

SkyView Version 1.00 (Monday, 8 February 1993)

Introduction

SkyView performs many of the functions of a planetarium. It allows you to see the appearance of the sky from any specified location on the earth. You can change the date and time for which the sky is displayed to see the sky as it looked in the past or as it will look in the future.

SkyView displays the positions of the sun, moon, and all naked-eye planets, as well as all the stars down to a limiting magnitude you select. You can orient the sky display so that the North, South, East, or West horizon is positioned at the bottom of the screen. The ecliptic, celestial equator, galactic equator, and equatorial coordinate lines can be added to the display in any combination. You even have control of the colors used for most of the sky objects and for the background.

SkyView is a valuable tool for interactively exploring the fundamentals of astronomy or for planning your observation time.

How much does SkyView cost? Absolutely nothing! SkyView is **free** software. I wrote the Windows version of SkyView entirely for fun, for my own use, and to learn more about and practice programming Windows.

As with any software, bugs are expected, as are opportunities for improvement. Please see "Contacting the Author" below for information on how to report bugs and suggest improvements.

Requirements

SkyView requires Windows 3.1 to run. It may also work just fine with Windows 3.0, but I don't know anybody still running 3.0 so I can't claim to know it will work.

A math coprocessor is not required, but without one generating the sky display will take significantly longer than if a coprocessor is present.

SkyView requires at least a 256-color video mode to work properly. It is simply impossible to display the stars in different colors and intensities of white as well as the planets in unique colors if only 16 colors are available. Dithered colors are unacceptable when the area being colored is small, as is the case with the symbols used to represent the planets.

Installation

To install SkyView, follow these steps:

1. Create a directory on your hard drive (assumed here to be the c drive) with whatever name you desire.

```
c> md skyview
```

2. Copy the zipfile to the directory you just created.

```
c> copy a:\skyview.zip c:\skyview
```

3. Change to the directory you just created and unzip the zipfile. The zipfile was created using

PKZIP Version 2.04e.

```
c> cd skyview  
c> pkunzip skyview.zip
```

4. In Windows add the executable file skyview.exe to a group of your choice. If you have the wonderful Norton Desktop for Windows, you can simply drag the file skyview.exe to a group or directly to the desktop.

More information about this application and its use is accessible in SkyView by selecting the Contents item on the Help menu.

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Contacting the Author

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