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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Phoenix lights, FTs, whatever

From: **Jakes Louw** <LOUWJE@telkom.co.za>  
Date: Wed, 26 Nov 1997 11:33:52 +0200  
Fwd Date: Wed, 26 Nov 1997 05:34:01 -0500  
Subject: Re: Phoenix lights, FTs, whatever

>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>  
>From: Mark Cashman <mcashman@ix.netcom.com>  
>Subject: re: UFO UpDate: Re: Phoenix lights, FTs, whatever  
>Date: Mon, 24 Nov 1997 13:38:53 -0800

<Very selective snip, but with relevance to the rest of  
Marks' reply:>

>I don't think anyone would allege that anyone is not contributing  
>to any database of reports. FUFOR, MUFON, and CUFOS all publish  
>both significant cases and studies. I'm not sure what you're  
>getting at.

What I'm getting at, and I'm sure that most on the list will agree, is that there is a requirement for a centralised, coordinated database that must be used for abductions, sightings, and other encounters and/or manifestations. Why? Well, there is a plethora of data mining packages out there, that can be run against MS Access on Windows or even Oracle on UNIX. By setting up relationships and keyed links between database records/rows/reports, one will be able to retrieve a list of reports for, say, Arizona, or a list for any specific night, or a combination of several parameters like geographic, timezone, or key-word descriptive fields. This would be ideal in analysing trends, hot-spots, flight-paths, and so on.

We're not talking about huge amounts of data here:  
The main reports and studies can be held on hard-copy or near-line storage like Zip drive or CDR, but with cross-reference codes that are kept as a field in the database, where and if applicable.

Investigators and organizational volunteers that will keep the database updated will have to work with, and according to, a standardised categorisation system, probably very like the current CE1-whatever (Hynek?) specification that is pretty much generally in use in any case.

A user-friendly GUI can be set up with, say, Visual Basic for the keying in of reports, and inserts into the database will be validated against the database for possible duplicate entries (check for date, time, town/city, reporter name), and then the relevant indexes will also be rebuilt to allowed indexed searches.

There are multi-dimensional database mining tools also available that will extend the range of database relationships almost endlessly.

Why hasn't this been done already?  
In terms of dollars, we're not talking about a  
lot here, but the returns to the study of  
the UFO phenomenon will be significant.

Jakes E. Louw  
+27 12 311-2668  
082 923 6144  
louwje@telkom.co.za

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Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

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