

DJI VSM User Guide

UgCS 2.8.613



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1 Connecting DJI autopilots to UgCS



See [Disclaimer](#).

1.1 Supported autopilots

This document relate to the following DJI autopilots and ready to fly vehicles:

- A2
- Wookong-M
- Naza-M V2
- Phantom 2

For Phantom 2 Vision+, Phantom 3 and Inspire1 please see separate documents on <http://ugcs.com> site.

1.2 First time vehicle connection

Please follow these steps to connect a DJI vehicle to the UgCS:

1. To connect DJI vehicle to UgCS you need the 2.4Hz datalink (<http://www.dji.com/product/2-4g-bluetooth-da>) or 900MHz datalink. Direct USB cable to DJI vehicle cannot be used to connect it to UgCS.
2. For Windows setup you also need to download from DJI site and install driver for 2.4GHz datalink (http://download.dji-innovations.com/downloads/driver/DJI_WIN_Driver_Installer.exe). For 900MHz datalink download and install this package (http://download.dji-innovations.com/downloads/driver/DJI_Datalink_Driver_Installer_1.0.zip). This step is not required if you are running UgCS on Linux or Mac.
3. Before connecting the vehicle to UgCS, please ensure all autopilot settings (fail-safe, control mode switch, compass calibration) are configured accordingly via DJI Assistant software. Please consult user manual of your autopilot for details.
4. Once the drone is connected it should appear in vehicles list. Both Uplink and Downlink connections should be available. Open *Vehicles* window from main menu and choose the corresponding vehicle for editing by clicking on the menu item and selecting *Edit* button. Now you can select the vehicle profile and change the default vehicle name to be convenient for you:

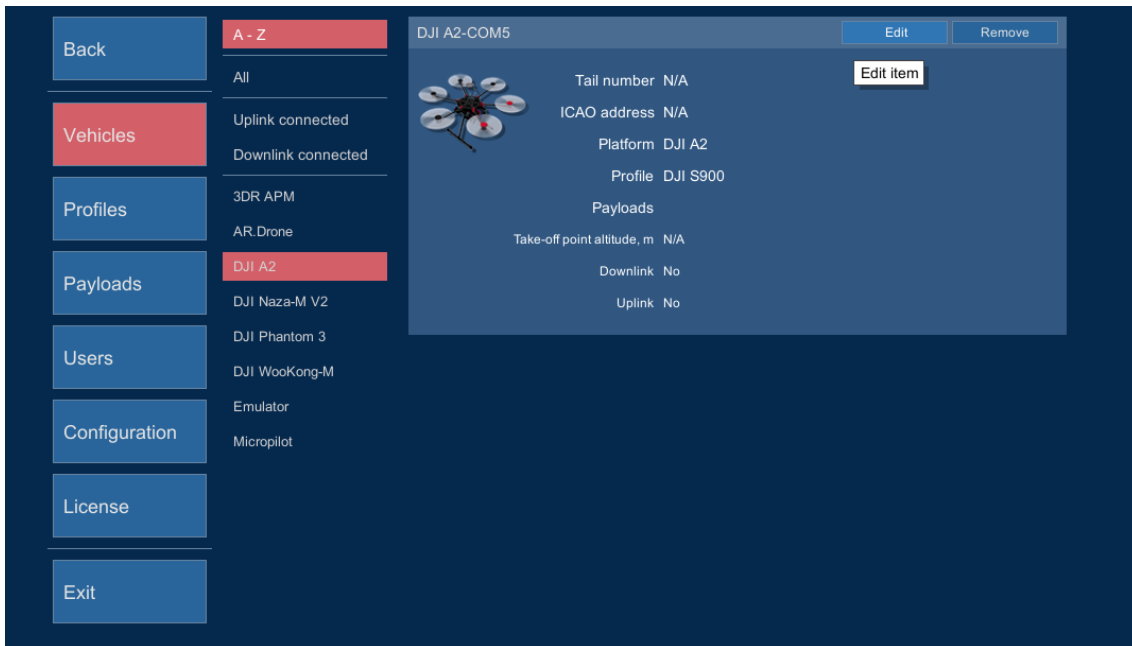


Figure 1: New DJI vehicle

Vehicle profile needs to be assigned to allow mission planning with this vehicle. Vehicle avatar should be assigned in vehicle profile to properly see the vehicle location on map.

Note

For Wookong M pilots:

Sometimes UgCS detects WKM autopilot as NAZA-M V2. If that is the case, you can set the correct profile manually. After that it will tie the profile with the vehicle automatically.

1.3 Known datalink connection issues on Windows

There is a known issue with DJI 2.4GHz datalink when radio signal is weak. It is possible that DJI Datalink device disappears from Windows device list. The issue manifests itself as disappearing telemetry from the vehicle. To restore connection to the vehicle the datalink must be disconnected from PC and plugged back after ~10-15 seconds. This is a bug in DJI Datalink USB driver which does not break the existing sessions when device is unplugged.

1.4 Mission execution specifics

- When vehicle acquires GPS lock it records the HOME location to current position.
- Mission upload sets the HOME location of the vehicle according to your mission configuration. (Home location in mission can be set explicitly or set automatically to 1st waypoint.)
- Fail-safe settings in mission properties are ignored.
- DJI has the following default fail-safe settings (these settings can be changed via DJI Assistant software):

Condition	Behavior	Notes
On GPS signal loss	Land	Happens when there are less than 6 satellites visible for more than 20 seconds

On RC signal loss	Return to HOME position	Default RTH altitude is 20m. See autopilot User Manual for more information.
On low battery	Land	See autopilot User Manual for more information.

- Please use DJI Assistant software to control the failsafe settings of autopilot.
- Mission waypoint actions supported by DJI:

Flight plan element / action	Support	Notes
Camera control	No	
Camera trigger	Yes	Only Single-shot camera mode is supported for A2 and Wookong autopilots when camera trigger is wired to General Purpose servo output see General Purpose servo action setup for details.
Wait	Yes	Only one wait action per waypoint is allowed.
Yaw	Partial	1) Only when hovering over the waypoint. Vehicle will always fly with nose pointing to next waypoint. 2) Only 1 Yaw action per Waypoint is supported. (In case of multiple yaw actions the last one will be used.) 3) For Yaw action to succeed it must be used together with "Wait" action.
Land	No	Vehicle will hover over the last waypoint until operator takes over the control.
Panorama	No	
Point Of Interest	No	
Camera by time	Yes	Supported for A2 and Wookong autopilots when camera trigger is wired to General Purpose servo output see General Purpose servo action setup for details.
Camera by distance	Yes	Supported for A2 and Wookong autopilots when camera trigger is wired to General Purpose servo output see General Purpose servo action setup for details.

Warning

- Sometimes DJI autopilot will pause for 5-15 seconds on waypiont with turn type "Stop And Turn" before proceeding to next waypoint even when there is no "Wait" action specified. The issue has been observed with A2 and Wookong autopilots. The cause of said behaviour is unknown.
- Uploading mission in the air is possible but not recommended as it is possible to lose track of altitudes and "Return To Home" functionality can be affected.

1.5 Command execution specifics

Command	Support	Notes
ARM	No	
DISARM	No	
AUTOMODE	Yes	Take off and start the mission. See Notes on Auto mode below.
MANUALMODE	No	
CLICK & GO	Yes	
HOLD	Yes	Should be executed only during mission flight. Used to pause the mission
CONTINUE	Yes	Resume the mission. See Notes on Continue command below.
RETURN HOME	Yes	Vehicle will fly to preconfigured altitude (default is 20m) and return to HOME position and land. See Notes on Return Home command below.
TAKEOFF	No	
LAND	No	
EMERGENCYLAND	No	
CAMERA_TRIGGER	Yes	Trigger camera shutter. See General Purpose servo action setup for details.

1.5.1 Notes on Auto mode

If vehicle does not move after successful "Auto mode" command please verify that you have uploaded the route to the vehicle. You can do that by checking log entries.

1.5.2 Notes on Continue command

Continue command can perform erratically if turn type is *Bank* or *Adaptive bank*. That can happen if mission has small segments. In that case *Continue* command can direct vehicle to skip one or more WPTs.

1.5.3 Notes on Return Home command

WKM and NAZA autopilots sometimes ignore the "Return to home" command after mission is uploaded while the vehicle is armed (in the air).

1.6 Command availability

UGCS Client can show command buttons in different shades. You can always press all buttons disregarding of shade. Highlighted buttons suggest recommended commands, depending on vehicle current status.

Command availability:

State	Button highlighted	Button shaded
Armed	AUTOMODE, CAMERA_TRIGGER, RETURNHOME	
Disarmed	AUTOMODE, CAMERA_TRIGGER, RETURNHOME	

1.7 Telemetry information specifics

- Vehicle state (armed/disarmed) is controlled from RC transmitter. (Vehicle is armed automatically when "Auto Mode" command is issued)
- Flight mode meaning
 - Auto: Vehicle is executing mission or is returning to HOME position.
 - Manual: Vehicle is holding position.

Note

User can take over the control from any mode at any time by flipping the "Mode Switch" on RC transmitter from "GPS" to "ATTI" to "GPS"

Sometimes DJI autopilot can report mode as "Manual" but cannot be controlled via RC transmitter. To take over the control please flip the "Mode Switch" on RC transmitter to gain manual control.

1.8 Fail-safe actions

Fail-safe actions can be set only in DJI Assistant software.

1.9 Waypoint turn types

There are 3 different routing planning modes for DJI autopilots: fixed-point turn mode (Stop and Turn), coordinated turn mode (Bank Turn) and adaptive coordinated turn mode (Adaptive Bank Turn). You can choose turn type for each Waypoint, Circle, Perimeter. The default turn mode in the system is Stop and turn.

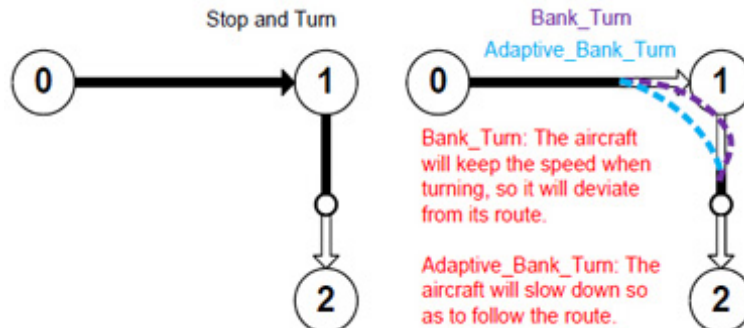


Figure 2: Turn type

Turn type	Support	Notes
Stop and Turn	Yes	Aircraft flies to the first fixed point accurately, stays at the fixed point and then flies to the next fixed point. See note below.
Bank Turn	Yes	The route of aircraft is calculated with turning speed and turning angle. The aircraft would fly from one point to another point without stopping.

Adaptive Bank Turn	Yes	It is almost the same performance with Bank Turn mode. But the flight routine will be more accurately detailed with a planned flight routine in this mode.
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Note

When using "Stop and Turn" Vehicle sometimes will wait on a waypoint for several seconds even when there is no wait action specified. Can happen in windy weather.

You can find more information about turning modes and supporting autopilots on the site <http://wiki.dji.-com/>.

1.10 General Purpose servo action setup

DJI A2 and Wookong autopilots support general purpose servo action. It can be used to trigger camera.

You will need a device which can trigger camera remotely. Possible solutions:

- Gimbal with with camera trigger connector built in which supports PWM signal. (For example: Zenmuse Z15)
- Stand alone device to trigger camera via PWM signal (For example: http://copter.ardupilot.-com/wiki/common-pixhawk-auto-camera-trigger-without-chdk/#22_IR_trigger-_device)

Steps to configure camera trigger for use with UgCS mission flight:

- Connect gimbal or triggering device to general purpose servo output on autopilot:
 - A2: output "F2"
 - Wookong: output "F1"

(Consult DJI autopilot manual for more details on how to use GP servo outputs.)

- Configure the servo action in configuration file. By default the "vehicle.dji.trigger_action" parameter in vsm-dji.conf file is set to -1000, 1000, for additional configuration see [Configuring trigger_action parameters in vsm-dji.conf](#) below.
- Create a mission with waypoint actions Camera-mode Single-shot.

1.10.1 Configuring trigger_action parameters in vsm-dji.conf

Parameter trigger_action accepts seven comma separated integers.

Parameter number	Range	Description
1	-1000..1000	Default servo position
2	-1000..1000	1st servo position on action
3	0..9	seconds to hold 1st servo position
4	-1000..1000	2nd servo position on action
5	0..9	seconds to hold 2nd servo position
6	-1000..1000	3rd servo position on action
7	0..9	seconds to hold 3rd servo position

If your trigger needs only 1 servo position change then last 4 parameters can be omitted.

Example:

The following line in vsm-dji.conf:

```
vehicle.dji.trigger_action = 100, -200, 1
```

Produces the behavior:

- Autopilot will keep the GP servo at position 100 during the whole mission.
- On each waypoint which has the "Camera-mode: Single-shot" action the connected servo will:
 - move to position -200,
 - wait 1 second,
 - move back to position 100.

1.11 GoPro video link

Vehicle can be configured to carry GoPro camera. In that case live video stream can be obtained via UgCS video streamer component which must be running on the host which is connected to GoPro WiFi access point.

1.12 Configuration file

Default configuration file of the DJI VSM suits most needs and it is generally not necessary to modify it.

Configuration file location:

- **On Microsoft Windows:**

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\UgCS\bin\vsm-dji.conf
```

- **On GNU/Linux:**

```
/etc/opt/ugcs/vsm-dji.conf
```

- **On Apple OS X:**

```
/Users/[user name]/Library/Application Support/UGCS/configuration/vsm-dji.conf
```

1.12.1 Common parameters

All VSMs share a common set of configuration file parameters described in [Common configuration file parameters](#). DJI VSM configuration file prefix is:

```
vehicle.dji
```

1.12.2 Serial port configuration

Mandatory. This is the serial port name which appears when 2.4GHz or 900MHz datalink USB cable is plugged in. At least one serial port definition should be present, otherwise VSM will not try to connect to the vehicle.

- **Name:** vehicle.dji.serial_port
- **Description:** Serial port configuration, for more details see [Serial port configuration](#). Default DJI port communication speed is 115200 bps.
- **Example:**

```
vehicle.dji.serial_port.1.name = com1  
vehicle.dji.serial_port.1.baud = 115200
```

1.12.3 Waypoint turn type

Optional. Used to override the turn type for all waypoints in uploaded mission. Please see DJI GS manual for detailed explanation of turn types.

- **Name:** vehicle.dji.turn_type_override
- **Possible values:** stop, bank, adaptive_bank
- **Default:** stop
- **Example:**

```
vehicle.dji.turn_type_override = adaptive_bank
```

1.12.4 NAZA/Wookong detection

Optional.

There is no deterministic way to differentiate between NAZA and Wookong autopilots. VSM tries its best to autodetect the autopilot correctly but sometimes it can wrongly detect Wookong as NAZA. This setting can be used to workaround the issue. Set this setting to "no" if you are using only NAZA based vehicles.

- **Name:** vehicle.dji.report_naza_as_wookong
- **Possible values:** yes, no
- **Default:** no
- **Example:**

```
vehicle.dji.report_naza_as_wookong = yes
```

1.13 Common configuration file parameters

VSM configuration file is a text file specified via command line argument - *-config* of the VSM application. Example:

```
--config /etc/opt/ugcs/vsm-ardupilot.conf
```

Each configuration parameter is defined as a line in the configuration file with the following structure:

```
name1.name2...nameX = value
```

where name1, name2 ... nameX are arbitrary names separated by dots to divide a variable into logical blocks and a value which can be a number value or a text string depending on the context. See below the description about common VSM configuration parameters.

1.13.1 UgCS server configuration

1.13.1.1 Listening address

Mandatory.

- **Name:** ucs.local_listening_address = [IP address]
- **Description:** Local TCP address to listen for incoming connections from UgCS server. Specify *0.0.0.0* to listen from all local addresses.
- **Example:** ucs.local_listening_address = 0.0.0.0

1.13.1.2 Listening port

Mandatory.

- **Name:** ucs.local_listening_port = [port number]
- **Description:** Local TCP port to listen for incoming connections from UgCS server. Default is 5556.
- **Example:** ucs.local_listening_port = 5556

1.13.2 Logging configuration

1.13.2.1 Level

Optional.

- **Name:** log.level = [error|warning|info|debug]
- **Description:** Logging level.
- **Default:** info
- **Example:** log.level = debug

1.13.2.2 File path

Optional.

- **Name:** log.file_path = [path to a file]
- **Description:** Absolute or relative (to the current directory) path to a logging file. Logging is disabled if logging file is not defined. File should be writable. Backslash should be escaped with a backslash.
- **Example:** log.file = /var/opt/ugcs/log/vsm-ardupilot/vsm-ardupilot.log
- **Example:** log.file = C:\\Users\\John\\AppData\\Local\\UGCS\\logs\\vsm-ardupilot\\vsm-ardupilot.log

1.13.2.3 Maximum single file size

Optional.

- **Name:** log.single_max_size = [size]
- **Description:** Maximum size of a single log file. When maximum size is exceeded, existing file is renamed by adding a time stamp and logging is continued into the empty file. [size] should be defined as a number postfixed by a case insensitive multiplier:
 - Gb, G, Gbyte, Gbytes: for Giga-bytes
 - Mb, M, Mbyte, Mbytes: for Mega-bytes
 - Kb, K, Kbyte, Kbytes: for Kilo-bytes
 - no postfix: for bytes
- **Default:** 100 Mb
- **Example:** log.single_max_size = 500 Mb

1.13.2.4 Maximum number of old log files

Optional.

- **Name:** `log.max_file_count = [number]`
- **Description:** Log rotation feature. Maximum number of old log files to keep. After reaching `single_max_size` of current log file VSM will rename it with current time in extension and start new one. VSM will delete older logs so the number of old logs does not exceed the `max_file_count`.
- **Default:** 1
- **Example:** `log.max_file_count = 5`

1.13.3 Serial port configuration

Optional. VSM which communicates with vehicles via serial ports should define at least one serial port, otherwise VSM will not try to connect to the vehicles. Port name and baud rate should be both defined. `[prefix]` is unique for each VSM.

1.13.3.1 Port name

Optional.

- **Name:** `[prefix].[port index].name = [regular expression]`
- **Description:** Ports which should be used to connect to the vehicles by given VSM. Port names are defined by a `[regular expression]` which can be used to define just a single port or create a port filtering regular expression. Expression is case insensitive on Windows. `[port index]` is a arbitrary port indexing name.
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.1.name = /dev/ttyUSB[0-9]+|com[0-9]+`
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.2.name = com42`

1.13.3.2 Port baud rate

Optional.

- **Name:** `[prefix].[port index].baud.[baud index] = [baud]`
- **Description:** Baud rate for port opening. `[baud index]` is an optional arbitrary name used when it is necessary to open the same serial port using multiple baud rates. `[port index]` is an arbitrary port indexing name.
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.1.baud.1 = 9600`
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.1.baud.2 = 57600`
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.2.baud = 38400`

1.13.3.3 Excluded port name

Optional.

- **Name:** `[prefix].exclude.[exclude index] = [regular expression]`
- **Description:** Ports which should not be used for vehicle access by this VSM. Port names are defined by a `[regular expression]` which can be used to define just a single port or create a port filtering regular expression. Filter is case insensitive on Windows. `[exclude index]` is a arbitrary indexing name used when more than one exclude names are defined.
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.exclude.1 = /dev/ttyS.*`
- **Example:** `vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.exclude = com1`

1.13.3.4 Serial port arbiter

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].use_serial_arbiter = [yes|no]
- **Description:** Enable (yes) or disable (no) serial port access arbitration between VSMs running on the same machine. It is recommended to have it enabled to avoid situation when multiple VSMs try to open the same port simultaneously.
- **Default:** yes
- **Example:** vehicle.ardupilot.serial_port.use_serial_arbiter = no

1.13.4 Network connection configuration

Optional. VSM which communicates with vehicles via network should define at least one network connection, otherwise VSM will not try to connect to vehicles. [prefix] is unique for each VSM.

1.13.4.1 Local IP-address for UDP

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].detector.[con index].udp_local_address = [IP-address]
- **Description:** Local IP-address to listen for incoming UDP packets on. Specify 0.0.0.0 if you want to listen on all local addresses.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardrone.detector.1.udp_local_address = 0.0.0.0

1.13.4.2 Local UDP port

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].detector.[con index].udp_local_port = [port number]
- **Description:** Local UDP port to listen for incoming packets on.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardrone.detector.1.udp_local_port = 14550

1.13.4.3 Remote IP-address for UDP

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].detector.[con index].udp_address = [IP-address]
- **Description:** Remote IP-address to send outgoing UDP packets to.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardrone.detector.1.udp_address = 192.168.1.1

1.13.4.4 Remote UDP port

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].detector.[con index].udp_port = [port number]
- **Description:** Remote UDP port to send outgoing packets to.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardrone.detector.1.udp_port = 14551

1.13.5 Mission dump path

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].mission_dump_path = [path to a file]
- **Description:** File to dump all generated missions to. Timestamp is appended to the name. Delete the entry to disable mission dumping. All directories in the path to a file should be already created.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardupilot.mission_dump_path = C:\\tmp\\ardupilot_dump

1.13.6 Automatic service discovery

VSM can respond to automatic service discovery requests from UgCS server.

When this parameter is not configured, service discovery is disabled.

Optional.

- **Name:** service_discovery.vsm_name = [Service name]
- **Description:** Human readable service name.
- **Example:** service_discovery.vsm_name = Ardupilot VSM

1.13.7 Proxy configuration

Optional. VSM is able to communicate with vehicle via proxy service which redirects dataflow received from vehicle through TCP connection to VSM and vice versa using specific protocol. In other words proxy service appears as a router between vehicle and VSM. At the moment there is one implementation of proxy in UgCS called XBee Connector which retranslates data from ZigBee network to respective VSM.

1.13.7.1 IP-address for proxy

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].tcp.[con index].proxy = [IP-address]
- **Description:** IP-address to connect proxy to. Specify local or remote address.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardupilot.tcp.1.proxy = 127.0.0.1

1.13.7.2 TCP port for proxy

Optional.

- **Name:** [prefix].tcp.[con index].port = [port number]
- **Description:** TCP port to be connected with proxy through. Should be the same as in configuration on proxy side.
- **Example:** vehicle.ardupilot.tcp.1.port = 5566

2 Disclaimer

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