

3d Radar Mode Introduction

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3d radar mode is a huge step up in realism to all vZID tower controllers. A few simple steps are required to set up the radar mode, but once it is saved into your profile you can switch between 3d mode and any other radar mode with just one mouse click. There are however a couple of things to keep in mind when using 3d radar mode:

- You cannot radio select aircraft within 3d mode. Therefore if you have a text only aircraft you will either have to switch to another radar mode while they are under your control, or have another window open using one of the standard radar modes or switch to a standard mode to radio select that text aircraft.
 - The diagrams and fixes in the sector file are written in 2d (there is no way yet to make them three dimensional), so they can and will easily clutter your 3d display. If you have a window to dedicate strictly to 3d radar mode I suggest turning off all diagrams except the taxi diagram and airspace surface area diagram for the airport you are controlling. This eliminates clutter but allows you to see taxiway labels, as well as gives you a lateral judgment as to where the aircraft are in reference to your airspace.
 - Note that currently the fixes for taxiway labels come up at all airports when selected. VRC only sees that you are requesting the fix named "A, B..." and puts it in every instance that it is found in the sector file. This will give you a little bit of clutter on your screen.
 - The next release of the sector file will have fixes for the exact tower locations at all of the class B, C, and D fields in our airspace. At the time of that release this document will be updated as well. Until then you will have to set your 3d visibility center to the field and move your position to the exact location you wish it to be at.
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Instructions for setting up 3d Radar Mode

1. Open up VRC and under the "View" menu turn off all options except "Runways", "Runway Centerlines", and "Fix Labels".
2. Under the "View-Diagrams" menu turn off all diagrams except for the airspace diagram for the field that you are controlling.
3. Under "Settings-Radar Mode" select 3D.
4. type the following commands
 - `.set3dcenter <icao code>`
 - `.set3daltitude <field elevation + height of tower>`
 - `.setterrainalt <field elevation>`
 - `.taxicvg` (this should turn on all taxiway labels from A-T)

After those commands have been typed in you will have to carefully move your visibility center by clicking both the right and left mouse buttons simultaneously and moving the mouse until you are in the correct position. Think "slowly" during this process because it can get away quickly if you are not paying attention. You can turn on any fixes or diagrams that are in the sector file and they will appear, but they will all be drawn on the ground. If you switch to another radar mode and set it up the way that you want it setup. When you switch between those two modes no changes should need to be made for either mode to work correctly. Keep in mind that all diagrams and options selected in the "View" menu will stay consistent between all radar modes selected.