

Re: Software Bisque: TheSky 7 and Grand Tour at NEAF

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2006-05/msg01079.html>

- *From:* "Dale" <drdale_com@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 14 May 2006 10:00:05 -0700
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A "beta" tester? That's pretty funny. Everyone was a beta tester for Sky6 because they released it with so many bugs it didn't work for anyone at the start. I still much prefer Sky5 then Starry Night if you want fancier graphic overlays.

I also would like to hear you really try to talk it down, especially on the SB forums. They don't publically discuss any shortcomings in their programs. You will soon find that the "discussion groups" are there to hype up the sales and populated by a lot of people who make their living using free products from SB. You bring up a bug and they stomp you like a bug.

When Sky6 came out, one or more of the CD's would not load on many many people's systems but they denied the problem in public. Even the clock function was broken and there were big errors and missing parts in the help files, etc etc etc it was still what most companies would consider an early beta. I can't count the number of bug fixes that have been released and you will never see it on any store shelf next to Starry Night because it would be returned at such a high rate.

I am not a Starry Night groupie either, as I said, I use Sky5 more often than the latest Starry Night. Both side have their ranting groupies who are more interested in sales than fixing problems.

Personally I will not even consider buying Sky7 for many months after its release and then I will look very closely at exactly who are the people who are chatting it up (or down).

I was a big promoter of TheSky from the start. I made a lot of comet viewing charts for various web sites using TheSky, most recently for the JPL Deep Impact mission, but the Sky6 just sucked when I it came out and it still has problems. I liked CCDSOFT but had to change to MaximDL when they tied TheSky6 and CCDSOFT together proprietarily. Have they ever fixed the problem in Sky6 where if you zoom in or out you have to reset all the star brightness and contrast settings? I stopped screwing with it a year or so ago and have not kept up with the updates.

Good Luck, I hope they really do a total rewrite and real beta testing. I want to see how it works with Windows Vista and how many major software programs it conflicts with, like the problems they had with Norton Utilities.

Dale Ireland

Re: Software Bisque: TheSky 7 and Grand Tour at NEAF

"Davoud" <see@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:110520061135409588%see@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

Davoud wrote:

Software Bisque were demonstrating an early version of
TheSky 7

I expect be a beta tester for TheSky 7, but I won't be able to discuss
the beta software. I'll certainly be able to talk it up -- or down --
after it is released, however.

Davoud