StrataBugs Newsletter October 2012

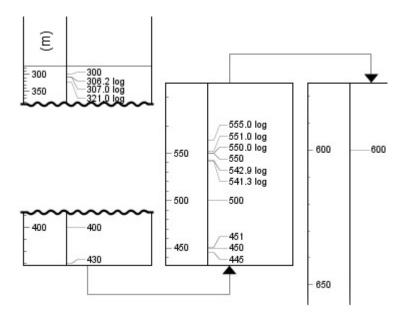
This is one of a series of occasional newsletters for users of the StrataBugs system. If you wish to be removed, or if you have received this from a third party and want to be added to the list, let us know by reply.

We will shortly be making a production release update, but, for now, the features discussed below are available from the Test area download.

Biosteering

We continue to add useful features to support biosteering with StrataBugs v2. The 3D well section can be viewed flattened onto a 2D panel, on which wireline log traces, events, and zones can be displayed. A new "pipe" diagram feature enables use of TVD or time scales without sections of the chart overplotting (see image below). More information here:

http://www.stratadata.co.uk/StrataBugs/v2.0/help/samples chartstab.html



Time Scales

The newly published GTS 2012 time scale can now be downloaded as a StrataBugs chronostratigraphic scheme from this link:

http://www.stratadata.co.uk/sbugs resources schemes.shtml But, if you want to start using the new time scale you will need to modify your biozonation, lithostratigraphic and sequence schemes and composite standards so that the units or time horizons are in the correct position with respect to the new scheme. We have added a recalibration tool to allow you to convert a scheme from one chronostratigraphic time scale to another, such that all the events are in the same relative positions in the new scheme. After running the utility, you

should manually check that the units are still in the correct place in the new scheme, since they may have been repositioned with respect to stage boundaries; however the tool will still allow you to make rapid progress towards the new scheme.

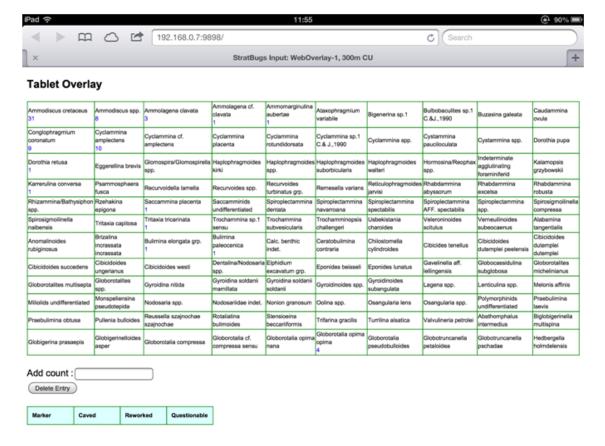
Two new methods of recording data - tablets and tick-sheets

You can now use any group of taxa and print a logging sheet or "tick sheet" for recording data at the microscope. Once you've finished the sample, you, or an assistant, can use the numerical index on the logging sheet to rapidly enter the data to StrataBugs with no transcription errors. Simple, and fast. To print out the logging sheet, select a group and use the Group menu item in Taxonomic Database. To use the logging sheet, select the option on the Occurrences menu in Samples & Interpretations. More information here:

http://www.stratadata.co.uk/StrataBugs/v2.0/help/howtousenumericcodes.html

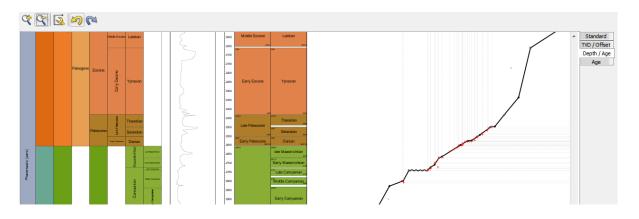
For a more interactive experience, we have devised a method of using a browser or tablet, such as (but not restricted to) an iPad, as an input device for recording occurrences. You can even use it from a smartphone, though the overlay size is more limited! You need to create an overlay in the normal way, as if for use on a touch screen. The grid size of the overlay will be determined by the size of your device. You must also ensure that your device is connected to the same network as your host PC running StrataBugs, which would be the normal configuration in a small business with a wireless router. Select the overlay, start the server process, then type the address of the server in your tablet's browser. You just press the cell to record an occurrence. One advantage is that you don't need to be anywhere near your computer - you can be at the other side of the room, or in a different room altogether. More information here:

http://www.stratadata.co.uk/StrataBugs/v2.0/help/dialogoverlayweb.html



Projecting stratigraphy from the Age/Depth curve

We have added the facility to project the stratigraphy from a scheme or a sea level curve, onto a well section in the depth domain, using the age/depth curve (LOC). You previously could generate the stratigraphy from the curve, now you can project the stratigraphy to give you a live "what-if" view of the interpretation as you drag and change the LOC. The sea level curve projection can help determine sequence disposition with respect to the events, wireline logs, etc. This snapshot shows the LOC on the right passing through event picks, with the interpreted chronostratigraphy for the well section in the middle, and the projected chronostratigraphy and sea level curve on the left.



Auto-correlation

In Charts, there is now an option to add all the correlation lines for a scheme, to save having to add them individually in panel "data mode". Use the View | Correlation lines "Add all" button. You can delete or edit individual lines after the lines have been created, in the normal way.

Report Writer

A new feature allows you to create a quick tabular report using a chart as a template, honouring panel properties as far as possible. The table is written to file in HTML, which can be imported into various Office applications. While this will not create a finished report, it could save time spent on tedious formatting. In Samples & Interpretations, set up the Standard Chart as required and choose File > Export Chart > As HTML.

Workshops

Please let us know if you are interested in attending a one-day StrataBugs workshop this Autumn, covering new aspects of v2 or to discuss development ideas. Attendees should have prior familiarity with v2. The workshop could be held in central London or at our new premises in rural Kent, depending on demand. We can also run an on-site 5 day course for groups of beginners.

Conversion to v2

If you have not yet planned your migration to v2, please contact us and we will be happy to help. Now would be a good time, as we have a busy schedule early next year. We are planning to attend Microfossils III in March 2013 in Houston, and can arrange office visits around that time if required.

We acknowledge all users who have provided helpful suggestions for StrataBugs 2, especially Jake Jacovides of Millennia Stratigraphic Consultants.