Profiles in Separate Files

It is possible to have Profile data separated from the main FSUIPC7 INI file into separate INI files, one for each Profile.

This facility is aimed at those with numbers of extensive Profiles who wish for a better way of managing them and to reduce the growing size of their main INI file to more manageable proportions. If you only use a small number of Profiles then this facility may be rather over the top for your needs.

Introduction

Profiles for aircraft types include one or more of the sections of settings for axis assignment [Axes], joystick calibration [JoystickCalibration], key press assignments [Keys], button and switch assignments [Buttons] and automatic running of macros or Lua plug-ins [Auto].

When these sections are within the main INI file, as always up to now, the profile name is appended to the section name to differentiate them, for example [Axes.B737] for a profile named B737. The new facility simply allows all the sections for the specific profile to be collected into one separate INI file, which will be named for the Profile -- i.e. "B737.ini" in this case.

To avoid conflict with any other INI files for accessories also stored in the installation folder alongside FSUIPC, these separate Profile INI files must be placed into a new sub-folder, "Profiles", within the Installation folder.

Since all of the sections within a profile INI are only related to that named profile, the section names lose the appendage and once again become just [Axes], [Buttons], etc.

The sections within the main INI called [Profile.<name>] remain within the main INI file, because these list the aircraft using the profile called by that <name> and FSUIPC must find this quickly in order to identify the correct file in the Profiles folder -- otherwise it would need to read and search every file in the Profiles sub-folder.

Automatic conversion of existing profiles in FSUIPC7.INI

If you wish (and it is recommended), you can let FSUIPC do the work of editing out the profile sections, even creating the Profiles folder and placing the files there correctly.

To do this:

1. Make sure there is no sub-folder called "Profiles" already in the installation folder.

2. Change the "UseProfiles=Yes" parameter in the main INI to "UseProfiles=Files"

3. Run FS. The conversion will be automatic.

FSUIPC will make a back-up copy of your current INI file, with "before Profiles files" inserted into the name. And it will log what it has found and done, for example:

```
21200 Converting profile sections into separate files in Profiles folder ...
21231 Profile "Missions": 2 sections included
21231 Profile "Airbus": 2 sections included
21247 Profile "737": 1 section included
21247 Profile "Baron": 1 section included
21247 Finished: 4 Profile files created
```

This conversion only happens once. The action is only triggered by the "UseProfiles=Files" setting when there is no existing Profiles sub-folder.

Once there is a Profiles sub-folder it will be searched first for a needed Profile. You can still add profiles to the main INI file if you wish, but these would be ignored if there is a profile INI file with the correct name in the Profiles sub-folder. Furthermore, if "UseProfiles=Files", creating a new Profile using FSUIPC's menus will always create the Profile INI in the Profiles sub-folder, not in the main INI file.

Note that when FSUIPC creates a new profile INI file, it starts it with a section called [Profile] which simply contains one line -- the creation date and time. It does this to avoid creating blank files. the section serves no other purpose. The remaining section headers will be the same as allowed in the original INI file – however please note that there is no need for the .*<profileName>* extension in the headers as the profile has already been determined.

Manual or partial conversion

If you wish to control which profiles are separate and which not, you would need to edit the files yourself. You do not need to set UseProfiles=Files: do so only if you want future new Profiles, created in FSUIPC menus, to be separate files from the outset. If UseProfiles remains only 'Yes' then newly created profiles are created within the main INI file.

Either way, just create a sub-folder in the installation folder called 'Profiles'. The existence of that folder is sufficient to make FSUIPC look there first for profile selection. It will refer back to the main FSUIPC4 INI file if a needed profile is not in the Profiles sub-folder.

Manual creation of the separate files is done by extracting all of the [XXX.<profile name>] sections *except* [Profile.<profile name>] into a separate file named "<profile name>.ini", then removing the ".<profile name>" part of each section heading. Such files must be placed into the Profiles folder.

Note about "Based on ..." profile creation

Profiles created in FSUIPC's menu system follow the above rules no matter whether you create one afresh or use the "based on" facility to derive one from another. The profile it is based on may be drawn from a separate INI

or from the main INI, just as any profile is selected. The created profile is placed in the Profiles sub-folder if "UseProfiles=Files", but in the main INI otherwise.

Of particular note here, however, is the [Auto] section type. "Based on" derivation never includes the original profile [Auto] section. The [Auto] sections must always be edited manually -- the Menu system knows nothing of them. (This always applied in any case, without the separate Profile files facility).

Have fun!
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