ATCpro Lesson 4c Video script

Version 2, 6-13-16 D. Logan

***Note: to recreate the traffic as seen in the lesson, from an older schedule database, please download and install the files in ATCproTutorial traffic db files.zip. See included readme install instructions. To see the traffic, set the slider to "Custom" 100% instead of "Commercial" 100% (see below).***

Narrator

Welcome to Lesson 4c of ATCpro! Now it's time to get to what you have been waiting for! To try your hand at controlling airplanes. This lesson will be set up exactly the same as the previous with the Computer controllers only now you are in charge! In the last lesson you learned how to use voice commands. In this lesson you will learn how to use keyboard entered commands and the right click mouse menu commands.

Setup the scenario the same as before on the Duty Desk. Many of the settings will not have to be changed, but I'll go through them again to double check.

Facility ABQ – Albuquerque Sunport

Weather: East flow, Wind 080 degrees at 5 knots, few clouds.

Traffic: Departures - ***Commercial 100%,*** everything else 0%

***Note: set to Custom 100% instead of Commercial 100% if custom traffic database is installed.***

Arrivals - all set to 0%
Other – all set to 0%

Position: Now set both North and South to User control.

Time: set from your current time and day to 9:08 Wednesday

Click the Begin Your Shift button.

When the program finishes loading, go ahead and pause the sim to rearrange the pop up windows on the scope for our controlling session.

On the Comm panel Click on the TX SEL and RX SEL buttons on the 1st 2nd and 3rd rows as before. You can close this window to get it out of the way.

On the Left side of the scope you will see the Flight Information strip window. Resize the window to take up less space by dragging the arrows that appear at the top and bottom of the window. You can move the smaller window to an out of the way location like over here on the right.

In the blue Communications History window on the lower left you can resize this window too to take up less space in the same way as the Strip window by dragging the arrows.

Click on the RANGE button on the DCB bar at the top of the scope. Roll your mouse on top of the button and Zoom in until it reads 36 and click to lock it in.

Next click on the MAPS button on the DCB. Click on #14 ZAB-SEC to see the Center controller airspace boundaries and frequencies.

Next click on the ARR DEP button on the right of the DCB. Click on KABQ. Click on #309 MNZNO2 (manzano 2). This is a departure procedure map for our departing aircraft. Click on DONE to get back to the scope.

I will unpause now to continue with the scenario… You can see a message in red text to press shift enter to begin position relief. I will do this now to hear the briefing.

Notice in the Flight Plans list on the left side of the scope the first line shows AAL 1332. At 1610 on the system clock AAL 1332 will disappear from the flightplan list and appear in a new list of Albuquerque Tower Departures you will next hear the dialog between AAL1332 and the Tower as he departs on runway 8.

Now AAL 1332's datatag has appeared and we can give the pilot his first commands.
I will pause the simulation and explain how to give commands using the keyboard.

The first command to give is radar contact.
You begin by typing the # pound or number sign followed by the aircraft callsign, then a space then type RT and press enter. Note that you can right click on the S of the datatag and the number sign and the callsign will be entered for you, then you can type the rest of the command. You may find some of the mouse menu buttons offer shortcuts for the commands you need. When using them remember to press enter after the text appears in the preview area. In the case of the departure commands we need for this lesson you must type in the commands for them to be correct.

Now I'll unpause and give the Radar Contact command and the other remaining commands so you can practice, since the pilot can't respond when the sim is paused. If you can't follow the keyboard commands fast enough, back up this video and replay as much as you want.

Ok here we go… Sim unpaused.

Typing #AAL1132 space RT - this is radar contact – press enter
Readback AAL1132 roger
Typing #AAL1132 space PD comma YUGLU - This is Proceed direct to waypoint YUG loo – press enter
REadback AAL1132 proceed direct yugloo
Typing #AAL1132 space JD comma MNZNO2– This is join the Manzano two departure – press enter
Readback AAL1132 join the manzano two departure
That's it for now…

Notice now in the Flight Strip window there is a strip for AAL 1332 that shows useful information about the flightplan and records the clearances and waypoints given.
Watch AAL 1332 follow the route while climbing. By the time he has reached Yug loo it is time to give a climb command.
I'll enter the command now…
Typing #AAL1132 space CM comma 20000 – Climb and maintain 20,000 feet, the exit altitude for the sector –press enter.

The aircraft will turn left at Manzano and head for the FATTee's waypoint. Once he's past Manzano you can start the handoff process to the next controller, in this case Albuquerque Center sector 94. Let's skip ahead to the next command…

To make a handoff to Center you need to type the letter "C" and you will see it appear on the preview area on the lower right side of the scope, then click on the "N" of the datatag. If it is done correctly you will see the Center sector Id appear in the middle of the datatag's second line. After a minute the "N" will change to a "C". When Center is ready to accept the handoff, the datatag will flash then the datatag will turn green. This means the Center controller has accepted the handoff of AAL 1332.

Let's do the handoff key command now… Type C then click on the N of the aircraft target. Notice the C94 in the middle of second line of the datatag. Then the datatag flashes and turns green.

You can now give the pilot the Center controller's frequency to change to, in this case 133.65. The keyboard command is:
Typing #AAL1132 space FC comma 133.65 – Frequency change for the next controller – press enter.

The pilot will readback that he is contacting Center and his datatag will reduce to a C with the altitude of the aircraft when it is fully under the control of the Center controller.

You are now an official controller of simulated airplanes. Congratulations!

I encourage you to watch this lesson a few times then try it yourself to get some practice and confidence giving keyboard commands to aircraft. You may find it easier to give keyboard commands but ultimately you will find it more efficient and realistic as well as more fun to learn how to use all voice commands.

In the next lesson 5a I will demonstrate how to control a single arriving aircraft using voice commands.

Click the X in the upper right corner of the scope to end the session.