Introduction
Since June 2004 Meteosat Second Generation data from the SEVIRI instrument is received at ITC using the EUMETCast service. At ITC all EUMETCast data is received but only the high rate information transmission (HRIT) data is archived. This data set is about 85% of the total data stream. A software tool has been developed to move the relevant data, based on the acquisition date and time, to specific folders on a dedicated system. The tool also creates entries in a log file if data is missing and optionally it can send warning emails if large problems, like system failures may occur.

Meteosat data retriever.
The problem with MSG data is that the file format is not standard. None of the commonly used remote sensing packages is able to open or process the raw compressed images. It was decided that the solution with the most future prospects was to implement a driver for reading the images in Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL, http://www.gdal.org). GDAL is a translation library for raster geospatial data formats that is released under an MIT style Open Source License. All source code is in C++, and great effort is put into keeping the code platform-independent. Drivers for writing files in popular RS formats (e.g. ENVI, ERDAS, ILWIS, GeoTIFF) but also picture formats like JPEG, GIF and BMP have already been implemented by the community, so appending a driver for reading MSG image files to this driver seemed to be the most appropriate. Through the user interface all relevant parameters can be adjusted and a time series can be easily constructed. The figure below shows the data retriever / time series generator.

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