

Author's Guide To Creating 3rd Party Product Reviews For Ultimate Terrain

Overview

Each Ultimate Terrain (UT) series product covers a wide portion of the Earth's surface. We feel this provides our users with a tremendous value. Our goal at Scenery Solutions and Flight One is to set the MSFS scenery standard for drawing vector-based terrain scenery enhancements.

While the large UT coverage area provides great value, it can also impact many of the freeware and commercial scenery products that have made this hobby so great due to the large coverage area.

Many products are complementary to Ultimate Terrain. These include mesh, landclass and 3D airport scenery enhancements, among others. Many of these products will be 100% compatible with Ultimate Terrain out of the box.

Scenery conflicts can occur when a scenery product tries to duplicate some, or all, of the functionality in Ultimate Terrain.

Given that there are probably thousand's of scenery products available for Microsoft's Flight Simulator (freeware and commercial), maintaining compatibility with each of those products is a difficult, if not impossible, task for us to achieve.

In an effort to assist our users with product compatibility issues, we have been looking for a way of involving everyone in this process. This includes not only ourselves, but our users, and other 3rd party scenery developers as well.

We have created, what we think, will be a very useful solution for all those involved. This solution involves the authoring of mini-scenery reviews, through a public website, which will discuss compatibility issues between Ultimate Terrain and other scenery products.

The "Ultimate Terrain Compatibility" website will allow user's to self-register themselves as "scenery authors". Custom forms have been created to allow the information to be entered and presented in a structured manner.

Each scenery review will specify:

- the product name
- the developer/vendor
- a link to the developer/vendor website
- a link to any patches that may be required
- the level of compatibility with Ultimate Terrain

- the specific Ultimate Terrain products (regions) that may be affected/conflict with the product in question.
- Any special instructions for getting the product to work with Ultimate Terrain.

A scenery review should only address a products compatibility with Ultimate Terrain. Please do not use the reviews as a sales pitch in one way or another.

If an attempt is made by an author to promote a product in this website, it will be removed by the administrator(s). We want to keep this website fair to all developers.

Products can be further promoted, by providing a link to the product website. We have provided a form field for this information to be entered.

If You Are A Scenery Developer...

We welcome any scenery developer to author his/her own compatibility review with Ultimate Terrain. Not only will your review benefit Ultimate Terrain users, it will also increase your product exposure to the Ultimate Terrain user base.

You can provide a link to your product website, for further promoting purposes.

If you are a scenery developer who needs technical assistance with Ultimate Terrain compatibility issues, feel free to write us at partner@scenerysolutions.com.

Please limit reviews to those products that are terrain scenery related. Enhanced aircraft will obviously have no impact on terrain-based scenery products.

Viewing Existing Scenery Reviews

Any user can view the list of current reviews, without registration, by accessing the "Ultimate Terrain Compatibility" website at the link below:

www.scenerysolutions.com/compatility

Registering To Become A Scenery Author

Before authoring a 3rd party scenery review, you will need to register. Registered users can author new scenery reviews and edit their own reviews. They cannot edit scenery reviews done by others.

To register as a new user, go to the link below and press the "register" button.

<http://www.scenerysolutions.com/Compatibility/wp-login.php>

You will need to create a username and enter your email address. The email address must be valid, as your password will be mailed to you.

After receiving your email, you can login with your username and new password.

Your email address will not be used, except by any web administrators that may need to get in touch with you regarding the review entry.

Steps For Publishing A Review

The "Ultimate Terrain Compatibility" website is based on the wordpress blogging software, which has been customized. Each time you log in as a registered user, you will be presented with the dashboard page for Ultimate Terrain.

To create a new scenery review, click the "write" tab at the top of the window. This will take you to the "Write Page" form, which allows you to enter the information for your scenery review.

Before entering the review, you will need to following information:

1. The product name.
2. The product publisher and/or developer.
3. The product website URL (or link to the product download location if freeware).
4. A URL link to the site containing any special patches (if provided).
5. The level of Ultimate Terrain compatibility (discussed later).
6. The region Ultimate Terrain products that are affected by the reviewed scenery products.
7. Any special instructions, or installation procedures required to make the products compatible.

Product Name:

This is obvious. It is the name of the 3rd party product being reviewed.

Product Vendor

This is the name of the developer and/or publisher for the product.

Vendor Website URL

This is the URL that can direct users to the main product page for ordering and/or support.

Vendor Patch URL

This is the URL for any patches that may need to be downloaded to achieve Ultimate Terrain compatibility.

Ultimate Terrain Compatibility

You should enter one of the following values, depending on the 3rd party products level of compatibility with Ultimate Terrain:

- Yes, no modifications necessary.
- Yes, with supplied patch
- Yes, with special instructions
- Not Currently Compatible

UT Products Affected:

Enter the list of Ultimate Terrain products that are impacted regionally by the 3rd party product being reviewed.

Please enter one or more of the following values, separated by a comma if necessary:

- UT USA
- UT Canada/AK
- UT Europe

Additional UT products will be added as they become available.

Special Instructions:

This section is critical, especially if you selected a "Yes, with special instructions" level of Ultimate Terrain Compatibility.

If special instructions are necessary, please enter them in this location.

Special instructions may include:

- Layering positions of both UT and the 3rd party product in question, using the FS2004 library manager.
- Renaming of certain BGL files (scenery files) to achieve Ultimate Terrain compatibility.
- Anything else that may be of importance to the user.

We Thank You !

We would like to thank any author, who has given his time to do a scenery review. Any review is better than no review.

We hope to get as many people involved in the process as possible.

Cheers,
Allen Kriesman
Scenery Solutions