What Does Sleeper Do?

Sleeper brings sleep capabilities to most desktop Macintosh models.   Your hard disks can be set to spin down after a set amount of inactivity, and the screen can be dimmed after a given amount of idle time.   For those machines that support it, Energy Star monitors can also be turned off after a specific time period.

Sleeper is distributed through the shareware system.   If you use it, please take the time to pay for your copy.   It's the only way we'll be able to continue to support and improve the product, so your payment does matter!   Scroll to the end of this help window for more details on how easy it is to register your copy.

How Do I Set It Up?

The Sleeper control panel contains four tabs, one for each major function.   To configure a feature, click on the appropriate tab in the control panel.   Once you've turned on a feature, a check mark will appear next to the name on the tab so you can tell at a glance how Sleeper is configured.

Disk Sleep

Sleeper will spin down both SCSI and IDE disk drives when they have not been used for more than a specified amount of time.   To enable this feature, turn on the "Spin down disks when inactive" check box.   Then use the "Delay" slider to tell Sleeper how long to wait after disk usage has stopped before spinning down your disks.

Once you've chosen a delay time, you have to tell Sleeper which disks to work with.   The "Disks" menu and checkboxes,   which enable themselves based on the configuration of your Macintosh, allow you to turn Sleeper on for specific disks.   For each disk subsystem in the pop-up menu, the check boxes will be enabled if there is a disk drive at the numbered address.   Use the menu to select each disk subsystem in turn, and turn on the check boxes corresponding to the drives you want Sleeper to control.

Warning: Be careful when using Sleeper to control Syquest drives.   Drives from different vendors behave differently, and some will not wake back up after being put to sleep.

The "Spin down only when screen is dimmed" check box will prevent Sleeper from spinning down disk drives if the screen is not dimmed.   You can use this to prevent Sleeper from putting disks to sleep while you are working on something that does not access the disk frequently.

When the "Spin down all disks together" check box is turned on, Sleeper will only spin down disk drives after none of them have been accessed for the delay time.   With it turned off, Sleeper will put drives to sleep individually based on when they were last used.

The "Wake up all disks together" check box controls whether Sleeper wakes all the disks at once when any one is accessed, or if it wakes them up individually as requests are made to each of them.   When waking them all at once, Sleeper does the job in parallel rather than requesting the disks one after the other, so it's faster if you're going to need all the disks soon anyway.

Screen Saver

Sleeper's screen saver turns down the monitor's brightness after a delay that you specify.   To configure it, simply turn on the "Use screen saver" check box and then adjust the "Delay" slider. Sleeper will watch the mouse and keyboard, and when both have been unused for more than the number of minutes on the "Delay" slider, Sleeper will dim the screen.

You can use the "Brightness" slider to adjust how dim Sleeper makes your screen.   It's normally set to 0%, which causes the screen to dim completely, but you can adjust it to any brightness in between. When you slide the slider, the screen will dim to that setting so you can see exactly how it will look when it's asleep.

The "Flash keyboard LEDs when attention is required" check box is enabled if you have an extended keyboard.   If the screen is dimmed or turned off, Sleeper will flash the keyboard LEDs when an application requires attention (this is usually signified by a beep and/or a flashing icon over the Apple or application menu).

The "Use hot corners" check box tells Sleeper to watch for the mouse in two corners of the screen. When you put your mouse in the "Dim Now" corner, the screen saver will dim the screen immediately. When you place it in the "Dim Never" corner, Sleeper will not dim the screen, even if the screen saver delay has been reached.   To change which corner performs these functions, just click on a different corner on the miniature screens.

Energy Star

The built-in video systems on newer Macintoshes have the capability to turn off Energy Star compliant monitors (they actually do this by turning off part of the video signal, which compliant monitors recognize as a signal to turn off power to the picture tube).   If you don't have an Energy Star compliant monitor, the picture may look very strange because part of the video signal has been turned off.   In this case, the Energy Star feature will not offer any energy savings.

If your Macintosh supports Energy Star monitors, the "Power down monitor when idle" check box will be enabled.   Turning it on and adjusting the "Delay" slider will tell Sleeper to turn off the monitor when the mouse and keyboard have gone unused for the specified time.

Hotkey

Turning on the "Activate sleep with hotkey" check box allows you to activate Sleeper by hitting a key combination.   This will immediately perform whatever sleep functios you have turned on in the control panel - Screen Saver, Energy Star, and Disk Sleep.   To set the hotkey, click the "Set Hotkey" button and then press the key combination you wish to use.

Registration

Sleeper is distributed as shareware.   You may try it for 30 days, after which we ask that you either delete your copy or register it by sending $20 (US) via the Kagi Shareware registration service.   Upon registration, you will receive free technical support, free upgrades, and a code to disable the reminder message that begins popping up after 30 days.

Cash, check, VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Money Order can be used for payment.   Just click the "Registration Form" button below or run the "Register SCS" program that came with Sleeper. Fill in the information and fax, email, or mail it to one of the following addresses.   Your credit card number will be encoded so it can be safely transmitted via fax or email.

   ** These addresses are for registrations only **

    Email: (Internet) shareware@kagi.com

    Fax: +1 510-652-6589

    Mail: Kagi Shareware
              1442-A Walnut Street #392-ST
              Berkeley, California, 94709-1405

USA

Technical Support

For questions, suggestions, and bug reports, contact us at one of the following addresses.

** These addresses are not for registrations **

Email: (Internet) gotow@stclairsw.com, (AOL) StClairSW, (CompuServe) 72330,3455

Fax: +1 412-835-4402

Mail: St Clair Software
          2025 Mohawk Road
          Upper St. Clair, PA   15241-1526
          USA

For the latest news from St. Clair Software, information and tips about Sleeper and our other products, and links to some of our favorite places on the web, visit our site on the World Wide Web at:

http://www.stclairsw.com/stclairsw/

Credits

Sleeper was designed and programmed by Jon Gotow, with user interface tuning by Adel Assaad and administrative support from Jessica Gotow.   Additional suggestions,   encouragement, and beta testing were generously provided by registered users of previous versions of Sleeper and hard working volunteers around the world.

Sleeper is Copyright 1994-1996 St. Clair Software.   Special thanks to Jim Stout for the CDEFs used in the Sleeper control panel, which are Copyright ©1991-1995 James G. Stout.   Gamma table fading code was based on Matt Slott's public domain Gamma Fade library.   The SCSI sleep feature was inspired by Ephraim M. Vishniac's assembly code in SCSI Stop.

Sleeper was produced using Symantec C++, Metrowerks Codewarrior, and Mathemaesthetics Resorcerer.