**Name:**

mpcbash

**Synopsis:**

mpcbash <asteroid> [<record count>]

**Description:**

To get the asteroid’s cphemerides from the Minor Planet Center for the given asteroid for a given number of records. The asteroid designation should follow the MPC name guidelines. The optional record count is for ten minute intervals, defaulting to 1440 to supply ten days of predictions. The starting date defaults to “tomorrow” (man date). This works well for the continental United States. Change scripts to your needs.

**Output:**

Output is an ASCII report converted from HTML output by html2text (man html2text). Saves to <asteroid>\_mpcresults.txt.

...

2013 08 15 021000 19 11 46.4 +38 00 38 ...

2013 08 15 022000 19 11 46.4 +38 00 34 ...

2013 08 15 023000 19 11 46.4 +38 00 30 ...

2013 08 15 024000 19 11 46.4 +38 00 26 ...

2013 08 15 025000 19 11 46.4 +38 00 22 ...

...

Column 3 is hhmmss, where hh is hours, mm is minutes and ss is seconds.

**Examples:**

mpcbash 3581

Next ten days of cphemerides for asteroid 3581.

mpcbash 3581 144

Next 24 hours of information.

mpcbash 3581| && cat 3581\_mpcresults.txt | awk '/^20/ { print $1, $2, $3, $4; }'

**Notes:**

The script is hardwired for Sommer’s Bausch Observatory code = 463.

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**Reporting Bugs:**

See Google project, phoenix-asteroids-2013.

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**See Also:**

gettargs, jplexpet, mpcbash, csv2tex, csv2report