

## What is FNIS?

FNIS stands for 'Fores New Idles in Skyrim.' It is a tool used by Skyrim players to add new animations to the game by helping the game recognize custom animations introduced by mods. Many mods add unique animations, like new combat moves or character gestures, but Skyrim needs FNIS to properly incorporate those animations.

## Why Do You Need FNIS When Modding Skyrim?

Skyrim's animation engine isn't designed to automatically accept new animations. FNIS generates behavior files that tell Skyrim about these new movements. Without running FNIS after installing animation mods, your game might crash or the new animations won't work correctly.

## Step-by-Step: Using FNIS to Mod Skyrim

1. **Install FNIS:** Download FNIS from a trusted mod website like Nexus Mods. Use a mod manager such as Mod Organizer 2 or Vortex to install it properly.
2. **Install Animation Mods:** Download your desired animation mods (for example, new combat animations or emotes). Install them using your mod manager.
3. **Run FNIS Tool:** After all animation mods are installed and activated, run the FNIS executable tool (usually named 'GenerateFNISforUsers.exe').
4. **Select Options:** In the FNIS window, make sure the correct options are checked based on the mods you've installed (like 'Action Animation' or 'Extra Animation Events').
5. **Generate Behavior Files:** Click 'Update FNIS Behavior' to generate new animation behavior files. This step is crucial!
6. **Close FNIS:** After it finishes, close FNIS and start your game.

## Managing Load Orders

Your load order is the sequence in which Skyrim loads your mods and files. Managing it is essential because incorrect load orders can cause conflicts, crashes, or broken mods.

1. **Use a Mod Manager:** Tools like Mod Organizer 2 or Vortex allow you to easily view and change your load order.
2. **Know Mod Priorities:** Some mods should load before others. For example, patches and compatibility mods often load near the end.
3. **Use Tools Like LOOT:** LOOT (Load Order Optimization Tool) can automatically sort your mods for the best compatibility.
4. **Check for Conflicts:** Read mod descriptions and compatibility notes to understand which mods might conflict.

## Tips for a Smooth Modded Skyrim Experience

- Always run FNIS after adding or removing animation mods.
- Use LOOT regularly to keep your load order organized.
- Back up your saves before making big mod changes.
- Read mod instructions carefully; some mods require additional steps beyond FNIS.

By following these steps, you can successfully use FNIS to apply animation mods and manage your Skyrim load order for an immersive, stable gameplay experience.