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Online reporting and automated analysis of visual meteor shower observations

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Since 1988, visual meteor shower observations have been gathered in the Visual Meteor Database (VMDB) of the International Meteor Organization (IMO). The VMDB is at present the largest data set of visual meteor shower activity and magnitude data. It is used for comprehensive shower analyses on a regular basis. In order to maintain and promote the database, we add modern features such as distributed input and online interaction. These features were first brought into practice for the 2006 Leonids meteor shower, when a large fraction of observations was submitted through an online report form at the IMO website. The data was automatically used to compute an activity profile on the fly, which showed a short-lived activity outburst as soon as 6 hours after the event. Future extensions for automated video and radio observations may allow for near real-time monitoring of meteor activity.