

Preflightly Enters Beta : A Free Add-on Manager and Route Finder for Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024

A new desktop tool tackles the growing complexity of MSFS add-on libraries, with native support for Marketplace and Official content alongside community and payware packages.

Paris, France — Preflightly, a free desktop application for Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024, is now available in public beta at preflightly.app. The app is built around two core problems faced by long-time MSFS users : keeping a large add-on library manageable, and figuring out what can actually be flown with the content already installed.

The project is developed by Thomas Philibert, previously known in the community as **Headwind**, the author of several well-received MSFS add-ons released between 2020 and 2023. After stepping back from the scene to focus on family life, Thomas returns with Preflightly as his comeback project.

“What I really wanted was a way to keep MSFS light by only loading what I actually use for a given flight. With smart groups I can enable just the airports of one region, and I can finally stop fighting with the manual install of addons and GSX profiles.”

— Thomas Philibert, developer

A central library, fully reversible

Preflightly moves add-ons out of the Community/ folder into a user-chosen central library. Activation is handled through symbolic links : enabling an add-on creates a link in Community/ so MSFS can load it, disabling it removes the link. No files are copied or duplicated, and the original install can be restored at any time through a built-in Reset flow that walks users back to a vanilla state.

The app reads MSFS’s own package manifests to classify each add-on (aircraft, livery, scenery, GSX profile, dependency library), which keeps asset packs from polluting the scenery list and lets the app surface relevant context per type.

Route Finder : 70,000+ routes cross-referenced with the user’s library

The Route Finder feature is built on a database of more than 70,000 commercial routes, matched against the user’s installed content. Crucially, it accounts for **Marketplace and Official MSFS airports and aircraft**

alongside community and payware add-ons, by reading the simulator's own content manifest. An enhanced default airport counts as coverage if it's enabled.

Aircraft matching goes beyond strict ICAO lookup. When a route calls for an A321 and the user owns a Fenix A320, Preflightly suggests the closest viable substitute from the user's actual hangar, prioritizing community payware over default content. The goal is to surface what's flyable today rather than block routes on exact type mismatches.

Smart grouping, conflict detection, and Quick Import

After the initial scan, Preflightly proposes starter groups (sceneries by ICAO region, aircraft by category) that can be activated or deactivated in bulk before a session. Conflict detection warns the user before two sceneries are linked into Community/ for the same ICAO, including conflicts between community and Official content.

Quick Import accepts folders, ZIP archives, or GSX profiles via drag and drop. The app locates the manifest root inside nested archives, detects the package type, places embedded GSX profiles in the correct directory, and prompts before replacing existing versions.

Free for the community

Preflightly is free to use. The application targets Windows and is built on Tauri v2.

What's next

The beta is only the starting point. Preflightly is being developed with a clear direction : keep cutting down the time pilots spend managing their addons so they can spend it flying instead. Planned improvements include richer automation around imports and updates, deeper coupling between flights and library state, and quality-of-life refinements driven directly by beta feedback.

A built-in feedback system is already in place : users can report bugs, request features, or share suggestions directly from the app in a few clicks. Every report is reviewed and used to prioritize fixes and the next round of improvements.

Note for developers and publishers

Preflightly is designed to coexist with payware ecosystems rather than replace any part of them. The app never modifies add-on files, never touches the Marketplace store, and never bypasses installer flows. Developers who want to verify how their content is detected, or report a misclassification, can reach out through the support link in the app or via the project page.

Availability

Preflightly is available immediately as a free beta for Windows, both at preflightly.app and on flightsim.to. Feedback channels are open in-app and on the website.

Media contact : press@preflightly.app

Project page : preflightly.app

About the developer : Thomas Philibert, previously known in the MSFS community as Headwind, author of several well-received community add-ons released between 2020 and 2023. After a hiatus to focus on family, Preflightly is his return project.