



Routes

Regular Routes Quick Reference

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Intro

Regular routes are a way for both companies and Virtual Airlines to have jobs (Both Cargo and Passenger types) generated between 2 airports and allowing the creation of round trips. Trips are not required to have a return leg though, and you may choose to create a setup with multiple outbound legs before you return if you wish.

Routes have a limitation, in that if you do not fly a particular route for a period longer than 2 weeks, it will be automatically dismantled.

The number of passengers and amount of cargo generated on a new route start low but increase over time to reach the maximum potential within about 4 weeks.

If you forget to fly a scheduled route, your company will suffer reputation damage for failing to meet customer expectations.

Initially AI pilots will not be allowed to fly regular route jobs but the rule may change in the future dependant on various factors and when we have sufficient data to estimate the performance metrics of the feature.

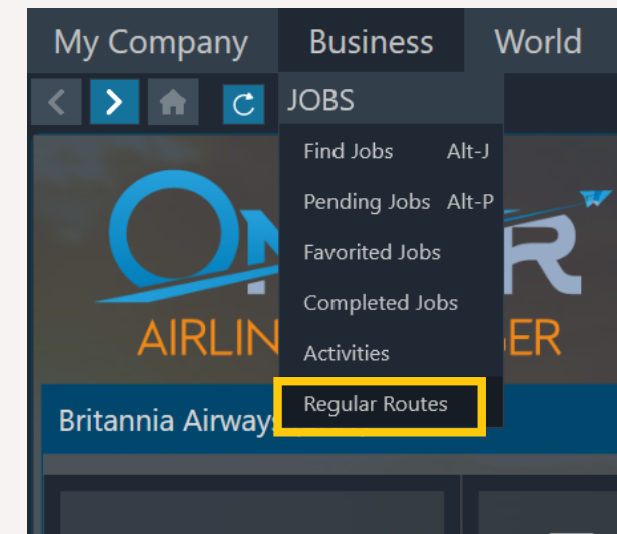
Important Considerations

Before you get started in trying to create routes, there is a brief checklist of points to consider or be aware of:

- 1) You must possess an FBO at both the origin and destination (Departure and Arrival point) of any route leg you wish to create.
- 2) You must perform a reference flight, **In the intended direction**, between origin and destination prior to creating the route.
- 3) Routes generate jobs into your pending jobs automatically, these are generated approximately 12 hours prior to the scheduled departure time to allow UTC offsets and help routes conform more easily to your real life schedule.
- 4) If a route has no passengers or cargo available at the time it generates, it will not create any job. If you create a new route and it departs too close to the time of creation, you will not see a job from it until the following week. Please try to leave a minimum of 24 hours between the time you create the route and its scheduled departure to ensure there is available time for passengers and cargo charters to be booked.
- 5) Routes may fluctuate in demand over time, this is based on a large list of factors including a small degree of random fluctuation. Most other factors are within your control and can be used to grow the demand on your route, which will be discussed later in this section.

Where to find the Regular Routes settings

You can find the Regular Routes management screen under the 'Business' menu and then 'Regular Routes' as shown below:



Once you enter this screen you will be presented with a list of your scheduled routes on the left and a map of them on the right hand side. We can create a new one by selecting the 'Create new Route' button which will take us to the settings screen to begin configuring our route.

Please ensure you complied with points 1) and 2) from the important considerations section above before attempting to create a route, as it will be impossible to do so without those two factors. If you are unsure how to create an FBO, you should use the option from the World menu → Airports. Enter the ICAO or use the + button on the top left to find the airport you desire to create an FBO at then select 'Create FBO' from the right hand side.

The reference flight just requires you to have flown a single flight departing from your intended origin (or Departure) airport and landing at your intended destination (or Arrival) airport that has been tracked by OnAir. It does not matter if you flew this empty or carried any payload. It is recommended to complete this flight in the aircraft you intend to use for your route, however it is not strictly necessary so you may use a different aircraft if you wish.

Regular Routes Management									
Create new Route									
Status	Filling rate	Potential	Set	Flight #	Departure	Arrival			
Active				7	Friday - 09:00	EGCC	11:15	LEMD	Settings
Active				5	Thursday - 12:00	LEMD	14:00	LOWW	Settings

Route settings page

Regular Route Settings

Save

Flight #:

1

Color:

A

Route Group:

(Optional)

Departure FBO:

Select departure FBO

Arrival FBO:

Select arrival FBO

Day:

Sunday

Departure (UTC):

0:00:00

Arrival (UTC):

0:00:00

Departure PAX heatmap

Departure Cargos heatmap

No Departure Airport Selected

Reference Flight

No flight with specified Departure and Arrival

Update Forecast and Reference Prices

Once you choose to create a new route you will be presented with the above screen. Please be aware that some sections will become active as you fill in the settings so the screen will change a little as you create your route. There are a lot of things going on here so let’s review them one-by-one.

Flight # - Flight number is a value for your own reference and immersion. You can input any number here or repeat numbers as you wish.

Color - Also a value for your own reference, it controls the colour of the route “line” on the map in the main routes management screen. You can use it to help visually distinguish between different chains or patterns of routes that you may design.

Route Group - A final value for your own organizational purposes. This can be left blank or you can assign a name to help you sort the list of routes as your company grows.

Departure FBO - A drop down box listing all of your FBOs. This assigns the airport from which the route job will depart.

Arrival FBO - Much like the departure FBO, however this assigns where you will land to finish the route job.

Day - Since routes are repeated automatically each week, we only need to indicate which day of the week they will occur on not a specific date.

Departure (UTC) - The departure time is the point at which you expect to begin your flight. Think of it as the time your aircraft will pushback from the gate and start engines. This is essentially the time at which you will ‘start tracking’ in OnAir.

Arrival (UTC) - This is the time at which you expect to end your flight. Think of it as the point at which your aircraft engines will be shutdown, so you may need to factor in such things as taxi times if you intend to follow ground procedures, however as always OnAir will accept the flight so long as you are on the ground at the right location and your engines shut down so the choice is yours.

Slot Start (UTC) and Duration - These settings will appear when you select an appropriate departure and arrival FBO. You get one for both the Departure and for the Arrival. These are “booking” your time at the gate and the ground handling crew and so you should consider how long your aircraft will take to load and unload passengers and cargo. If you end up outside of these times, the airport will levy a fine on you for out of schedule work.

Reference Flight - This drop down box will not appear until you have selected your departure and arrival FBOs. It will list any known valid flights between the departure and arrival fbo, select the one most appropriate to your intended aircraft to fly the route if there are multiple. If there are none available, you will have to go back and create a reference flight as mentioned on page 3 of this guide.

Departure PAX heatmap and Departure Cargos Heatmap - This is a visualisation that helps you see where the highest demand is at your intended departure airport. The brighter the green, the more demand there is at that time. Each box represents a 1 hour slot and each column represents a day of the week. These can fluctuate slightly day by day and week by week. You can hover your mouse cursor over a box for a tooltip that clarifies which 1 hour slot it relates to. You will also see two small boxes to the right of the Departure time box on the left, these show the level of demand for passengers and cargo at the time you indicated.

Available Seats and Ticket Prices - Assuming you have a valid route and reference flight you will now be able to set how many tickets you wish to be available in each class, and how much you will charge for each type of ticket. By default these will choose the “average” expected price for the route which is intended to be a happy medium, however by lowering and raising ticket prices you can encourage more passengers to book with your airline or charge a premium if the demand is higher than your capacity .

Cargo Available Weight and Price - This allows you to specify how many pounds (lbs) of cargo you are willing to carry in addition to any passengers. The price box is per 1000lbs of cargo.

Forecast - To the right of each seat type and the cargo amount you will see a number indicating roughly how many passengers and how much cargo is likely to be booked on the route. Please do keep in mind that this value is based on all factors as they are at this immediate point in time. You may improve your company reputation and drive higher demand, for example, before the route has finished filling.

Total Pay Forecast - This value is about how much you can expect the route job to pay out if you manage to sell all available seats and cargo space.

Saving and activating the route

Once you have created your route (see below for an example of a fully finished route set-up for an A330-900) you can click the ‘save’ button at the top to register the details in your company, however the route is still not active at this stage.

Save

Flight #:

10

Color:

A

Route Group:

(Optional)

Departure FBO:

BRIT Manchester FBO

Arrival FBO:

BRIT Barajas FBO

Day:

Saturday

Departure (UTC):

7:00:00

Slot Start (UTC):

7:00:00

Duration:

1:00:00

Arrival (UTC):

9:15:00

Slot Start (UTC):

9:15:00

Duration:

1:00:00

Departure PAX heatmap

Departure Cargos heatmap

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

00

06

12

18

EGCC UTC 0

PAX

Available Seats

Ticket Price

Forecast

Eco seats

233

3,622.00
Avg: 3,622.00

192 - 240 PAX

Bus seats

65

4,708.00
Avg: 4,708.00

54 - 68 PAX

First seats

32

5,433.00
Avg: 5,433.00

27 - 34 PAX

Cargos

Available Weight

Price for 1000 lbs

Forecast

Cargos

32,000

14,316.00
Avg: 14,316.00

8336 - 10420 lbs

Total Pay Forecast:

1,781,914.00

Reference Flight

26/10/2021 - Duration 2 hours, 17 minutes - 2,951

Date:

10/26/2021

Aircraft:

N9728N

Flight Map

Duration:

2 hours, 17 minutes

Fuel used:

2,957.58 gals

Once the route is saved, a green ‘Activate’ Route and red ‘Delete’ button will become visible. Before you click activate, be aware that routes have a recurring cost (to pay for the airport gate, ground crew, etc.) This will be charged upon activating the route and once per week that the route continues to be active. When you click the activate button you will be given a summary of these prices. The calculation for this is: ((Departure Slot Duration/0.5) + (Arrival Slot Duration/0.5)) * (Total Pay Forecast * 0.125)

Factors affecting route performance

How effective your route ticket and cargo sales are is affected by a large number of factors. You can see a quick overall summary by looking at the “Potential” meter next to each route on the main Route Management screen, however by hovering your cursor over this meter you can get a more precise breakdown of each factor and how it is affecting your route sales.

Status ▼	Filling rate	Potential	Set ▼	Flight # ▼	Departure
Active				7	Friday - 09:00
Active				5	Thursday - 12:00
Active				10	Saturday - 07:00
Active				8	Friday - 12:00
Active				2	Wednesday - 11:45
Active				4	Thursday - 08:00
Active				1	Wednesday - 09:00

Let’s take a quick review of what these mean:

Percentage total - This is the overall value with all factors considered and is what the Potential meter is actually displaying. 50% Would be a completely flat average route performance overall.

Reliability - This is a consideration of how consistently you complete the route and how timely you are at completing the route. It will rise or fall over time depending on your performance.

Eco, Business and First ticket price - As you can adjust your ticket pricing, these factors will influence more or less people to book with your airline. A positive value means your ticket is cheaper than average and a negative value indicates you are charging more than people expect on average.

Cargo Price - Much the same as the passenger tickets, this reflects if you are over pricing or undercutting the market on your price per 1000lbs of cargo. Lower prices will encourage more companies to charter cargo with you.

Travel time - How the passengers feel about the length of time your route takes to go from its origin to its destination. If you seem to fly much slower than expected, passengers will be less likely to book with you.

ROA - This is based around your company’s financial health, your Return On Assets. If you are an airline with massive debts compared to your assets and profits, this will make people fearful to book flights with you as you may go bankrupt or simply be unreliable. A healthy financial status will inspire more confidence with travellers and freight bookings.

Aircraft Condition - Passengers will be discouraged by seeing an airline operating aircraft that are dirty, poorly maintained and excessively old. If you operate the route with a poor condition aircraft, this value will start to drop and discourage ticket sales. Keeping your aircraft in tip-top condition will help the number return closer to 0 and stop negatively affecting your sales.

The Filling Rate meter

Finally on the management screen you will see a meter next to each route leg labeled Filling rate. This shows you how much of your available tickets and cargo space you have already sold. The meter will slowly rise up to a point around 12 hours prior to the scheduled departure time, then any booked tickets and cargo will be placed into a job directly in your ‘pending jobs’ list and the meter will reset to 0, slowly rising again till the route is due again in the following week. You can mouse over this for a breakdown of specifically how many of each type of ticket you have sold. It is a good way to see if your routes are failing to fill up fast enough, indicating you should consider changing some settings or abandoning the route and creating something more profitable.

