

Topic: Airplane Automation

Would you fly in an airplane without a pilot?

This article pretends the reader to ask himself that question. The following topic addresses all the important features that automation produces in commercial aviation. Believe it or not, it could happen that one day you are flying in a new fully-automated state-of-the-art aircraft where the pilot has forgotten how to fly it. Sounds impossible? Well, not so much. If you feel attracted by this thought (or at least worried) then better to keep paying attention. This report will give you the pros and cons of having an onboard autopilot system.

Many analyses have been done regarding this topic and there is part of true in saying that *"Pilots are losing their flying skills"* which is the holder of the well-known English newspaper *Telegraph* in 2016[1]. The main reason for a newspaper to use such a dramatic starting holder is because new airplanes demand less flying effort to the pilots to perform a flight mission. New airplanes are able to take the role of understanding the flight situation and decide how to perform the flying manoeuvres in a more efficient and effective way. This can happen because of thousands of man-written lines of code and sensors mounted inside the aircraft electronics which gives it the "knowledge" and power to do so.

The idea behind this automatization philosophy is excellent, it detects and erases human errors during flights and helps achieving higher safety levels. The problem appears when the programmed airplane does not know how to interpret a situation that has never occurred before and the pilot needs to awaken those critical skills he has not been practicing for a long time.

Reference:

[1] <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/news/Pilots-are-losing-their-flying-skills-says-US-report/>