FTG-ACARS User Guide

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear pilots,

This is the FTG-ACARS v3 User Guide. It will explain you, how to use FTG-ACARS on your flights. Please note, FTG-ACARS is exclusive to FTG. Thus, the most helpful site will be the FTG Forum/Board, where a lot of helpful people are willing to assist you.

Whenever you encounter a problem, make sure you went through this guide. Do a forum search, and if nothing found that helped, post a topic with as many information as possible, so those who want to help don't need to guess.

So far thank your for your attention, and happy landings!

Markus - LH418 FTG-Systems

P.S.: If I think someone didn't read the manual, I'll ask him something out of this manual. So better be prepared.

Part I - Preparation

Ok Ladies and Gentlemen. We are sitting at our gate. Please check the following:

- ✓ Aircraft parked at departure gate
- ✓ Parking Brakes SET and all engines OFF, APU or GND PWR connected
- ✓ Fuel and Payload loaded, Passengers Boarding
- ✓ FS clock set to local departure time (like some minutes before. Depends on how long you need for your aircraft to be read for take off.)



Everything is set fine. Make sure to load FTG-ACARS now!

Enter your Pilot–ID and your password in the highlighted fields. The white bars are buttons, and refer to left LSK5 on the left side, and right LSK5 on the other. Enter your pilot ID XX### in the so called enterline (that line where you can write something in above INIT, PROG, etc.), then click left LSK5. Do the same with your

password. Attention: Even though you might not see it, FTG-ACARS is case sensitive!

Then press Login (right LSK6) to login.



We are now in the INIT menu of FTG-ACARS. INIT refers to INITIALISATION, so this is where you set everything up for your flight:

INTERNET	LIVERCARS	60061	EEARTH	PRX	200000	CEMENTS	FS		
OEPARTURE	RIRPORT					OESTI	GRTIC	A RIRP	
ZZZZ								Z	ZZ
TIMEZONE	OF OEP						mezon		EST
ZZZZZ								ZZZZ	ZZ
AIRCRAFT							FUIG	ត លោ	BER _
ZZZZZZ								ZZZZ	
a loreact	REG I STRAT I CO							- 0000	ILE 🚽
ZZZZZZ							JEVEL	I FREF	
								FTG-RC	
	r n n i u		I) DO) C	: OCI		rnnnei	TINC	TO D	- C 1
	(00114	AVA	ILABLE	851	FORE	CONNE	TING	T0 8	-5)
	CONLY	AVA	ILA8LE	851	FORE	CONNE			=5) F5 📕
	CONLY	AVA	ILA8LE	881	FORE	CORRE			FS
	CONLY	1 878	ILABLE	881	FORE	CONNE			
	CORLY	AVA	ILABLE	851	FORE	CONNE			FS
	CORLY	1 AVA	ILABLE	85	FORE	CONNE			FS
In (T					FORE		conni	ECT TO	DE
	PROS		ILABLE ORT		FORE	FUEL	conni	ECT TO	FS
UP				TA	FORE		conni	ECT TO	DE

In case you have created a prefile on our online schedules, you can fetch it via pressing the LSK near SELECT PREFILE. You can then select your desired flight from the set of displayed by clicking next to the LSK of the one you like to load.

FTG-ACARS will then try to retrieve all needed information. Most important are the TIMEZONES of your departure and arrival airport. These need to be always filled out. If ACARS can't retrieve them for you, you HAVE TO fill them out using this format: +/-HH:MM, eg. +01:00 or -05:30.

You always have to make sure, all fields are filled out, appear in bright green color!



When ready, click on the LSK next to "CONNECT TO FS" to connect FTG-ACARS to



your flight sim.

Part II - The Flight



You should then get the message, that FSUIPC CONNECTED. Before we depart, I'd like to show you some of the features FTG offers.

The most neglected, but really important feature is the "C"-button. It Clears the messages, that pop up every time FTG-ACARS wants to tell you something, just like that "FSUIPC CONNECTED". But it might be "FSUIPC DISCONNECTED" or something else, so you might want to check it regularly.

By pressing on that C, the message will get cleared and the next one will pop up - or in case you read all the messages, nothing will be displayed.

FTG-ACARS v3.0 Bu	ild 7						X
INTERNET	LIVERCARS 60		PRX 8000	UNCEMENT	'S FS		
CRUISE AUT 148FT	I TUDE	PRCG		(URREAT	ין ד RUT I TUDE THRE	
CRUISE MAC	H SPEEC			CUI	REAT A	RCH SPEEC	
OISTRICE F	LOWN			20025		REAT FUEL 1980 KGS	
015T TO DE 612 AM	STIGRICO						
TIME TO GE	STINRTION						
						:	DEBUS
INIT	PROG	OAT	FA	FUE	L	SET	
UP	0000	AE)	KT	ATC	-	F-PL	HU I

FTG-ACARS v3 User Guide

In the DATA menu, ACARS presents you some nice facts. For instance your current position, some altitudes and speeds, the current timezone (from FS) you're in, and current LOCAL and UTC times. These don't need to be correct, as FS has something called timezone bug, which let's times go FUBAR.

HOTEROET	LIVERCARS	GOOGLEEARTH	PRX RAAMA	EEMENTS F	
CURREAT LO	NG I TUDE	CRTR		CURREN	1/5 IT LATITUDE
34.87155	19795286			32.0074	20946648
CURRENT RU	T I TUDE		CURREN	T HEIGHT R	BOVE GROUND
147 FT					12 FT
CURRENT GR	OUNOSPEED			(URREAT LAS
					כוח ם
CURRENT T1 +02:00	mezone				
CURRENT LO	CRL TIME				
06:19					
CURRENT UT	C TIME				
04:19					08
INIT	PROG		TA .	FUEL	SET
ιp	0000	nex	л	ATC	F-PLA
UP		i it.	A (nic	F-PLRi

Anyway, we're already 4 minutes past scheduled departure time, and need to push back. You are allowed to depart up to 5 minutes ahead of schedule, and up to 30 minutes past scheduled time. Your departure time in the timetable is your push back time, NOT take off time!



We're taxiing to the active runway and are taking off. By now, FTG-ACARS already fetched your blocks off time ...



... and now, also your take off time.

G-ACARS v3.0 Bu				
INTERNET	LIVERCARS GOO	SLEEARTH PAX AN PROS	INCUNCEMENTS PS	2 / 2
SLOCKS OFF	LT SCHEQULED ®		81.0CK	S OFF UTC
65:33				04:23
TRKE-OFF U	Ť		TAK	E-OFF UTC
06:38				04:38
TOUCH-DOWN			TOUCH	-08WA 8TC
BLOCKS IN	LT SCHEQULEO ®O	8:35	SLCC	KS 10 UTC
	ppoc	0070	CHE	05
INIT	PROG	OATA	FUEL	SET

You may have noticed FTG-ACARS already filled in your Block Off and Take Off time. So you're set to proceed in flight!



Some cruise shots here ...

Sometimes you're climbing with a mach speed that is too low (in relation to the recommended cruise speed). ACARS doesn't know you're going to accelerate, so it might give you this warning.

ACARS v3.0 Build 7	GCCGLEERRTH	PRX ROOCKOCEDEOTS	55
	CATA		
CURRENT LONG TUDE			REAT LATITUDE
34.0662091107059	5	33.863	39259442391
CURRENT RUTITUDE		CURRENT HEIGH	T ABOVE GROUND
34010 FT			34046 FT
CURRENT GROUNDSPEED			CURRENT LAS
493 KTS			276 KTS
CURRENT TIMEZONE			-
τυς:υυ			
CURRENT LOCAL TIME			-
07:00			
CURRENT UTC TIME			
05:00			
∰SG WARN: CRUIS	C MOFU ACC	I IMIT	08
אסט שחגוו: נגטוס	JE MALA UFF	L DICLI	
1017 000	-		<i>e 1 2 2</i>
INIT PROS	5 OAT	TA FUEL	SET
UP 0.000	1 NEX	T ATE	F-PLAN

You can clear this warning by clicking on the C besides the Message. Right beside is the number of messages you already collected and need to be viewed. Whenever there's a new message, ACARS wants/needs your interaction! So check this regularly!

The CRUISE MACH OFF LIMIT warning will be given, whenever your cruise mach speed is below or above the recommended speed. If you get the warning, check your current mach speed is ok, and clear that message!

	TERMET LI	VERCARS 60	CGLEERRTH PRCG	PRX ROOCUO	EMENTS PS	; 1/2
	HSE RUTHT 340	700E	FRUU		CURREN	T ALTITUDE
	HSE MACH 1 73	SPEEC			CURRENT	MRCH SPEED 0.78
	STRACE FLO	υn				RREAT FUEL
	ST TO OEST 2 AM	108T100				-
	me to cest :CC	1081100				-
1 #5	G WARN:	: CRUISE #	ACH OFF	ト - 市市 - 1 - 市市 - 1		DEI
		nnoc	001	-		CET
10			DA1	п		SET
10						

We're now in cruise and going through the menus FTG-ACARS has to offer.

We'll start with the DATA menu. Here you can write messages to other pilots that use ACARS. Click in Write Messages to write on.

INTERNET	ild 7 Livercars Go	ogleerrth pr Ortr	X ROOCUOCEMENTS	i FS 2/5	(
MESSAGIN(5 MENU				
READ MES	58685				
WRITE MES	586ES				
					06801
		ACH OFF LI	m 17		UCDU
c n msg war:					
			FIEL	. SE	
C 1 #56 WAR	PROS	OATA	FUEL		

The first line is for the recipient, the other are for your message. If you enter text that would exceed one line, ACARS automatically inserts a line break. Entering text into a line overwrites the existing text.

-ACARS v3.0 B	uild 7 Utwercars Sock		MOUNCEMENTS PS	
SEND MESSE LH418				3 / S
message to THIS IS				_
THE MESS	ne e SAGING WORKS.			_
MESSRGE LI				_
message ti				_
MESSRGE LI			SEND	AESSAGE
	RO: CRUISE MA	CH OFF LIMIT		
INIT	PROS	DATA	FUEL	SET
UP	0000	REXT	ATC	F-PLAA

Clicking NEXT brings you to the Weather Information interface. Inserting a 4-letter ICAO code into right LSK6 fetches you actual and real life METAR for that airport. Looks nice, huh?

TG-ACARS v3.0 Bu			NOUNCEMENTS PS	
-		CATA	_	4/5
C18H 175	0202 0400 XK	T 340V090 999	19	
FEW010 S	CT030 8KN100	ובסוס רס/פס ס	00516	_
_				_
_				_
_			681 G	LTBR
				0680
INIT	PROG	OATA	FUEL	SET
UP		NEXT	ALE	F-PLAN

Pressing NEXT again brings you to the autopause feature of FTG-ACARS v3. Setting this is a bit more complicated, but not really.

Enter any integer number into left LSK1 (e.g. 100 if FS should be paused 100nm before WAYPOINT).

Then enter a WAYPOINT name into left LSK3. This might be EDDK for Cologne Bonn Airport, or something like that. Only WAYPOINTs that are in your Navdata can be used. But you can also enter Longitude/Latitude manually (in decimal format).

To ACTIVE press left LSK5, to deactivate press left LSK5 again.

If FS is paused, and you want to continue, you need to deactivate this feature FIRST!

	INTERNET	LIVERCARS GC	OGLEEARTH ORTA	PAX AND	CUNCEMENTS	FS 5 / 5
	PRUSE FS W 100	HEA GERRER THR				_
	-TO LONSI TU 28.81460					SOUTITRJ 558368.0P
	TO WRYPOIC	π				-
_	01STRACE R 478 AM	EMRIAIAS TO PO	nn			_
1	ACTIVATE	PRUSE MODE				_
						-
						068
						_
	INIT	PR05	CAT	A	FUEL	SET
		0000	nex		ALC	F-PLAA

We got a strange message on our FTG-ACARS: "UNREAD PILOT MESSAGE AVAILABLE". This means, someone sent you a message via FTG-ACARS.

Go to the messaging menu in DATA.

INTERNET	UTVERCRRS SO	OGLEERRTH PRX R ORTR	mouncements P	5/5
PRUSE PS 1	UNED DERRER THR			3/3
T0 L0061T 28.8146				300T1TRJ 5588F8.0
TO URYPON				
OISTRICE				
-				
i ass un	RERO PILOT A	ESSAGE AVAIL	RBLÉ	DEE
	19225	20	FUEL	SET
1017				

And read the message (press left LSK2).

G-,	ACARS v3.0 Bui		SLEEARTH PAX A	CACUACEMENTS FS	
	THE ERIE L	VIVERLARD OUU	ORTR CAT	ANNOUNCEMENTS F3	3/5
	RECEIVED ME	SSRGE FROM			ECE I VEO AT
	68418			1 NJHN	10 2042Z
	MESSAGE LIN				-
	IH15 15 J	JUST R LITT	CE TEST TO 5	HOW HOW THE A	1255861
	MESSRGE LIN ING WORKS				-
	MESSRGE LIN				-
	message tin				_
	MESSRGE LIN				
					BACK CEB
	ms6 UAR	ERO PILOT MA	ESSAGE AVAIL	ASLE	000
	INIT	PR05	DATA	FUEL	SET
	ЦР	0000	NEXT	ATE	F-PLAN

This is the message we wrote outselves earlier ...

The FUEL menu gives you information about your fuel.

FTG-ACARS v3.0 Bu				•
INTERNET	LIVERCARS GOOD	RUEL PAX R	INDUNCEMENTS P	171
BLOCKS OUT		FUCU		FUEL USED
55005 18	85 9980 K65		4961 685	22S0 KGS
TRKE OFF				
51184 06	85 96 13 K65			
TOUCH DOWN				
K65	L8S			
8LOCK5 10				
KSS	L85			
				0.501/5
ε				06802
INIT	PROS	OATA	NEL	SET
UP	0000	REXT	ATC	F-PLAN
	0.04071			

The SET menu is a bit more important. Here you can relogin again (not really necessary ...), but also can change some important settings, when clicking NEXT.

FTG-ACARS v3.0 Bu	uild 7 UTVERCRR5 GCCC	LEERRTH PRX RO SET	nowncements fs	1/3
WELCOME	TO FTG-ACARS	VB		
PLEASE 8	ENTER YOUR LO	GIN DATA INT	O THE FIELOS	86700
PTG-RCARS PLEASE L	va is out! USE BUILO 1!			
PILOT IO LH418				PRSSWORD
STORE LOGI	O CRITE			
STOKE COOT				LOGIN 0E8UG
C				02000
INIT	PROG	OATA	FUEL	SET
UP	0000	f i XT	ALC	F-PLAN

For example you can change options for LiveACARS, GoogleEarth and so on ...

... but you can also save and load ACARS flights. This is interesting in case your computer crashes. In case FS quits unexpectedly, leave FTG-ACARS open, reload FS and reconnect. FTG-ACARS won't save FS flights, just the ACARS state! For saving flights in FS, there are various possibilites.

To save a flight, enter the name into the enterline and press SAVE FLIGHT (right LSK5). By default FTG-ACARS saves its status every 10 minutes. You can load this status by loading the flight called AUTOSAVE, by entering AUTOSAVE into the enterline and pressing right LSK6.

	INTERNET	LIVERCARS			nnowncements P	
	UIEDEDDE	C0001 C0	S	ET	107500	E / S
	LIVERCARS	E HOUEU			i i i ERi	ET TIMEOUT -
	INCOL.					20000
		TH EARBLED				-
	TRUE					
	INTERNET	ENABLEO (FAL	.SE=LIVERC	ARS IS OIS	18ELO)	
	TRUE					
	0000000000	สถายปรกรสาธก	TC 60891 0	5	DECET CL	STEM FILES
	TRUE	THEOUTICHEN		0	NESET ST	
	RUTOSRVE E	EGR8LEO		SP	WE FLIGHT CENTE	R FILENREE
	TRUE					
				LC LC	RO FLIGHT CENTE	R FILENROE)
						0.51
						068
UTO	SAVE					
	nit –	PROG	ki j		FUEL	SET
	UP	0000			ATC	F-PLAN

Changing the other options on the left hand side requires you to enter TRUE or FALSE and pressing the desired LSK.

CARS v3.0 Build 7			
INTERNET LIVERCARS	GOOGLEERRTH PI	RX ROODUNCEMENTS P	
LIVERCARS ENABLED		LOTERO	ET TIMEOUT
			30000
SCOOLEERRTH EARBLED			
INTERNET ENRBLED (FRU TRUE			
PRSSENGER RANOUCHEMEN	ITS ENABLED		STEM FILES
RUTOSRUE EGRBLEO TRUE			R FILEORDE)
			R FILEORDE)
.58			
INIT PROG	CATA	FUEL	SET
inter inter	Until	, oco	JULI
UP COWA	next	RTC	F-PLA
00001			

FTG-ACARS v3 User Guide

We're now getting towards descend and our destination. So have a look at \ldots



... the ATC page, where you can store any text. This is useful for online flights or whatever.

FTG-ACARS v3.0 Bu	uild 7					X
INTERNET	LIVERCARS GOO		PAX AMM	NCEMENTS	FS	
CURRENT RT	T	ALC			1 / 1 GENERAL INFO	
CURRENT FR	EQ				GENERAL INFO	
OEXT FREQ					GENERAL INFO	
GENERAL IN	FC				GENERRL INFO	
GENERAL IN	FO				GENERRL INFO	
GENERAL IN	F0				GENERAL INFO	
C					08	806
INIT	PROG	ORT	R	FUEL	SET	
UP	0000	NEX	T	NTE.	F-PLA	1

To enter a FLIGHTPLAN go onto the F-PLAN page and enter any string you want to. This string gets assembled from up to down and will be sent as your FLIGHTPLAN together with your PIREP. This is not mandatory. You can scroll up and down using the fields UP AND DOWN. To replace a Waypoint our Route, enter the name and press the LSK next to the line you want to replace. The right hand side won't work, put everything into the left hand side.

FTG-ACARS v3.0 Bu		ISLEEARTH PAX A	nnouncements F	5
LL85				
OIRECT				
LTBR				
c				DEBUG
RUY				
INIT	PROG	OATA	FUEL	SET
Llb Llb	0000	NEXT	ATC	PLAN

FTG-ACARS v3 User Guide

Other can follow your flight on FTG LIVE ACARS. When the LIVEACARS label on top of your FTG-ACARS shows green, you're transmitting data. To change this, go into SETtings or click on the label. This works also for the other setting on top.





We're now ready for landing and approach, so enjoy the picture ...





And land safely ...



We're now at the gate. Our flight performed well and all engines are shut down and parking brakes are set again. Passengers or freight is deboarding and so on ...

Time to finish the flight by sending the PIREP.

ACARS detected you've reached your gate and switched back to the INIT page. If not, check again your engines are ALL off and parking brake is SET.

Double check all times. Your local arrival time might be off by an hour are half an hour or something like that. That is because FTG-ACARS autocorrects the FS Timezone Bug. Don't worry about this, it's all fine :-)

v3 got modified when it comes to block/flight-time. By entering a value like 2.2 your flight/block time gets overwritten. If you enter nothing (just click right LSK1/2 with enterline being empty), then ACARS calculates your flight/block-time again!

i i i ERit	ET LIVERCARS GOO	GLEEARTH PAX AC	NOUNCEMENTS FS	2 / 5
OEPARTU 06:23	RE TIME (LOCAL) SC		TOTAL 8	
TAKE OF	F TI∰E (LOCRL)		TOTAL FL	кант тифе 1.5
тоысн о 08:11	COWN TIME (LOCAL)		TOTAL 11056 L85 5	8LOCK FUEL
ARR I VAL	, TIME (LOCAL) SCHE	CULEO @08:35		
_			×	0680
			*	0680
- INIT	PROS	OATA	FUEL	OEBU SET

This page looks fine, press NEXT to get to the next one.

	LIVERCARS 600		RAADUNCEMEATS FS	
CRUISE ALT FL340	I TUDE		TOTAL DIST	3 / 5 RACE FLOWA 674 AM
CRUISE MAC	H SPEEC			PEED (185) 122
FLIGHT TYP NORMAL				TCRE SPEED
ORLINE RET	UCRK			
COMMENTS TUTOR I AL				
-				SEND PIREP
		DATA		SEE .
INIT				

On This page you can change CRUISE ALTITUDE and/or CRUISE MACH SPEED. FTG-ACARS is very reliant, but sometimes FS winds are so strong, you mach speed gets off the limit or whatever. In this case, you can change it. ACARS will tell you so! Enter it in the format you see, and press left LSK2 to put it into ACARS.

Also because of those unexpected winds, you can change the CRUISE ALTITUDE whenever you want to. Make sure, to do so only in case you need it!

To add comments, enter any text into the enterline and press left LSK5.

For flight types, there are three options: NORMAL, FREIGHT or CLASSIC. You can enter them as N, F or C.

There are two online networks. IVAO, VATSIM (I,V). or NONE (N).

Last but not least, before sending the PIREP, I'd like you to know this:

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PIREP – NOT ACARS!

Press SEND PIREP (right LSK6) to send the PIREP to FTG. You can now close FTG-ACARS.

FTG-ACARS v3 User Guide

Part III - Useful Information.

Here I'd like to give you some additional information. I may update this section from time to time.

You need FSUIPC v3 for FS9.

You need FSUIPC v4 for FSX.

XPUIPC for X-Plane might deliver wrong information. It is not recommended to be used at this time. Contact Management for manual filing!

The errorlog is located in the system subfolder of FTG-ACARS. Post it, whenever there are technical problems with FTG-ACARS.

In case FS quits but ACARS keeps running, and you've not yet reached the gate: Reload FS to the situation before it quit. Then reconnect ACARS. Your landing time might be off, but that's the timezone correction.

ACARS always tells me to use some build. What's this?

With FTG-ACARS v3 I decide between version number (3), subversion number (3.0, 3.1, 3.2 ...) and Build (3.0 Build 7, or 3.0.7).

You can determine your current build in the caption of the windows FTG-ACARS runs in. If the static text tells you to use Build7, and the text reads FTG-ACARS v3.0 Build 7 you're fine. Else update.

My block/flight time is wrong.

Then change it. See page 21.