



Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

Article No:
BC-02-110
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30 Nov 2010

This article
is free*

BullCharts data — EOD, intraday snapshots, or dynamic live

Introduction

When using any share market charting software, it is important to have quality software that provides all the features and functions that you want. But just as equally important is the need to have quality data that has been corrected for things like: share splits, consolidations, dilutions, mergers, code changes, name changes, deferred settlement history, mergers and capital returns.

Another important consideration is that the data that is displayed in your preferred charting program needs to be guaranteed to be reliable. If it is possible to manually apply changes to the data, then it cannot be guaranteed that the price chart you view is correct.

The BullCharts software utilises contemporary proprietary Microsoft SQL Server database technology and a proprietary format data feed from a quality data supplier. Hence the displayed data is reliable and has been corrected as required. There is no opportunity for manual manipulation.

The only key decision to make with BullCharts software is regarding the data plan, of which there are three to choose from.

This Article in Brainy's series on BullCharts, BC-02-110, "*BullCharts data — End-of-day, Intraday (snapshots) or Dynamic Live data*", describes the three data plan options.

Overview

The three data plans that are available with BullCharts software are:

1. End-of-Day.
2. Intraday with hourly snapshots.
3. Dynamic Live Data.

More information about each of these three data plans follows.

Snapshots

Before we discuss the three data plans in a little detail, it is worth briefly describing the ideas of *snapshots*.

Firstly, understand that the BullCharts database which lives with the software on your computer, is basically a table of data which is the Open, High, Low, Close and Volume for each security for each day that it has traded. Table 1 below shows a sample extract of this information for BHP. Note the date is in the format *yyyymmdd* (ie. four digits for the year, then two digits for month and two for date).

Symbol	Date	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
BHP	20101118	43.43	43.92	43.42	43.8	12,265,004
BHP	20101119	44.1	44.22	43.44	43.61	9,438,924
BHP	20101122	44	44.18	43.78	43.88	7,762,872
BHP	20101123	43.68	43.73	43.02	43.14	12,043,348
BHP	20101124	42.95	43.11	42.79	42.95	13,362,278
BHP	20101125	43.25	43.29	42.97	43.09	8,785,565
BHP	20101126	43.46	43.62	43.05	43.2	22,256,558
BHP	20101129	43.08	43.35	42.68	43.24	9,605,703
BHP	20101130	43.3	43.31	42.65	42.74	12,892,267
BHP	20101201	42.85	43.2	42.82	43.2	8,727,303
BHP	20101202	44.01	44.44	43.96	44.33	12,734,712

Table 1: Extract of daily price data for BHP.

The full BullCharts database actually contains a lot more than this information, but this is the key



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security data. It can be readily extracted in CSV format (Comma Separated Value) for import into a spreadsheet program, or any other compatible software tool.

Note that the data as displayed in the table above is the set of values as at the end of the trading day. The last entry in the table for this stock is the set of values as at the latest day's end of day.

Now, with some data plans a *snapshot* can be downloaded during the day, and is literally a "snapshot" of the price data at a point in time. When snapshot data is downloaded with BullCharts, it is essentially dropped into the table as though it was the End-of-Day data for the latest day (note the second column in the table above is the date in *yyyymmdd* format). If you download a second snapshot, then it over-writes the first snapshot. At the end-of-day when you finally download the real end-of-day data, it will over-write the snapshot that might be in the table for that date.

End-of-Day (EOD) data plan

The End-of-Day data plan is the most common amongst general investors and traders. It is the cheapest data plan, and includes all data that the End-of-Day investor/trader would need. It enables the display of daily charts, as well as weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly. EOD data can be downloaded after 7:30pm, once the ASX releases the final data to the market.

Intraday with snapshots

The Intraday data plan is the same as the EOD plan, plus the following snapshot option.

The BullCharts servers (in Sydney) take a snapshot of all Australian securities every hour on the hour, and store this data on the Snapshot server. These hourly snapshots are available for data subscribers 20 minutes later. For example, the servers take a snapshot of data at 11am, and it is available to download at 11:20am.

Remembering that the ASX charges data royalty fees for all data that is provided "live" (which actually means less than 20 minutes delayed). A data supplier can make ASX data available royalty-free provided it is at least 20 minutes delayed. This means that the Intraday plan with snapshots as described here does not attract ASX live-data royalty fees. Hence the cost of the data plan is only marginally more expensive than the EOD plan.

Dynamic Live Data

For data to be provided "live", the ASX charges significant royalty fees. The data and information that is provided under this plan is a lot more than just the live data for any or all securities.

This plan also includes snapshots at intervals that are no more frequent than 10-minute intervals. This restriction is applied to prevent undue loads on the BullCharts system servers. (Providing a live snapshot of data for the whole of market is a significant task for the servers to perform.)

The live data plan also enables the dynamic display of market depth, amongst other things.

Summary

This Article in Brainy's series on BullCharts (number BC-02-110) provides an overview of the various BullCharts data plans.



For more information on Share Trading, or
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