

# Carl Sagan's solar-powered spacecraft is in trouble

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But inside the spacecraft's Linux-based flight software, a problem was brewing. Every 15 seconds, LightSail transmits a telemetry beacon packet. The software controlling the main system board writes corresponding information to a file called beacon.csv. If you're not familiar with CSV files, you can think of them as simplified spreadsheets?in fact, most can be opened with Microsoft Excel.

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