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## Snowtape Review: Who Needs Satellite Radio

Posted by [Joe Turner](#) on 07/03/09 in [Applications](#), [Articles](#), [Audio](#), [Mac Apps](#), [Reviews](#), [Utilities](#)

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### Snowtape 1.1

Cost: \$29 By: [Vemedio](#)

**Pros:**

- Amazing UI
- Easy to record and then edit and export
- So many stations

**Cons:**

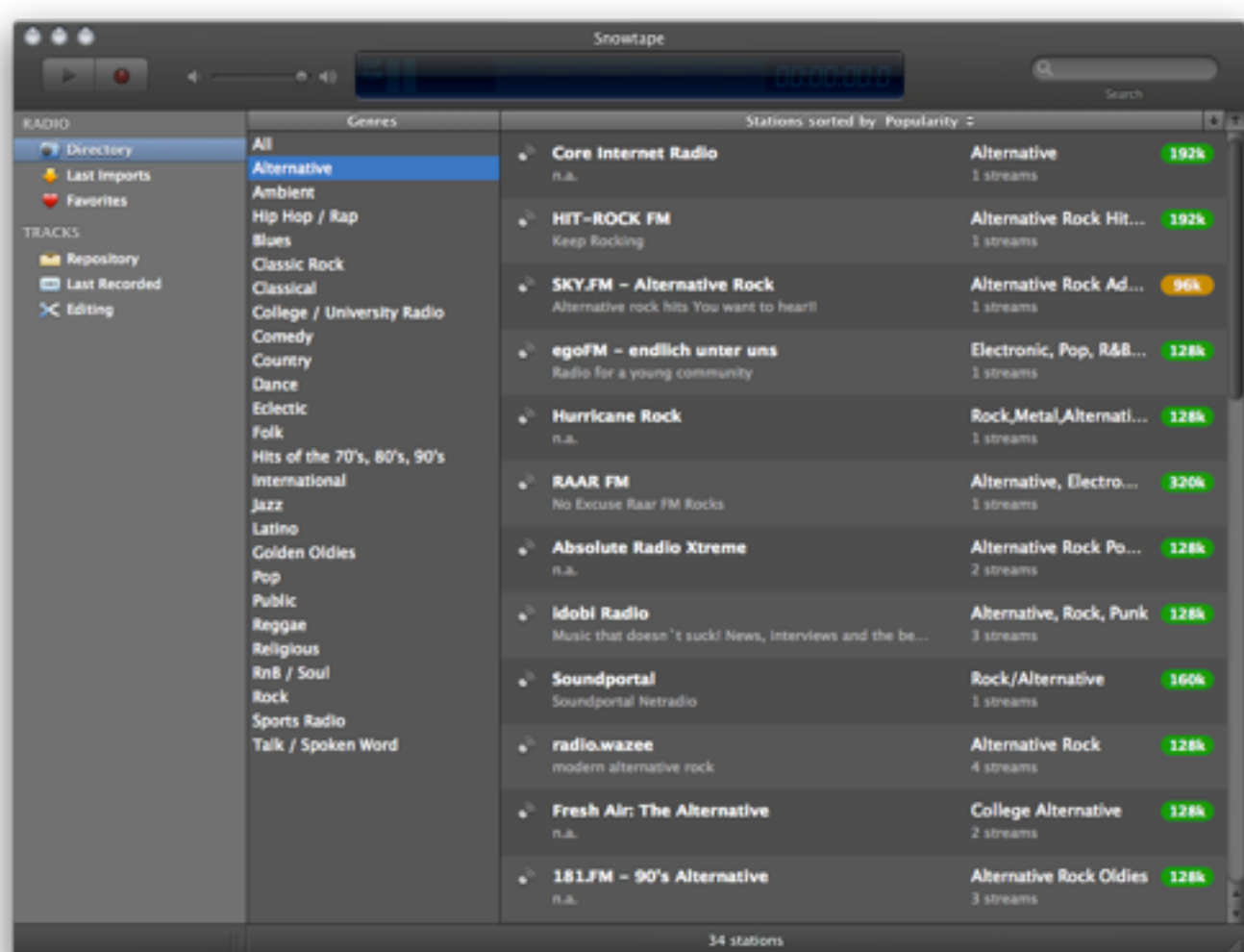
- No artist alerts
- Can't add from one track to another when editing

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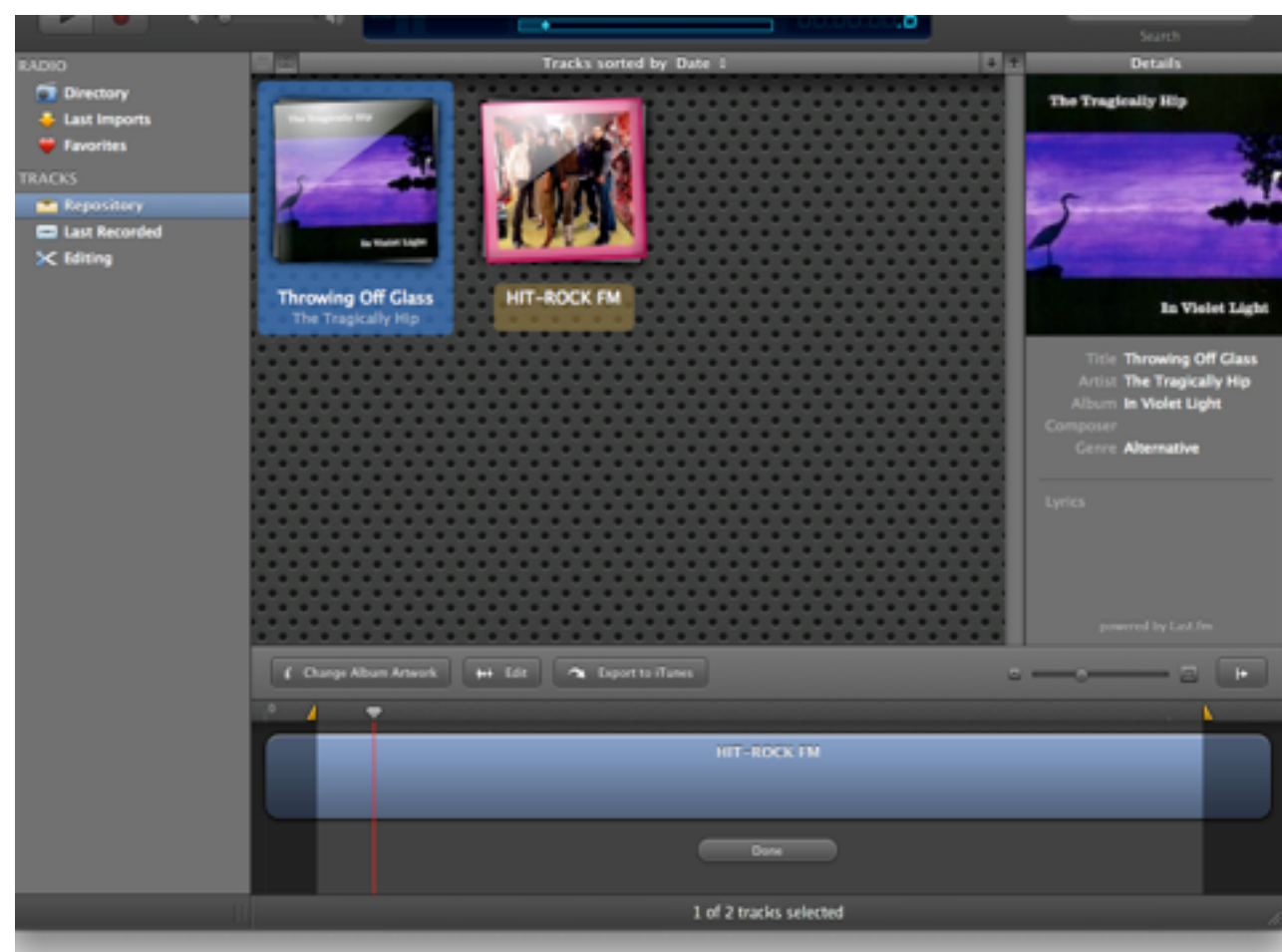
Radio is a technology that has been around for a very long time. It has also evolved a lot. We now not only have radio that is broadcasted through radio waves, but we now have internet and satellite radio too. But the real future of radio is not in waves or from satellites, it is in the Internet. There is almost limit to how many stations there could be, albeit, not all of them can be good stations. Today I will be talking about an application for Mac that controls Internet radio in a beautiful way: [Snowtape](#).

The first thing you will notice about Snowtape is its amazing interface. It uses a completely custom UI that really works for the app. It also includes a mini-comtroller (just like iTunes) that is also unbelievably good-looking. It doesn't just have a good UI though, it is very easy to use. There is a directory where you can search for stations, and there is also a repository of recorded tracks that you can edit and send to iTunes. It's very simple.



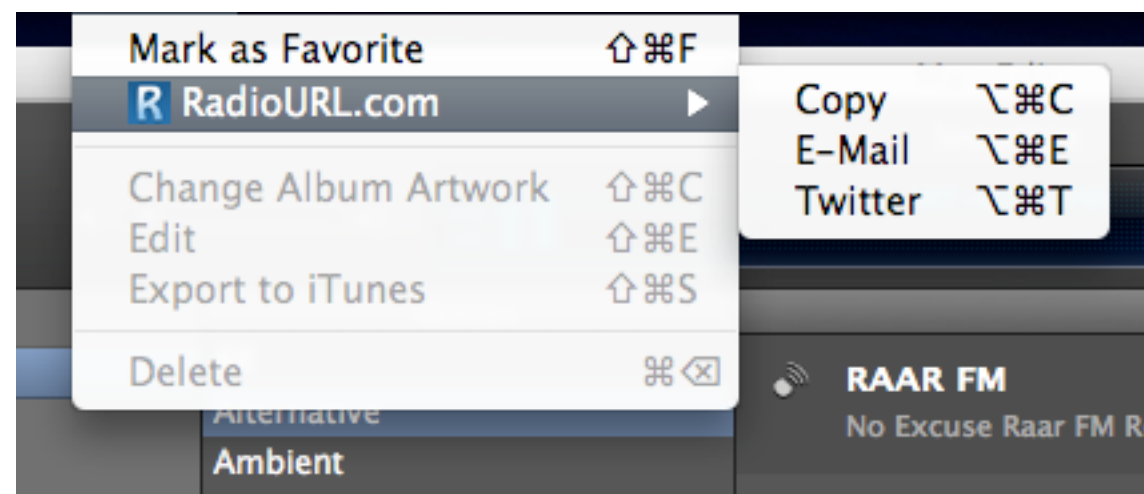
In the directory, Snowtape sorts all stations by genres. Each station can have many genres, so some may appear all over the place. With the recent 1.1 update, Snowtape now has 700+ stations built-in, so you may never have to add your own. If you ever do, though, you just go to File>Import URL... if you have the URL of the playlist (for the station) or File>Import File... if you have the actual playlist file. You can sort stations by title, description, genre, number of streams, quality and popularity. The streams usually range from 320 kbps to about 16 kbps with most at about 128 kbps.

Snowtape's main purpose is to record internet radio. And this is very simple to do. When you are listening to a stream, simply click the record button, and until you click the button again, everything will be recorded. Once you have recorded what you want, you can go to the Last Recorded section and see what you have. Your recording will be split into tracks based on the song that was playing. However, the track data from internet streams doesn't always change exactly when the song changes, so you may have to do some editing. But, if some of the song gets cut out, you are out of luck. Although you can cut a track, you can't add from one track to another. Luckily, you can decide for Snowtape to not cut it into tracks by going to the Recording tab of Preferences and deselecting the Enable automatic cut at track boundaries checkbox. Using that feature comes at a cost.



Once you have finished editing a track, you can get artwork for it by simply clicking the Get Album Artwork button. You can then choose from the images it shows you. And once you have done that, you can export to iTunes. The track info will already be filled in, and if you choose artwork, it will be there too. Recording in Snowtape could not be simpler.

One thing that may be overlooked by some users of Snowtape is RadioURL.com. This is a service provided with Snowtape that allows you to share what you are currently listening to to other Snowtape users. When you are listening to a station, just go to Action>RadioURL.com and choose what you would like to do. Others can then click on the link created and listen to what you are.



Snowtape retails for \$29 and you can download a free demo from that link as well. Having artist alerts would be nice, but with 700+ stations, by the time you got the alert, the song would probably be over. It is extremely well designed, and just nice to use. I was not much of a radio fan before it, but now that it's so easy, I listen and record all the time. I think everyone should try out this app.

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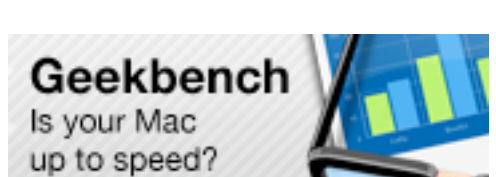
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