THE COMPUTER U F O NEWSLETTER

Computer UFO Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 5

This publication is entirely composed by suitable software on a Commodore 128 personal computer and printed by a MPS-802 printer. It is available also in computerized form on floppy disk or tape.

Editorial

"The future of ufology is in the use of computer": this can look an exagerate phrase, but there is a little of true in it. Certainly, our machines won't be able to supply the solution of the UFO mystery (man is still necessary for this), but they will provide a remarkable help in handling the enormous mass of data we have at our disposal. An over-estimation of computer applications in ufology could be dangerous.

I am a long way from thinking CUFON is a revolutionary publication able to give a new course to UFO research. This Newsletter is only a preliminary attempt to make order in a field where each ufologist owning a computer produces his own application, incompatible with all the others. The comparison among different ideas, opinions and suggestions could provide some valuable results in the search for a set of common standards. The further problem will be to divulge them, making them accept to all ufologists: and this will be the most difficult effort. But I think it would be a valuable success to achieve a situation where all researchers employing the same kind of computer used common programs and procedures. This would mean a real co-operation and exchange of data. CUFON will try to reach such an objective by the help of its readers: we have already proposed a possible record structure for a database of UFO events, under the form of a reference work.

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About the problem of exchanging files between two different kinds of computer, Dutch researcher H.Kampherbeek will present an article in a next issue of CUFON. He'll supply technical information and suggestions about the way to make such an exchange.

In consideration of the lack of a standardization, this procedure appears fairly important: everyone realizes that the incompatibility among computers is the greatest obstacle in the diffusion of data. The example of the Italian Center for UFO Studies can be interesting: the articles of our magazine ("UFO-Rivista di Informazione Ufologica") are composed on a Commodore 64 and then transferred on a Apple Macintosh (see the article about the Rete Ufologica Computerizzata, elsewhere in this same issue).

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Another possible interesting application of computers is the production of special "demo" programs for conferences open to public. The idea is quite simple: to prepare a visual "show" able to catch the visitors' attention. There are two possible types of "demo".

The first one is composed by a series of strongly coloured screens where there are messages about the conference, the group which organized it, the papers presented by speakers, general information about UFOs, a brief description of the material (books and magazines)

on sale, etc...... Screens appear one after the other, according to a
random or predeterminated order, also with attractive visual effects
(movements, flashes, fade-in and fade-out, etc....). There are some
programs on the software market able to establish a demo of such a
kind: they have been prepared for commercial employments, essentially.
For C-64 we can mention two programs (but there are others surely):
"Microlex" and "Videoprinter".

     The second kind of "demo" is a databse program containing data
about UFO sightings, running continously on itself. Practically, the
database shows all its options, loading the file, simulating the
entering of a case and its correction, sorting the entries, displaying
all cases on the screen and simulating other eventual functions. All
this without any intervention by a people: it is enough to load the
program and to run it.

     The result given by two or three computers with colour monitors
running a demo like those we have suggested is certainly remarkable.
People attending the conference are strongly attracted by them (which
have to be placed out of the conference room, obviously !). Moreover,
the presence of computers is a very interesting novelty, when
presenting the manifestation to mass-media. We experienced all this
(using a "demo" with messages and a database program which required the
presence of an operator, as the real demo version wasn't available yet)
during a successful conference hold in November 1985. Results were
really remarkable and most Italian newspapers spoke a lot about the
employment of computers in ufology. We have already prepared some
"demo" programs, including one referring to ITACAT: people interested
in it can contact us, also for the development of new "demo" software
for their own applications.

Rete Ufologica Computerizzata

     The Italian R.U.C. (Rete Ufologica Computerizzata) has already
achieved some interesting results in the first months of its activity.
The contribution of RUC members has been really remarkable, beyond our
own hopes. The Network has more than 40 participants, fifteen of which
are currently active in works making use of their own personal
computers.

     At moment, many articles for C.I.S.U. new magazine ("UFO-Rivista
di Informazione Ufologica") have been completed under the form of files
of a common word-processor program for C-64. This allows a quicker
composition of the whole text and a lighter cost in printing the
magazine. Parallely, RUC members are going on storing Italian UFO
casuistry on computer by a common database program (now available also
in English version): at the end of June 1986, about 25 provincial files
(out of 92) were ready, including 1750 cases or so. We are forecasting

to reach 3000 stored cases within the end of 1986. Each member preparing a file send it - when completed - to the Network co-ordinator (M.Verga): by this way a common data-bank is established and files are made available to anyone, after that they have been eventually corrected. Similarly, the co-ordinator receives all text files produced by the common word-processor in view of a publication on "UFO-Rivista di Informazione Ufologica" or CISU monographies. After a preliminary correction, these files are supplied to the Editors in chief of the publication: they sub-edit the texts in an ultimate draft, preparing titles and headings and composing the whole magazine/monograph. All pages are printed by a professional printer (and, in a couple of months, by the Apple Laser Writer), then sent to the printing house.

As an experiment files relating to provincial UFO casuistries have been transferred on SUPERBASE 64, employing the same record structure (the sole difference was the lenght of fields referring to sources): this sophisticated commercial program could allow more complex sorts and other search functions.

The Rete Ufologica Computerizzata seems to work fairly well along the two above-mentioned chief lines and results in the first half of 1986 (which is an experimental year) appears actually encouraging. It is the first time that many people accept enthusiastically to work for a common objective. The reason seems simple: they use a machine they like, working in their own home with no difficulty and partecipating to a collective project. Each month new people join RUC, so that the "power" of the Network increases more and more: besides the composition of texts and the storage of the Italian UFO casuistry, we have many other aims to reach. In 1987 we'll test the possibility to launch other project, for example the establishment of a real network of personal computers linked via modem.

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COMPUTER UFO NETWORK

It seems that the US COMPUFOMNET (COMPuter UFO Management NETwork, see last issue) has been replaced by a new organization named "Computer UFO Network" (CUFON, just like "Computer UFO Newsletter": we hope to avoid confusion !). In July 1986, the number of users and members was about 400, including some universities calling from time to time for information: the system receives from thirty to fourty calls a day and it has access to 120 Megabytes, a really great amount of storage capacity. Head of the whole project is Mr. Dale Goudie, with which this Editor is starting a close co-operation.   The functions of this network are communications on a national and international scale. The main purpose is for an exchange of reliable and verifiable information concerning this subject matter which is unidentified flying objects. It is based in Seattle, Washington, where it works with the National UFO

Reporting Center and the UFO Information Service which supply valuable data to CUFON. The organization has recently joined Interplay, Inc. ProtoCall which is a large computer system somewhat like COMPUSERVE but even on a larger scale. ProtoCall works out of Washington D.C. and was set up for special interests groups as well as a large distributor of mega information. What this will do for CUFON is to allow easy access for international telecommunications.

Available through the system there are varieties of different subjects that are associated with this subject matter:

(1)   FOIA - Freedom of Information Act Documents
(2)   AP New Articles
(3)   Fact Section
(4)   International Cases
(5)   UFO Reports
(6)   Name Search Data Base

The first subject will consist of 300 of the best documents from 1947 to 1980. Goudie and other people are also working on a special section to cross reference these military documents with civilian sighting reports. This has never been done before, at least on a large number as they have planned for it.

Associated Press releases will be on the system in large numbers, anywhere from 300 to 400. These articles are very important for documented cases and can be used in an intelligent pattern for cross references with both Freedom of Information Act documents and known civilian sightings.

Fact Section relates to Air Force articles related to JANAP 146 (cC) and JANAP 146 (E) also Air Force AFR 200-2 and anything like this that relates to general orders concerning UFO phenomena, such as General Twining letter to Commanding General of the Air Force.

International cases and UFO reports consist of duration of sighting, the time of the sighting, the classification, how many witnesses and the state where the sighting took place. Sightings are also put in backlogged cases for faster access to save time and expense of the caller. Number of cases on the system, national or international, can vary from 500 to 2000.

Name Search Data Base is presently being worked on. This is where a researcher or an investigator who is seeking information on military personnel or other researchers may get his background and the work that he has done. To access this one simply has to know the correct spelling of the last name. As for military personnel we put this on simply for this purpose. There are over 5,000 military documents that have been released within the last five years with names of military personnel who apparently no one has ever heard of. This will let us know on how many documents this name is on and give a background on that military member. This would only be interesting probably to the hard core investigator.

At moment we are evaluating the possibility of a very close co-operation between the Computer UFO Network and the Computer UFO Newsletter: surely, a joint work will be necessary in the near future in order to reach common standards and procedures. Further news will be published on the next issues of the Newsletter.

HOROSCOPES IN UFOLOGY ?

ABOUT THE USE OF ASTROLOGICAL SOFTWARE FOR PREPARING SKYMAPS

by Henry Kampherbeek

A pretty new development in ufology is the use of the microcomputer for preparing skymaps. The use of skymaps will be obvious when one realizes (as readers of this magazine certainly will!) that an impressive number of UFO-reports can be explained as celestial bodies, so it is a good idea to obtain a computer program that can create a sky-map in order to make the identification of aerial objects easier, there are several ways to obtain such a program:

1 - write it yourself, the most creative solution is this, but it will cost a lot of time (hundreds of hours is a reasonable estimation) and you must know pretty much about astronomy.
2 - find such a program through software exchange : good luck !
3 - type it in from a magazine, it will cost some time, but it is a method.
4 - could one use an astrological program ? After all these programs do create some sort of skymap : it is the intention of this article to discuss the usability of these astrological programs.

I wish to make a clear statement: I only want to tell something about the use of astrological programs for preparing skymaps that can be used in ufology, I do not practice astrology, nor do I consult astrologers (except for asking questions to an acquainted astrologer in view of this article), and I do not want to discuss any claims about interaction between universe and man.
After all: a horoscope is some sort of skymap (I said this before), and I have the impression that due to the wide distribution of astrological programs some ufologists are wondering if they can use such programs and that is the sole reason I write this article.

A horoscope is a map that shows some celestial bodies in connection with each other, for judging the relevance of horoscopes for our applications we must ask ourselves what these celestial bodies are (1), what are the connections I referred to (2) and how are these bodies shown (3) ?

1. What celestial bodies are shown ? -

In short: hypothetical bodies, planets, the Sun and the Moon.
To begin with the hypothetical bodies: these are bodies not known to modern science, there are 2 kinds of such bodies:

- points found by some sort of easy calculation, as far as I know they are not thought to exist as physical bodies 'Pars Fortunae' (point of luck) is such a point, it is calculated by a simple formula which uses the sun, the moon and the ascendant (a point usually near the eastern horizon).
- points that are supposed to represent the position of an unknown planet : a lot of astrologers invent such planets to fit in with their own theories, thousands of hypothetical bodies should exist when all these theories would be correct.

None of these hypothetical bodies or invisible points can be used in ufology: these points can not be seen or substantiated, so they will not trigger any ufo-event. A lot of astrologers don't use hypothetical bodies or invisible points although these objects do appear in a number of astrological programs.
Planets that are shown in horoscopes are: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Urane, Neptune and Pluto. Urane, Neptune and Pluto are not usefull as they are not visible to the naked eye and therefore can not cause a UFO sighting. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn remain to be considered.
The Sun and the Moon are also visible to the naked eye and the Moon is known to have caused UFO sightings (A. Hendry: The UFO-handbook, New York, 1979, pp. 45) so at least the Moon remains to be considered.
We can close section one with the conclusion that a lot of celestial objects are not shown that we are not interested in (hypothetical etc.), while other interesting objects (bright stars) usually are not shown.

2. What are the connections that are shown in a horoscope ? -

Most of these connections are angles between planets, most popular are angles of 0, 60, 90, 120 and 180 degrees (to be calculated along the zodiac), these angles are called 'aspects'. Other connections are parts of angles between planets etc. It will be obvious that the connections shown in horoscopes are not relevant for ufology.

3. How are the bodies shown ? -

A circle along the sky is drawn and positions of celestial bodies are measured along this circle. The circle astrologers use is called zodiac and it is another circle that used by astronomers (the ecliptic), the angle between these two circles is 23.45 degrees.
Astronomers also calculate the distance of a planet to the circle and they call these distances 'declinations', astrologers sometimes (!) mention the declination of a planet, and this leads to the funny

situation that the coordinates of a planet can be given in zodiacal
degrees and in ecliptic based declination !?!?

Anyway : the planets and other bodies are projected on the sky,
and due to the rotation of the earth the sky is seen as revolving every
23 hours and 56 minutes, the 24 hours are completed by adding the
effect of the orbiting of the earth around the sun (this makes 4
minutes every day). This revolving has consequences for horoscopes (and
for conventional skymaps!) : in horoscopes the sky is shown as divided
in 12 parts called 'houses' and during one rotation of our earth the
planets travel through all 12 houses, house one starts at the position
of the ascendant, near the eastern horizon, roughly spoken one can say
that the houses 7 thru 12 represent the visible part of the sky, and
that the houses 1 thru 6 represent the invisible part (under the
horizon).

Each house has its own meaning in astrology. Houses are often seen
as an indication of the altitude of a planet, it is thought that the
border between house 11 and 12 (the 'cusp' of 12) is 30 degrees above
the horizon, but it is not so simple : there are many systems for
dividing the 12 houses, placidus is a popular system and it does not
give an exact visual division of the sky, as I understood there is no
such system.

In short we can say that the way in which the houses are thought
and the fact that often no declination is mentioned makes it impossible
to estimate the exact location of a celestial body on the sky as we see
it.

Conclusion -

It is time to reach a conclusion : I feel that astrological
programs as skymap programs have tremendous disadvantages because :

- Stars are usually not shown in horoscopes.
- A lot of bodies and other data are given that are not relevant:
planets under the horizon, invisible points, often hypothetical
planets, aspects etc.
- It is nearly impossible to estimate the position of a celestial body
shown in a horoscope, due to the ways in which the houses are
calculated and because of the typical use of declination when a
declination is mentioned at all.

Or: important bodies (stars) are usually not shown, a lot of
bodies are shown that we are not interested in and the way in which
things are shown is not the way we want it.
And thus it can be said that astrological software is of no use to
ufology.

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SPEAK ABOUT THE

COMPUTER UFO NEWSLETTER

TO YOUR CORRESPONDENTS !

BECASSINE :
Checkpoint Number Three

by Denys Breysse

As the managemenent software of Becassine has been written, it seems interesting to us to give further explanations about their characteristics.

The whole package contains several programs, each of them offering several functions. The following table summarizes such an aspect and we'll present the potentialities of each program in this paper.

Functions	BECASSIN	SAVEDON	TRAVAIL	STAT-FIC	FACT-FIC
Coding cases	*				
Listing coding booklet	*				
Recording cases	*	*	*		
Sorting cases		*			
Selecting cases			*	*	*
Listing cases			*	*	*
Modifying cases			*		
Deleting cases			*		
Reading files		*	*	*	*
Statistics				*	
Factorial anal.					*

LISTING OF CODING BOOKLET -

This subroutines prints explanations about the way of coding experiences for each heading. The listing contains eleven A4 pages.

CODING AN EXPERIENCE -

      Due to ergonomic reasons, this subroutine is entirely interactive.

      * The headings are the following ones:
DATE # LOCATION # WITNESSES # UFO # BEINGS # RELATION # EFFECTS #
SOURCES
      They contain a total of 47 subheadings coded on 120 characters.
      * On a simple question (pressing the key "?") the details about
how coding the subheadings are showed on the screen.
      * The key "#" allows to avoid coding subheadings for which no
detail is available and leads the user directly to the end of the
heading.
      * Before the validation of a given heading, it is possible to
correct the mistakes which may have been done.

      When all the headings are coded, a subroutines calculates the
quantity of data known about the experience, then   it asks if this
experience has received an explanation or if it is dubious (if it is,
you are asked for what explanation has been suggested). Then the
program records the coded experiences, giving them a number, in a
preliminary file.

RECORDING CASES -

      "SAVEDON" reads the files preliminarly recorded by "BECASSIN",
then it sorts them (by increasing date) and writes them in a file,
which name is given by the user himself.

WORKING ON CASES -

      Whatever the work being done on recorded data, the operations
proceed on "packs" of fifty cases (we have the limit of the 42Kbytes of
Amstrad CPC464   RAM), but the theoretical limit size of files is
about 1500 events (disk capacity). So recorded files are automatically
divided into groups of fifty cases, for each operation. The time needed
to read and write access lead us to limit the size of files to about
200 cases. This is not an obstacle for statistical analyses, because we
can merge partial results coming from different partial files before
proceeding the analyses.

LISTING CASES -

      This program allows to list a file (all the cases or only few
selected out of them). The listing - on screen or printer - presently
prints only coded cases: eventually, they can be shortened, so that it
presents only the headings Date, Location and Witness.
      The complete listing of cases (not coded) is simulated but not
written yet.

SELECTING CASES -

	We can select a sample of cases according to any criterion (ten
criteria can be used simultaneously).
	For each criterion, three different choices are possible on the
given subheading:

	* One or several values taken by the modality. For example:
- effect of amnesia or paralysis on the witness.
- Belgian cases.
- color of UFO: red, etc.....
	* Interval between the values. For example:
- between three and six witnesses.
- time between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
	* Limit for the values. For example:
- distance from the witness estimated to less than 30 meters.
- size of UFO greater then five meters.

	After that criteria have been established, the selection is
automatic and it proceeds on the whole file. Then it is possible to
list, to print, to record or to study the selected sample.

MODIFYING CASES -

	If we learn new information on a given case, we may want to modify
this case in the files.
	In a given recorded file, we only need to give the number of the
case: it is read, then displayed on the screen. Then we indicate the
heading and the subheading that we want to modify: the old value is
displayed and it is enough to input the new one. After validation, the
new information are recorded.
	The same program is able to delete any case, eliminating it from
the file.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS -

	For a certain group of cases (a whole file or a selected sample)
the routine asks for which heading and subheading it has to work up the
analysis.
	For continuous data (Time; Duration; Size; Distance) it also asks
for specifying the grouping intervals we wish. Then it automatically
works up the analysis and it is possible:
	- to display graphic results on the screen.
	- to print (both on screen or on line-printer) them.
	- to record them (to compare them with others or to merge them).
	It is planned to had the possibility of a systematic and automatic
analysis for all the headings.

FACTORIAL ANALYSIS -

     The method is the same one with the difference that the analysis
works simultaneously on two subheadings and builds a table of crossed
results.
     Today it isn't possible to display graphic results, but only to
print or to record them.
     The routines working up on these data haven't been written yet for
two reasons:
* first of all we have to code a great mass of cases.
* the method of factorial analysis hasn't been chosen yet.

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April 1986

Offer of HARDWARE

     We are able to supply, via mail with alleged detailed
instructions, two interesting hardware items for C-64/128 owners. We
think that such hardware, assembled by an electronic technician friend
of us, could be of use for some readers: this Editor employs currently
both items with remarkable results. This offer is another CUFON service
at cost price.

     GRAPHIC EPROM for Commodore MPS-802/VIC 1526 :
     Change the printer in a graphic one (most compatible with EPSON
FX-80), with seven built-in characters sets: it allows bold and
██████████ text, plus other features. Now it is possible to use graphic
software such as "Print Shop", "Print Master", "The Newsroom" and so
on. Easy installation: it is enough to change a chip, without any
difficult, employing a simple solderer.
     Cost : 41,000 Italian lire. Another model, with a switch able to
enable the old MPS-802 mode, if offered at 56,000 Italian lire.

     TURBO LOADER :
     It is a new EPROM inside the C-64 able to load PRG file about six
times more quickly than the normal DOS. Function keys are programmed
with many useful options, including directory without loss of software
in RAM. The change between the normal operating system and the new
turbo one can happen when the computer is turned on. Please note that
in some versions of the C-64 it is necessary to put a base to the
Kernal EPROM, if lacking.
     Cost : 46,000 Italian lire.

     Eventual orders must be sent only by International Money Order

UFO DATA PROCESSING

by Mike Wootten

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Computer & Ufology in Great Britain

A PRELIMINARY NOTE BY THE EDITOR

In 1985/86 the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) tried to make a census of computer resources among its membership but results weren't much encouraging. The aim of such a census, carried out by a special questionnaire and presented through a few articles on BUFORA publications (1) seems to be the development of common works. The most important of them is the storage of the casuistry on micro-computers. As remarked in a recent article (2), thanks to the large diffusion of these machines today it is possible to launch an ambitious project of computerization of a national UFO casuistry. Employing a common database program for the same kind of machine and entrusting a local casuistry to each member, it is possible to store most available events in a relatively short time: practically, it is the same project carried out successfully by R.U.C. in Italy.

Most British researchers owns a Sinclair Spectrum computer and this is a problem, as such a machine isn't much commom among other international ufologists. But this is a question that could be solved later: what is important is the storage of events in a computer file. Then exchange of data through a suitable interface is possible.

The most important work we know to have been produced in England is that headed by Mike Wootten. Owner of a Spectrum 48K he stored most British casuistry of the '80s, using the commercial database program "Masterfile", together with other British resercher (Steve Gamble, Mike Lewis and Paul Fuller, the latter using a Spectrum owned by BUFORA itself). The record structure includes many fields, some of which have to be inserted in a coded way: the following article is a wide explanation of all this.

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Preamble

For nearly two years we have been formulating and compiling the BUFORA Case Report Database. But very little has been discussed within these pages concerning the project's aims, structure and expectations.

Introduction

It would be very wrong of me to state that computer technology will solve the UFO enigma. Computers are highly structured, working purely on logic. The total opposite to the UFO phenomenon. The UFO has come in all colours, shapes and sizes. In probably every weather condition and geographical location. There are indeed general patterns and scenarios that UFO events follow. But there is not a database in the world that could handle EVERY parameter generated by UFO reports to date.

Bearing this in mind, there has to be a degree of caution when evaluating results compiled from a UFO database, or indeed, any statistical analysis that is undertaken (whether using a computer or not).

Aims

From the start, I was not concerned with formulating an "all singing all dancing" database. Frankly, the finances were not there to fund a project that involved several people, with their own high speed, high memory and inevitably high cost terminal and peripherals. So the ZX Spectrum was chosen to do the job.

Before the inception of the database, a researcher, wishing to use BUFORA reports as a basis of his study, would have had the ardous task of searching through every report, manually, one after the other. This situation was simply not good enough. So clearly some thing had to be done. The database was only considered to be an electronic card index system, that would house all filed case reports. This would generally eliminate the time costly exercise of manually searching through 15,000 case reports.

Once the database was complete, we would had an opportunity to analyse the stored material statistically and hopefully gleen some positive results.

Structure

Despite the limitations of the Spectrum, ie memory (48KBytes) and relatively slow access time, it had the advantage of being initially inexpensive with inexpensive software and peripherals. The software package that was put into comission is considered to be the best database package available for the Spectrum. "Masterfile" by Campbell systems (3) is fully flexible, enabling the user to design the package

to his or her particular needs, Full sorts and search facilities are
included, plus user programmable routines and full printer formatting.

DATABASE PARAMETERS -

There are thirteen main "headings" which are detailed below :


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+-----------------------------+-----------------------------+
|  A.   BUFORA Reference      |  H.   Apparent Size         |
|  B.   Level                 |  I.   Shape                 |
|  C.   Type                  |  J.   Colour                |
|  D.   Date                  |  K.   Notes                 |
|  E.   Time                  |  L.   Evaluation            |
|  F.   Locale                |  M.   Investigator          |
|  G.   Duration              |                             |
+-----------------------------+-----------------------------+
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     The TYPE heading is split into two separate parameteres EVENT
TYPE and WITNESS TYPE. The DATE heading has four separate parameters
DAY, DATE, MONTH and YEAR. TIME is also split into two parameters TIME
and TIME TYPE. So there are eighteen separate parameters that can be
sorted and searched.
     We shall now go through each parameter in detail.

     A. BUFORA Reference -
     Simply the unique reference number assigned to each completed
report. Ie, 770122, the first two digits represent the year and the
next four digits represent the number.

     B. Level (4) -
     The standard classification of the report material. From "A"
(full on site investigation) to "E" (third hand investigation, such as
press cuttings, etc.....).

     C. Type (Event and Witness type) -
     Event type (5) : see Fig. 1
     This classification system, if used properly, can produce a
coded picture of the event in general terms. Ie, V2R2E101 would decode
a case where: "An object at close proximity, persued and effected the
witness in some way and occupant were detected". The unique codes can
be searched for, ie, all effectives (E) and disected from the main body
of data. This parameter can be added to when ever it is seemed
appropriate. As you can see, this is a very powerful parameter.

     Witness type : see Fig. 2
     This is a modified version of BUFORA's case classification
sustem (object details have been omitted). This parameter gives only a
limited insight to the witness. I shall be honest and say that this is
a definite weakness to the system. But I hope that a totally separate
witness database will be formulated in the future.

VISUALS (V):
A visual sighting of a UFO

V1: An observation of a point of light
V2: An observation of a discernible
    shape.

RESPONSIVES (R):
A phenomenon which seems to respond
to the percipient.

R1: Where the response is implied (ie
UFO reacts to witness action).
R2: Where the phenomenon pursues
the witness.
R3: Where the phenomenon causes
immobilisation.
R4: Where the phenomenon responds
to animals.
R5: Where the phenomenon responds
to something other than witness.

OCCUPIEDS (O):
Where occupants are seen in the
presence of a UFO, ie:

O1: Those who simply fly by or are
OBSERVERS.
O2: Those who take material samples –
SAMPLERS.
O3: Those who repair or are
TECHNICIANS.
O4: Those who examine, question –
ANALYSTS.

INSTRUMENTALLY DETECTED (I):
Where the UFO is detected by some
form of instrument, ie:

I1: Photograph.
I2: Movie film.
I3: Radar.
I4: By other means.

LANDINGS (L):
Where the UFO lands.

L1: Where the landing has no
apparent effect.
L2: Where the landing involves
physiological effects.
L3: Where the landing affects nearby
animals.
L4: Where the landing leaves residual
traces.
L5: Where the object is seen
underwater.

EFFECTIVES (E):
Where the phenomenon has an
interactive effect with:

E1: The witness   E2: The enviroment
E3: Mechanical equipment
E4: Animals

CONTACTS (C):
Where contact occurs between
phenomenon and witness, ie:

C1: By means of simple meeting.
C2: With some kind of assault or
force.
C3: Abduction into UFO.
C4: Abduction with memory of same
repressed from the consciousness.
C5: Contact by non verbal means
(telepathy, etc.)
C6: Contact by way of vision or
dream.

Figure 1
- - - - - - - - - - - -
Figure 2

CATEGORY	Observational quality of witness
A	One or more official observers: pilot, astronomer, who was using his expertise during the observation.
B	One or more experienced observers, not necessarily professional, but of good standing: police, etc......
C	No experienced observers.

GROUP	General number of witnesses
1	Two or more independant witnesses at different locations.
2	Two or more witnesses at one location.
3	One witness only.

D. Date –
    Self explanatory. Using DAY, DATE, MONTH and YEAR.

E. Time –
    Again, self explanatory. Using the twenty four hour clock and
utilising the TIME TYPE to indicate GMT or BST or any other time zone.

F.   Locale -
     A twenty five character space to indicate the location of the
event, ie, HOVE, SUSSEX (nearest town or village then County and, if
necessary, country of origin).

G.   Duration -

```
+---+--------------------+
| 0 | 0000-0009   seconds   |
| 1 | 0010-0029   seconds   |
| 2 | 0030-0059   seconds   |
| 3 |    1-2.59   minutes   |
| 4 |    3-4.59   minutes   |
| 5 |    5-9.59   minutes   |
| 6 |  10-29.59   minutes   |
| 7 |  30-59.59   minutes   |
| 8 |    1-1.59   hours     |
| 9 |       > 2   hours     |
+---+--------------------+
```

     Considering the unreliability of witnesses to state the exact
duration of an event, the above coding was considered adequate to
indicate the general duration of the sighting.

H.   Apparent Size -

```
+---+------------+
| 1 | Pinhead    |
| 2 | Pea        |
| 3 | Halfpenny  |
| 4 | Penny      |
| 5 | Two pence  |
| 6 | Golfball   |
| 7 | Tennis ball |
| 8 | Other      |
+---+------------+
```

     Again, the witness usually has great difficulty in judging
the actual size of the object reported (which is understandable). He or
she will try and usually come up with an OVER exagerated estimate !
Apparent size is usually testable and a fairly accurate indication of
the angular size of the object.

I.   Shape -
     A written description of the shape of the object(s), using
twenty six characters.

J.   Colour -
     Again, a twenty five character space to describe the
colour(s) of the object(s) reported.

K. Notes -
A fifty two character space to include any relevant points of
the case in question that are not covered by any other parameter.

L. Evaluation -
A written evaluation of the case (twenty six characters) in
terms of UFO, insufficient data (INSUFF) or aircraft (R/C), meteor,
etc....... The evaluation of cases and using terminology, ie UFO can be
easily misunderstood. The term UFO is used in the database simply
because it uses three characters and thus saves valuable memory
(Steuart Campbell please note !!!).

M. Investigator -
Lists the investigators who partecipated in the production of
the case report in question. Another source reference for the
researcher.

```
+----------------------------------------------------------------+
| REF 830004    LEVEL A  TYPE V2E1          C2   DATE MON 25 04 83  |
| TIME 0845 BST    LOCALE BRADFORD,W.YORKS      DURAT 3  APP SIZE 3 |
| SHAPE ROUND                        COLOUR GREY,BLACK             |
| NOTES ALTERNATING COLOUR & SPINNING                             |
| EVALU POSS METALLIC BALLOON         INVES N MORTIMER            |
|                                                                 |
|                                                                 |
| REF 830027    LEVEL A  TYPE V2R5E1        C2   DATE SUN 13 02 83  |
| TIME 0130 GMT    LOCALE PLYMOUTH,DEVON        DURAT 2  APP SIZE ? |
| SHAPE CIRCULAR                      COLOUR RED                   |
| NOTES OBJ DESENDED, HOVERED BY LAMP POST THEN ASCENDED          |
| EVALU UAP                           INVES PUFOIC               |
|                                                                 |
+----------------------------------------------------------------+
| Typical print outs from the database.                           |
+----------------------------------------------------------------+
```

The database currently holds approximately 600 case reports
from the late 1970's to the present day. Paul Fuller is currently
wading through the 600 or so reports from 1977 (a bumper year). Mike
Lewis is finishing off 1979.
As the cases are being coded and added to the database, they are also
being rearranged into batches of fifty and of course bound in numerical
order. So not only are the files being computerized, they are also
being clerically processed. Considered the limited man power, we have
done very well.
With having the unique opportunity to read through many case
reports over the last decade, it is important to note, the increasingly
high calibre of case reports submitted for coding. Most of the pre NIC

cases are single R1 report forms with very little data. But since the inception of the National Investigation Committee (NIC), the autonomous Investigations branch of BUFORA, case reports have become booklet size and worthy of proper unbiased scientific research. This trend is a credit to BUFORA and the NIC and must continue.

CONCLUSION

We still have no real idea about the nature of the UFO. There are almost as many theories of the origin of the phenomenon as there are cases. I follow the view that UFOs do not have any single solution. The phenomenon is a multi faceted enigma. In this light we have to be flexible in our attitudes, our investigative techniques and our research. This goes against the grain of the rigid computer's structure.

Without sounding damning of statistical analyses of UFO data conducted in the past and the effort that has gone into them. Not one statistical report has ever mirrored another (6). This infers a purely random phenomenon, reported by a purely random cross section of witnesses. The sceptic would argue that this proves that UFOs do not exist. But are purely unsolved IFOs (with hidden mundane "Earthbound" explanations). I think this is a fair point to argue. It is also fair to argue that there are no patterns because we are looking at the wrong data or the right data but with the wrong approach. Once the code of the UFO has been unlocked, then the data will become clear. The computer can help us to overcome this problem. UFO groups all over the world can afford computer technology and this situation is being exploited and quite rightly. The data that is being extracted should not be kept secret from other groups. In sharing the wealth of data currently being collated in computer form, we will benefit and understand the nature of the beast we are dealing with. But I stress again: "You cannot structure a flexible phenomenon".

I do not claim that the BUFORA CASE REPORT DATABASE is fully comprehensive and overcomes the aboveformentioned problems. But it's a start. A researcher can now find cases in seconds rather than hours and thus should accelerate the speed in which we solve an enigma that for many years has eluded explanation.

REFERENCES -

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USING "SUPERBASE"

by Maurizio Verga

I already proposed the employment of SUPERBASE as the standard database program for the Commodore 64/128 microcomputer: now I'd like to present a couple of my own applications developed by such a kind of commercial software.

The first one refers to the C-128 version of SUPERBASE, using a 80-column display. Through the "Import" option of one menu it is possible to change an external sequential file in a random file readable by our program. Preparing a SUPERBASE record format equal to that used for the original file you can bring the data in a SUPERBASE file. The operation is fairly simple and it don't take much time. In such a way the whole ITACAT file generated by the program presented in CUFON 1,***** was implemented on SUPERBASE 128. This allowed to insert eleven new fields in the new record structure. Beyond the classic date, place, province, classification and evaluation parameters there are:

- Hour (four characters)
- Reference code number from the ITACAT manuscript (six characters)
- Sources of the events (nine fields of sixty-four characters each).

The whole record was put on two different screens. Here is a hardcopy of the record structure:

DATA	(470814)
ORA	(0914)
LOCALITA'	(Ravee)
Provincia	(Ud)
CLASSIFICAZIONE	I.R.(3)
VALUTAZIONE	(N.AF./POSS. FALSO)
Numero di CODICE	(47081)

FONTE 01	(ART Giorni 11/3/77; Globus set/ott 80)
FONTE 02	(RIV 64M 11, 27 + 58, 6-8; CLYPEUS 2-3, 3 + 82, 29-31 + 83, 66-68)
FONTE 03	(EST UFO INFO 48, 18; UFO SVERIGE AKTUELLT 4, 2, 24; FSR 13, 1, 3-8)
FONTE 04	(CAT INTCAT 183; INTCAT (Belgio) 14; FREDNIA 81)
FONTE 05	(LIB SANI I, 168; OSSOLA III, 788-783; LORENZEN II, 77)
FONTE 06	(LIB RIBERA I, 219-221; GIANFRANCESCHI I, 171-174;)
FONTE 07	(LIB UFO in ITALIA I, 82-83; BOWEN I, 887 & 213)
FONTE 08	(EST FSR 23, 4, 111)
FONTE 09	(RIV Cielo e Terra 8)
FONTE 10	( )

Using a print-out produced by this program, any researcher can find an Italian close encounter he wants and to look for their original documents referring to the reported sources. Obviously, there is a limitation as regards the classification of events: it is not possible to seek cases having specific collateral effects (for example, only

"electromagnetic" effects), as we haven't inserted any special code inside the "classification" field. On the other hand, we don't know - a priori - what kind of cases can interest a researcher, so we should put a lot of codes. The result would be a great confusion and a waste of storage capacity. A work of such a kind could be developed on a powerful personal computer (at least a 640K PC IBM/XT) not on a C-128, even though there would be many problems in choosing what characteristics of a case should be coded.

The whole ITACAT file is about 100K long and it is entirely placed on a floppy disc. There seem to be some problems in changing the random file in a sequential one by the "Export" option, due to relatively scarce space on the disk: the aim would be to establish a version also on Commodore 64. At the same time, the original TRACAT and ITACAT N files have been implemented on SUPERBASE 128, adding sources and a few other fields. We think such a work represents well the structure that a UFO reference file should have: all fundamental information are presented and it is the starting point for any work of every researcher.

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CENSUS OF UFOLOGISTS' COMPUTERS :

A NEW UP-TO-DATE

After the previous listings published in CUFON issue 1, 2 and 4 here is another up-to-date. We remember that reported names refers only to ufologists or simple amateurs owning a computer, beyond their effective use of the machine in connection with ufology.

We are planning to present a complet printout of the census in the first issue of CUFON Vol. 2. Readers who know people having a computer not mentioned in our listing are invited to supply full names and addresses, together with computer type.

Name	Country	Computer
Michele Sisti	Italy	C-64
Mauro Iotti	Italy	C-64
Marco Mucci	Italy	C-64
Fabio Filippetti	Italy	C-64
Giuseppe Di Franc.	Italy	C-64
Daniella Cepparulo	Italy	C-64
Gianluca Chiarella	Italy	C-64
Alberto Lazzaro	Italy	C-128
Steven Gamble	England	Spectrum
Paul Fuller	England	Spectrum
Nigel Mortimer	England	Spectrum
Jenny Randles'	England	Amstrad 6128