

Foreword

When SIMUL8 was first developed back in 1994, it was based on the need for a more user-friendly simulation software. We also wanted SIMUL8 and simulation to be available to everyone with the need to make decisions about the flow of work or people. Since then, SIMUL8 has become the most popular simulation software in the US and internationally. One of the many reasons for its success is its combination of ease of use with a mass of features and options when you drill down into the detail.

When approached with the idea of sanctioning an ‘official’ guide to SIMUL8, our immediate response was ‘Of course!’ We welcomed the availability of more documentation on SIMUL8, plus we know Jaret and Kerrie. Jaret Hauge has been involved with SIMUL8 since its inception and, more recently, has been using it to solve complicated decision support analysis and complex business operational problems at NovaSim, the simulation consulting company that he formed with Kerrie Paige. With Jaret and Kerrie behind it, we knew this would be a technically accurate reference guide and valuable training tool to the SIMUL8 user community.

We here at SIMUL8 were given the chance to read, and then comment, on each of the chapters as they were written. We found only one major dilemma. The original title, *Learning SIMUL8: The Official Guide*, was not what their book was turning out to be. To me, ‘official’ usually means something produced by the company, sanctioned for marketing purposes, maybe even something that glosses over the confusing or not so perfect elements of the software. This book is definitely not that, so we suggested a change in the title, not a change in the content. Now, as *Learning SIMUL8: The Complete Guide*, it takes its place as a comprehensive guide that tells it like it is. This book is not a manual, it’s much more.

The scope of this undertaking involved many challenges. They were faced with how to explain and present the countless features, numerous dialog boxes, and unending list of commands. How to create, then build upon, a solid foundation based on not only basic simulation skills but very technical aspects of the software, namely using distributions, writing code, results collection, and labels; and how to engage and carry SIMUL8 users from novices to experts through the information without losing focus. Jaret and Kerrie answered each one of these challenges with clear and concise writing, diligence, and their sheer knowledge of the software and of simulation in general. They have shared their extensive knowledge of simulation in this book as well as through the many beneficial sample models and useful third-party supporting applications included on the CD.

Their main goal has always been to help the user get the most out of SIMUL8. To this end, they have masterfully worked their way through each and every feature, explaining not only how to use it but when and where and, most importantly to new users, why to use it. Since Jaret and Kerrie use SIMUL8 on a day to day basis in their consulting business, and because they are in constant touch with our senior developers, they have done an amazing amount to stretch and strengthen the scope of the product.

There have been many times through their professional use of SIMUL8 and in the writing of this book where their discoveries and suggestions have induced changes in the software.

The future of simulation and SIMUL8 is moving quickly toward being an integral part of any serious business' decision support toolkit. With this reference by their side, SIMUL8 users everywhere will find themselves at the forefront of the new world of advanced decision making analysis.

Mark Elder, Ph.D.
Founder and CEO of SIMUL8 Corporation

Any suggestions or questions about the SIMUL8 software may be forwarded to Mark Elder at info@SIMUL8.com.