

Spotter Plugin 2.0



PRESENTATION

Spotter plugin uses Pilfius!, a third-party software for voice recognition.

Pilfius! was developed by Diego Wasser. Many thanks for his marvellous program. He has made modifications specifically for the Spotter Plugin 2.0

Pilfius! Uses SAPI 5.1 and works on Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Vista 32 bit (Windows Vista 64 bit is not supported by Pilfius! yet)

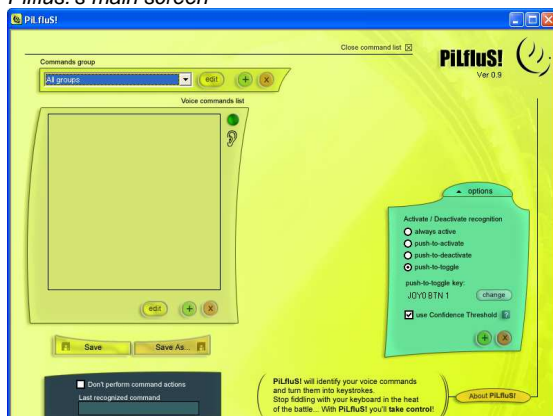
Spotter plugin builds a command list based on settings made in the Voice Commands tab of the Spotter Configuration utility. There is a predefined list of events supported by the Spotter plugin for which you can add and remove voice commands. Use the “+” button to add more voice commands.

When rFactor starts, Spotter plugin builds the list of voice commands and starts Pilfius! with that list loaded. If you manually close Pilfius!, you will loose the voice recognition feature of Spotter plugin 2.0.

When a race session starts in rFactor, Spotter plugin rebuilds the voice commands list and adds every driver name currently in the session allowing you to ask the Spotter various information about a specific driver by saying his name.

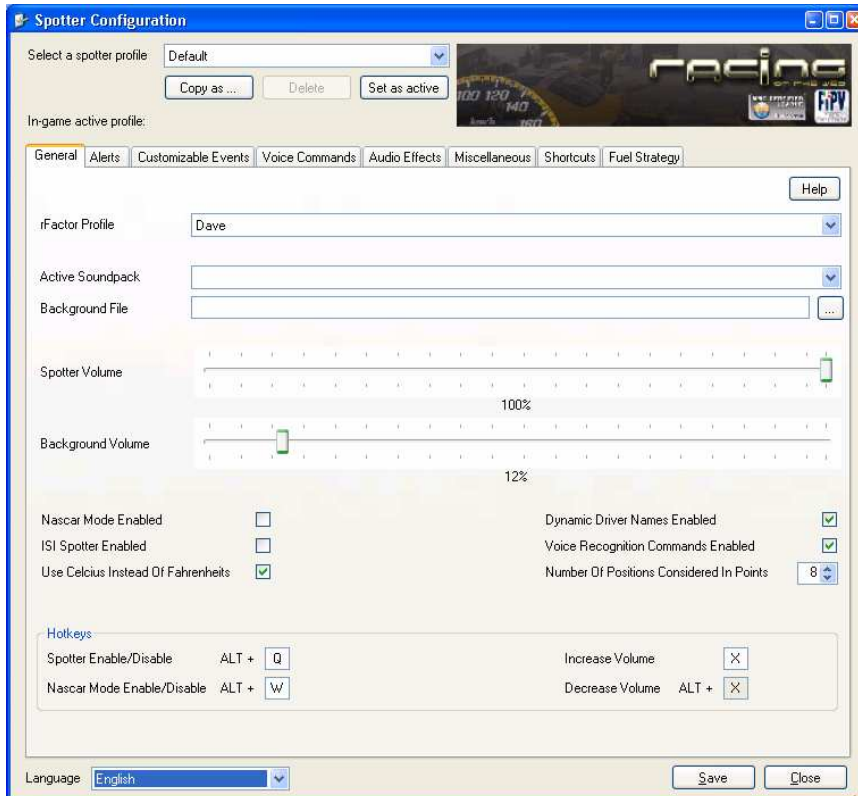
The voice recognition feature of the Spotter plugin 2.0 is used to request a pitstop, change the fuel strategy of pitstops, change repair strategy of pitstops and ask informations about specific drivers.

Pilfius!'s main screen



SPOTTER CONFIGURATION UTILITY

GENERAL



Select a spotter profile

Spotter Configuration (thereafter called SC) supports profiles allowing you to set up your preferences for different Mods.

- The “Copy as...” button creates a new profile by copy the profile currently loaded.
- The “Delete” button deletes the selected profile.
- The “Set as active” flags the selected profile as the one to be used in rFactor. Profiles cannot be changed while in game.

In-game active profile

This label displays the profile that is currently flagged as the one to be used in rFactor.

rFactor Profile

In this dropdown list, select your rFactor driver profile. This is used to make sure that some values in the plr file of the rFactor driver profile are set correctly for the Pit Strategy management of Spotter 2 can be supported. There are 5 options in the plr file that need a specific value. If these values are incorrect, you will be prompted to modify those values automatically.

Active soundpack

Select your desired soundpack.

Background file

Specify a mp3 file to be used as the background sound while there is communication with the Spotter. Some soundpacks provide their own background sounds but there is a default sound that can be used:

...\rFactor\Gamedata\Sounds\PIT\Radio_Static.mp3

Spotter and Background volume

Set the desired volume of for spotter messages and for the Background sound

Nascar Mode Enabled

Check this box if you want to enable Nascar specific rules. Uncheck to disable.

ISI Spotter Enabled

Check this box to enable the "original" rFactor Spotter from ISI (that is the spotter usually giving you your laptimes).

Use Celsius Instead Of Fahrenheit

Check this box if to have temperatures reported to you in Celsius degrees instead of Fahrenheit degrees.

Dynamic Driver Names Enabled

Check this box to have the Spotter plugin reload Pilfius! with all driver names when a race session starts. If this is unchecked, the plugin will not reload Pilfius! when a race session starts.

Voice Recognition Commands Enabled

Check this box if you want to use the voice recognition feature. This will make Pilfius! load when rFactor starts up

Number of Positions Considered In Points

Specify the number of positions that are considered to be receiving points at the end of a race based on your Mod's rules.

Hotkeys**Spotter Enable/Disable**

Key to be used to enable or disable the Spotter plugin while in rFactor

Nascar Mode Enable/Disable

Key to be used to enable or disable the Nascar rules for Spotter plugin while in rFactor

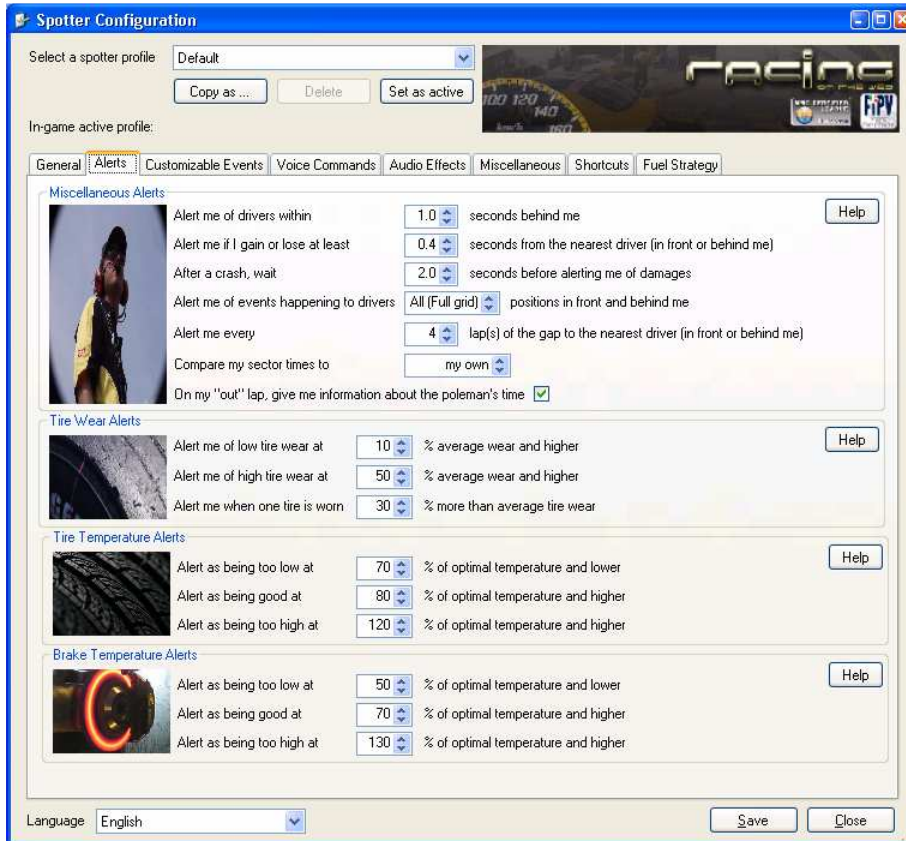
Increase Volume

Key to be used to increase the Spotter volume (Both Spotter volume and Background volume will increase proportionally)

Decrease Volume

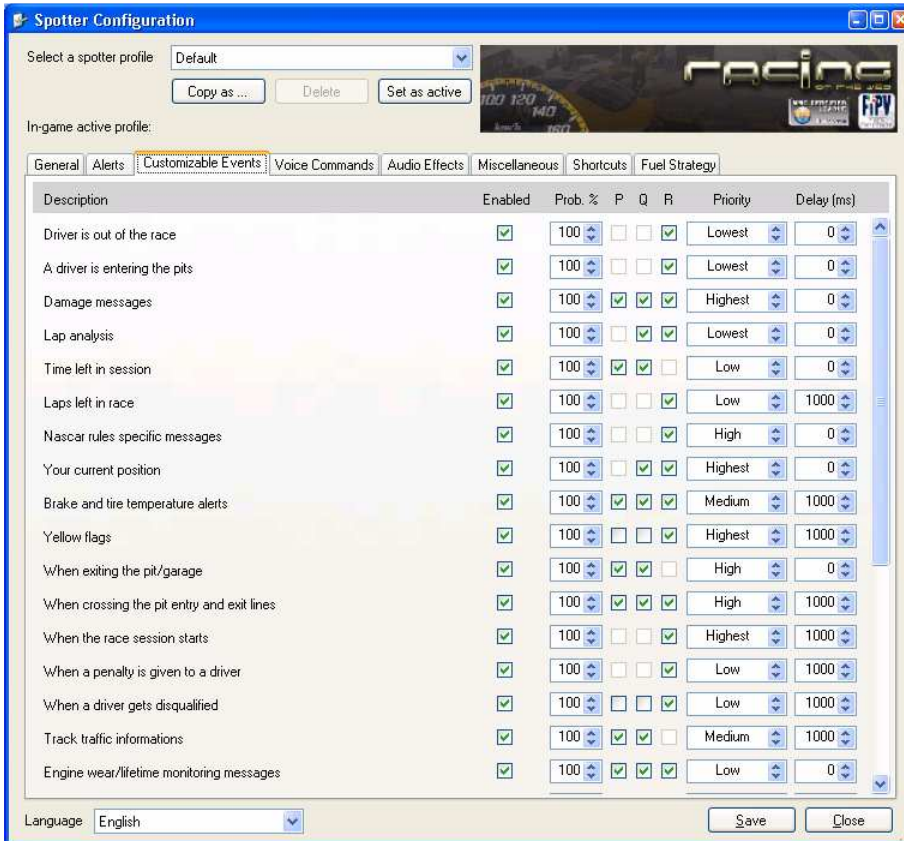
Key to be used to decrease the Spotter volume (Both Spotter volume and Background volume will decrease proportionally)

ALERTS



Alerts are fairly easy to understand and we will not go into details in this document, use the help buttons for more information.

CUSTOMIZABLE EVENTS

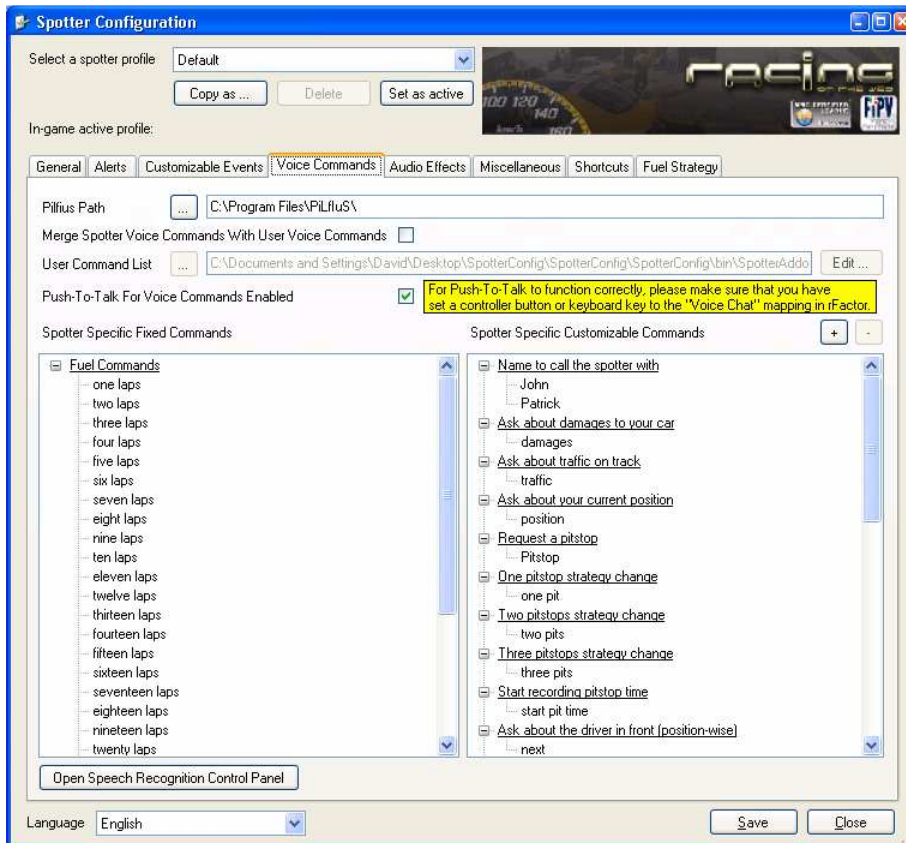


In this screen you can customize certain messages/events to you likings. Customizations of the messages/events are not considered if you explicitly ask the Spotter, through voice recognition, for a specific information.

You can customize:

- **Enabled/Disabled:** The message will or will not play.
- **Prob. %:** if at 100%, you will hear a message every time the event occurs (except if a higher priority event occurs)
- **P, Q, R:** Session Specific Enable/Disable (P=Practice, Q=Qualifying, R=Race)
- **Priority:** Use this setting to give more/less importance to certain events.
- **Delay (ms):** The delay can be used to allow a message of a lesser priority to be played even if a higher priority message needs to be played. Setting a higher delay will make it play later.

VOICE COMMANDS



Pilfius Path

Specify the folder where Pilfius! was installed. Click on the “...” button to browse.

Merge Spotter Voice Commands With User Voice Commands

Check this box if you want the Spotter plugin to include a custom Pilfius commands list when Spotter plugin builds its own list of commands before launching Pilfius.

User Command List

Specify the custom Pilfius! command list file to be merged to the Spotter's own command list. Click on the “...” button to browse and on the “Edit ...” button to open Pilfius! with that command list file loaded allowing you to modify it withing Pilfius!

Push-To-Talk For Voice Commands Enabled

Check this box if you want to use the Push-To-Talk (PTT) feature of the Spotter plugin. With PTT enabled, the Spotter plugin will not recognize any vocal command unless you have pressed the button first. The button to be pressed is the keyboard key of controller button that is assigned to the “Voice Chat” setting in rFactor. Make sure you have setup something for “Voice Chat” in rFactor.

Spotter Specific Fixed Commands

The voice commands listed here are fixed and you cannot add or remove from this list. At this point, there is only the “Fuel Commands” type of voice commands for this list. “Fuel Commands” voice commands are what you need to say to the Spotter when he asks if you want to change your pit strategy (after a pit request).

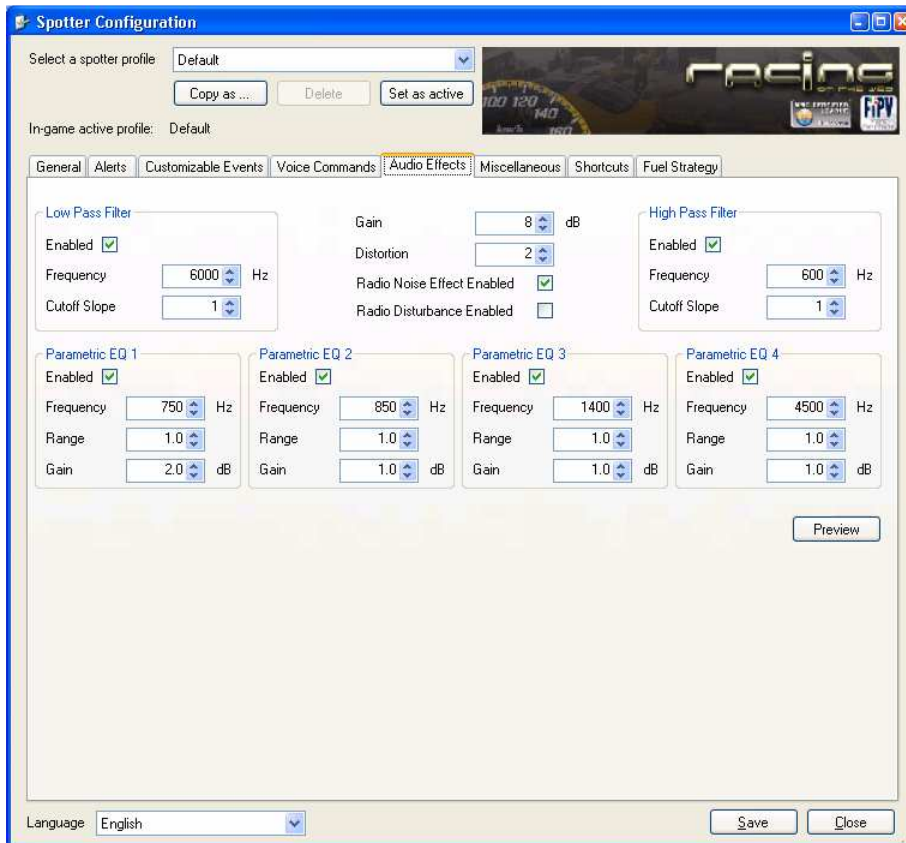
Spotter Specific Customizable Commands

This is the list to get creative. Here you may give a name to your Spotter and specify what you will say if you want a specific information from the Spotter or to ask for a pitstop, etc.

Open Speech Recognition Control Panel

Click this button to open Window's Speech Recognition Control Panel. From there you can train SAPI to better recognize your voice, specify a input soundcard, etc.

AUDIO EFFECTS



In the Audio Effects tab, you can customize the selected soundpack with the help of a few effects that will be applied to the sounds in real-time in rFactor. To elaborate on each effect is beyond the scope of this document. If you need to, use Google or Wikipedia to learn more about each effect.

Use the “Preview” button to hear how the soundpack will sound with the effects applied.

NOTE: the “Radio Noise Effect Enabled” and “Radio Disturbance Enabled” are not applied to the preview.

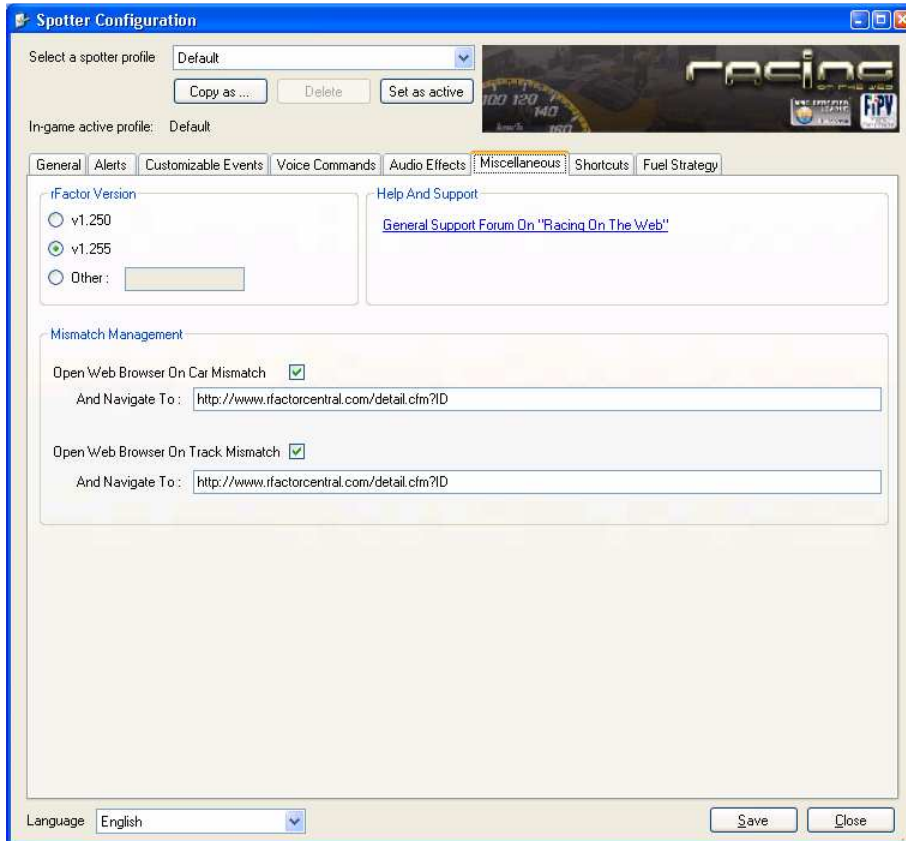
Radio Noise Effect Enabled

Check this box to have a faint “hissing” sound applied in real-time to all soundpack messages

Radio Disturbance Enabled

Check this box to have the Spotter plugin simulate radio communication difficulties by randomly adding distortion to some messages

MISCELLANEOUS



On the Miscellaneous tab, there are a few settings that were too small to get their own tab.

rFactor Version

Specify the version of rFactor that you are using. This setting is used in window manipulations each time the Spotter plugin starts Pilfius!

Help And Support

Link to the official Spotter plugin support forum on the "Racing on the Web" website.

Mismatch Management

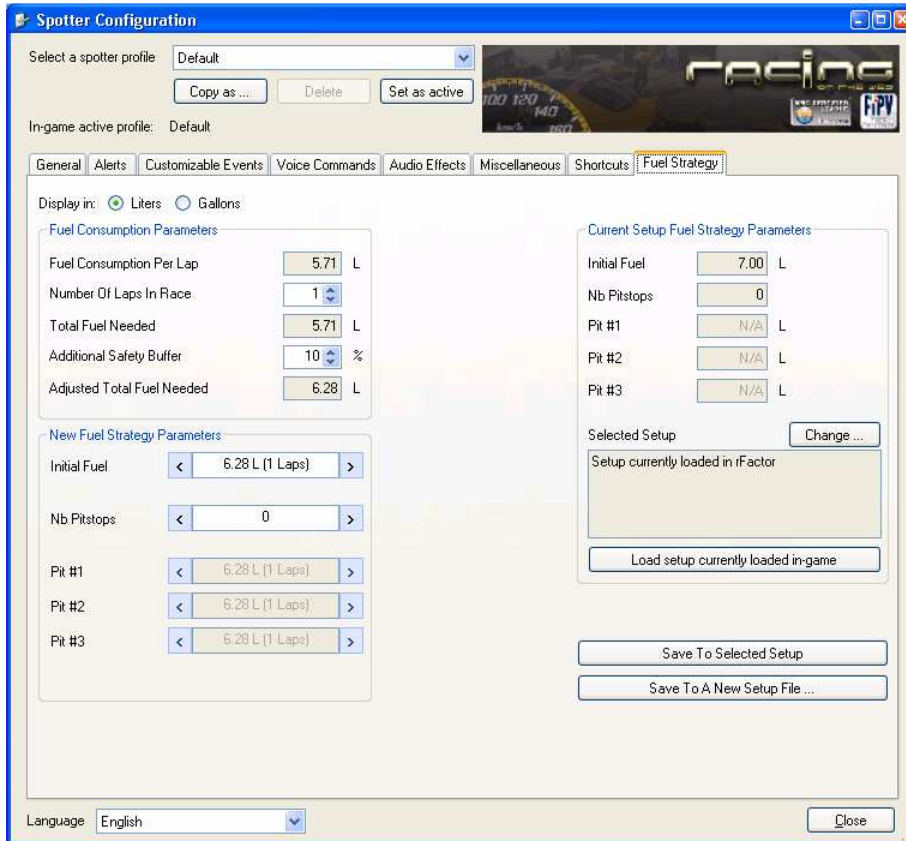
Check the boxes if you want the Spotter plugin to automatically open a web browser to the specified page if you get a car or track mismatch

SHORTCUTS

The screenshot shows the 'Spotter Configuration' window with the 'Shortcuts' tab selected. At the top, there's a 'Select a spotter profile' dropdown set to 'Default', with 'Copy as ...', 'Delete', and 'Set as active' buttons. Below is 'In-game active profile: Default'. The 'Shortcuts' tab is highlighted in the menu bar. The main area contains two sections: 'rFactor Shortcut' with 'Server' and 'Port' (34297) fields and a 'Launch' button; and 'Teamspeak Shortcut' with 'Server', 'Port' (8767), 'Nickname', 'Username', and 'Password' fields, and a 'Launch' button. At the bottom, a list box for 'Applications will be launched in the order listed here:' is empty, with 'Add Teamspeak', 'Add rFactor', 'Add Custom Shortcut', and 'Remove Selected' buttons to its right. A 'Launch All' button is at the bottom left, and a 'Language' dropdown (set to 'English') and a 'Close' button are at the bottom right.

Use the Shortcuts tab to launch various applications. rFactor and Teamspeak each have their own set of fixed parameters and you can add a "Custom shortcut" to specify a DOS command that you want to be executed. Add all desired shortcuts to the list at the bottom in the desired order and click on "Launch All" to execute every application in the order listed.

FUEL STRATEGY



The “Fuel Strategy” tab is where you prepare your race. This feature was made to counter the fact that in rFactor, for many tracks/mods, fuel calculations are wrong. This miscalculation of fuel consumption often leads to more pitstops than planned and we all know the frustration in that.

During practice sessions, the Spotter plugin monitors your average fuel consumption in real-time ((Starting Fuel amount – Ending Fuel Amount) / Number of laps made) each time you go back to the garage. This “average fuel consumption per lap” is reported back to SC (Spotter Configuration) and by specifying the number of laps in your race along with an additional safety buffer (in %) SC gives you the total amount of fuel needed for the race.

You can then either go back (alt-tab) to rFactor and adjust manually the amount of fuel you want (not the amount of laps because this is what’s wrong in rFactor) or you can use SC to generate a settings file.

To use SC to generate a settings file, adjust the “New Fuel Strategy Parameters” to the number of laps you want to do between each pitstop. Once you are satisfied with you setting, Click on “Save to a new setup ...”. This will copy the setup selected in the “Selected Setup” box and replace the pit strategy settings by what is specified in SC. All you have to do then is load that setting in rFactor.

VOICE COMMAND SCENARIOS

Every voice command needs to start with the name of your spotter. See Voice Commands tab of SC. Voice commands listed here are the ones provided by default during the Spotter setup.

Simple requests:

“Damages” – Request information about your damages

“Traffic” – Request information about traffic on track

“Position” – Request to know your current position

“Cancel” / “Cancel Pitstop” – Cancels a requested pitstop (will work only if a pitstop was requested)

Simple requests during a race:

“Next” – Request information about the driver in front of you (position-wise)

“Leader” – Request information about the race leader

“Previous” – Request information about the driver behind you (position-wise)

A driver’s name – Request information about that specific driver (will work only if Dynamic Driver Names is enabled).

Pit request scenario (D=Driver (you), S=Spotter):

D: “John”

S: “I’m listening” (listen.mp3 file)

D: “Pitstop”

S: “Ok, should we change our pit strategy?” (change_strategy.mp3 file)

2 choices:

1. D: “No” – No changes will be made to the pitstop strategy and communication ends.
2. D: “One pit”, “Two pits”, “Three pits” or “X laps” where X is 1 to 40

If choice 2 happens, communication continues as follows:

S: “Please confirm you want a X pitstop strategy” or “Please confirm you want fuel for X laps”

If driver says “No”, a message asking you to repeat is played (“Please repeat”) and we go back to the 2 choices listed above.

If driver says “Yes”, the communication continues as follows:

If there are damages:

S: “Should we repair your damages?” (in_Repair_damage.mp3 file)

4 choices:

1. D: “No” – No changes are made to the damage repair and communication ends
2. D: “All” – damage repairs are set to “repair all” in rFactor’s pit menu
3. D: “Body” – damage repairs are set to “body only” in rFactor’s pit menu
4. D: “Change” – the damage repairs in rFactor’s pit menu will change by one each time “Change” is said. Use “Finish Changes” to make the spotter understand that you now have the damage repair you want.

NOTE: If you have a pit already requested and you want to modify either the fuel strategy or the damage repairs, you can use “Strategy change” (for fuel strategy) and “Damage change” (for damages). This will allow you to change either one of them without repeating the whole pitstop communication procedure.

NOTE: After waiting for your response for 8 seconds, the Spotter will ask you to repeat. He will do that 3 times before giving up.

CREDITS

Spotter Plugin: Carlo Maker

Official support forum: Racing on the Web (www.racingontheweb.net)

Pilfius!: Diego Wasser (www.pilfius.com.ar)

FMOD: Advanced Audio Library (www.fmod.org)

Thanks To:

F1Dave: Project assistant, Spotter Configuration programming, Official English Sound Pack. Audio editing.

MaxyM: Project assistant, Polish translation of Spotter Configuration Official Polish Sound Pack and hard beta testing.

Iarno: Official Italian Sound Pack.

Simoneser: Graphics.

Lukaikkonen: Beta testing.

AsMagic: Beta testing and Italian translation of Spotter Config.

Smirk: Beta testing.

Dalhil: Various help

Max_A: Various help

Thanks to ISI and T_Bone for this wonderful game platform.