B

Handling: Groundforce

Flight starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start. Continue to ACARS ->

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Step 7 –ACARS, Live Flight data, Recover Flight, Position Reports

The “ACARS” page. This is the primary page for flight activity. Below is the initial state.

The screenshot shows the ACARS page in the BAV Merlin interface. The top bar indicates the flight is BA0324/BAW248Z from EGLL to LEIB, with a time of 22:06:03 z. The left sidebar contains navigation icons for METARS Stands, Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS (selected), Debriefing, Outstation Flights, and Logbook. The main display area shows flight details: Flight Time (00:00:00), Duty Time (00:00:00), Flight Phase (On Stand), Distance Flown (0), Time To Go (02:35), Distance To Go (760.2 NM), LEIB, Latitude (N051° 28.20'), Longitude (W000° 29.17'), Altitude (87 ft), Heading (270 Mag), Ground Speed (0 KTS), Vertical Speed (-), Fuel (Kg) (8,136 kg), Posrep In (00:59:00), Disconnect Left (00:40:00), and Pause Left (00:25:00). A message states: "Flight recording starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start...". Below this is a Flight Log table with columns Time-UTC, Code, and Description. The log shows four entries: 21:34:03 (5005) Instrument Lights On, 21:37:53 (2002) Battery Master On, 21:37:54 (5006) Recognition Lights On, and 21:38:41 (2001) Parking Brake On. The bottom status bar shows "Connected to sim", "Sim: MSFS2020", "FSUIPC: 7.416", "Connected", "VATSIM: Offline", and "Captain Ian Abel".

Time-UTC	Code	Description
21:34:03	5005	Instrument Lights On
21:37:53	2002	Battery Master On
21:37:54	5006	Recognition Lights On
21:38:41	2001	Parking Brake On

The flight details are all displayed with a scrolling log of “actions” both pre-flight and during the flight. Merlin does not require an **EXPLICIT START** to be issued, the flight **STARTS AUTOMATICALLY** if either;

- Ground speed is non-ZERO
- An engine is started

A reminder to that effect is provided in the message area above the Flight Log.

Until you start the flight **you can adjust you fuel and other loadings without any issues**, so you can get to this point and still configure your aircraft, on stand, at your departure point, and change your payload details.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Up to this point you can **QUIT Merlin** and the flight will still remain as a Booking.

The screenshot shows the ACARS page in the BAV Merlin interface. The top bar indicates the flight is BA0344/BAW344N from EGLL to LFMN, with a time of 17:39:42 z. The left sidebar contains navigation icons for Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS (selected), Debriefing, Outstation Flights, and Logbook. The main display area shows flight details: Flight Time (00:10:26), Duty Time (00:10:26), Flight Phase (Climbing), Distance Flown (8.3 NM), Time To Go (02:08), Distance To Go (556.3 NM), LFMN, Latitude (N051° 24.46'), Longitude (W000° 21.30'), Altitude (4,615 ft), Heading (193 Mag), Ground Speed (269 KTS), Vertical Speed (3,177 fpm), Fuel (Kg) (8,769 kg), Posrep In (00:58:03), Disconnect Left (00:30:00), and Pause Left (00:15:00). A message states: "Flight recording starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start...". Below this is a Flight Log table with columns Time-UTC, Code, and Description. The log shows four entries: 17:37:51 (2005) Gear Up @ 164ft 178kts, 17:38:04 (5013) Runway Turnoff Lights Off @ 675ft, 17:38:06 (5003) Nose Light Taxi, and 17:38:07 (5003) Nose Light Off. The bottom status bar shows "Connected to sim", "Sim: P3Dv5.1", "FSUIPC: 6.012", "Connected", "VATSIM: Offline", and "Senior Captain Ian Abel".

Time-UTC	Code	Description
17:37:51	2005	Gear Up @ 164ft 178kts
17:38:04	5013	Runway Turnoff Lights Off @ 675ft
17:38:06	5003	Nose Light Taxi
17:38:07	5003	Nose Light Off

Above shows an active flight after departure, climbing out.

NOTES:

- 1) **Flight Time and Duty Time** match and the **PIREP#** is shown on the “Flight Log” title line.
The flight number/callsign and “From – To” are also displayed as shown.
- 2) If the PIREP# is shown in **RED** and is in the range 50000000 – 60000000, this means the server wasn’t reachable to obtain the PIREP# when the flight started. The flight can continue and an attempt will be made to file the PIREP at completion of the flight. If the server is **STILL** unavailable, Merlin will try and automatically file the PIREP next time you start. Failing that you can always try and refile the PIREP from the Logbook page. (See Logbook section).

Recover Flight

If the sim crashes/disconnects for some reason Merlin will remain active but starts the **Disconnect timer** and you’ll have 30 minutes to solve the problem and restart your sim.

NOTE: Merlin should recover an active flight even if you have to restart your entire PC, on restart of Merlin the same recover flight screen will be shown if an active flight is detected.

Below Merlin is shown with the sim disconnected and awaiting a re-connect.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b interface. On the left is a sidebar with icons for Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The main area displays 'Live Data' for a flight. The status at the bottom indicates 'Waiting for simulator...', 'Sim: -', 'FSUIPC: --', 'Disconnected', 'Network: Offline', and 'Ian Abel'.

Live Data		22:32:31 z	
Flight Time:	00:20:34	Duty Time:	00:20:34
Distance Flown:	69.7 NM	Time To Go:	00:52
Distance To Go:	356.4 NM	Flight Phase:	Climbing
Latitude:	N051° 09.50'	Longitude:	E001° 24.21'
Flight Level:	283	Heading:	88 Mag
Ground Speed:	403 KTS	Vertical Speed:	1,933 fpm
Fuel (Kg):	3,197 Kg	Posrep In:	00:47:16
Disconnect Left:	00:28:36	Pause Left:	00:09:55

Simulator disconnected, waiting for re-connect...

Flight Log			Pirep# 1012996
Time-UTC	Code	Description	
22:18:54	5003	Landing Lights Off @ 11,535ft	
22:18:55	5004	Taxi Lights Off	
22:20:44	1005	Lat: N051° 32.79', Lon: E000° 39.20', Alt: 15840, Hdg: 157, IAS: 289, Fuel: 3541	
22:30:07	9001	Paused	

Waiting for simulator... Sim: - FSUIPC: -- Disconnected Network: Offline Ian Abel

Once the sim re-connects you will be provided with a dialog explaining how to recover the flight, the requirements are;

- a) Same airframe
- b) Fuel level at or less than “last known”
- c) Distance to destination less than “last known” but within -20/+80nm of last position

Recover flight will AUTOMATICALLY check/re-check the criteria every 60 seconds, and once all

requirements are met, the **green Recover/Continue button**  will be enabled.

You CAN also use the **red Cancel button**  at any time to **Cancel** this flight.

Flights are recoverable in various scenarios;

- a) Simulator crashes but Merlin remains running – restart simulator within 30 minutes
- b) Both simulator and Merlin crash/PC crashes – restart simulator and Merlin within 30 minutes



NOTE: Merlin can be restarted first OR after you have the simulator running, either method works.

Merlin Recover Flight

Flight Details			
Flight #	BA8765	Departure	EGLC
Flight Time	00:17		
Callsign	CFE54K	Destination	LSZH
Distance Flown	66.0 NM		

Last Known		Current	
Airframe	E190	Airframe	E190
Fuel Level	3,221.9 kgs	Fuel Level	3,278.1 kgs
Position	N051° 09.98' E001° 18.50'	Position	N051° 11.44' E001° 06.07'
Distance Delta		Distance Delta	-7.1 NM

1 - Airframe must match
2 - Fuel must be less than last known amount.
3 - Distance Delta within -20/+80 nm of last known distance from destination.

Re-check in -> 53 seconds  


Awaiting all requirements to be met, currently FUEL out of range/tolerance.

Merlin Recover Flight

Flight Details			
Flight #	BA8765	Departure	EGLC
Flight Time	00:17		
Callsign	CFE54K	Destination	LSZH
Distance Flown	66.0 NM		

Last Known		Current	
Airframe	E190	Airframe	E190
Fuel Level	3,221.9 kgs	Fuel Level	3,210.0 kgs
Position	N051° 09.98' E001° 18.50'	Position	N051° 09.66' E001° 21.32'
Distance Delta		Distance Delta	1.7 NM

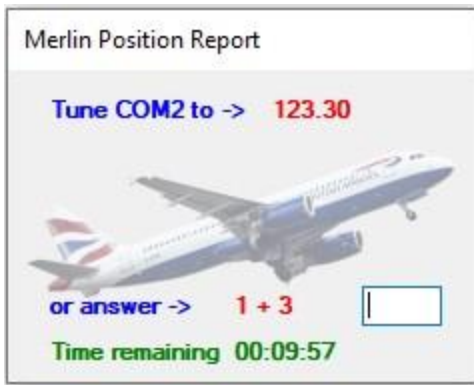
1 - Airframe must match
2 - Fuel must be less than last known amount.
3 - Distance Delta within -20/+80 nm of last known distance from destination.

Re-check in -> 57 seconds  

All requirements met, **green Recover/Continue button**  enabled.

Position Reports

During the flight, you WILL receive a request to provide a “position report” approximately every hour, you are required to respond within 10 minutes, **to prevent the flight from being cancelled**. There are notifications both in Merlin on the Flight Log, on the sim message line (and an audio if you have that option turned on) and also a dialog will be presented as shown below.



You can EITHER

- a) Tune your **COM2 to the required frequency**, or
- b) Answer the **simple arithmetic ADDITION**.

Providing either response correctly will AUTOMATICALLY close the POSREP, there is no need to do anything additional.

NOTE: The POSREP timer starts on wheels-up when departing and is automatically inhibited when you are on the Approach phase of the flight. This means that on some short flights you may not receive a POSREP at all.

Position Reports/Off-Duty Time

For long-haul flights there is an option to allow pilots, much like in the real world, to schedule themselves as “off duty”. This feature is available for flights longer than 5 hours and is active on the status bar drop-down menu after the first 30 minutes of flight time, measured from wheels up.

Selecting **Go Off-Duty(Resting)** will stop the Duty Time clock and also disable Posreps. The visible cues are the Duty Time clock will be paused and in **RED** and **Posrep In:** will display **-INHIBIT-**.

The Flight Time clock will continue to run, BUT, your total hours with BAV will only be credited with the **DUTY TIME** that you accrue on the flight as opposed to the actual Flight Time. Use the same menu option, now labelled **Return to Duty(Flying)** to change your status back and return to active flying. At that point Posreps are restored and your next Posrep will be per the clock as it was when you went off-duty.

You will be automatically **Returned to Duty** once you are within 60 minutes of your destination, and the Posrep timer will be restarted. You should plan to be ready respond to any upcoming Posrep in such cases.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1) It is up to YOU to disconnect from any online service such as VATSIM whilst off-duty/away from the sim, possible contravention of network policies are entirely your responsibility.
- 2) This feature is NOT AVAILABLE for EVENT flights with the prefix OVD/OVN etc.

As the flight progresses and once you are on an Approach, Merlin will look like this;

BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b

Login

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Scheduling

Logbook

Live Data 03:12:36 z

Flight Time: 04:34:09 Duty Time: 04:34:09 Flight Phase: Approach

Distance Flown: 471.6 NM Time To Go: 00:04 Distance To Go: 8.9 NM LSZH 98% Flown

Latitude: N047° 35.78' Longitude: E008° 27.14'

Altitude: 4,018 ft Heading: 154 Mag

Ground Speed: 148 KTS Vertical Speed: -945 fpm

Fuel (Kg): 1,671 Kg Posrep In: -INHIBIT-

Disconnect Left: 00:30:00 Pause Left: 00:09:52

Flight Log Pirep# 1012996

Time-UTC	Code	Description
03:10:07	2005	Gear Down @ 5,032ft 171kts
03:11:43	4001	Autopilot Off @ 4,640ft 154kts
03:11:48	4001	Autopilot Armed @ 4,605ft 154kts
03:11:49	4001	Autopilot Off @ 4,596ft 153kts

Waiting for simulator... Sim: P3DV4 FSUIPC: 5.150 Connected Network: Offline Ian Abel

NOTES:

- 1) Position reports are also **INHIBITED** once on Approach until completion of flight, UNLESS a go-around is executed, at which time the Position Report timer will continue from its last setting.
- 2) Approach phase is determined when below 10,000 radio altimeter and within 20nm of the destination/diversion airfield.

There will be warning **if you land at ANY airport other than either you original destination or alternate, OR your DIVERT** airport if you chose to Divert. If you still complete your flight by coming to a stop and shutting down all engines you **WILL LOSE YOUR FLIGHT**.

Provided you have landed at an appropriate airport, the system again is **AUTOMATED**, and will automatically complete/close the flight once **all engines are OFF** and **Ground Speed is ZERO**.

BAV ACARS 0.53.09.01b

Login

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Scheduling

Logbook

Live Data 14:50:03 z

Flight Time: 01:20:02 Flight Phase: Landed

Distance Flown: 416.5 NM To Destination: 0.0 NM EGPH 100% Flown

Latitude: N055° 56.98' Longitude: W003° 22.39'

Altitude: 146 ft Heading: 246 Mag

Ground Speed: 61 KTS Vertical Speed: -

Fuel (Kg): 1,259 Kg Posrep In: -INHIBIT-

Disconnect Left: 00:30:00 Pause Left: 00:10:00

Flight recording STOPS automatically on all Engines OFF, GROUND SPEED ZERO and Brakes SET...

Flight Log Pirep# 1000679

Time-UTC	Code	Description
14:47:31	1005	Lat: N055° 59.75' , Lon: W003° 14.17' , Alt: 1653 , Hdg: 243 , IAS: 135 , Fuel: 1319
14:48:33	1005	Lat: N055° 58.55' , Lon: W003° 17.75' , Alt: 961 , Hdg: 243 , IAS: 130 , Fuel: 1293
14:49:35	1005	Lat: N055° 57.37' , Lon: W003° 21.24' , Alt: 218 , Hdg: 242 , IAS: 130 , Fuel: 1267
14:49:41	2001	On Ground
14:49:41	1012	On Time -----> 14:49:41

Ready Sim: P3DV4 FSUIPC: 5.121b Connected Network: Offline Ian Abel

See above, all annotated.

If for some reason you don't want to save/complete the flight, simply use the **Cancel Flight or Exit** options. You will be reminded you have an "ACTIVE" flight and it will be discarded if you continue.

A completed flight ACARS is shown below.

The screenshot shows the ACARS interface for flight BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b. The flight is complete, with a flight time of 04:42:37 and a distance flown of 481.2 NM. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation tabs: Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS (selected), Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The main display shows flight data, a flight log, and a status bar at the bottom indicating the simulator is waiting for a simulator connection.

Live Data 03:21:13 z

Flight Time: 04:42:37 Duty Time: 04:42:37 Flight Phase: Flight Complete
 Distance Flown: 481.2 NM Time To Go: 00:00 Distance To Go: 0.7 NM LSZH 100% Flown

Latitude: N047° 27.26' Longitude: E008° 33.34'
 Altitude: 1,427 ft Heading: 174 Mag
 Ground Speed: 0 KTS Vertical Speed: -
 Fuel (Kg): 1,499 Kg Posrep In: -INHIBIT-
 Disconnect Left: 00:30:00 Pause Left: 00:09:52

Flight completed, PIREP# 1012996 FILED...

Flight Log Pirep# 1012996

Time-UTC	Code	Description
03:21:04	3002	Engine #2 Off
03:21:06	3001	Engine #1 Off
03:21:06	1010	---- In Time ----> 03:21:06
03:21:06	1011	---- PIREP# 1012996 FILED ----> 03:21:06

Waiting for simulator... Sim: P3Dv4 FSUICP: 5.150 Connected Network: Offline Ian Abel

Once the flight is in this state, you can select/proceed to the Debriefing page using the Debriefing Tab.

Step 8 - Debriefing

The Debriefing page

The screenshot shows the Debriefing page for flight BAV Merlin 1.15.02.09b. The flight is complete, with a flight time of 19:47:22 z. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation tabs: Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing (selected), Outstation Flights, and Logbook. The main display shows flight data, a flight log, and a status bar at the bottom indicating the simulator is connected to a simulator.

ACARS - Flight Log 19:47:22 z

Flight # BA0344 Date 02/10/21 Orig - Dest EGLL - LFMN

View SESMA Data

OUT - 17:29 11:25 FOB Weight 9.2 69,949
 OFF - 17:37 11:33 9.0
 ON - 19:39 13:01 5.2
 IN - 19:45 13:07 5.1 65,900

ACTUAL <----- TIMES -----> **SCHEDULE**
 02:10 02:05 +/- 00:05

Approach/Landing

Altitude	Airspeed	Vert. Speed	Pitch	Bank	Vis(SM)	Wind	Temp	Time
50 ft	140 KTS	-664 fpm	+5.9	0	10+	330/4	11/7	19:39:29z
40 ft	140 KTS	-645 fpm	+6.1	0	10+	330/4	11/7	19:39:30z
30 ft	140 KTS	-605 fpm	+6.8	0	10+	330/4	11/7	19:39:31z
20 ft	139 KTS	-536 fpm	+7.4	0	10+	330/4	11/7	19:39:32z
10 ft	137 KTS	-453 fpm	+8.1	0	10+	330/4	11/7	19:39:33z
TD	135 KTS	-373 fpm	+7.8	0	10+	330/4	11/7	19:39:35z 2.82 g

Time 50ft. to TD 6 seconds (50ft.)

Miscellaneous

Distance Flown - 625 NM Network - Offline
 Missed Approach - 0

Connected to sim Sim: P3Dv5.1 FSUICP: 6.012 Connected VATSIM: Offline Senior Captain Ian Abel

This page contains all details for the flight, including;

- Flight times both in "real Zulu" and "Sim Zulu".
- Actual vs. scheduled times and variance.
- Approach/Landing details from 50ft to landing.

Including airspeed, fpm, pitch, bank, wx details and time for each step. g-force for TD

- d) Time to TD from 50ft. A **FDM** data point, **GREEN** is within the approved time, otherwise **RED**.
- e) Distance, Network and % on network. If LESS THAN 75% the flight will be recorded as Offline, but will still show the % you were on the network.
- f) # missed approaches, if any.

If you had any **FDM** warnings during the flight the View **FDM** data button will be shown can be clicked to view the **FDM** report.

BAV Merlin 1.15.02.09 b

Login

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

View SESMA Data

ACARS - Flight Log

Flight # BA0344 Date 02/10/21 Orig - Dest EGLL - LFMN

Zulu/Sim FOB Weight

OUT - 17:29 11:25 9.2 69,949

OFF - 17:37 11:33 9.0

ON - 19:39 13:01 5.2

IN - 19:45 13:07 5.1 65,900

ACTUAL <----- TIMES -----> SCHEDULE

02:10 02:05 +/- 00:05

1153694_SESMALog.txt - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

17:36:11 | 9903 Excessive Taxi Speed 33kts

19:33:13 | 9951 Flaps 1 Overspeed @ 5,542ft 246kts -> Limit 230

19:39:34 | 9996 Unstable Approach - pitch up 8.6, greater than +8.5 below 20ft

Ln 1, Col 1 100% Windows (CRLF) UTF-8

Connected to sim Sim: P3Dv5.1 FSUIPC: 6.012 Connected VATSIM: Offline Senior Captain Ian Abel

You can also view the <pirep>_flightLog.txt report/file using the  button at the lower right.

BAV Merlin 1.15.02.09 b

Login

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

View SESMA Data

ACARS - Flight Log

Flight # BA0344 Date 02/10/21 Orig - Dest EGLL - LFMN

Zulu/Sim FOB Weight

OUT - 17:29 11:25 9.2 69,949

OFF - 17:37 11:33 9.0

ON - 19:39 13:01 5.2

IN - 19:45 13:07 5.1 65,900

Merlin Pirep FlightLog

FlightLog for Pirep# 1153694

16:47:04 2001 Parking Brake on

16:47:05 2002 Battery 1 & 2 on

16:47:05 2003 Doors open

16:47:05 4008 Autobrake Off

16:47:05 1012 ***Cold and Dark -> On Stand, Hdg: 270, GS: 0, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 2/-6, wind: 40/7

16:47:05 1012 ***On Stand -> Boarding, Hdg: 270, GS: 0, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 2/-6, wind: 40/7

16:56:39 2002 Batteries Off

16:56:40 2002 Battery 1 & 2 on

17:03:29 2002 Batteries Off

17:03:29 4008 Autobrake Max

17:03:56 2002 Battery 1 & 2 on

17:03:56 4008 Autobrake Off

17:24:07 5004 Strobe Lights Auto

17:24:08 5000 Nav Lights On

17:24:09 5008 Logo Lights On

17:25:50 2003 Doors Closed

17:25:50 1012 ***Boarding -> Ready to Push, Hdg: 270, GS: 0, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 1/-6, wind: 40/6

17:27:41 5001 Beacon Lights on

17:29:08 2001 Parking Brake off

17:29:13 1012 ***Ready to Push -> Pushback, Hdg: 270, GS: 1, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 1/-6, wind: 40/6

17:29:14 1000 Logging Started -> BAVID: BAW6 Client: 1.15.02.09 Sim: P3Dv5.1 UIPC: 6.012

17:29:14 1001 Flight# BA0344 Dep: EGLL Dest: LFMN Alt: LIMJ

17:29:14 1002 Aircraft: Airbus A320-200 G-EUUA

17:29:14 1003 Fuel: 9176 KG

17:29:14 1004 --- Out Time ---> 17:29:14

17:29:14 1005 Lat: 51.47048, Lon: -0.48579, Alt: 98, Hdg: 270, GS: 1, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Fuel: 9176, CurrKG: 69949

17:29:14 1007 Departure wx - Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 1/-6, wind: 40/6

17:29:46 3002 Engine #2 Ignition/Start

17:29:46 1012 ***Pushback -> Ready to Taxi, Hdg: 284, GS: 3, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 1/-6, wind: 30/6

17:29:46 1012 ***Ready to Taxi -> Taxi Out, Hdg: 285, GS: 3, IAS: 0, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 1/-6, wind: 40/6

17:30:16 1008 Lat 51.47026, Lon: -0.48473, Alt: 98, Hdg: 358, GS: 2, IAS: 2, FPM: 0, Fuel: 9170.8

17:30:38 1012 ***Taxi out -> Holding, Hdg: 0, GS: 0, IAS: 4, FPM: 0, Vis: 10+ SM, Temp/DP: 1/-6, wind: 40/6

Once at the Debriefing page, you can toggle between ACARS and this page, but once you select the Bookings page for another flight, ACARS and Debriefing for the last flight will become unavailable.

Step 9 – Outstation Flights

The Outstation Flights page

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

Outstation Flights from Ibiza

Flt #	Dep	Dest	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Op Days
BA0325	LEIB	EGLL	1730z	1955z	02:25	Su
BA0453	LEIB	EGLL	1545z	1815z	02:30	Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
EURO24D	LEIB	LFKB	0000z	0000z	00:00	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

This page becomes available once you have selected a Booking and continued to the Briefing page. It remains available throughout the flight including when you complete a flight and view the Debriefing.

Since the purpose is to provide a quick and easy means to see flights from an outstation/destination, it is not available if the destination is EGLC/EGLL/EGKK/EGCC as they are considered home bases.

The flights listed are ONLY those for the specific airframe you are currently flying.

Double-clicking an entry will take you directly to the web site booking page for that flight, allowing you to find and book a return/onward leg with greater ease.

BETA Testers

Certain people are designated BETA testers for the purposes of testing new version(s) of Merlin before it becomes generally available, as well as testing new sims/sim versions before Merlin handles them for the general membership.

BETA testers MUST have Merlin set up to save your login details using the “Remember Me”.



If you’ve not saved your credentials this way, you’ll not be recognized as a BETA tester even if you have been told you have that access...

If you are a **BETA** tester the Merlin title bar will note that fact by showing the version of Merlin you are running, displayed in **Magenta** instead of the normal **Green**, and if you are running a BETA version of Merlin the version number will be in the format **x.xx b (Beta)**. Please provide that information when reporting any issues.



If you are running a currently unsupported simulator/sim version, you will see this warning message.

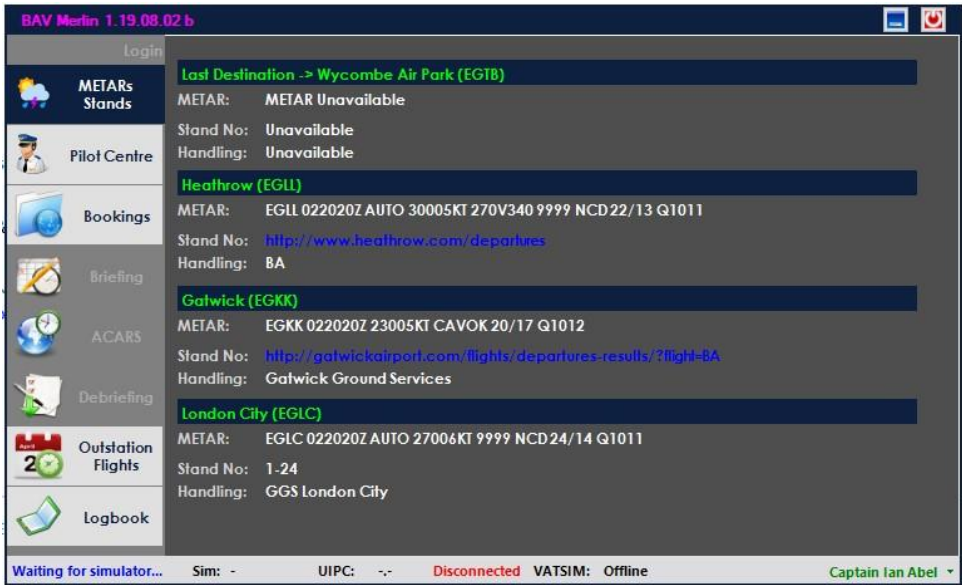


Addendum – some examples of “dark mode”

Login



METARs/Stands



Pilot Centre

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

METARs Stands

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Outstation Flights

Logbook

Profile

Ian Abel
Captain
BAW16
Member Since: 23-Jan-2003
VATSIM: 810658
Current Location: EGTB

Total Hours: 6,682.2
Total Flights: 1,140
Total Pax Carried: 108,570
Distance Flown: 1,935,492 NM
Experience Points: 16,588

Company Announcements

Date	Subject
02/08/2024	Fight Operations Quality Manager
01/08/2024	Flying Club Tours - Ending 31st Aug
25/07/2024	Changes to Substitution Rules for Mainline & Subsi...
15/07/2024	Forum Signatures
06/07/2024	New Public BAVirtual Website
01/07/2024	FDM Report Q2 2024
22/06/2024	Flight Life - June 2024
09/06/2024	Re-classification of London City (LCY/EGLC)
02/06/2024	The Future of Concorde at BAVirtual
28/05/2024	FSUIPC 7.4.12 Not Auto-Starting with MSFS

Settings

☒ Show METAR updates in sim ☒ Play POSREP alert ☒ Show FDM in ACARS log
☒ Appearance/Dark Mode ☒ Auto Confirm Recover on valid values

Set Titles on Black Set Text on Grey Merlin Background A320

Waiting for simulator... Sim: - UIPC: -- Disconnected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Bookings

BAV Merlin 1.19.08.02 b

Login

METARs Stands

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Outstation Flights

Logbook

Select from Booked flights

Flight #	Dep	Arr	Alt.	Callsign	Airframe	Departs	Duration
BA0113	EGLL	KJFK	KEWR	BAW33K	B77W	15:20	07:55
BA0308	EGLL	LFPG	EGKK	BAW308	A319	10:20	01:20
BA0324	EGLL	LEIB	LEVC	BAW24BZ	A20N	14:00	02:35

Flight # BA0324 Callsign BAW24BZ Departs 14:00 Duration 02:35
Airframe BA Mainline A320neo (G-TTN*)

Reminder: For scheduled flights, the Departure and/or Destination cannot be changed...

Departure EGLL Destination LEIB Alternate LEVC Altitude/FL
EGLL Stands <http://www.heathrow.com/departures>

Route N0453F390 MAX1F MAXIT Y803 MID L151 SITET UN859 SOPIL DCT BALAN DCT EVPOK
DCT NARAK DCT GAI DCT LOMRA DCT ROCAN DCT PUMAL N859 BCN Z174 CORDA
CORD1S

Connected to sim Sim: MSFS2020 FSUIPC: 7.416 Connected VATSIM: Offline Captain Ian Abel

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is Mac OS supported?

A. No. However, some members have had luck using bootcamp.

Q. Why don't I see any bookings?

A. You need to book flights on the web site, a link is provided.

Q. I can't move to the Briefing page from Bookings?

A. You MUST complete all fields for the flight including Alternate, Altitude/Flight Level and Route. Try tabbing out of the last field you entered data, this should enable access to the Briefing page.

You MUST have the simulator running and see a connection to your simulator on the bottom status bar.

Q. The flight hasn't filed, can you add it manually?

A. We can, providing the log files are sent to Ian or Matt. Without them, I'm afraid we cannot add the flight/hours to your profile.

Q. Merlin doesn't recognize my aircraft and/or livery?

A. We maintain a database of "known aircraft" and whatever you're flying hasn't been used before/is not recognized as a valid combination and therefore is not in the database. The aircraft selected in Merlin are monitored and reported up to the server to help us add such new variants as necessary, this is checked a couple of times a day and updated. If you run into this issue, you can also post in the forum that it has occurred and it will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Q. Can I CANCEL the flight and have the PIREP not recorded?

A. Yes. At any time, until you have completely shut down the aircraft, i.e. ALL engines off and ground speed of ZERO, you can select either the Quit or CANCEL options from the drop-down menu.

Q. How do I DIVERT?

A. From the drop-down menu, select DIVERT and enter the ICAO code for the diversion airfield. The alternate for the flight is shown as the default divert field.

Q. What do I do if Merlin doesn't see the flight has completed even with all engines off?

A. From the drop-down menu, select Complete Flight/File PIREP.

Q. A flight had to me manually corrected and now the local log book doesn't match the web site?

A. Use the hotspot on the Logbook page the title "Logbook", or the  **BUTTON** at lower left to reload your local version from the web.

Q. What if I lose my network connection or the BAV server goes offline during a flight?

A. You can continue with the flight and after completion you can resend the PIREP details from the logbook. The flight will NOT be lost provided it is flown to completion.

Q. I'm online on VATSIM, the network viewer (e.g. VATSPY) says I am, but Merlin says I'm offline?

A. Merlin/BAV are only allowed to check connections approximately every 5 minutes, so it can take 5-10 minutes from the time you connect to a network before Merlin will see that. The network viewing tools have special rules/consideration that allows them to get data feeds far more frequently.

Q. Is there any way to recover a flight if I missed a POSREP?

A. NO.

Q. Where are the Merlin Release Notes and manual document found?

A. The folder for Merlin files/documents is C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS

Q. Where are the log files I may be asked to send if there is a problem with a PIREP?

A. In your C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS/FLIGHTLOGS folder, named <pirep id>_flightLog.txt, <pirep id>_pirepPos., <pirep id>_FDMLog.txt and <pirep_id>_TakeOffData

Q. How does the Off-Duty feature work?

A. On long-haul flights over 5 hours, you can activate the Off-Duty feature.

This stops recording flight time, stops the POSREP timer “at its present time” and disables POSREPs. You are only credited for the actual flight time while you are “on duty”. The menu option is toggled to Return to Duty (Flying) and you can select Return to Duty (Flying) again any time during the flight. You can select off-duty multiple times during a flight if you wish.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Merlin will **AUTOMATICALLY** return you to an on duty status when you are within 60 minutes of your destination. At that point the POSREP timer will restart from where it was when you went off duty and you will only have that amount of time before your next POSREP is required.

Q. Can I force a POSREP before the timer expires?

A. Yes. From the drop-down menu, select File POSREP. The POSREP timer will be reset to 60 minutes.

Q. Can I see the FDM events for any flight?

A. Yes. On the Logbook page check the flight in question, if the **FDM** column indicates a non-zero count, double-click on the flight to bring up the “Flight Log Entry” screen.

The “Show **FDM** Data” button is available and will display the **FDM** report for the flight.