

Breathing New Life into an Old Boeing 747 Simulator

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Abstract

The basic physical structures of aircraft have not change a lot in the last 50 years. When the first Boeing 747 took to the skies in 1968, its cockpit structure was almost identical to the latest Boeing 747-8 that is still being built by Boeing. The instrumentation on the older 747's were very different than the modern computer based instrumentation. SIU AVTech has an older Boeing 747 simulator that is no longer used because its instrumentation no longer resembles any flying aircraft. Rather than surplus the simulator, we would like to update it to the latest 747-8 configuration. After updating the to the latest configuration, the simulator would be used in the Aviation Flight and Aviation Technologies departments, where it's iconic status and imposing size would theoretically be very motivating to current and future students. After the creative activity of updating the device and putting it back into service, it would be used to research the psychological impact that flying an iconic aircraft could have on student motivation and enthusiasm. Research would be accomplished by comparing already acquired data from previous students with data collected after the Boeing 747 simulator is added to the curriculum. It would also be gathered by student self-reporting surveys.