

KICKING the TIRES

by Frank Petrie, MaMUGs, Technology Specialist



PRODUCT: KEEPAN EYE v1.7

COMPANY: INFERIIS

<[HTTP://WWW.INFERIIS.COM/PRODUCTS/KEEPANEYE/](http://www.inferiis.com/products/keepaneyeye/)>

REQUIREMENTS: MAC OS X.2. OR LATER

PRICE: (US) \$12.00

TEST RIG: POWERMAC G4/DP 1.42GHZ/1 GB RAM

REVIEW DATE: 22 JUNE 2004

Currently, I am reviewing KeepAnEye, after recently finishing a review of MacReporter, apps from the same developer, Inferiis, that share at least one function.

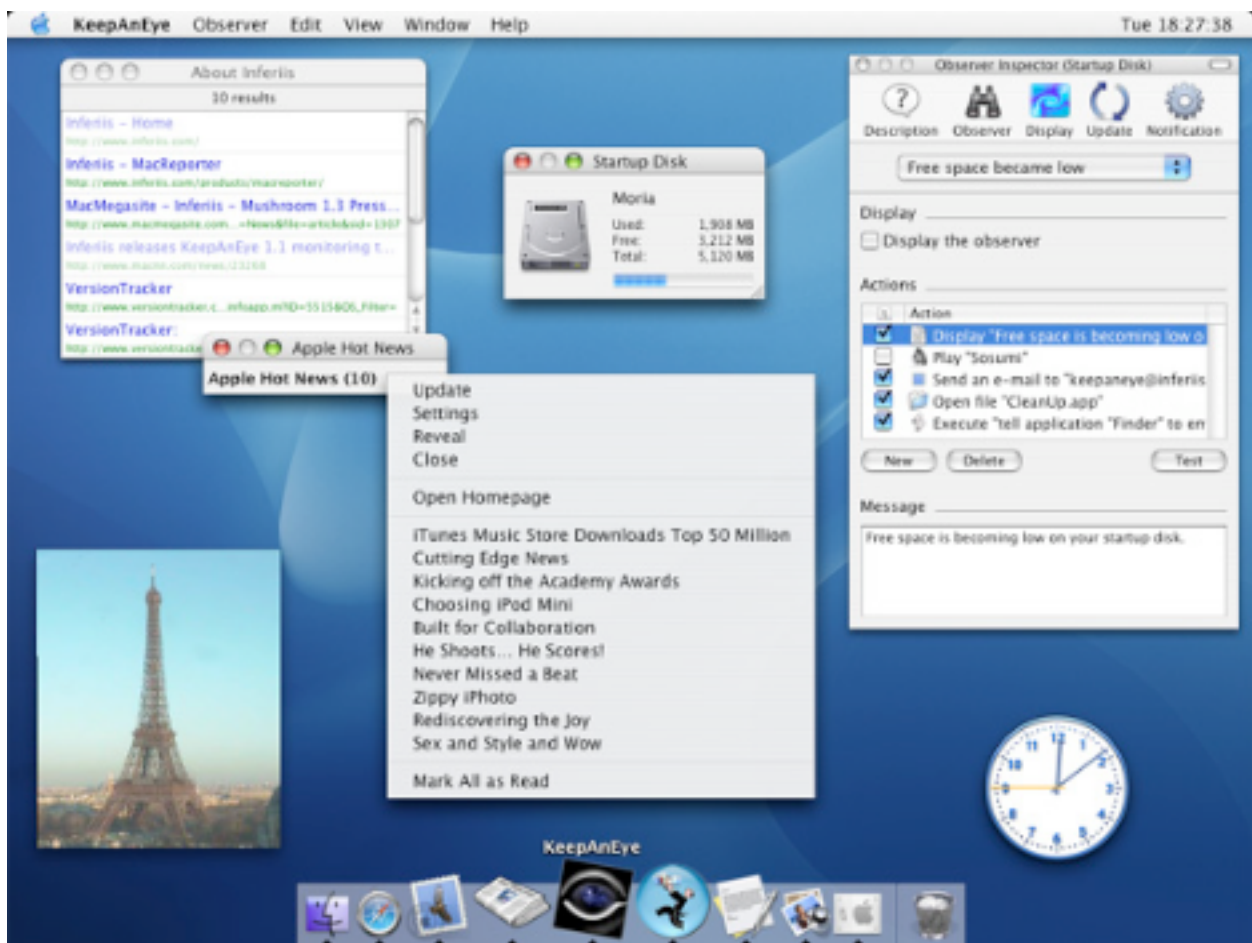
KeepAnEye: "The computer user likes to keep an eye on a lot of various things, especially with the advent of the Internet. Unfortunately, getting fresh information frequently consumes a lot of time because it is usually not done efficiently. What a waste of time to check ten times a day a same piece of information which has not changed at all. What a disappointment to discover an update one hour (too) late because you checked only ten times a day!

KeepAnEye is a multipurpose monitoring and notification utility which has been designed to help you to stay informed efficiently. It can make you save a considerable amount of time every day, while significantly improving your overall visibility."

Informed? I should be informed? And save time, too? OK. Show me.

THE GOOD

"Drag this icon ... yadda, yadda, yadda." This app is customizable beyond belief and will take you about 30 seconds to learn the curve for adjusting your settings (unfortunately, that goes just for the RSS feeds). And if you should have any questions, they have you covered from here to Sunday with a comprehensive Help Viewer and online support. (Free upgrades and free technical support are available once registered.)



"KeepAnEye is able to treat various kinds of data sources: RSS feeds, eBay auctions, pictures, web pages, software updates, disk usage, IP addresses... " For me, this is desirable as I reference about six particular sites four to five times a day.

A particularly nice feature I noticed was that you can preset each home page that you open to the dimension of your choice.

THE BAD

I found myself using the floating windows sans borders. Very handy but their not sticky. And when you go to a site, some of them can have a pretty lengthy amount of articles. So you can see as how that would be beneficial.

And there's a need for a greater consistency in the look. The adjustments that you can make, for example, on the interface of an RSS feed, results in a different looking window GUI than you set up for a monitoring an eBay auction. So my floating windows did not have a uniform shape. Perhaps that just bothers me but I thought that I should bring it up.

THE UGLY

You'll come across the occasional bug (usually in the Help Viewer) but nothing that can't be mended.

THE CLOSE

I don't mind the bars on my desktop, seeing as they're so compact and I have reduced their opacity but having to reference the Library, I might just as well launch the browser and use tabbing. It's roughly the same amount of time. It allows me to check all my sites with a single glance, which is somewhat of a 'pro.' Of course now, I'm using a 17" screen. I can't say that I would feel the same way on a 12" iBook. Then it becomes a 'con.' (if you happen to be fortunate enough to own a 20" or larger display, you could comfortably use the Menubar icons.)

There is just so much work involved setting this up for so little payoff that I really don't see the point. I can do most of these things in the same amount of time with software that I already have.

If I were to make a recommendation, it would be to pass up on KeepAnEye until it has become a more unified app and instead spend your \$15.00 on their MacReporter. Your workflow will thank you for it.

RATING: 6.5 out of **10**

PULL QUOTE: "... my floating windows did not have a uniform shape. Perhaps that just bothers me but I thought that I should bring it up."

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Member, **The Apple Groups Team (TAGteam)**

<http://www.mamugs.org>

Email: phranky@mamugs.com

iChat: **phranky**

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