Tools of the Trade

Data Loggers

By Melissa Tanner, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

A data logger is a device that can measure data electronically and record it at certain increments of time. You can later upload it into a PC to evaluate the data captured/gathered. There are data loggers for all sorts of data. For the purposes of this article we will discuss the data loggers that document temperature and humidity.

For decades it has been believed that temperature changes can be linked paranormal activity. The theory is that as a spirit tries to manifest to show itself and/or communicate with the leaving that it takes the energy from the air around it, therefore causing a drop in temperature. We are not talking a degree or two, but rather a ten plus degree change. That is why thermometers are used during a paranormal investigation.

Additionally it is believed that humidity at the site of the temperature change may also be affected. Therefore some groups are starting to document both at the same time to see if they can find a pattern.

Placing a data logger in a spot at a location where temperature drops are reported will allow the investigator track temperature and humidity changes during an investigation.

This data can be tracked across the same case and see if it correlates to other possibly paranormal activity at the location during the investigation. As well as can be compared to future cases to track patterns.

How a data logger works is that it takes a reading (temperature and humidity) from the air surrounding the device and records it in the devices internal memory. For our investigations we set the device to take a reading every 2 seconds. So every 2 seconds the device takes a reading from the air and records it. Then at the end of the night we upload the data into a PC and review it using software. This software will usually chart the data points and show drops or spikes in the data gathered.

For a data logger to be an effective tool for a paranormal investigator it must have the ability to take a reading every second.   Some have a minimum reading time of every 10 seconds, but since things can change so quickly on an investigation a reading every one to two seconds would be more useful.

We at TnT Paranormal have a couple of different makes and models of data loggers that we use. We like the Hobo Data Loggers by Onset (http://www.onsetcomp.com/products/hobo-data-loggers?utm_source=adcenter&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=hobo%2520onset&utm_campaign=msn) best. A lot of it revolves around the software they have developed to display the data gathered. The others are great at gathering data, but the software that comes with the device does not have as good of a reporting tool therefore harder to interept the data gathered.

If you don't have a data logger, try one out. We think you'll find it a useful tool for all of your cases.