

Hristo Pavlov, Sydney, Australia. wrote:

I am happy to share with you that I have recently completed two major projects - (1) The migration of the OccultWatcher's server component (AKA OccultPlanner) to a new web site, which is logically at <http://www.occultwatcher.net/> and (2) Tangra version 3 has been finally released!

You have probably already seen Dave Herald's message about AOTA and Tangra 3 being released. While Dave told you about the AOTA integration with Tangra 3, I would like to say more about the release of Tangra 3.0.85 and also about how it integrates with OccultWatcher.

This is actually the first public (non-BETA) release of Tangra 3. While some of you may have been using the beta version for a while already, this release is a big moment for me as it concludes the almost 2 years of development of Tangra 3 and puts it officially out. I would like to say big "Thank You" to all people that helped during the development and the testing of the beta version and were involved in one way or another.

There are a number of exciting new features in Tangra 3 and the integration with AOTA is one of them. What make things even more exciting thought is that I also released an update to OccultWatcher, which reporting add-in can now automatically use the times extracted by AOTA and can populate your Excel report with a single click.

In order to use this functionality you will need to update your OW, then update or install the latest Tangra3 and Occult. Now when you process an event with AOTA, when this processing has been initiated from Tangra3, the result (negative or positive) will be saved for use by OccultWatcher. When you use the standard "Prefill Report File" functionality in OW the events you have processed in AOTA will be shown in a list so you can choose which event to report. The available reports from Tangra-AOTA can be also seen from inside OccultWatcher if you go Add-ins -> Show Tangra Reports. At the moment this only works for the Excel report form used in America and Australasia. If there is enough interests to implement the same for the text based form used in Europe I will be also happy to do it.

The other change to OccultWatcher is that now the TNO feed has been replaced with a new RIO-TNO feed. Making those "Rio TNO" events available in OW has been a significant effort by a number of people including the Rio de Janeiro Group, Felipe Braga Ribas and Dave Herald. The feed description is as follows:

RIO-TNO is a list of Trans Neptunian Object occultation predictions, produced by the RIO de Janeiro Group; Camargo, Julio. I. B.; Vieira-Martins, Roberto;

Assafin, Marcelo; Sicardy, Bruno; Braga-Ribas, Felipe; Desmars, Josselin: Observatório Nacional/MCTI, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Observatório do Valongo/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Observatoire de Paris-Meudon/LESIA, Meudon, France. The predictions are calculated and posted at <http://devel2.linea.gov.br/~braga.ribas/campaigns/> by Felipe Braga Ribas and then converted into OW format by Dave Gault, Australia, <http://www.kuriwaobservatory.com/>

Now the accurate predictions by the Rio Team are coming directly to you via OccultWatcher. I would like to give my special thanks to Felipe Braga Ribas and Dave Herald for making this possible as well as to Dave Gault for taking care for the 'feed' component of OW to be up to date.

The other exciting features of Tangra 3 include:

- Ability to work with ADV files, which are videos recorded by the Astro Digital Video System, using the PointGrey 12 and 14 bit digital cameras
- Tangra 3 can be now used natively on Linux and Mac to process ADV files
- Ability to work with the new AAV files, which are recorded by the OccuRec tool for windows - which adds a number of improvements to the analogue video recording using integrating video cameras. You will certainly hear more about OccuRec in near future
- Ability to read the IOTA-VTI timestamp recorded in AVI files. The algorithm should work with all videos regardless of the aspect and size of the video frames as long as (1) every video field is saved in the video and (2) all digits from the frame counter are fully visible and inside the video frame.
- A new tracking engine that will be used by default for the simpler case of measuring bright well visible stars where there is no effect of wind and other instabilities. This should provide more accurate and fast tracking in this case.
- Generally Tangra 3 will be visibly faster than Tangra 1.4 in most cases as most of the core functionality has been re-engineered to use faster code and technologies. A large part of the core of Tangra 3 is now developed in C++.

Tangra 3 is NOT an upgrade of Tangra 1.4 and you can run both of them side by side. Once I have ported the Astrometry module from 1.4 to version 3 I will decommission version 1.4 but this will probably not happen in 2014.

Those of you that have the Windows beta of Tangra 3 already installed - you will get the update automatically the next time you run Tangra 3, and those that don't have it installed can get it from the download section of the Tangra 3 web site:

<http://www.hristopavlov.net/tangra3>



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