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[1.8.x] Kramax Autopilot Continued: Course guidance and auto-land for spaceplanes



# [1.8.x] Kramax Autopilot Continued: Course guidance and auto-land for spaceplanes

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By linuxgurugamer, October 25, 2016 in Add-on Releases



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### linuxgurugamer

The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming dragon



Members **1**4,372 17,572 posts Location: At SpaceTux Industries HQ

Posted October 25, 2016 (edited)

This is a continuation of the older Kramax Autopilot.

The new version for KSP 1.4.1 has new dependencies

### **New Dependencies**

- Click Through Blocker
- <u>ToolbarController</u>

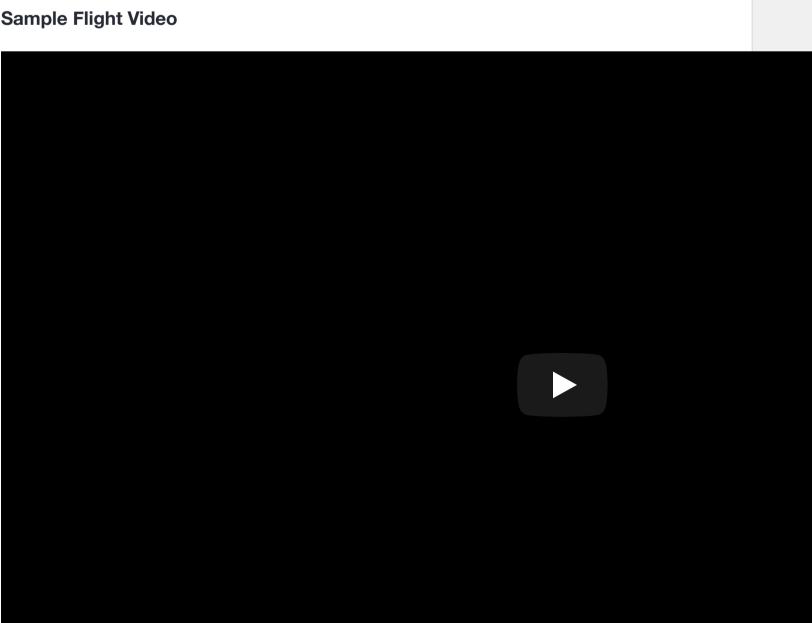
CKAN has been updated to install the dependencies, if needed.

Download from: <a href="http://spacedock.info/mod/1019/Kramax Autopilot Continued">http://spacedock.info/mod/1019/Kramax Autopilot Continued</a>

Source code: <a href="https://github.com/linuxgurugamer/KramaxAutoPilot">https://github.com/linuxgurugamer/KramaxAutoPilot</a>

License: CC-NC-SA-4.0

The following is from the old thread:



#### **Kramax Autopilot**

Recently I started flying spaceplanes in Kerbal and discovered I could never land them successfully. My keyboard flying skills are sub-par. This despite being an instrumented rated pilot of real planes.

I found a very good autopilot mod by Crzyrndm called "Pilot Assistant" (see <a href="thread">thread</a>). But it did not have any course following abilities. I have taken the source code for Pilot Assistant and heavily modified it to add course guidance (both horizontal and vertical) so that it can autoland a spaceplane on the <a href="KSC">KSC</a> runway. Many thanks to Crzyrndm-this mod would never have happened without the excellent starting point. Note that I did not keep all the capabilities of Pilot Assistant--I was very focused on auto-landing and things that were not really needed for that were omitted.

Flight plans can be loaded from configuration files located in the GameData folder. There is currently no capability to create new flight plans on the fly within the game, but you can edit the GameData/KramaxAutoPilot/FlightPlans.cfg file and add flight plans that way. Look at GameData/KramaxAutoPilot/DefaultFlightPlans.cfg for the format of the flight plans. The "Refresh" button on the flight plan load/save dialog will reload from that file so you do not have to restart the game every time you change a flight plan.

#### **Basic Instructions**

You can use the autopilot to depart from KSC runway 09 as well as land on it. Here is a basic flight using the autopilot. You start lined up on KSC RW09.

#### **Departure**

- Show the autopilot window by selecting the airplane icon from your toolbar
- Press the "Load/Store" button next to the "Flight Plan" button. This will display the flight plan loading window.
- Select the plan named "KSC DEP 09". This is a flight plan that takes you straight out on a heading of 090 to space. You can close the flight plan loading window now.
- Select the horizontal mode "NAV" and enable horizontal mode by selecting the button "Roll". The autopilot should track straight down the runway now.
- I normally use "pitch hold" mode for vertical control on departure. You can set this up for use after rotation by selecting the "Pitch" button and entering a desired pitch up amount (10-30 degrees, depending on your thrust to weight ratio).
- Start your takeoff. It should track down the runway and after you liftoff, turn the vertical mode autopilot on by pressing the "Target Pitch" button. It should pitch up to your preset pitch value. It should retract your gear at 150m of altitude.
- Now just control pitch angle to what works for your vehicle. When you get to high altitude where aerodynamics more or less stops, you should turn off the autopilot modes by pressing the "Roll" and "Vertical" buttons.
- Hopefully you get to orbit

#### Landing

- You need to de-orbit. For <u>KSC</u> RW09, I found that when coming from an 80km orbit, a 100m/s retrograde burn just before I get to the huge impact crater seems to work well. Depending on how fast your craft decelerates you may need to burn slightly earlier or later.
- Setup the autopilot by loading the landing flight plan. You want to open the flight

- plan load/save window and select "KSC ILS 09" (ILS stands for "instrument landing system"). This flight plan has an initial point to aim for that is named "MAXKY". It is at 12000m, more or less on the equator about 75km West of KSC.
- Descend into the atmo and try to stay on a heading of 090. I generally enable the autopilot around 20000m altitude. I initially will enable it in Bank mode (level) and pitch hold mode (4 to 6 degrees).
- As you near 12000m altitude enable NAV mode and altitude hold of 12000m.
- When you get very close to MAXKY, enable GS mode to follow the vertical guidance.
- Now setup your landing speeds. Open up the "Approach Speeds" pane at the bottom. Change the speeds to match your craft. You want to land as slow as possible, so make your final speed something that is a good margin above stall speed.
- After passing MAXKY you can enable auto-throttle "Landing" mode to hold current speed and then decrease it to match the approach speeds as it heads for the next fixes.
- At 500m (above ground) it should auto-lower your landing gear. But a good pilot makes sure he has 3-green before touching down! If all goes well it will cut your throttle right over the threshold, touchdown, and turn on max braking.

#### **Attributions**

This plugin is a heavily modified version of "Pilot Assistant" by Crzyrndm (https://github.com/Crzyrndm/Pilot-Assistant). At least half (if not more) of the code is his. Many thanks to him, as this would never have been possible without it. In addition, I drew heavily on algorithms for calculating great circle routes from <a href="http://www.movable-type.co.uk/scripts/latlong.html">http://www.movable-type.co.uk/scripts/latlong.html</a>. Many thanks for that information.

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This work is a derivative of "Pilot Assistant" by Crzyrndm that was distributed under the same license. The original work was found athttps://github.com/Crzyrndm/Pilot-Assistant.

Edited April 19, 2018 by linuxgurugamer



Quote

Catatau\_27, crapstar, Barklight and 15 others like this



 $\times -$ 

I stream on Twitch on Sunday evenings: <a href="https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer">https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer</a>

Read this BEFORE asking for

support: http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-getsupport-read-first/



#### drtedastro

Capsule Communicator 0000

Posted October 26, 2016

Excellent.

Great mod. Have been waiting for this.

Thanks.

Report post <



Members

296
2,256 posts







Sr. Spacecraft Engineer



Members **◆ 240** 1,221 posts

#### Posted October 26, 2016

awesome, thanks @linuxgurugamer for taking on the maintenance. should we expect to see it show up in <u>CKAN</u> soon?



Quote



### linuxgurugamer

The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming dragon





Members **◆ 14,372** 17,572 posts

Location: At SpaceTux Industries HQ

Posted October 26, 2016

Already submitted to **CKAN** 



Quote

crapstar likes this



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I stream on Twitch on Sunday evenings: <a href="https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer">https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer</a>

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<u>support</u>: <a href="http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-get-support-read-first/">http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-get-support-read-first/</a>











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### Isabelle.V.Fuchs

Rocketeer



Members
10
77 posts
Location: Ahrensburg,
Germany

Posted October 26, 2016

Hi LinuxGuruGamer,

did you take over the mod as a whole or do you just do maintenance for some time?

For I have a question... and a wish.

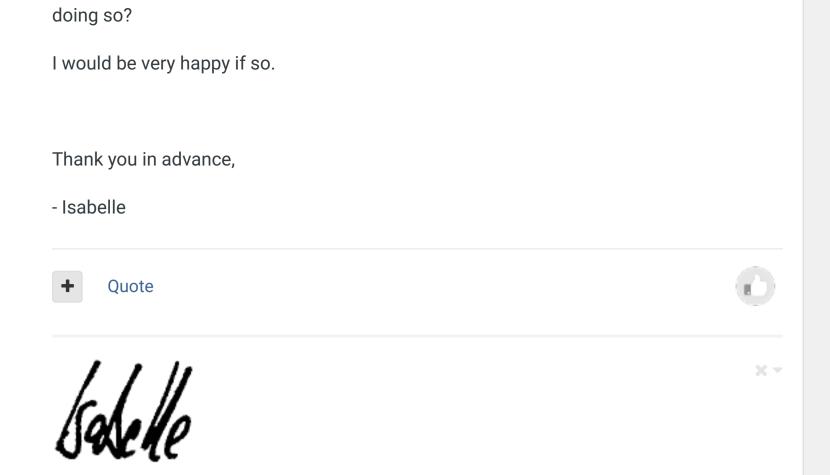
What I would like to know is, if the original mod on wich this autopilot is basing could be used together with this one.

And my wish is the following:

In the video at 8:22 the player hits the NAV-button. Since then a HSI-element appears just over the Nav-Ball.

And at 8:46 after hitting the GS-Button, a Glide-slope element appears on the right of the Nav-Ball.

What I would ask is, if you would do me a favor and cut out these two parts as a single little mod to use. Do you think this is possible and do you have the time and the fun







Members

• 130

731 posts

Posted October 26, 2016

what is the glide slope defined for this mod? I use the PAPI mod and have it set to 3 but it tells me I am coming in too high with this mod. I would like to either set the PAPI mod to match this glide slope, or even better have a way to edit the glide slope for this mod.

also when I hit the heading hold button it makes my plane bank and then hold this bank forever, passing right by my desired heading over and over again. it is like the heading button and the bank button are doing the same function.

and lastly could you integrate the WP list for this mod with Waypoint manager? so the 2 are interchangeable? or at least export your list to WPM so they will show up on the map.



Quote



 $\times$   $\neg$ 

Report post 📽

It's not rocket science... Oh ya, it is! 😵

### ss8913

Sr. Spacecraft Engineer



Members **◆ 240** 1,221 posts

Posted October 26, 2016





#### On 10/26/2016 at 3:23 PM, Bit Fiddler said:

what is the glide slope defined for this mod? I use the PAPI mod and have it set to 3 but it tells me I am coming in too high with this mod. I would like to either set the PAPI mod to match this glide slope, or even better have a way to edit the glide slope for this mod.

also when I hit the heading hold button it makes my plane bank and then hold this bank forever, passing right by my desired heading over and over again. it is like the heading button and the bank button are doing the same function.

and lastly could you integrate the WP list for this mod with Waypoint manager? so the 2 are interchangeable? or at least export your list to WPM so they will show up on the map.

This mod disagrees with the glideslope of NavUtilities as well... although either way it seems to work out OK. It seems like Kramax glideslopes are more on the order of 4-5 degrees whereas the PAPI and NavUtilities default at least to 3 degrees (as is common in the real world, although there's a 4+ degree glideslope on 16R at KVNY which gets interesting! (3).

Also, and somewhat surprisingly since most autopilot mods don't do this, this works well with <u>FAR</u>. In fact none of my spaceplanes will even fly correctly on stock aero I learned last night, so that's an important distinction... Hopefully Kerbinside will be back in business soon too, so we have places to land other than <u>KSC</u>



Quote



### Bit Fiddler

Spacecraft Engineer



Members **◆ 130** 731 posts

#### Posted October 27, 2016

yes my testing last night was great I love this autopilot mod. I have tried others in the past, and while they may hold a course or a speed, they would never succeed in auto landing a plane of any sort. this is on my must have mod list now.



Quote



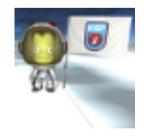
 $\times$  -

Report post

## It's not rocket science... Oh ya, it is! 😵

### **Bit Fiddler**

Spacecraft Engineer



Members **◆ 130** 731 posts

#### Posted October 27, 2016 (edited)

on the topic of Kerbinside I really hope they make atleast an airstrip at each of the radio relays around Kerbin that the new not-remote tech-system uses.

EDIT: It has come to my attention that the stock WP system in 1.2 has been revamped such that mods like this one can easily use the Stock WP rather than their own internal WP database. would this be possible for you to convert your WP system to use this new setup? thus every mod that uses a WP can share the same set of points.

**Edited October 28, 2016 by Bit Fiddler** 



Quote



It's not rocket science... Oh ya, it is! 🚳







Members **5** 32 posts

Posted October 29, 2016

@linuxgurugamer , yes smartass was active while I was using kramax. I just had the cruise control on, was flying the craft myself and all of a sudden the controls went dead and the craft stayed on trajectory. Happened once when I was using ascent guidance on MJ as well. I use Kramax to get to a certain altitude and then ascent guidance to take me the rest of the way...mainly because Im lazy. I turned ascent guidance on before I turned kramax off...control freeze. Its not a huge issue to me...I just don't use MJ for anything when Kramax is on.

#### On 10/27/2016 at 1:57 AM, Bit Fiddler said:

EDIT: It has come to my attention that the stock WP system in 1.2 has been revamped such that mods like this one can easily use the Stock WP rather than their own internal WP database. would this be possible for you to convert your WP system to use this new setup? thus every mod that uses a WP can share the same set of points.

Would this make it possible to set up WP flight plans on the fly and be sort of like the rover autopilot in mechjeb...click the map to set the WP and then set the altitude in a different window?



Quote



Report post 📽

### linuxgurugamer

The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming dragon

•••••

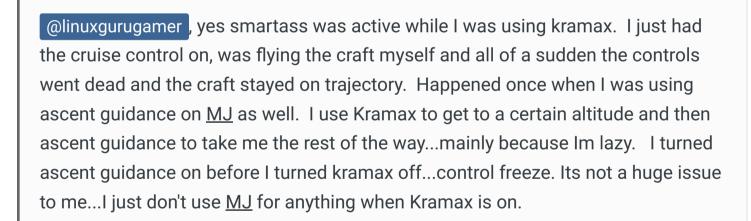


Members

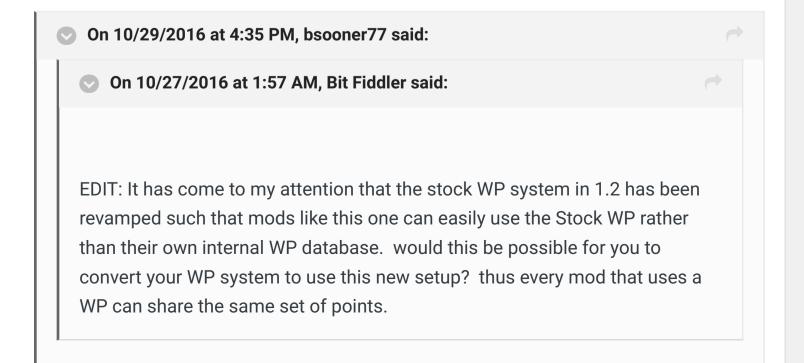
14,372
17,572 posts
Location: At SpaceTux
Industries HQ

Posted October 29, 2016

On 10/29/2016 at 4:35 PM, bsooner77 said:



You ended up with two autopilots conflicting with each other. Nothing I can really do about that.



Would this make it possible to set up WP flight plans on the fly and be sort of like

the rover autopilot in mechjeb...click the map to set the WP and then set the altitude in a different window?

This would probably be a significant rewrite, which I'm not about to do at this time, sorry



Quote



I stream on Twitch on Sunday evenings: <a href="https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer">https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer</a>

Read this BEFORE asking for

<u>support</u>: <a href="http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-get-">http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-get-</a> support-read-first/



### floydian022

**Curious George** 



Members **Q** 4 13 posts

Posted November 1, 2016



#### On 10/26/2016 at 3:23 PM, Bit Fiddler said:

also when I hit the heading hold button it makes my plane bank and then hold this bank forever, passing right by my desired heading over and over again. it is like the heading button and the bank button are doing the same function.

@linuxgurugamer Sorry for the delay. Finally got my tech tree & complex upgrades completed and all of my necessary mods(\*coughB9coughTweakscale\*) installed to be able to launch my A380, and I've noticed the same. Heading hold seems to be completely jacked. Normally when you activate it, it automatically sets the target heading to whatever heading you're currently at. Now, it just defaults at 0.00, and when you try to adjust it to anything, it banks the aircraft and doesn't seem to ever settle out at any particular heading. NAV mode seems to work fine, though. I've done a few KSC ILS 27 approach/landings with zero issues.

Also, purely cosmetic, but the GS/NAV indicators are kinda huge relative to the default size of the navball. I usually turn my navball down to around 80-90%, but then I could probably fit two navballs within that space inside the indicators. Is there a simple way to scale these down a bit?



Quote



# bsooner77

**Bottle Rocketeer** 



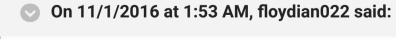
Members **O** 5 32 posts

Posted November 1, 2016

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Quote



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I second the stuff about the heading hold function...this has happened to me once as well. No, I wasn't using 2 autopilots at the same time this go round.



Quote



### linuxgurugamer

The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming dragon

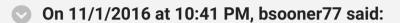




Members
14,372
17,572 posts
Location: At SpaceTux
Industries HQ

Posted November 2, 2016







On 11/1/2016 at 1:53 AM, floydian022 said:

@linuxgurugamer Sorry for the delay. Finally got my tech tree & complex upgrades completed and all of my necessary mods(\*coughB9coughTweakscale\*) installed to be able to launch my A380, and I've noticed the same. Heading hold seems to be completely jacked. Normally when you activate it, it automatically sets the target heading to whatever heading you're currently at. Now, it just defaults at 0.00, and when you try to adjust it to anything, it banks the aircraft and doesn't seem to ever settle out at any particular heading. NAV mode seems to work fine, though. I've done a few KSC ILS 27 approach/landings with zero issues.

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I second the stuff about the heading hold function...this has happened to me once as well. No, I wasn't using 2 autopilots at the same time this go round.

Ok, I've opened a Github issue on this.

Just curious, did you see any errors in the logs?

#### On 11/1/2016 at 10:41 PM, bsooner77 said:

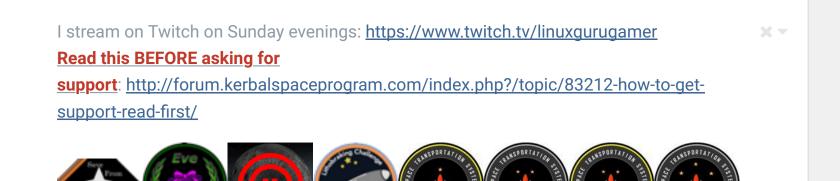
Also, purely cosmetic, but the GS/NAV indicators are kinda huge relative to the default size of the navball. I usually turn my navball down to around 80-90%, but then I could probably fit two navballs within that space inside the indicators. Is there a simple way to scale these down a bit?

I also opened a github issue on this



Quote









Members **5** 32 posts

#### Posted November 2, 2016

Report post



On 11/2/2016 at 1:22 PM, linuxgurugamer said:

Ok, I've opened a Github issue on this.

Just curious, did you see any errors in the logs?

I did not...but then again I wasn't looking...I don't know where to look. But, I'd be happy to test and look at if for you if you tell me what to do or point me to something with some instruction on where the logs are and what to look for in them. I'm not a programming wiz, but I pick up on things pretty quick. Also, in the future, would you prefer us to open an issue on Github for things like this instead of posting it here?



Quote



### linuxgurugamer

The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming dragon

••••



Members

14,372
17,572 posts
Location: At SpaceTux
Industries HQ

Posted November 2, 2016

Report post



On 11/2/2016 at 2:07 PM, bsooner77 said:

I did not...but then again I wasn't looking...I don't know where to look. But, I'd be happy to test and look at if for you if you tell me what to do or point me to something with some instruction on where the logs are and what to look for in them. I'm not a programming wiz, but I pick up on things pretty quick. Also, in the future, would you prefer us to open an issue on Github for things like this instead of posting it here?

Either way works.

for the log, just run the game and get it to fail the way you describe, then send me the entire output\_log.txt file



Quote



 $\times$  -

I stream on Twitch on Sunday evenings: <a href="https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer">https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer</a>

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<u>support</u>: <a href="http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-get-support-read-first/">http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-get-support-read-first/</a>



bsooner77

Bottle Rocketeer

Posted November 2, 2016

Report post



Where is the output\_log.txt file, in the KSP folder?



Quote





Members **O** 5 32 posts

### linuxgurugamer

The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming dragon



Members **1**4,372 17,572 posts Location: At SpaceTux Industries HO

Posted November 2, 2016 (edited)

On 11/2/2016 at 3:46 PM, bsooner77 said:

Where is the output\_log.txt file, in the KSP folder?

Windows: Kerbal Space Program\KSP\_x64\_Data\output\_log.txt

Kerbal Space Program/KSP\_x64\_Data/output\_log.txt OSX:

/home/(username)/.config/unity3d/Squad/Kerbal Space Program/Player.log

/home/user/.config/unity3d/Squad/Kerbal Space Program/Player.log Linux:

Edited November 2, 2016 by linuxgurugamer

Quote



 $\times$   $\neg$ 

I stream on Twitch on Sunday evenings: <a href="https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer">https://www.twitch.tv/linuxgurugamer</a>

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support: http://forum.kerbalspaceprogram.com/index.php?/topic/83212-how-to-getsupport-read-first/



### bsooner77

**Bottle Rocketeer** 



Members **O** 5 32 posts

Posted November 4, 2016

Thanks for the info. Hopefully I'll have a bit of time this weekend to test it out and get you those log files. I start a new job on Monday so it will be a busy weekend.



Quote



Report post

## floydian022

Curious George 



Members **Q** 4 13 posts

Posted November 5, 2016

Output log doesn't really seem to show that anything is happening at all, as far as I can see. Here's a snippet from the moment when I switch from NAV mode to Heading Hold mode and then set a target heading(for reference, I changed camera view to "Chase"

immediately before switching modes in Kramax):





Quote

[KRAMAX] GearHandler: raising gear at height 150.079788208008 (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] FlightPlan.Update: time to turn (speed 159.526129216357, remain 15.6207956922162, timeToNext 0.0979199819424603, amount 0.3527099120777, rate 3, timeToTurn 0.117569970692567 (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] SequenceWaypoint: go (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] SequenceWaypoint: current alt below prev alt, keep it (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] WayPointSequenced: -0.050185 20.9289803282443 50000 6 (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] UpdateLandingMode: WayPoint KSC DOWNRANGE -0.050 20.929 50000m Active Vertical (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] WayPointSequenced: autoland--not on approach yet (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] landingModeChanged: new mode None (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] HrztActive: NAV mode, invalid course guidance (NaN), skip setting. (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42) [KRAMAX] UpdateData: marking course to WayPoint KSC DOWNRANGE -0.050 20.929 50000m Active Vertical with dist 0.100359071734445 as valid (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42)

Camera Mode: FREE

(Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42)

Camera Mode: ORBITAL

(Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42)

Camera Mode: CHASE (Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp

[UIMasterController]: ShowUI

(Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42)

Game Paused!

Line: 42)

(Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42)

Active Vessel is in atmosphere. Cannot save.

(Filename: C:/buildslave/unity/build/artifacts/generated/common/runtime/UnityEngineDebugBindings.gen.cpp Line: 42)

[FlightDriver]: Flight State Reverted to Prelaunch.



Quote



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### ss8913

Sr. Spacecraft Engineer



Members **Q** 240 1,221 posts

#### Posted November 16, 2016

Just got a dev build of <u>FAR</u> installed, so had a chance to actually fly something... Kramax seems to be working correctly, although... it seems overcorrecting for certain things.. but that could be something going on with <u>FAR</u>, since that only happens with certain designs. As far as Kramax itself.. heading hold is definitely broken and I cannot find anything else useful in the logs either >< Following a flight plan still seems to work, as does altitude and pitch and bank and glideslope. it's like it's literally only the NAV function that's broken.



Quote

RealGecko likes this



Report post <

#### steve\_v

**Grumpy Sparky** 00000



Members **Q** 2,121 3,021 posts

Location: /dev/chair

Posted November 29, 2016

@linuxgurugamer: As well as the heading hold issues mentioned above, I can't seem to get the nav function to work at all either. The "xtrk" display just flickers rapidly (often +the same reading), and the aircraft settles into a gentle left bank plus some twitching. The OSD heading indicator works just fine. The bank controller is working fine too if I set a manual bank angle.

Modded (inc. <u>FAR</u> dev build), nothing interesting in the logs. Any ideas? I've used PA extensively in the past, but the nav function here is the main draw...

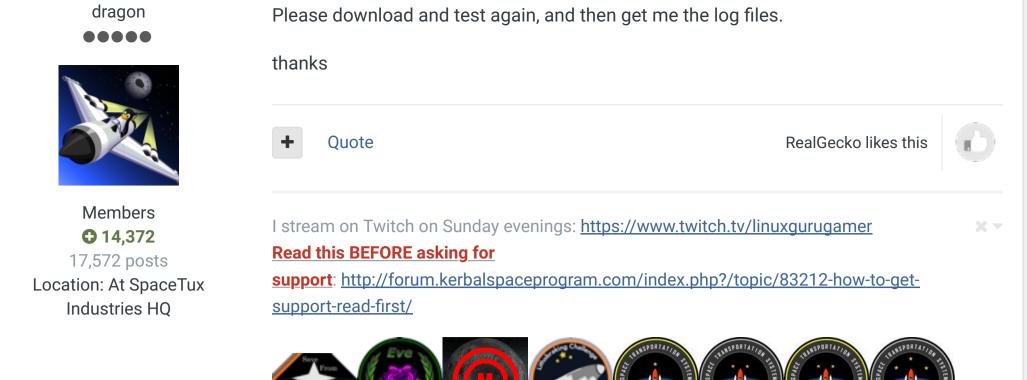


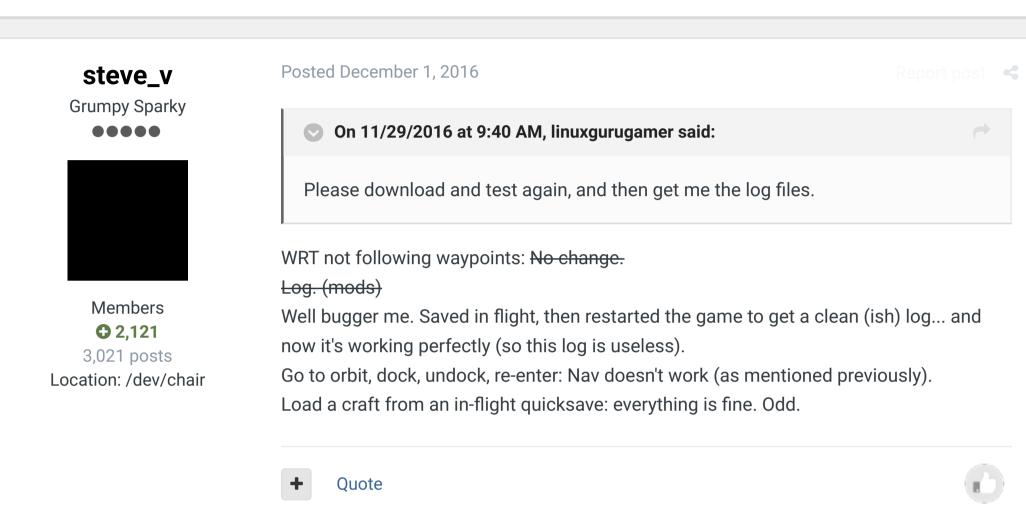
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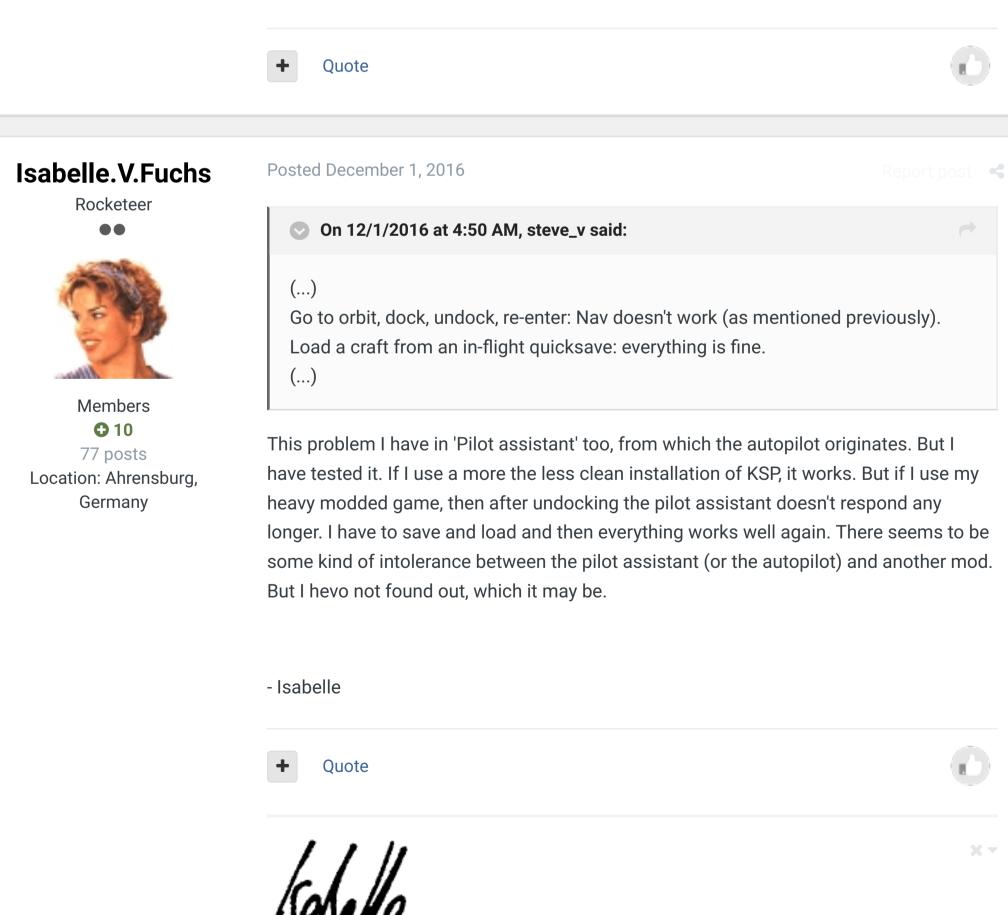


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The light at the end of the tunnel may be an oncoming

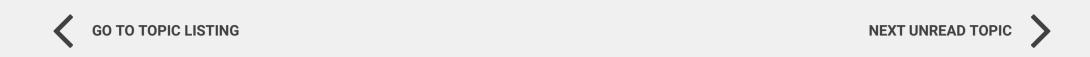














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