

MIZ_OVERVIEW - Utility for DCS¹

(brought to you by kuschmu, © 2023)

The MIZ_OVERVIEW utility generates a tabular overview of specific units of a DCS mission (*.miz) and some of their properties. The units include planes, helicopters, ships and FARPs. Flyables include as well client units as also units driven by AI. FARPs are part of the static units and are the only further evaluated from this category. Vehicles are basically excluded from evaluation so far.

The table is stored in CSV (comma-separated values) format whereas the actual separation character is the semi-colon (;).

The table first lists some general mission information such as mission name, mission theatre, required non-ED modules (if part of a mission). After that, the plane, helicopter, ship and FARP units are listed per coalition, per country and per group. Associated unit properties include e.g. name, type, skin, callsign.

The CSV table can further be processed/converted according to the user's need using a preferred tool, be it MSOffice or LibreOffice or whatever.

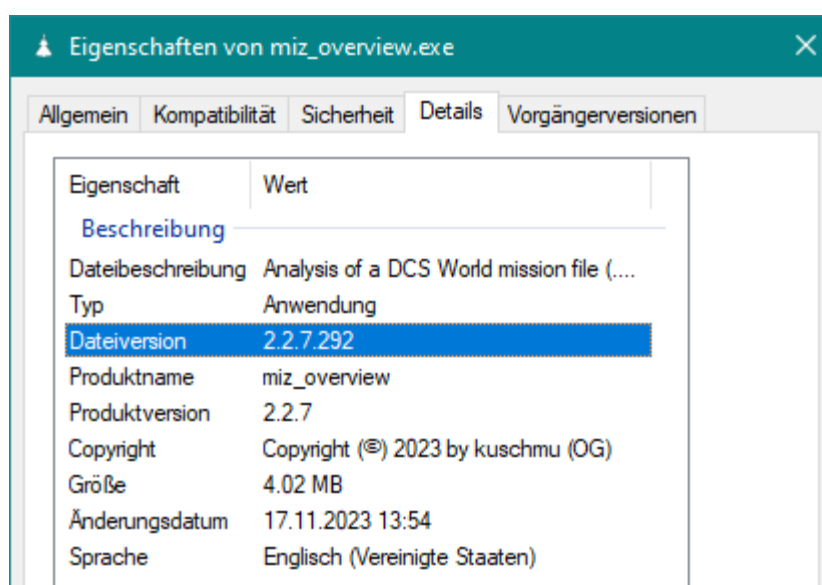
Note Be aware that the utility may fail to generate an overview file because the processing strongly depends on the content/format of the .miz file. This content/format might vary from one DCS update to another. If the utility gets stuck somehow without responding within reasonable time, then you probably have to abort the utility using the Windows Task Manager. The utility might also be unable to cope with certain scripted missions (but I am not sure about this.)

IMPORTANT: This version **requires** the **7-Zip** tool for automatic un-zipping and re-zipping. You may already have the tool installed, otherwise you can download/install it from here:

<https://www.7-zip.org/>.

You can also use the portable version from the PortableApps web site:

https://portableapps.com/apps/utilities/7-zip_portable.



¹ Digital Combat Simulator: <https://www.digitalcombatsimulator.com/en/>

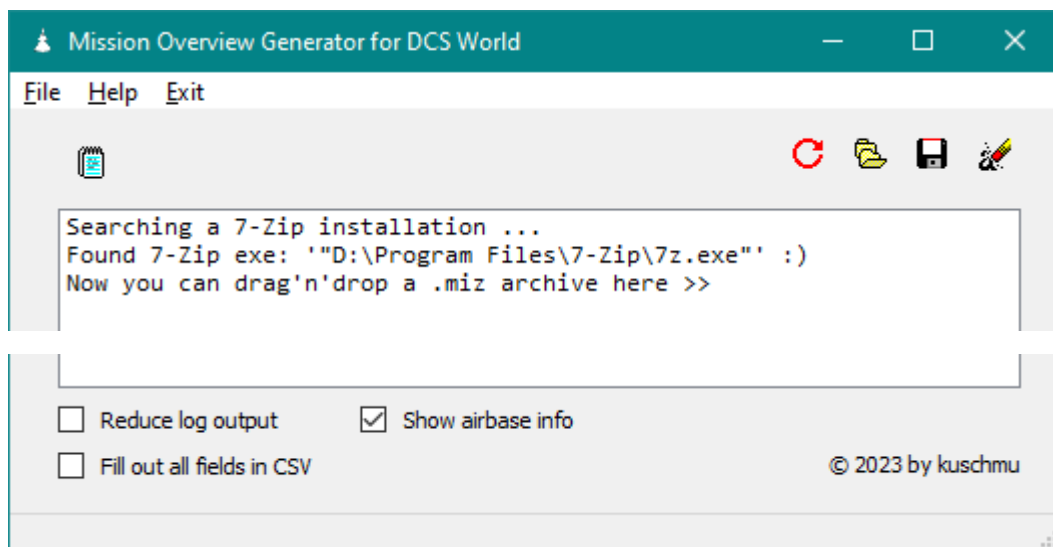
Before using the MIZ_OVERVIEW utility, verify that the 7-Zip tool is available on your computer, either as a standard installation (recommended) or as a portable version.

When using the 7-Zip Portable version then you need to create a specific entry in the PC's registry in order to enable the utility to auto-find the according executable (see also page 9). If you are uncertain how to deal with the registry then please use the 7-Zip standard installation.

Maybe you need to restart your computer and/or to close/reopen the utility after installation.

How-To

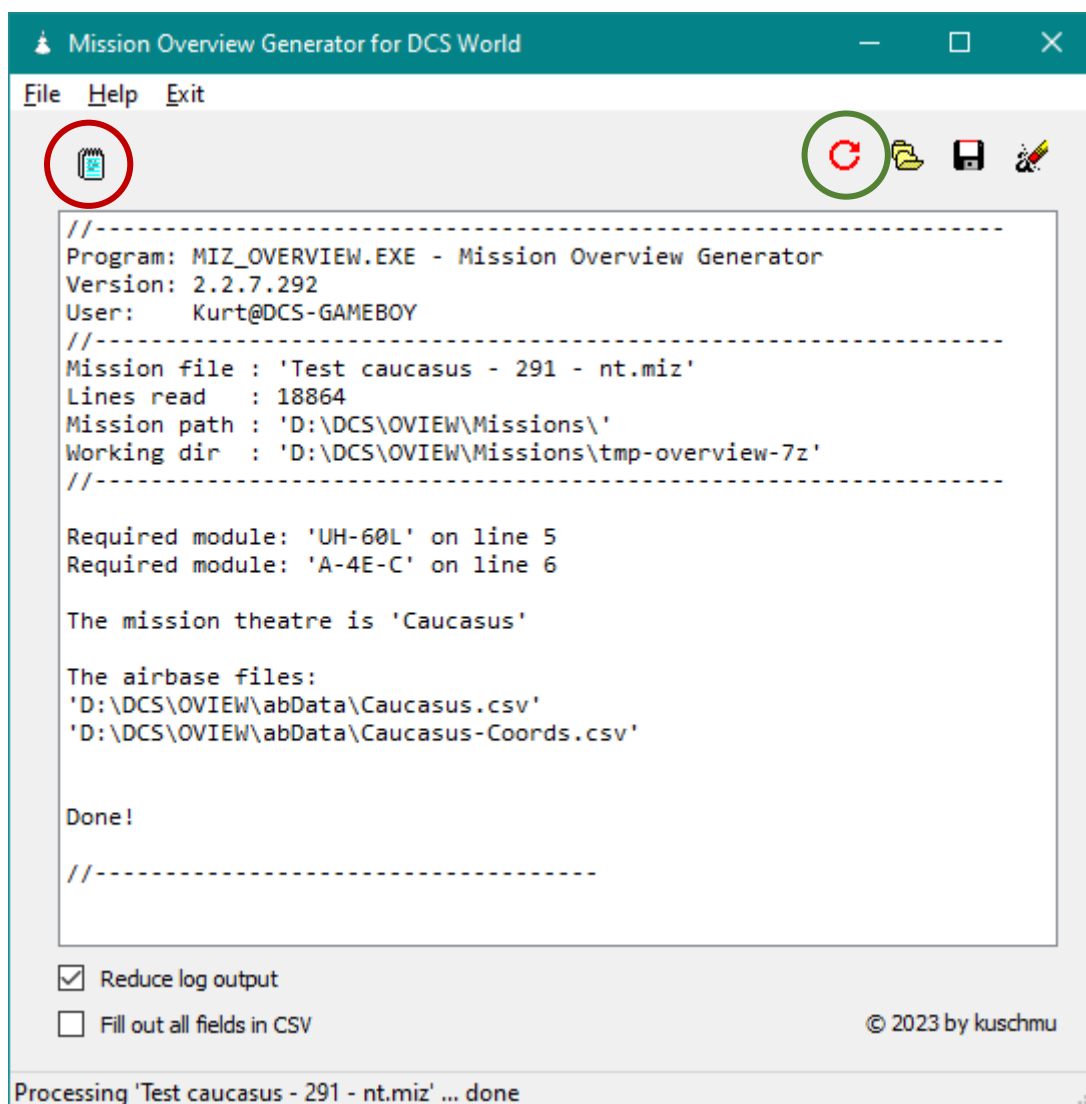
1. Start the MIZ_OVERVIEW utility. If a 7-Zip installation is available (i.e. the Path is found in the Windows registry) then the main form will directly pop up as shown below.



Note:

- If the "Fill out all fields in CSV" box is checked then all fields of the overview table will be occupied. Otherwise, redundant information, such as country or group name of units within the same group, will not be filled out. Check/uncheck according to your needs or liking.
 - The "Reduce log output" and the "Show airbase info" checkbox serve the suppression of unwanted log output. A checked "Reduce log output" option also suppresses the airbase info.
2. Set the Checkbox flags according to your preference.
 - Check 'Reduce log output' to suppress log output to the main form, or uncheck to see more detailed log text (e.g. unit statistics). If unchecked then use the 'Show airbase info' checkbox to present or to suppress airbase and link information.
 - Check 'Fill out all fields in CSV' to write to all table fields (even if redundant), or uncheck to omit redundant text. Checking this option may be the better choice for later re-sorting using the spreadsheet tool.

3. Drag'n'drop a DCS mission file (*.miz) onto the utility's form or use the 'Folder' button to select a mission via a file open dialog or use the 'Repeat' button to process the previous archive again. Processing will start immediately after dropping a file or after file open confirmation.



Note:

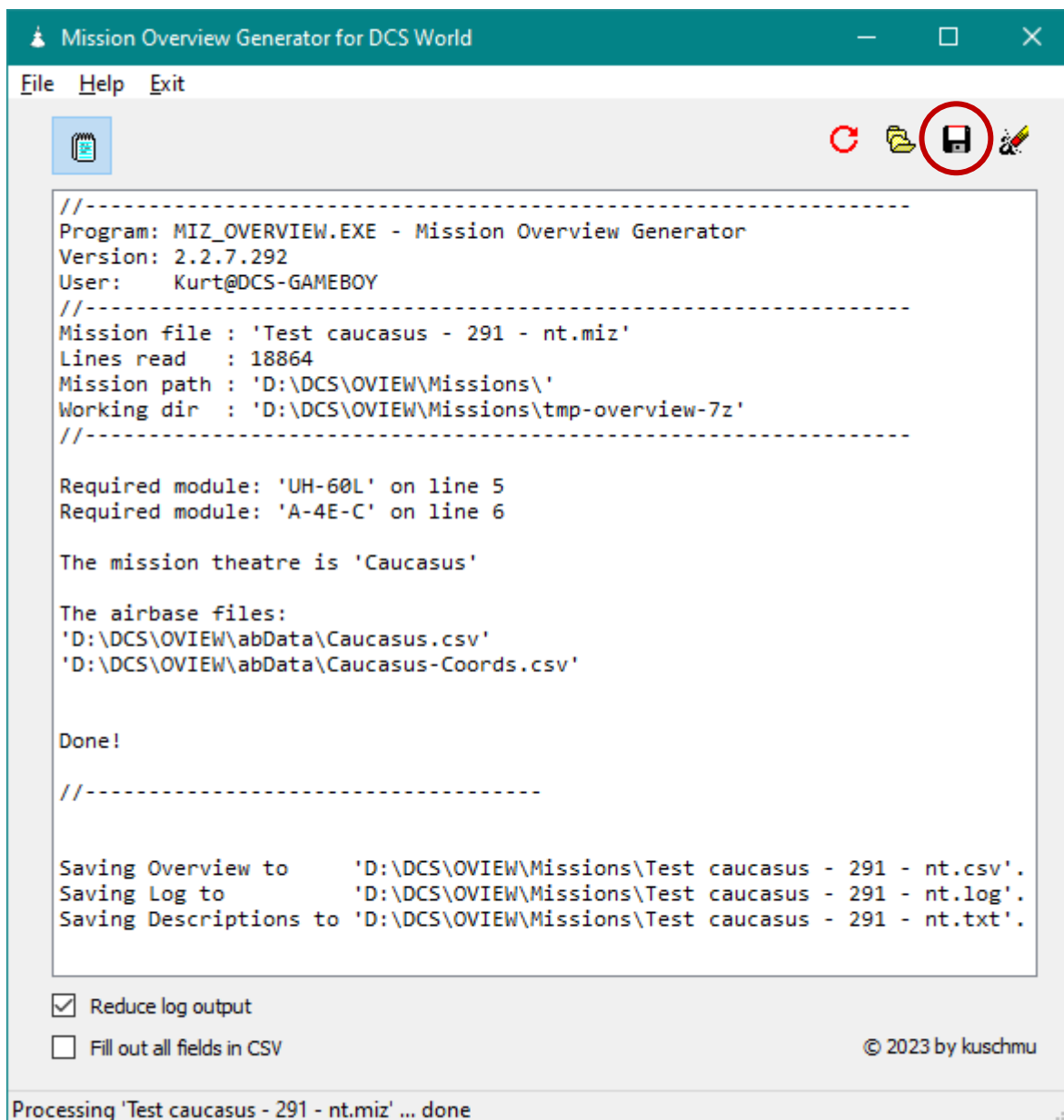
- The "**Notepad**" icon (button) will bring-up the separate 'Mission Descriptions' form (see below). The form presents mission and task descriptions as far as these are available within the mission.
- The "**Repeat**" icon (button) will restart processing of the previously selected mission archive e.g. after a change of the processing options.

Mission Descriptions form (example):

Note:

- The "**Wordwrap**" icon (toggle button) activates/deactivates the word wrapping of the text according to your choice.

4. Use the **"Save to file"** button (floppy icon) in order to save the mission overview, the log and the mission descriptions to a dedicated file on the HD/SDD.



The tabular overview is stored in CSV format whereas the actual separation character is the semi-colon (;). For further review/analysis you can use any appropriate spreadsheet tool, as for example from MSOffice, LibreOffice or from wherever.

5. Repeat steps 2/3 to 4 for any other mission (.miz file).
6. When finished, close the MIZ_OVERVIEW utility and clean-up your missions folder as applicable.

Example of a mission overview table as seen in Excel (as processed and saved as xlsx):

Test caucasus - 291 - nt.xlsx - Excel

Kurt Schmutz

DateiStartEinfügenSeitenlayoutFormelnDatenÜberprüfenAnsichtHilfeWas möchten Sie tun?

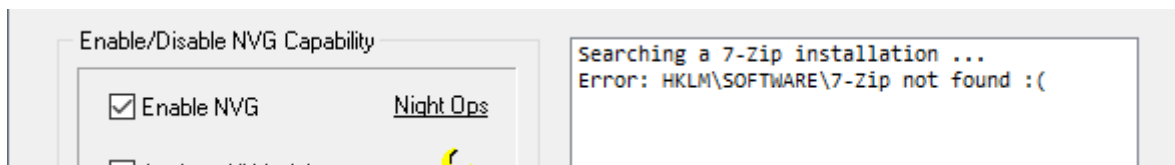
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Test caucasus - 291 - nt.xlsx - Excel															
Kurt Schmutz															
Datei Start Einfügen Seitenlayout Formeln Daten Überprüfen Ansicht Hilfe Was möchten Sie tun?															
K31															
	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7	AFB	Airbase	Unit	ID	Type	NVG	Parking	Name	Skin	Callsign	Skill	COM	TACAN	ICLS	1st Heading
21	26	Mineralnye Vody	u1/3	60	F-15ESE	NVG	'06'	Eagle-1	usaf 17th ws af90 hig	Chevy21	Client	243.00 MHz			
22			u2/3	61			'07'	Eagle-2	usaf 17th ws af90 hig	Chevy22	Client	243.00 MHz			
23			u3/3	62		NVG	'08'	Eagle-3	usaf 17th ws af90 hig	Chevy23	Client	243.00 MHz			
24	-	--	u1/1	63	KC130		'13'	AAR Tanker-1-1	default	Arco11	High	251.00 MHz	TK1 - 51X		
25	-	--	u1/1	64	KC-135		'16'	AAR Tanker-2-1	Standard USAF	Shell11	High	252.00 MHz	TKR - 52X		
26	24	Kobuleti	u1/2	4	AH-64D_BLK_II	NVG	'07'	Winnitoo-2-1	default	Springfield11	Client	225.00 MHz			
27			u2/2	10			'06'	Winnitoo-2-2	default	Springfield12	Client	225.00 MHz			
28	-	--	u1/2	29	AH-64D_BLK_II	NVG	-	Rotty-1	default	Chevy11	Client	225.00 MHz			
29			u2/2	31		NVG	-	Rotty-2	default	Chevy12	Client	225.00 MHz			
30	-	--	u1/1	42	UH-60L		'1'	Hawky-1	default	Springfield21	Client	124.00 MHz			
31	-	--	u1/1	44	AH-64D_BLK_II		'1'	Winnitoo-1	default	Uzi21	Client	225.00 MHz			
32	-	--	u1/2	48	Mi-8MT		'1'	Hippi-2-1	USA_AFG	Colt21	Client	127.50 MHz			
33			u2/2	49			'3'	Hippi-2-2	USA_AFG	Colt22	Client	127.50 MHz			
34	47	FARP Gori-1	u1/1	52	Mi-8MT		-	Hippi-1	USA_AFG	Ford21	Client	127.50 MHz			
35	-	--	u1/1	58	Mi-8MT		-	Hip (Gora Mashuk)-1	SwissAirForce	Dodge21	Client	127.50 MHz			
36			u1/1	15	Forrestal			Forrestal-3-1	none	undefined	Average	251.50 MHz	FOR - 51X	FOR - 11	336 °
37			u1/3	16	CVN_71			Roosevelt-4-1	none	undefined	Average	252.50 MHz	ROS - 52X	ROS - 12	129 °
38			u2/3	18	USS_Arleigh_Burke_IIa			ArleighB-4-2	none		Average	252.90 MHz			
39			u3/3	19	PERRY			OliverHP-4-3	none		Average	252.10 MHz			
40			u1/1	47	FARP			FARP Gori-1				140.00 MHz			
41			u1/2	56	TACAN_beacon			Gora Mashuk Beacon	MVY - 11X		
42	22	Batumi	u1/1	7	Mi-8MT		-	Hippy-1	Czech Air Force dark	Dodge11	Client	127.50 MHz			
43	15	Forrestal-3-1	u1/1	53	FA-18C_hornet	NVG	-	Horny-1	Swiss Jet Team 2020	Hornet11	Client	305.00 MHz			
44															
45	AFB	Airbase	Unit	ID	Type	NVG	Parking	Name	Skin	Callsign	Skill	COM	TACAN	ICLS	1st Heading
46	16	Maykop-Khanskaya	u1/3	2	MIG-29A		'33'	Miggy-1	Air Force Standard	'100'	Client	124.00 MHz			
47			u1/3	44											
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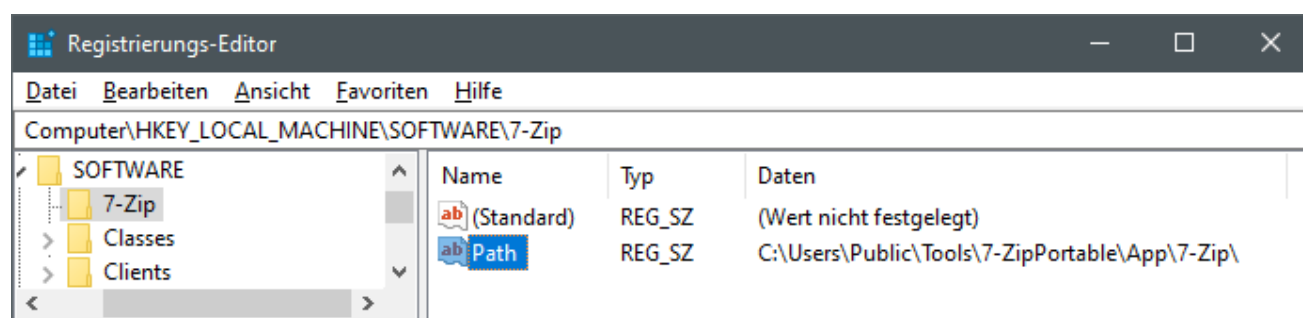
How-To with a 7-Zip Portable Version

If you don't have a 7-Zip installation then you should also have no according entry in the registry and therefore an error message may occur as shown below.

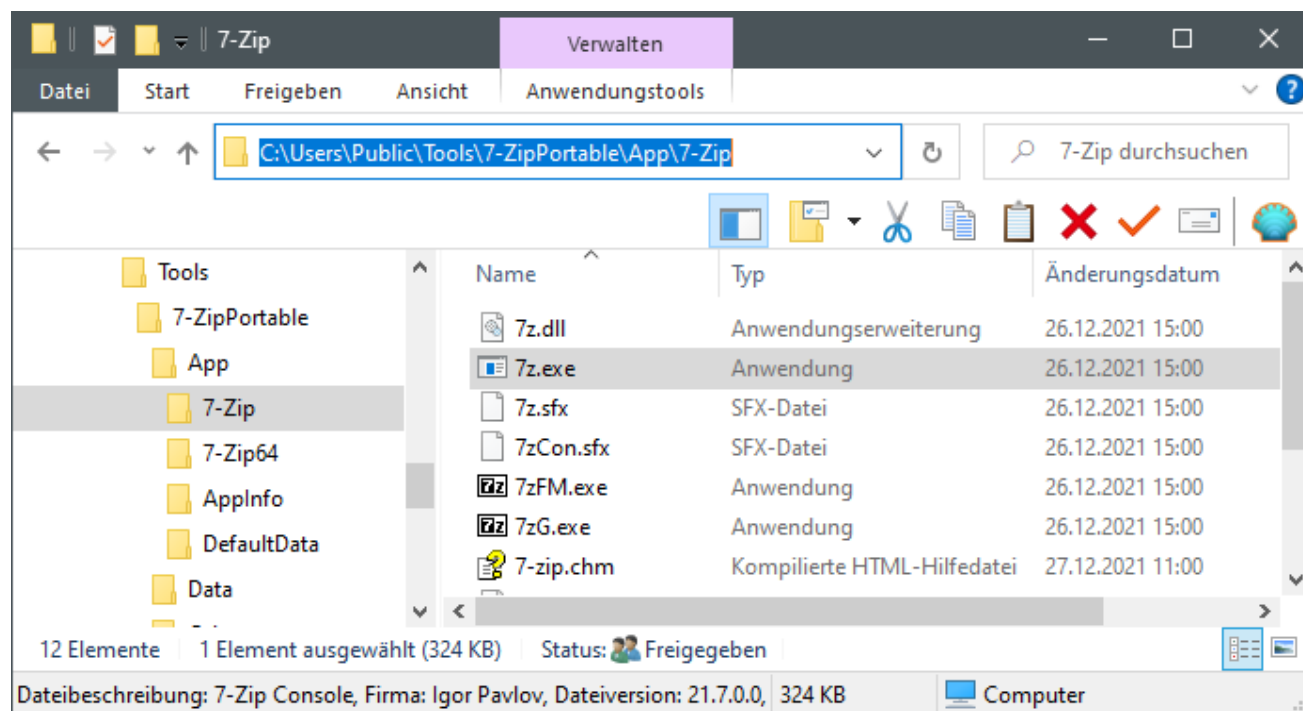


So, either perform a standard 7-Zip installation (which is recommended from my part) or, if you want to work with the 7-Zip Portable version, set up a dedicated registry key to define the **Path** to your portable **7z.exe** (see below). Be sure to include a final back-slash in the **Path** definition of the registry key.

Note: Modification of the registry requires admin rights, only apply if you are sure what you are doing!



Get the path to the **7z.exe** from the proper subfolder of your portable version, e.g. as shown below.



If you prefer, you could set the Path to the 7-Zip64 folder instead.

- The utility basically uses standard airfield information of a theatre contained in a CSV-formatted table, such as 'Caucasus.csv'. The table contains the 'airdromeID's and names of all standard airfields and is used to translate these IDs into their corresponding airfield names.

Take note that the airfield data can be gathered for example by the help of the DCS function `world.getAirbases()`.

Refer to https://wiki.hoggitworld.com/view/DCS_func_getAirbases.

- Take note that ground-starting units are not a priori associated with an airfield. Therefore the utility additionally makes use of a map coordinates table (e.g. 'Caucasus-Coords.csv') in order to determine the distance of a ground-starting unit to its nearest airfield/airbase.

You can add non-standard airfields or own points-of-interest (POI) to the map coordinates table by simply adding according entries² to the map coordinates list, using the following format:

```
<last count + 1> ; <0> ; <name (with prefix '*')> ; <x> ; <y> ; <comment (optional)>
```

The coordinates can be read out in the mission editor from the mouse cursor hovering over a location on the map. For this the coordinates display mode on the bottom-left must be set to 'CCS' (Metric).

- Ship and FARP units can individually be set by mission builders using the mission editor. Like standard airfields do, these units provide also slots for parking and for landing, but as they are not standard airfields they have no dedicated 'airdromeID'. So instead, when an aerial unit is placed on a ship's or a FARP's parking or landing position, then an according link property is registered for that aerial unit (or group respectively, in its according 'route' point). This 'linkUnit' property simply contains the host's unit ID. Through this link the host unit can be identified. Hence the utility internally generates a dedicated cross-reference table, which contains the unit IDs of all available ships and FARPS, together with their dedicated unit names. This table is then used to translate a registered link into the host's name, which then will also be inserted into the overview table.
- Keyboard shortcuts:

Prefix for all keys:	Ctrl-Alt			
Command	Key	Menu	Control	Function
About	A	Help		
Instructions	I	Help		
Clear	C	File	Button	
Description form	D	File	Button	toggle
Open archive	O	File	Button	file dialog
Repeat (current archive file)	R	File	Button	
Save logs	S	File	Button	
Word wrap	W	File	Button	toggle
Fill all fields in CSV	F		Checkbox	toggle
Show airbase info	B		Checkbox	toggle
Reduce excessive log output	X		Checkbox	toggle

² e.g. "18;0;* Cal-Nev-Ari;-501048;-1511;// extra airstrip South Nevada" (see Nevada-Coords.csv, using Notepad++)