

WebOS: The next generation “Personal Desktop”

❖ Introduction

WebOS or **WebTop** is a virtual operating system that runs in your web browser. It is an enhanced concept developed from the *older method of working on UNIX*.

Few years back, the usual way to connect to UNIX server was through dumb terminals. These terminals just consisted of display, input and network devices. To work, one needs to login to the terminal to access all the applications and data. After logging in, applications from the server can be used to process the data. As this method was implemented on LAN, speed wasn't of much concern. However, can this system be implemented over the internet?

The answer is “Yes”. **AJAX** has made this possible. AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML) is the technology that has fuelled the idea of **WebOS**. WebOS is the solution to provide applications in the browser using AJAX. Through WebOS, anyone can edit their documents, compose and send mails, use calendar, address book etc. WebOS is not an Operating System, it is an application. Using the browser anyone can use this essential daily application over the internet.

❖ Types of WebOS:

Currently, there are several WebOSs available. The table below shows comparisons between different WebOSs.

Name	Developer	Engine	Free	Support external applications	Graphical User Interface
Webtop	Atlantis Computing	AJAX	Yes (Beta)	Yes	Tab-based
DesktopTwo	Sapotek	Flash	Yes (Proprietary)	No	Windows-like
EyeOS	eyeOS Team	AJAX	Yes (Open Source GPL)	Yes	Mac-like
Fenestela (French)	?	AJAX	No	Yes	Windows-like
G.ho.s.t	Ghost Inc	Flash	Yes	No	Windows-like
Goowy	Goowy Media, Inc.	Flash	Yes (Proprietary)	No	Tab-based
Protopage	?	AJAX	Yes	Yes	Tab-based

Purefect	Klorofil Project/Saltanera	PHP + AJAX	Yes (Open Source CPL)	Yes	Windows+Mac-like
Virtual-OS	Advanced Webhosting Network	PHP + AJAX	Yes (Open Source MIT)	Yes	Windows-like
WebtopOS	WebtopOS Inc.	AJAX/J2EE	Yes (paid plan in development)	Yes	Windows-like
XinDesk	XIN	AJAX	Invitation Only (alpha)	Yes	Windows-like
YouOS	WebShaka, Inc.	AJAX	Yes (Proprietary)	Yes	OS/2-like
Netvibes	Netvibes Team	AJAX	Yes (Proprietary)	Yes	Tab-based

**Courtesy wikipedia.org*

❖ **Benefits of the WebOS:**

- Worldwide availability:
As it's available through internet
- Requires only browser:
A browser with java support is more than enough
- Dynamic content and design:
Interface can be customized according your needs, windows are floating so that they can be repositioned
- Extensive list applications:
Office applications, multimedia applications, network applications and chat applications etc. are available.
- Remote storage facility:
Through the file browser you can store files over the internet and edit them as you want.
- Browser and Platform independent:
All browsers and all operating systems are supported.
- Rich text editing facility

❖ **Limitations of WebOS:**

- High bandwidth connection:
For better performance, high bandwidth is required.
- Takes time to load:
Initial loading of desktop takes good amount of time.

❖ **eyeOS – Open Source Web Operating System & Web Office**

eyeOS is an Open Source initiative in WebOS development. eyeOS provides a fast and efficient Web Desktop Environment. eyeOS is based on the following products:

- Apache (Web Server)
- PHP (Scripting Language)
- AJAX (Dynamic Web Architecture)
- DHTML

eyeOS is open source and free. Anyone can download it and setup their server. **eyeapps.org** provides various applications that run on eyeOS Desktop Environment.

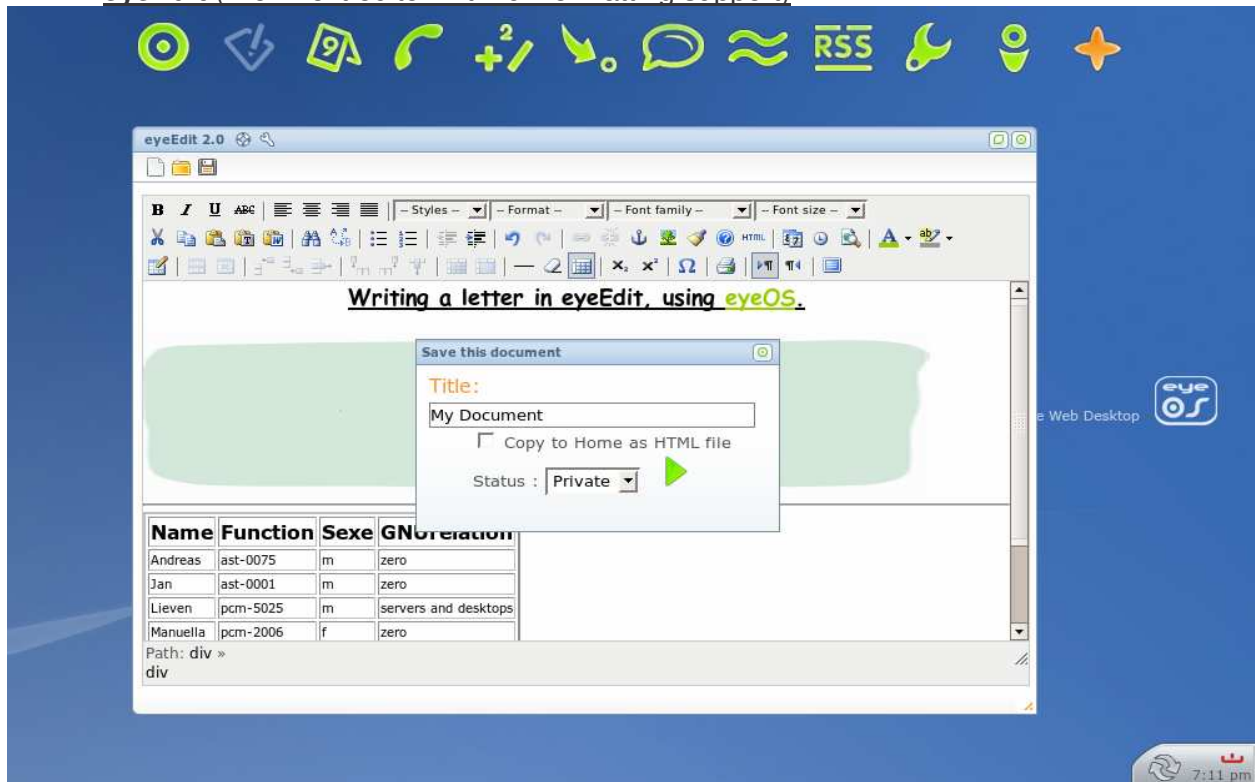
Let's see some the applications included in default package of eyeOS.

(Screenshots from eyeos.org)

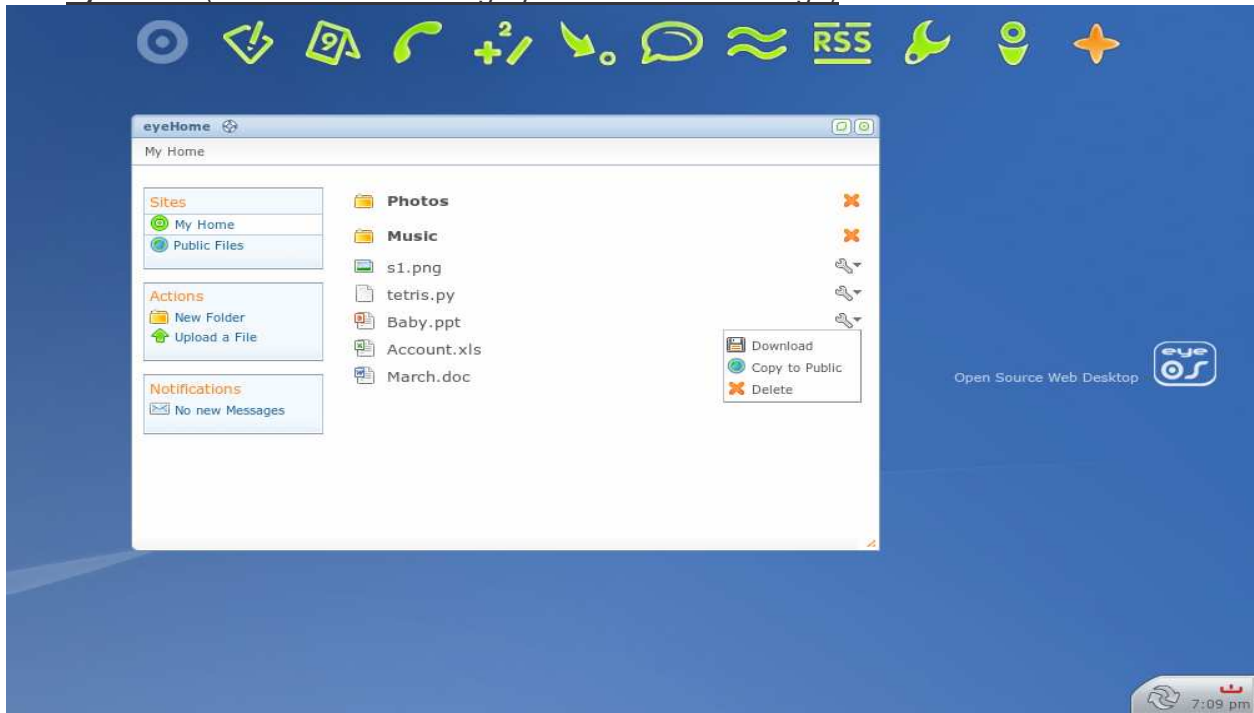
➤ **eyeOS Desktop** (Macintosh style)



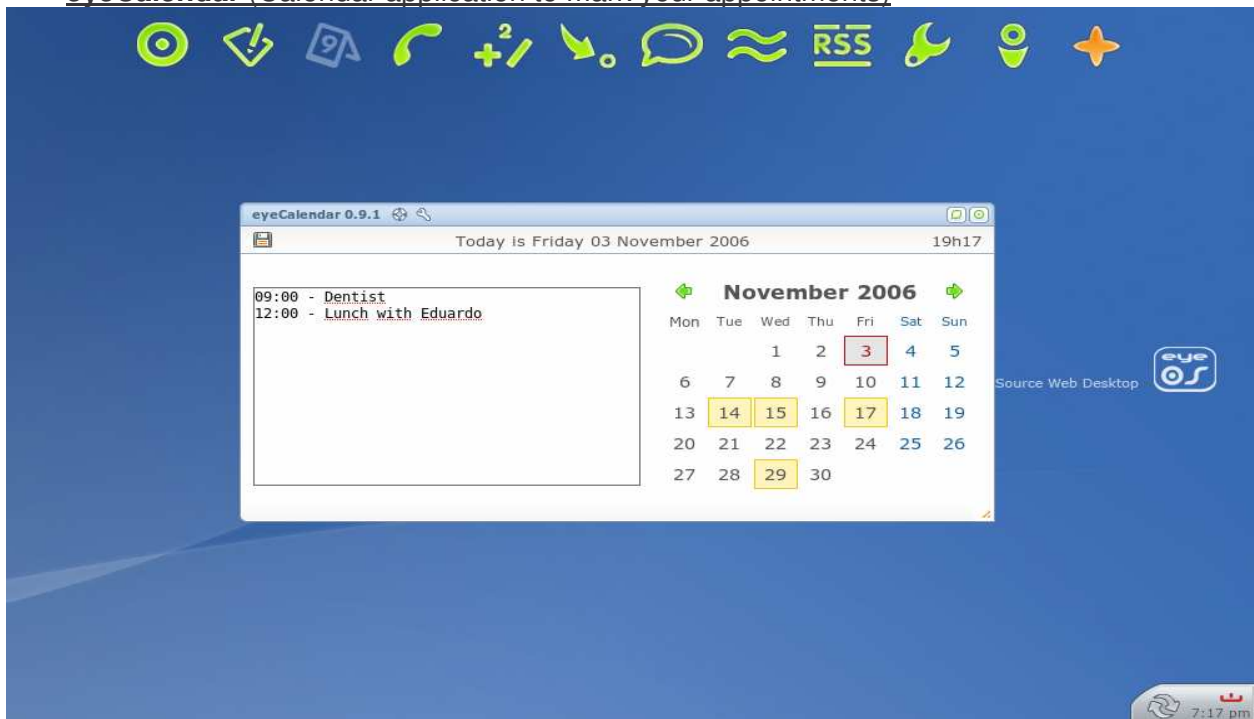
➤ **eyeEdit** (Rich Text editor with full formatting support)



➤ **eyeHome** (file browser to manage your online files storage)



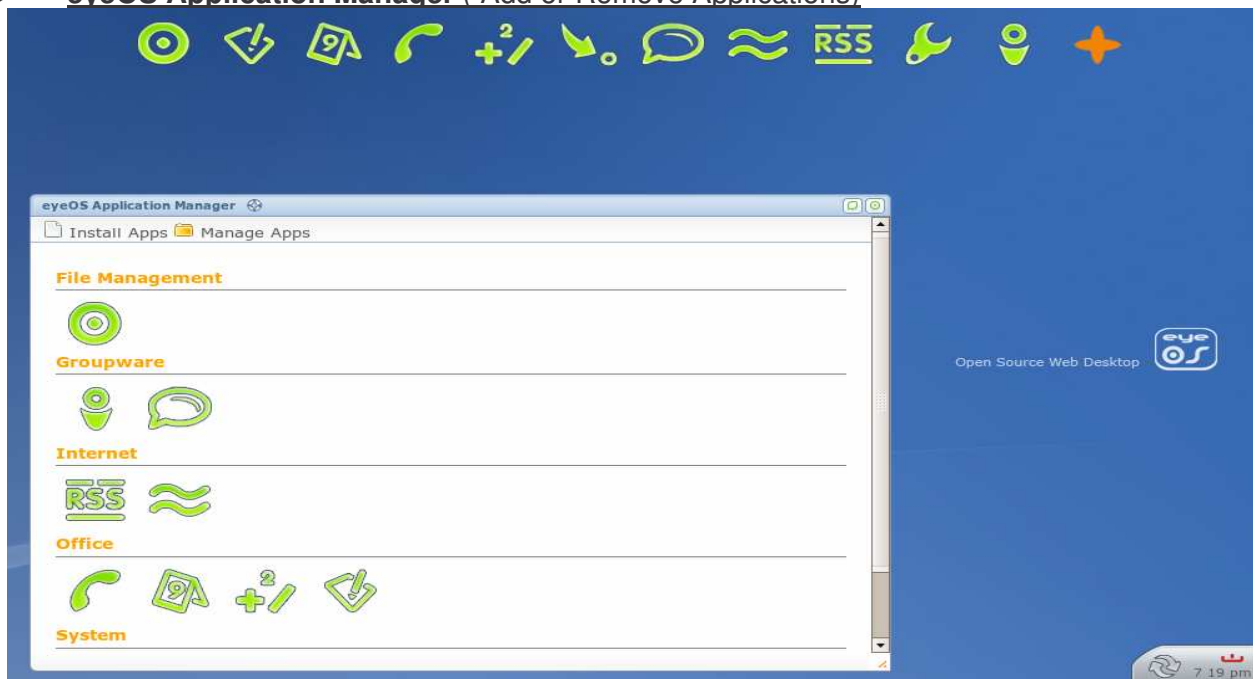
➤ **eyeCalendar** (Calendar application to mark your appointments)



- **eyeNav** (browser to surf internet with search engine support as firefox)



- **eyeOS Application Manager** (Add or Remove Applications)



❖ **Conclusion:**

WebOS concept is said to be the next generation personal desktop. People will be able to work from anywhere using this revolutionary technology. Portable devices can be made with browser and networking capabilities to fully utilize WebOS.

❖ **References:**

- **wikipedia.org** (Online encyclopedia)
- **eyeos.org** (Open source initiative of WebOS)