

A Guide to 'Autoget'

A tool to retrieve satellite files and images from the Internet automatically

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As an Australian member of GEO with an interest in worldwide weather, you can understand that my weather satellite imaging opportunities are somewhat restricted, being out of range of direct *EUMETCast* reception. Nevertheless, thanks to *AutoGet*, an item of utility software from David Taylor, and the repository of images held at the *Dundee Satellite Receiving Station*, I do have access to a wide range of imagery from most of the geostationary weather satellites around the globe. A link for downloading Autoget can be found at

<http://www.satsignal.eu/>

by following the link to the *GeoSatSignal* page then scrolling down to the *Extra Goodies* section.

Access to all this data comes via the *Dundee* tab in *AutoGet*, as illustrated in figure 1. Just fill in the boxes to select the time slots and channels that you need.

Username and Password

Before you can download satellite images from the *Dundee Satellite Receiving Station*, you must first visit their website at

<http://www.sat.dundee.ac.uk>

to register for their services, which are free. Click the 'Register for free images' button then enter a username of your choice and your email address in the fields provided. Answer two further questions and click the 'Create account' button. You will shortly be emailed the password required to access the imagery. If you wish, you can then change the password to your own preference.

Editing the Dundee Tab

Enter your username and password in the appropriate fields in figure 1.

Output Path

Browse to the folder where you wish to store the images downloaded from Dundee.

Dates in Folders

Tick this box to place the images in year\month\day folders, such as, for example *C:\Dundee\images\2008\11\12*

Standard Name

Tick this box to give the images a standardised filename (i.e. without the default underscore characters) such as *200811120600_MTSAT1R_1_S1*. Unchecked the file name would have been *2008_11_12_1200_MTSAT1R_1_S1*.

Grid Images

Dundee provides images with and without gridding. Tick this box if you wish to display grid markers on the images.

Size

Different sizes of image are available depending on the detail (and file size) that you require. For example, MTSAT-1R visible images are provided as

Large	2752 x 2784	984 kB
Medium	1376 x 1392	285 kB
Small	688 x 696	85 kB

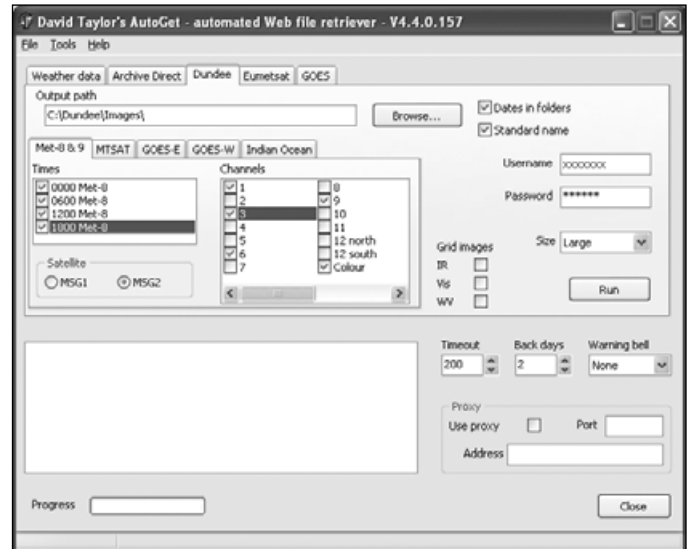


Figure 1 - The 'Dundee' tab showing the Meteosat selection screen

Size and Grid

The *Size* and *Grid* options also determine the filenames of the downloaded images, which becomes vital when processing the them with Geosatsignal. See the article *A Guide To Producing composite 'World' Images using GeoSatSignal* elsewhere in this issue.

No Grid

Large image names end in 'S1' - e.g. MTSAT1R_1_S1

Medium image names in 'S2' - e.g. MTSAT1R_1_S2

Small image names in 'S4' - e.g. MTSAT1R_1_S4

With Grid

All names have the suffix '_grid', e.g. MTSAT1R_1_S1_grid

Times and Channel

Tick the boxes to select the UTC time of the image and the channel(s) required. See the table below for details of the available channels.

Leave other boxes at their default settings. My own preferences are for no grid, dates in folders (organised) and standard filenames.

Obtaining the Images

With all the options set up to your satisfaction, downloading your chosen images could hardly be simpler: just click the *Run* button.

The downloading process can be further streamlined by running *AutoGet* from a **batch file** which automatically downloads images at different times during the day. To do this, run *Notepad* and type in this line

```
autoget.exe -DUN -close
```

then, with the 'Save as type' option set to 'All Files', save it as 'AutoDundee.cmd' into the folder where Autoget resides (usually the *GeoSatSignal* folder). This filename can be any name you choose as long as it has the .cmd extension.

Finally, open Windows *Control Panel* and create a 'scheduled task' with the time slot (s) you want.