DCS Shortcut Generator

DCS Shortcut Generator is an app you can use to create unique shortcuts for DCS. This uniqueness comes in the forms of VR/No VR, options luas, resolutions, icon images, or any combination thereof.

Download and Installation

1. Download DCS Shortcut Generator from the DCS Userfiles.
2. Unzip the download with your preferred program such as winzip or winrar.

How to use DCS Shortcut Generator

1. Double click DCS-Shortcut-Generator.exe to launch the program.
2. DSG will try to automatically determine your DCS.exe and options.lua file locations. If they are incorrect:
    a. Select your DCS.exe. Example: ‘C:\Program Files\Eagle Dynamics\DCS World\bin\DCS.exe’.
    b. Select your options.lua file. Example: ‘C:\Users\UserName\Saved Games\DCS\Config\options.lua’.
3. Select either Disable VR or Enable VR.
4. Name your shortcut.
5. Click the Export button to export the shortcut. It will be exported in the same location as the app. You can move it to another folder or your desktop if you like.

Optional Settings

All of the Optional Settings can be used as you see fit. You can use any combination of them or none at all. It is up to you. Be creative.

Shortcut Description - Here you can write a short description of the shortcut. This will appear in the shortcut properties.

Select Swap Options.lua - You can replace the option lua that DCS is currently using with a different one that is linked to the generated shortcut. This is best used when you have multiple option luas, for example, one for high settings, one for low settings, one for VR, one for lower resolutions, etc.

1. Make a “CustomOptions” folder in your ‘Saved Games\Config’ directory.
2. Start DCS and configure your options as you see fit. Press OK.
3. Copy the ‘Saved Games\DCS\Config\options.lua’ file.
4. Paste the file into ‘Saved Games\Config\CustomOptions’ and rename the file appropriately, for example “High Settings”.
5. Click “Select Swap Options.lua” and select the renamed options lua to generate a shortcut that will always use that options lua.

Select Icon Image - Use this to select an icon (.ico) file for your shortcut. The default DCS .ico images are located in: ‘C:\Program Files\Eagle Dynamics\DCS World\FUI’. You can also create and select your own .ico file if you wish.

DCS Width and Height Override - These will override the options lua width and height. For example, you can make a shortcut with a 1920x1080 override, a 1280x786 override, and more with this option.

Limitations

- The shortcut Target field supports 259 characters. When you try to export a shortcut the app will tell you if the limit was exceeded. This issue typically only happens if the swap options lua has a long path. A workaround is to have the app and the swap options lua files in a location with a shorter path. For example, moving the app from
‘C:\Users\UserName\Downloads\April\InternetStuff\DCS\Mods\AwesomeMods\ExtraFolder’
to
‘C:\Games\DCS Mods’.
As you can see, the path is shorter, saving precious space.

- Do not select or test any exe or lua file other than the ones you intend to. Don’t try silly things just to try it out. If you make a mistake, it is ok. To make a fresh options lua file, delete the one located at ‘C:\Users\UserName\Saved Games\DCS\Config’, start DCS, and a new one will be generated.

- If you have DCS installed in Program Files, you may have to give this app admin permission so that it can edit your DCS options lua file.

Tips and Tricks

- After generating a shortcut, you can right click it and select “Pin to start” or “Pin to taskbar” for easier access.

- Replacing the options lua files replaces the *entire* file. This can be used to configure things more than Graphics settings. Be creative (think Special Settings, etc).

- After generating a shortcut, you can right click it, select properties, and examine the Target field. You may want to copy/paste it into a word editor to see it in full. These are the parameters that are fed into the app. You can change these parameters by hand, if you wish. Please follow the syntax of an unedited shortcut. You **cannot** put anything anywhere.

- The .bak file you can see next to your swapped file is a backup of the file **that it replaced**.

Acknowledgements and Credits

Thank you to JCofDI and Hornet for testing the app before release.
Thanks to you for downloading the app and reading this Readme.
Thank you to all of those who play and create mods for DCS.

- Please join us in the Discord server: https://discord.gg/PbYgC5e

- Please feel free to donate. All donations go back to the DCS community to create even more free mods, just like this one: https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/asherao

- Check out my other Mods, Utilities, and VoiceAttack profiles here:
https://www.digitalcombatsimulator.com/en/files/filter/user-isbaileywa/apply/?PER_PAGE=100

- If you would like to contribute to the development, check out the code, or if you like spaghetti, the Github is located here:
https://github.com/asherao/DCS-Shortcut-Generator

-Feel free to contact me on the ED forums (Bailey) or better yet on Discord (Bailey#6230). Remember that comments, questions, critiques, and requests are always welcome! Enjoy!

~Bailey
2021DEC

Version Notes:
v1.2
- DSG will try to auto-detect the dcs.exe location on launch (Thanks Lazyboot)
- DSG will try to auto-detect the options.lua location on launch
v1.1
- Added a tiny auto-reassuming QoL for the swap lua and icon pick dialog popup
- Changed the height of buttons and text boxes from 19 to 20
v1
- Release