

FS Global X 2008 vs FS Global 2005

by Claudio "Cloudy" Di Veroli, Bray, Rep. Ireland, 2008

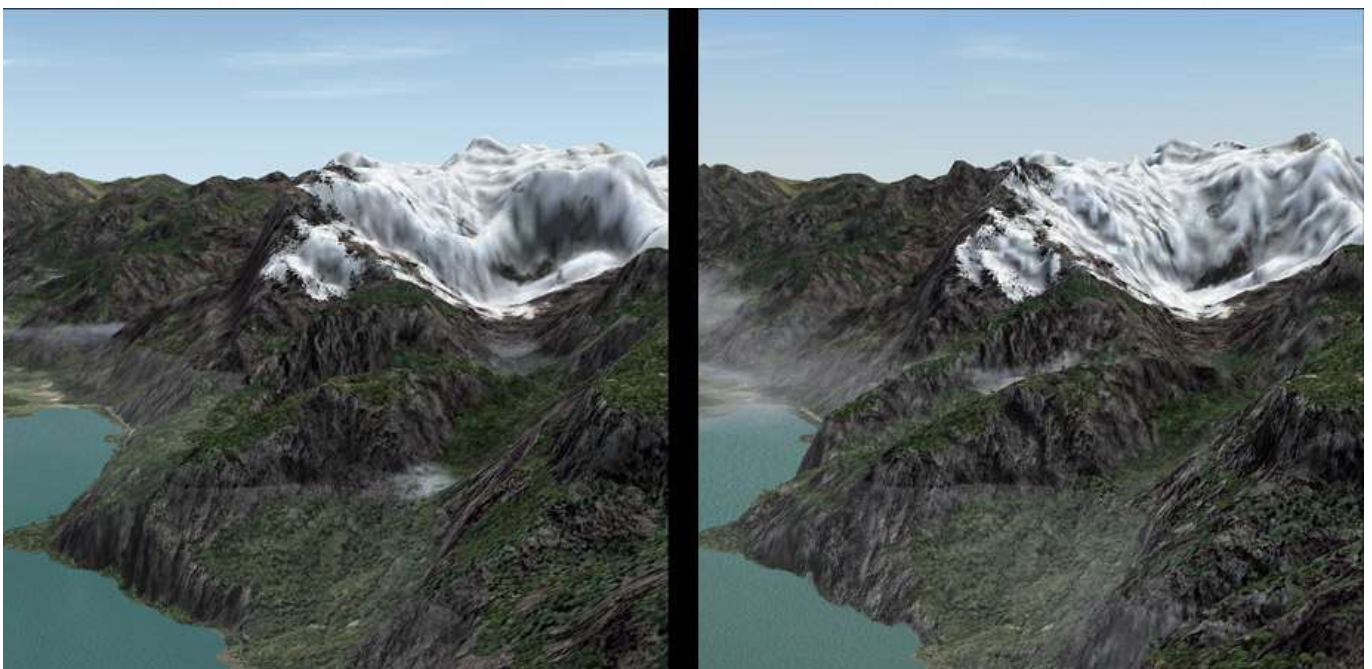
FS Global X 2008 (from now on FSG08) is a global mesh for FSX and FS2004. There are excellent reviews of this product as an add-on to FSX, both online and published in magazines, such as the one by George Markham in PC FLIGHT—The official magazine of PC Pilots Ireland—Vol. 12 No. 1, June 2007, pp.17-19, or the one by John Lattanzio in Computer Pilot, Vol. 11 No. 6, June 2007 pp.16-21.

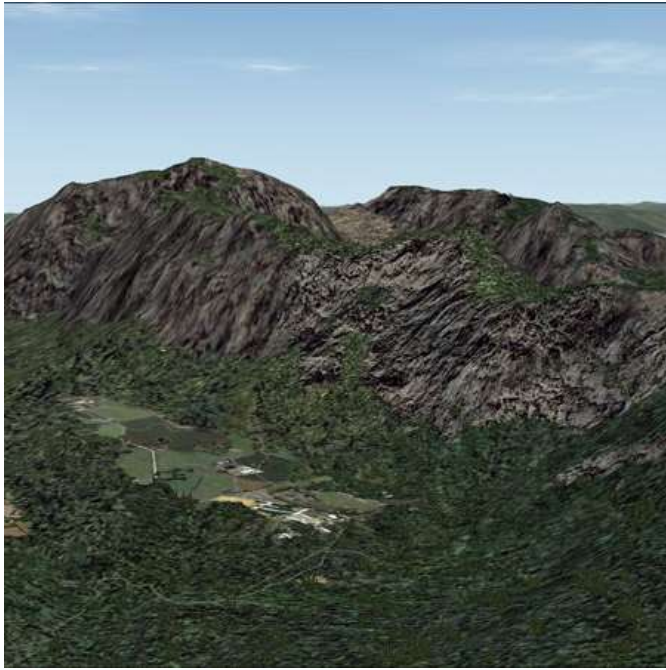
This mini-review is however focused on the product installed in FS2004, and its comparison with its well-known predecessor FS Global 2005 (from now on FSG05). There is no doubt that either version will produce a significant improvement in FS2004. The question is instead: if you already have FSG05 in FS2004, is it worth the investment and effort to uninstall it and have FSG08 instead?

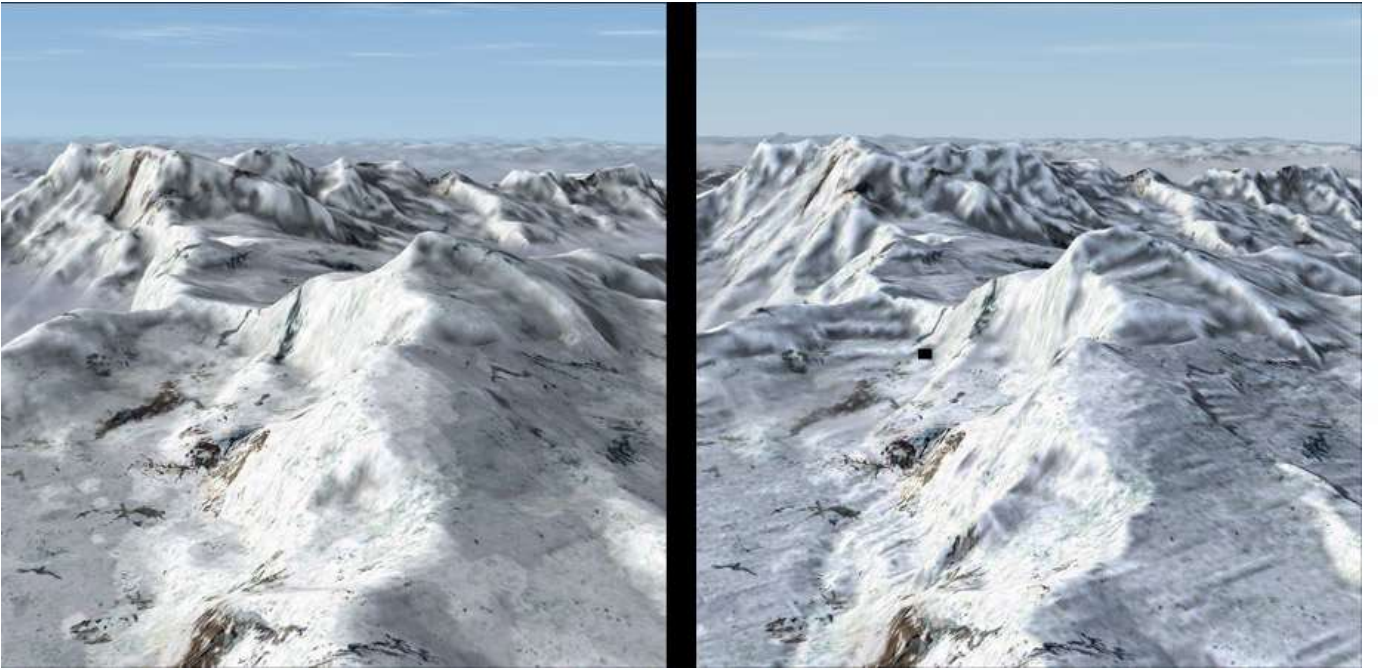
The answer is a resounding YES. The "general" resolution of both FSG05 and FSG08 is 76m (this is the grid or distance between adjacent elevation measurements). But while FSG05 has some significant areas at a **lower** resolution, FSG08 has instead some significant areas at a **higher** resolution. Examples:

- Himalayas: FSG05's coverage is abysmal, forcing you to download and install the mammoth freeware Himalaya mesh. This is no longer needed with FSG08.
- Europe: FSG05 has 76m, which is marginally WORSE than the freeware Europe meshes at 38m.

FSG08 carries instead the 38m mesh for all Europe, and over most of the Alps that is improved to 19m. The screenshots below compare FSG05 (left) with FSG08 (right) over the Alps, as shown on FS2004 with Ground Environment textures. Please note that these screenshots have a low resolution: at the much higher resolutions used nowadays by most flightsimmers, the difference is even more noticeable.







I have noticed small improvements in other areas of the world as well.

