

SPRING 2021

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WE ARE REVAMPING OUR HELP PAGE MATERIALS.

Our most recent addition is:

7. All CTC Basics Materials



You will find 6 videos and accompanying PDF guides that take you through:

1. Starting an Exercise
2. Managing an Exercise
3. Exercise with States
4. Additional Instructors
5. Managing Account Users
6. Uploading Sims Into Sim Cloud

Time to take your CTC out for a spin!



Picture: NASA 2020 mission to Mars

It's a liftoff for SimsUshare...

Mutual Aid!

This launch will take you places

Taking Mutual Aid to New Heights!

The compass, the printing press, the internal combustion engine, the telephone, the light bulb, Penicillin. Now add to this list of world-changing inventions, SimsUshare's Mutual Aid! Okay, so maybe we are overstating it a little (or a lot), but once you get a look at this new SimsUshare feature, we think you will understand our excitement. Mutual Aid is built right into the SimsUshare CTC and it allows subscribers to easily share training simulations. How will this help you, and how does it work?

First, it is an incredible sim development tool. Imagine hundreds of free simulations at your fingertips created by fellow sim developers all over the world. These simulations bring together the collective training knowledge and experience of experts in their fields. Why create a simulation from scratch if it already exists, is easily accessible, and can be edited according to your needs locally? SimsUshare's

Mutual Aid opens the door to new ideas and collaboration on training projects.

Second, it is incredibly simple to use. When you open the CTC, you will notice a new tab called Mutual Aid. This tab opens a large gallery of simulations that can be filtered by category or key word. You can click on any simulation that interests you to preview it or add it to your account. Once added to your account, you can use it or edit it as you wish.

SimsUshare is about two things. Creating realistic simulations and sharing them—sharing them internally as part of your training program, but also sharing them externally with the larger SimsUshare community. SimsUshare Mutual Aid puts the focus squarely on sharing for the benefit of all subscribers. We believe that this new feature is going to take your training simulations to brand new heights!

To learn more about SimsUshare Mutual Aid, [click here](#). 

DID YOU KNOW?

Two important tools carried by early American firefighters were the bed key and salvage bags.

Fire apparatus at that time were only able to supply a small stream of water so, unless a house fire was quickly contained, it would soon burn out of control. Quite often, arriving firemen opted for immediate salvage efforts while neighborhood volunteers formed a bucket brigade and pumped the engine to prevent fire spread to surrounding buildings.



Toronto Star Photograph Archive, Courtesy of Toronto Public Library

COMPLACENCY — A SILENT KILLER!

What does the expression “silent killer” bring to your mind? Is it threats to your health caused by high blood pressure, diabetes or coronary heart disease? Or, is it an environmental threat lurking in your home such as the presence of carbon monoxide or radon gas? Of course, knowing a silent killer exists does little good unless you act to address it. Hopefully, if you are ever threatened by any of these silent killers, you are fortunate enough to receive some advance warning before they cause any lasting harm.

A silent killer that too often goes unnoticed in emergency response is complacency. Miriam Webster describes complacency as “self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.”

It’s a good definition and one that raises important questions. Complacency is generally accompanied by significant warning signs—in other words, there are indications that something needs to be addressed. Why are they minimized, ignored or not taken seriously? Why do people become tone deaf to deficiencies in training or performance?

By its nature, complacency breeds inaction.

It’s easy to say even after a close call that “at least no one got hurt.” That’s a good thing but the reason no one got hurt might be simply because you were lucky...this time. Complacency will eventually catch up to individuals or an entire department, so a proactive mindset must be cultivated. How is this done? Begin by asking two questions about how you do things. (1) Are we doing it right? (2) Could we do it better?

Finding answers to these questions fights complacency by not allowing individuals or departments to fall into a static mindset. We recognize that skills are perishable if not renewed through focused training. Much of that training can be accomplished by recreating the scenarios that we deal with regularly and where complacency could most easily settle into our way of doing

things.

Simulation based training is an excellent tool for combatting complacency. Simulations using local buildings creates a dynamic environment for analyzing individual and departmental response. They allow us to answer the two questions mentioned above at the best possible time—before an event even takes place! 🔥

“Success breeds complacency. Complacency breeds failure. Only the paranoid survive.”

— Andrew Grove,
former CEO, Intel



In many homes, the most valuable item that the family owned was the bed, so firefighters would use a small metal tool called a bed key (see picture) to disassemble the wooden frame and remove it to a safe location. Other household goods that were deemed of any value were grabbed up and placed in large cloth salvage bags to be transported to safety.



Overnight Success – 15 years in the Making

Part II As told by Jonathan Kaye

We were extremely pleased by the reception of SimsUshare at FDIC 2012. There was much interest in a low-cost, easy-to-use simulation tool that worked on all major platforms. We had succeeded in keeping the interface simple enough to use for anyone to create simulations, although it would take another year before we introduced multiple views/locations.

The mobile app space was still relatively new, but already the industry expected mobile apps to be free or very cheap. This meant that if we did not sell many thousands of units each year, we could not generate enough revenue to keep the business running. First-year sales fell far below projections. After two years, in spite of SimsUshare's expanding capabilities, we could not continue to sell the software in the traditional way of customers paying every few years for a new version.

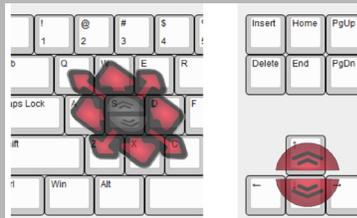
While searching for a solution, we were fortunate to find a partner in an internet-based company with extensive fire service sales and marketing experience. Together we revamped the product and began to market it more effectively. We also moved to a more sustainable and economical subscription model, which made it easier for us to add value on a regular basis.

QUARTERLY TIP: SIMSUSHARE KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

'Keyboard shortcuts' are keystrokes you can press to perform operations faster instead of using the mouse or by clicking-and-dragging.

Here are some keyboard shortcuts you can use during simulation editing and simulation playback:

- Left arrow key takes you back to the previous screen (same as the BACK button).
- Copy effect to clipboard (Windows: Ctrl-C, Mac: Command-C).
- Paste effect(s) from clipboard (Windows: Ctrl-V, Mac: Command-V).
- Use the arrow keys to nudge a selected effect by one pixel. Hold the Shift key down and press an arrow to move the effect more rapidly.
- Hold the Ctrl- Shift -left-arrow or Ctrl- Shift -right-arrow to rotate the effect.
- When no effect is selected, press Ctrl-right-arrow (Mac: Command-right-arrow) to edit the next location. Press Ctrl-left-arrow (Mac: Command-left arrow) to edit the previous location.
- Instead of pressing a red arrow in the arrow cluster, use Q, W, E, A, D, Z, X, C keys to engage the arrow in the corresponding direction
- Press the space bar to pause the simulation; press the space bar to resume the simulation



After establishing a firmer foundation in the market, we faced an important decision moving forward: stay solely in the app world and go for a more immersive experience with 3D graphics or aim at a more web-oriented deployment. Over the years, we had seen several 3D technology companies fail to make simple, affordable systems, so we decided that web integration was the way for us to go. We set out developing what would become in 2018 our web-based multi-company exercise capability called the Command Training Center (CTC). Along with running multi-company exercises online completely through browsers, we recognized a need to run simulations embedded in emails and Learning Management Systems, which the CTC could also provide. We launched this ability as the "SimCloud" in mid-2020.

Today we can accelerate our product innovations because of the web-based infrastructure focus we embarked on in 2016. Our most recent CTC update included a customer sim-sharing capability we call the SimsUshare Mutual Aid, described in the lead article of this issue. Our focus is squarely on helping our customers everywhere to succeed in using simulations for training and the promotional process. We were delighted to see that, without extensive promotion, SimsUshare has gained a foothold and is rapidly expanding in other language markets outside of the USA.

Customers are key to our success. Some of the lessons we learned from them are driving current product development including enhanced simulation sharing, pre-incident planning, and applications such as wildland, ARFF, and active threat. SimsUshare is a dynamic platform that we are proud to be part of. While we strive to innovate technologically, our primary mission as always is to support our customers' and industry needs for an effective training system that is budget friendly and, most importantly, simple and flexible to use. 🔥

WALKIE TALKIE APPS OVERVIEW

In a previous newsletter (Summer 2020), we recommended the Zello app



as an easy way to add realism to your communications during sim training exercises. Zello is highly rated (4 stars) in both the Apple and Google Play stores but it is not the only PTT (Push to Talk) app available.

Other options you might want to take a look at are:

Two Way is the most similar app to an actual two-way radio. Any number of

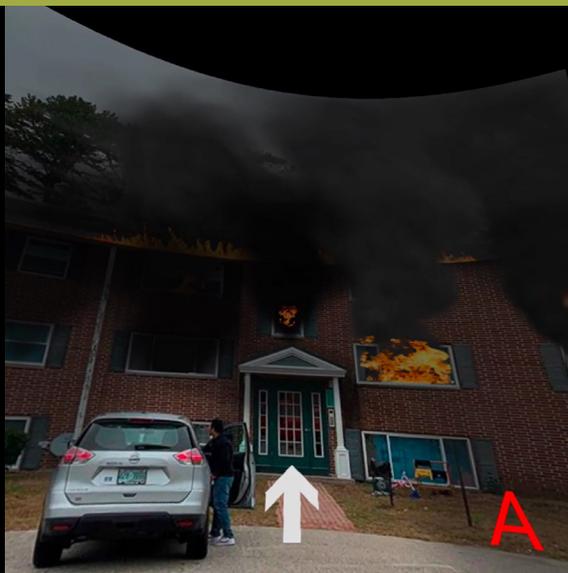
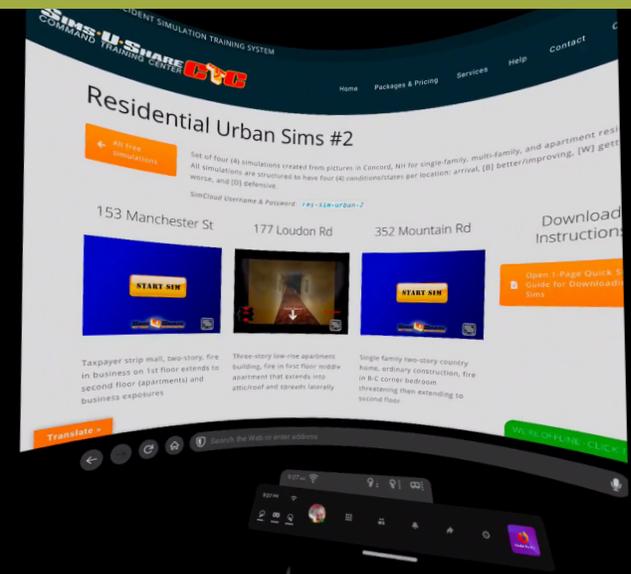


users can join a channel. No signup or personal information required. A potential downside is that all channels are public, so anyone could join your channel if they know the number or stumble on it.



Voxer allows users to communicate with live audio, like a walkie talkie, but a cool feature is that all messages are saved so that you can listen and respond later. Voxer also features end-to-end encryption if security is a concern. There are additional sharing options as well, including photos, locations, or GIFs.

There are lots of choices out there, some with a free basic app, so check out your options and maybe even try a few to see what works best for your training.



The Future is Now —

Announcing SimsUshare in 'Virtual Reality' headsets

The simplicity and flexibility of SimsUshare meets the immersion of Virtual Reality headsets

For over twenty years, Fire and Emergency Services have been searching for practical ways to use virtual reality (VR) in their training. Several technology companies have come and gone in that pursuit, along with many millions of dollars in Federal and private funding. Although it seemed at times to be tantalizingly close, so far it has failed to materialize in an affordable and stable way.

In that vein, SimsUshare is proud to be working with [Pico Interactive](#) to announce the first commercial, photo-based all-hazards incident training system that works in today's VR headsets. It has been tested both in the Firefox Reality Browser as well as in Microsoft Edge, within supported Windows Mixed Reality environments.

In July 2020, the US Fire Administration published a Coffee Break Bulletin entitled "[Virtual reality training may save firefighter lives](#)" It pointed to several potential features and benefits, several of which SimsUshare has already accomplished.

These include:

- Allowing training for incidents that cannot easily be replicated or may be very costly to recreate, not to mention eliminating some hazards and costs involved in "live training"
- Creating spaces from photographs of actual buildings in the response area
- Repeating after-action response scenarios
- Training anytime/anywhere
- Improving safety inspections and visualizations of buildings within first-due areas. This gives the ability for walkthroughs and "what if" scenario development
- Keeping the learner immersed and present in the moment, thus tapping into a truly experiential moment, and
- Using [the technology] for individual and group learning.

SimsUshare's CTC (Command Training Center) platform allows you to deploy both self-study and instructor-led (multi-company) training. True to its mission, SimsUshare is aimed at helping complement live evolutions particularly for command, strategy, tactics, and communication practice.

SimsUshare recommends the Pico Interactive G2 4K, a low-cost, untethered VR headset which SimsUshare can procure for you. For a demonstration or more information, please contact us. 🧑‍🚒

OUR TRAINING PARTNERS

SimsUshare is proud to partner with companies that share and complement our mission. We would love to hear from you if your company is committed to providing superior emergency response and training that makes a difference. Some of our partners are featured below.



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PL Harper Consulting



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