Announcing the release of *Eye and Telescope* v3.2

The 10th anniversary of *Eye and Telescope* is approaching and we celebrate it with an important update. While "Eye and Telescope v3.2" sounds like a minor update, the software's author, Thomas Pfleger, believes that it could be considered version 4.0.

The long-awaited key feature of the new version is a custom horizon profile for every observing site. When calculating object visibilities, *Eye and Telescope* now utilizes this data to take viewing obstacles like houses, trees or mountains into account, yielding more accurate results. To create a horizon profile, users have a comfortable editor available. A new window named "The Visible Sky" shows an all-sky map in the style of a planisphere. During darkness, users can 'paint' the horizon profile over the background of the stars. The simple editing functions make this an easy task and the undo function is always at hand to correct a mistake. Users of an iPhone4/4S, running the "ObserverPro" app, have an even more convenient option: using this app, they can measure the local horizon during daylight. The horizon data format is compatible with *Eye and Telescope*, allowing for an easy import. You can also export *Eye and Telescope* horizon profiles and share them with other observers.

The "Visible Sky" window shows the Sun, the Moon and the planets. A simple and intuitive time-control feature allows for chart animation and helps to visually find neat conjunctions. Utilizing a mathematical model for the sky brightness, *Eye and Telescope* finds realistic visibility times for the planets, even in a twilight sky. But for deep sky objects, the time of best visibility or the next date with favourable conditions can be found in fractions of a second. With this functionality, the "Visible Sky" provides all basic planetarium features.

For the Sun, the Moon and the planets, ephemeris data is now available. It has all that practical observers need: positions in several coordinate systems; physical ephemeris (including apparent magnitude and diameter, data on illumination and the orientation of the body in space); and a realistically rendered view. The major satellites of the planets are also displayed: follow the dance of the Galilean satellites around Jupiter, occasionally casting their shadows onto the gas giant, or find out when the Great Red Spot will be visible on forthcoming nights. Just like the "Visible Sky", the ephemeris window also allows for animation. Not only can you use this feature to visualize the rotating planets, you can also look for events of the Galilean satellites, the maximum elongation of Phobos and Deimos, the times with a favourable lunar libration to observe features near the limb, or to find when a particular lunar feature is near the terminator (using the colongitude).

Alongside the addition of the Sun, the Moon and the planets to *Eye and Telescope,* the planning documents and the star map have also been functionally improved. The Moon and the planets are rendered realistically in the eyepiece view, and *Eye and Telescope* dynamically finds the neighbouring objects. The star map now allows to you to adjust the moment in time to show the solar, lunar or planetary positions from your observing site. There is also an animation feature, allowing users to visualize a transit of Venus, a lunar eclipse or occultation, and much more.

In addition to these new major features, the update brings many functional and ergonomic improvements. Please see the updated help file in the "Release notes" section for details – and make full use of the software's potential!

Users already running *Eye and Telescope* v3.0 are entitled to a free update. Just download the software from www.eyeandtelescope.com.