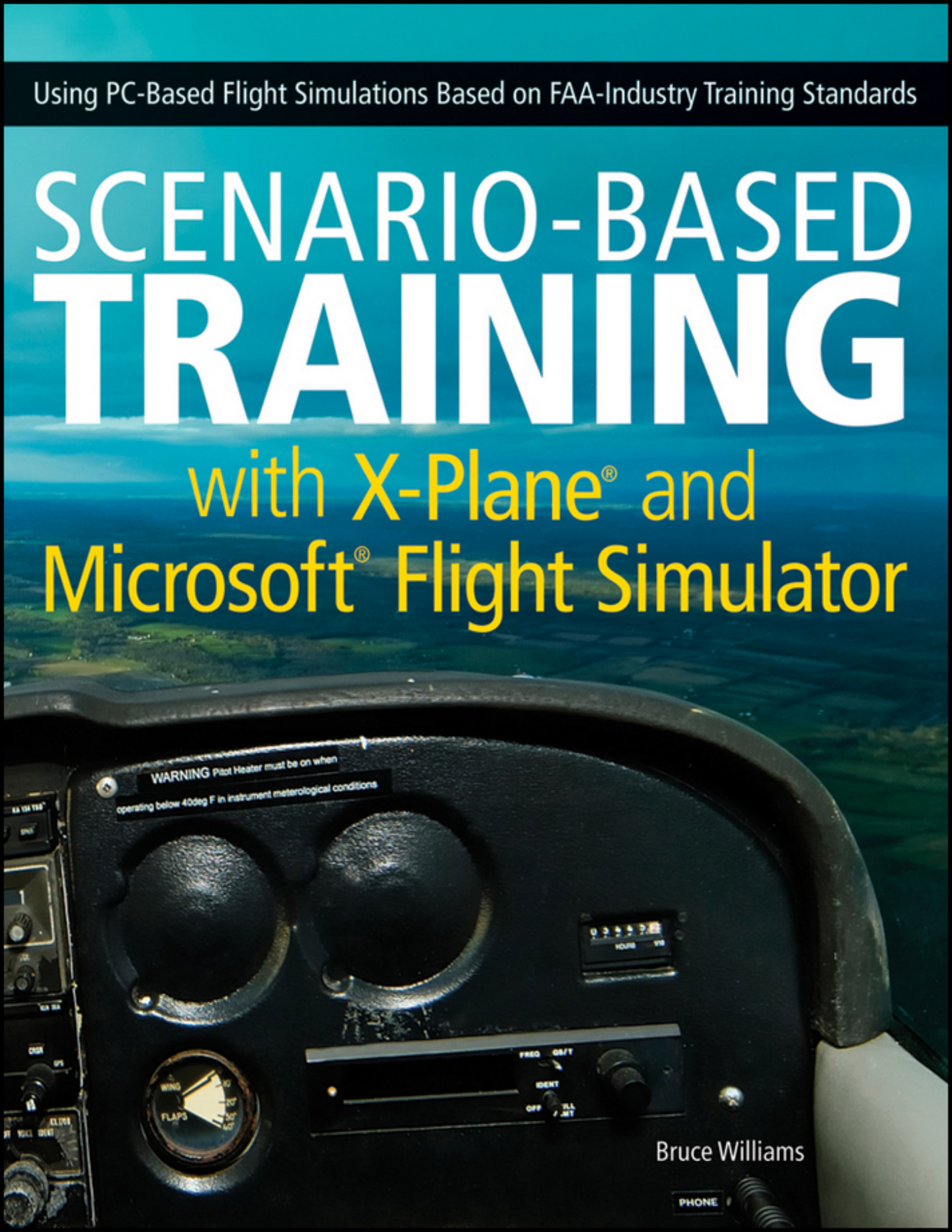
Using PC-Based Flight Simulations Based on FAA-Industry Training Standards

SCENARIO-BASED TRAINING

with X-Plane® and Microsoft® Flight Simulator



Bruce Williams

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Introduction

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Chapter 1

What You Need to Use This Book

If you're like most pilots, you enjoy gadgets — they're one of aviation's main attractions — and when you get serious about using a PC-based simulation to complement flight training or the hobby of virtual flying, it's tempting to set up an elaborate home cockpit.

But aside from the desire to learn and a commitment to work through the lessons in this book in a logical sequence, here's all you need to use this book effectively:

- X-Plane version 9 or Microsoft Flight Simulator X (FSX)
- A suitable computer with a single display, a basic joystick, and a mouse (a keyboard usually isn't required after you start the simulation); even a laptop can suffice (see Figure 1-1)
- Web access to download the scenarios and background reading for the lessons
- A PDF reader, such as the free Adobe Reader, to read the FAA training handbooks, view charts, and use other resources that complement this book

Figure 1-1: The minimum required setup for X-Plane or FSX: a laptop, mouse, and joystick

> **Cross-reference**
>
> For more information about using PC-based simulations in training, see Chapter 8.

Supported Flight Simulations

Pilots and flight simulation enthusiasts engage in passionate debates about the relative merits of X-Plane (see Figure 1-2) versus FSX (see Figure 1-3) — you'll find a chapter devoted to the subject later in this book — but either product can be equally effective when used properly as a training tool.

The scenarios in this book are based on preset initial conditions — location, time of day, weather, and so forth — stored in files that you can open in either X-Plane or FSX. You can find separate sets of these scenarios for each