

Charts Finder 3.1.16

Charts Finder 3 is an app to get IFR charts for your flights. Instead of searching for each airport charts manually, it downloads the charts and names them appropriately from each country's official AIP.

Features

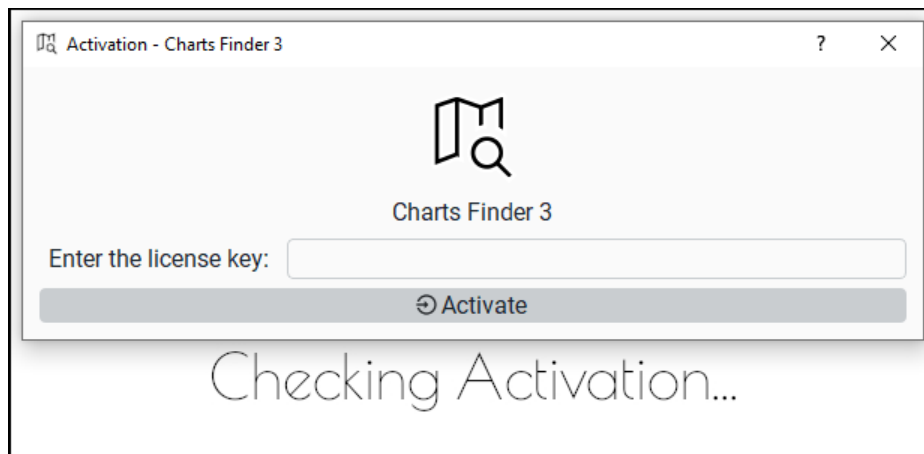
- Supports nearly 100 countries*.
- Custom naming for websites to gather the correct and human-readable filename*.
- Charts are download from the official AIP for each country.
- Regularly updated resources database for every AIRAC cycle.
- Custom resources can be added if needed, with various options supported.
- Automatically update old charts.

*: See the supported countries list for details.

Installation

After purchasing the app and getting the license key, download the app and install it like any other app. The installer will create a start menu and desktop shortcut.

Open the app after installation, and the app will connect to the activation server to check for activation. If needed, the app will ask for the license key. Enter the license key and click on 'Activate'.

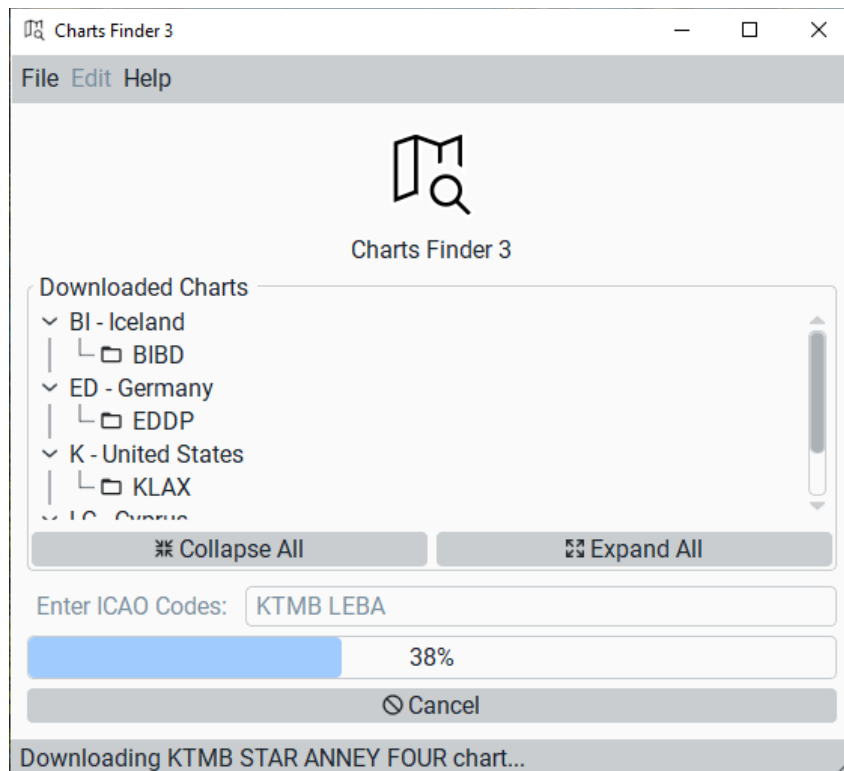


The app will then check for the license key. If it's valid, the app will load the resources and open the main window. Otherwise, it will ask for the license key again. If you are sure the license key is valid, but the app still wouldn't accept it, see the troubleshooting section below.

Usage

Enter the ICAO codes for the airports you want to get charts for, separated with spaces, and click on the 'Download Charts' button. The app will search for the charts and download them in the 'Documents\Charts' folder. The folder can be adjusted in the settings.

For US airports that don't have an ICAO identifier (e.g. X51), enter K before the identifier (so X51 should be entered as KX51).



Charts format varies between countries. Some countries offer all airport charts in a single file, others have every chart in a different file. For the first type, the app will download that file named after the airport ICAO code. For the second type, the app will download the charts in a folder named after the airport ICAO code.

The app uses a custom web scraper to get an appropriate filename for each chart file. If the scraper couldn't get the suitable filename, it will use the website PDF filename, which may not be indicative of what chart the file contains. For example, one chart default filename is 'EI_AD_2_EICK_24-19.I_en'. With the custom naming, the chart name will be 'Instrument Approach Chart ILS Cat I & II or LOC RWY16 – ICAO'.

If the web scrapper supports a country yet the filename is not appropriate, see the troubleshooting section below.

The resources are refreshed from the database once a day. If you still want to refresh the resources manually, you may do so with 'Edit – Refresh Resources' options. This isn't recommended however, as it overloads the database with no real need. The resources are usually updated on the AIRAC cycle update day.

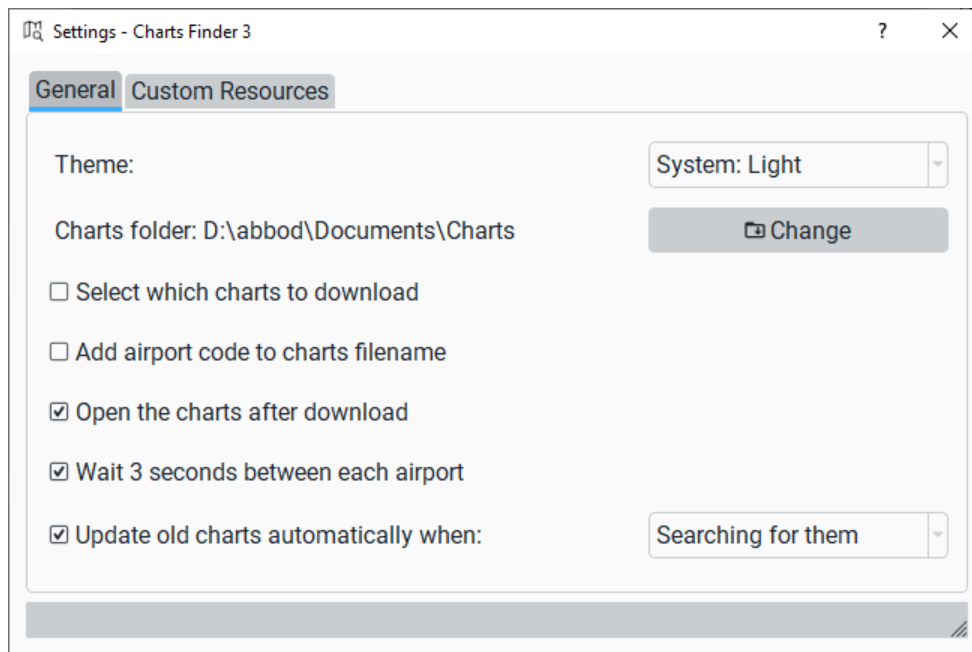
The app can scan the charts folder and update the old charts either automatically or manually. The automatic update can be adjusted in the settings. The manual update can be done with 'Edit – Update Old Charts'.

The 'Downloaded Charts' section shows the charts in the selected charts folder, sorted according to the ICAO code. You can right-click on any airport and open, update (only if no downloads are in progress and charts are not up to date) and delete its charts. While downloading and updating charts, the edit menu can't be accessed, and you can't check for updates.

The app charts folder should only be used by the app. Trying to add files manually might result in unexpected behavior.

Settings

General



Theme: Choose the app theme manually or 'System' to follow the system theme. The app has light and dark themes. The app must be restarted to apply the theme change. Default: System.

Charts folder: Select the folder to download charts into. The folder will be created if doesn't exist when downloading the charts. Default: 'Documents\Charts'.

Select which charts to download: Check this option if you want to manually select the charts to be downloaded. This option is applicable for resources that have each chart in a file. Default: Disabled (the app will download all charts).

Add airport code to charts filename: Most resources have multiple chart files for each airport. Check this option if you want to add the airport code to every file. Default: Disabled.

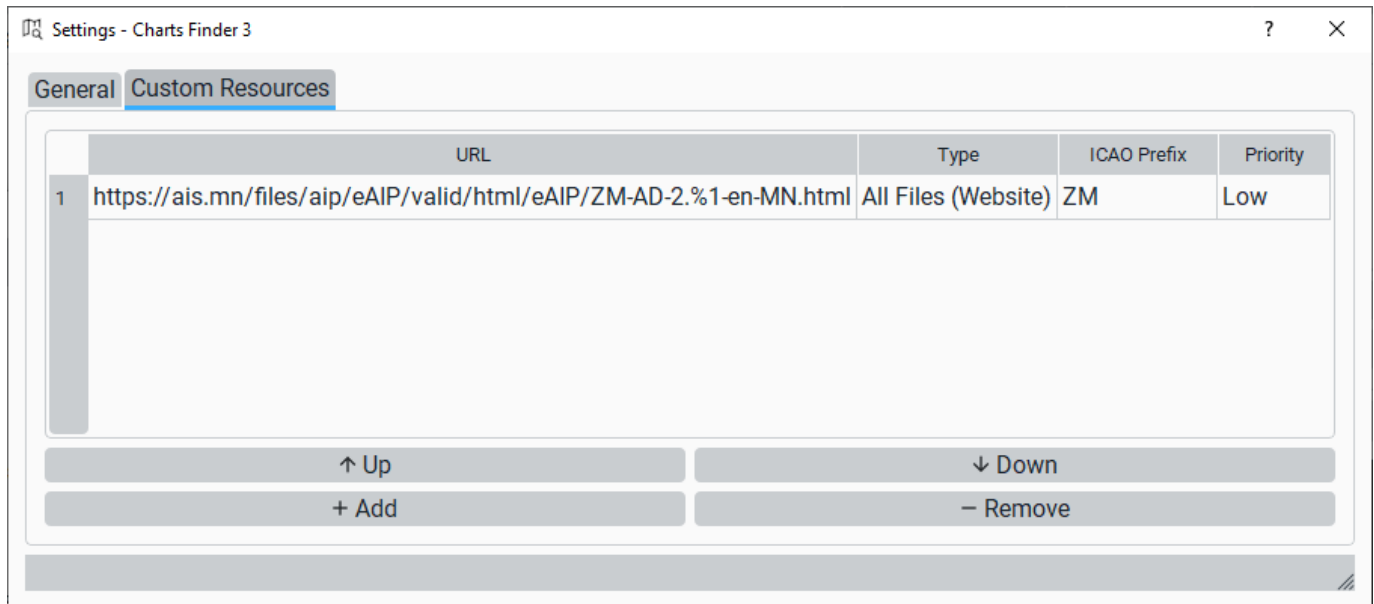
Open the charts after download: Check this option if you want to open the charts after download. If the charts are in a single file, they will be opened with the default PDF reader. If they are multiple files, the folder containing them will be opened. Default: Enabled.

Wait 3 seconds between each airport: Check this option if you want the app to wait 3 seconds between each airport if there is more than one airport to download. Default: Enabled.

Update old charts automatically when: Check this option if you want the app to update old charts automatically. An old chart is one whose download date is before the current AIRAC cycle release date.

If 'Searching for them' is selected, the app will delete the old charts if you search for them and download the new charts. If 'Starting the app' is selected, the app will scan the charts folder and update the old charts at startup. Default: Enabled, 'Searching for them'.

Custom Resources



The app supports custom resources. There are 3 types of resources: Single File (Direct), Code Files (Website), and All Files (Website). All examples below are already included in the internal database.

Single File (Direct) is for resources whose all charts for an airport are in a single file, and there is a direct URL to the charts with the airport ICAO code only. An example of this is [Libyan Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.gov.ly\)](http://caa.gov.ly). If you clicked on 'AD 2. AERODROMES' and viewed the URLs, you can see that each airport has its charts in a single file that's accessible with a URL that has the airport ICAO code: <http://caa.gov.ly/ais/wp-content/uploads/2017/AIP/AD/HLLM.pdf>.

Code Files (Website) is for resources that have multiple airports in a webpage, and each airport charts contain the airport ICAO code. Example: [AIP España \(enaire.es\)](http://enaire.es). There are multiple airports in a single webpage, and each airport chart has the airport ICAO code in it. The app will download all PDF files that have the airport ICAO code in its name.

All Files (Website) is for resources where only one airport charts exist in a webpage. Example: [AIP for Mongolia \(section AD-2.ZMAT\) \(ais.mn\)](http://ais.mn). This page contains the charts for ZMAT only. The app will download all PDF files in the webpage.

To add a resource, click on the 'Add' button. The addition dialog will appear.

URL:

Type:

ICAO prefix:

Priority:

For every URL that has the airport ICAO code in it (the first and last type), replace the airport code with '%1'. The app will replace the '%1' with the ICAO code when downloading the charts. Set the type as discussed above. Note that if the URL has variables in it (like the date or AIRAC cycle number), it must be updated whenever the variable changes (usually every month). Otherwise, the URL will be invalid whenever the variable changes, and the app won't download data from it.

The ICAO prefix is the prefix of ICAO codes for that resource countries. In the example above, the resource contains Mongolia airports charts. Mongolia ICAO code prefix is 'ZM' (meaning all ICAO codes in Mongolia begin with 'ZM'). You can find the prefix for each country on [ICAO airport code - Wikipedia](#). Multiple codes can be entered, separated by commas. If the resource has charts for many countries, you can enter a star '*' instead of each country code.

The priority controls the order in which the app searches for charts. If it's set to low, the app will search for charts in the internal resources first, then the custom resource, and vice versa for high. If 2 resources have the same airport, the charts will be download from the resource with the higher priority.

After entering the data, click on the 'Add' button. The app will verify the data and add the resource if the data is valid.

The data can be modified by double-clicking the field. For the type, enter 1 for Single File (Direct), 2 for Code Files (Website), and 3 for All Files (Website).

Troubleshooting

If you encountered a problem, try refreshing the resource through 'Edit – Refresh Resources'. If the problem persisted, check if there are any available updates through 'Help – Check for Updates'. If the problem still occurs, close the app, remove the 'Charts Finder 3' folder in **%appdata%** folder (this will remove all of your settings and custom resources), and try again. If the problem still happens, open a discussion on the [support platform](#) with the 'config.cfg' and 'log.txt' files (can be found in that folder) attached.

The app license is valid for one device only. The device is identified with the ID of the storage drive. If the storage drive was changed, the app won't activate anymore. In that case, contact me at abbodmar@gmail.com with the purchase invoice and the license key.

Changelog

3.1.16 – 2024-09-06

- Fixed Hungary, Taiwan, and Nepal resources.

3.1.15 – 2024-08-08

- Upgraded to Qt 6.7.2 and libCURL 8.9.1.
- Windows position and size are reset on new updates to avoid issues.
- Upgraded code base.
- Fixed Dutch Caribbean resource.
- Fixed Kyrgyzstan resource duplicated charts.
- Removed Morocco resource due to website changes preventing the app from downloading charts.

3.1.14 – 2024-06-14

- Upgraded to Qt 6.7.1 and libCURL 8.8.0.
- Fixed Indonesia resource.

3.1.13 – 2024-05-16

- Added Pakistan resource back.
- Upgraded to Qt 6.7.0 and libCURL 8.7.1.
- Changed waiting spinner to an indeterminate progress bar.
- Several code improvements to parse webpages properly.
- Fixed missing charts and improper names in several resources.

3.1.12 – 2024-02-22

- Upgraded to Qt 6.6.2 and libCURL 8.6.0.
- Changed waiting spinner to an indeterminate progress bar.
- Fixed India resource missing some charts.
- Removed Maldives resource due to website changes preventing the app from downloading charts.
- Removed Tunisia resource due to charts being no longer available for free.

3.1.11 – 2023-09-19

- Upgraded to Qt 6.5.2.
- Improved code base.
- Fixed US airports missing some charts.

3.1.10 – 2023-06-15

Fixed Ireland resource.

3.1.9 – 2023-04-22

- Upgraded to Qt 6.5.0.
- Fixed Finland resource.
- Fixed missing 'About Qt' icon.
- Removed Panama resource due to charts being no longer available for free.

3.1.8 – 2023-02-23

- Added 'About Qt' dialog.
- Updated Greenland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Czech, and North Macedonia to new resources.
- Upgraded to Qt 6.4.2.
- Fixed Adding airport code to charts filename not working properly.
- Removed Saudi Arabia resource due to website changes preventing the app from downloading the charts.

3.1.7 – 2022-02-04

- Updated Qt to 6.2.3.
- Fixed splash screen issue.

3.1.6 – 2022-01-29

- Changed to Qt 6.2 and 64-bit binary.
- Fixed Portuguese resource.
- Fixed some typos.

3.1.5 – 2021-10-07

Added a backup database for use when the main database is down.

3.1.4 – 2021-09-20

- Changed the database server.
- Fixed menus and options not disabled while updating charts.
- ICAO input box is now disabled while downloading charts.
- Changed the Spanish resource to the English version.

3.1.3 – 2021-09-10

- Changed the hosting provider for the app server for speed and better reliability.
- Changed many resources internal structure, the app should be faster than before.
- Fixed some airports not associated with their country.
- Fixed Bahrain resource.
- Other charts are now in 'ZZZZ – Other Countries' folder instead of the main charts folder.
- Renamed 'Refresh Downloaded Charts' to 'Rescan Downloaded Charts'.
- Custom resources structure, old custom resources must be added again.
- Renamed "Multiple Files (Website)" type to "Code Files (Website)".
- "Single File (Website)" type, replaced by "Code Files (Website)".
- Fixed multiple grammatical mistakes.

3.1.2 – 2021-07-23

Changed the app server.

3.1.1 – 2021-07-17

- Changed charts folder structure so charts are now inside country folders.
- Changed UI windows size.
- Whitespaces are now removed from the beginning and end of the license key.
- Changed "License key is invalid" message to "License key couldn't be found".

3.1 – 2021-06-21

- Added various UI improvements.
- Changed the download charts list to a tree view to display download charts, sorted according to the ICAO code, with the ability to open, update, and delete individual airport charts.
- Changed the activation logic to avoid any random changes in the hardware ID.
- Fixed New Zealand resource.

3.0.3 – 2021-06-18

- Added various code improvements.
- Edit menu and check for updates menu option are now disabled while downloads are in progress.
- Removed any airport description chart (TEXT) from all resources.
- Fixed Saudi Arabia resource.
- Fixed custom resources URL not saved properly.

3.0.2 – 2021-06-01

Fixed Argentina resource.

3.0.1 – 2021-05-26

- Added 'Refresh Download Charts' option.
- UAE chart filenames no longer contains the chart number.
- France airport description chart (TEXT) is ignored.
- Removed debugging messages in the log.

3.0 – 2021-05-23

Initial release.