



Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

Product overview

Article No:
BC-02-100
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29 Jan 2010
(Rev: July 2010)
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Introduction

This article in Brainy's series on BullCharts (number BC-02-100) is an introduction and overview of the BullCharts software product. In the notes below there is a discussion of features, as well as a brief overview of the company behind the product. And there is additional detail on specific aspects in Brainy's Article BC-02-120, "*BullCharts — Market views, maps, scans*".

It is important to note that these Articles and their content are prepared independently of the BullCharts company. This particular article is purely based on fact, and is not intended to be a sales spiel.

What is BullCharts?

*"BullCharts is an innovative charting and technical analysis system. It provides a feature rich and powerful set of tools with access to the latest strategies from local and overseas authors in analysing the dynamics of the stock market"*¹.

To put it in other words, it is a stock market charting package to produce share market price charts for various stocks and market indexes. As with many charting packages, you can include indicators plus various technical analysis tools and studies. A list of the key features is included below.

The BullCharts company

This is perhaps a minor technical point, but the software product is called BullCharts, and it is provided and supported by the company BullSystems Pty. Ltd. This company is based in Sydney, Australia, and has been in business since about the mid-1990s. They provide product support from their offices in Sydney.

Key features

The key features of the BullCharts software product include:

- Australian BullCharts User Group with monthly meetings in Melbourne.
- Price chart types and elements:
 - Price charts — Line, Candle, OHLC bar, Point & Figure, Gann Swing, Kago, Renko, Three line Break, Equivolume, Candlevolume, Stepped, Points, and Pretzel.
- Which securities and indexes?
 - All Australian securities and indexes (all data is stored locally on your computer).
 - Overseas stock and index data can be available.
- Data and time periods:
 - End-of-day data, or intraday snapshots, or live intraday data.
 - Data includes daily price data, plus some fundamental data.
 - Time periods — daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly.
 - Intraday time periods on the live data plans — 1-minute, 2, 5, 10, 15, 30, 60, 120 minutes.
- Fully customisable watchlists — on-screen they look like folders.
- Indicators:
 - Many chart indicators to choose from (more than 200 — eg. Moving Average, MACD, RSI, Bollinger Bands, Stochastic, etc., etc.).
 - Easily customise indicators or create new ones — either change the parameters (eg. 30-period moving average instead of 12 period), or edit the script code.

1 Source — www.bullcharts.com.au



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- Chart tools, text and annotations:
 - Easily add lines, annotations, chart tools and text to a chart (eg. support lines, resistance lines, trend lines, circles of interesting char features, text blocks, etc.).
 - Chart tools and line studies — over 50 built in including: squares, circles, line segments, Fibonacci tools, Gann tools, Count Back Line, Trend Ruler, etc.
 - Layer Manager — If the chart has many elements, then temporarily and selectively hide or show individual items for clarity.
- Alert Manager — Place price alerts to trigger at a specific price points.
- Save a chart with annotations and studies (two options):
 - IntelliCharts — to automatically save lines, indicators, text, annotations for a security.
 - Save a price chart with text, annotations and indicators for later recall.
- Scans and filters:
 - Use scans (ie. filters) to search through one or more watch lists of stocks for the stocks that meet certain criteria.
 - Many scans are already supplied (more than 100).
 - Easily customise existing scans, or create new scans.
- Author Strategies — The trading strategies of many famous traders and authors are implemented in Scans, Indicators, and chart tools.
- Templates and workspaces:
 - Create multiple screen/chart templates — ie. the appearance of a price chart (eg. specific indicators with specific background colour and layout).
 - Workspaces and Workspace Manager. A workspace is one or more price charts displayed across one or more computer monitors. Save the layout of the charts for easy display later.
- Screen and monitor layout
 - Toolbars are provided for your common and favourite indicators and templates.
 - Easily customise the toolbars — add other indicators or templates, or remove redundant ones.
 - Support for multiple monitors.
 - Zoom in and out on the price chart easily — both the time axis and the vertical price axis.
- Slideshow — View a chart of each stock in a watchlist using the Slideshow feature. Click to start the slideshow, and step back and watch.
- Back testing can be performed using the optional TradeSim software plug-in (from CompuVision Australia).
- Printed price charts are crisp and clear.

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More key features

The BullCharts software and data environment includes a lot more than the above security information. It also includes:

- Easy access to historical data for export (to Excel and other software).
- A number of whole-of-market tools and reports, including a Market Scan, indices performance, 52 week Highs/Lows, Pre-Open Alert, Market Map, and several other features. These are described in more detail in Brainy's Article BC-02-120, "*BullCharts — Market views, maps, scans*".
- Security-specific information such as dividend details, stock price adjustment history, and end-of-year tax filing details.
- Good search tool for published market news and announcements.
- Derivatives reports.

And for the BullCharts users who subscribe to the Live Data plan so that they have access to live data as it happens, the following are also available:

- Dynamically updated Market Depth,
- Trades Ticker,
- Course of Trades, and
- Trade Summary.

The BullCharts data and software

Some people will be interested to understand the following about the BullCharts database and software:

- **Software** — The software has been developed using Microsoft's .NET development environment. This is considered to be a contemporary software environment.
- **Stock data** — Relevant *security data* is stored for all Australian "securities" (basically all Australian stocks that are traded on the Australian ASX market). This data includes: Open, High, Low, Close, Volume and Trades for each trading day for each *security*, plus key fundamental data.
- **Data database** — The *security data* is stored locally on your computer in a Microsoft SQL database. This database resides outside the BullCharts software application, and is somewhat independent of the software. It is generally not touched during software removal, or upgrade (unless a BullCharts upgrade specifically makes changes to the database structure — this will be advised in the published upgrade notes).
- **Software license** — The software license does permit you to have BullCharts installed on two computers (eg. a desktop and a laptop), provided only one of these is in use at a time.

BullCharts user data

There is an amount of "user data" that can be saved over time, including the following:

- Watchlists, including watchlist folders.
- Alert levels.
- Custom indicators and scans — either new ones, or modified versions of supplied ones.
- Templates and Workspaces.
- IntelliCharts information.
- Customised Fibonacci retracement levels.



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- Notes.
- BullCharts chart files — created when you use the menu option: “File > Save...”.

All user data in these categories is stored in discrete disk files outside of the BullCharts software application. Whenever you uninstall the BullCharts software, these other files are generally not touched. It is prudent to backup user data frequently, especially before a software upgrade, just in case something goes awry.

Fundamental data

BullCharts includes an amount of fundamental data for each security. Remembering that BullCharts is firstly a technical analysis charting package, where there is very little use for fundamental data.

The fundamental data that is included comprises:

Total Issue	Annual Dividend/Share	Dividend Payable Date
Net Tangible Assets	Market Cap	GICS Code
Earnings/Share (EPS)	Earnings Yield	Sector
Dividend/Share	PE Ratio	Industry Group
Current Dividend Amount	Dividend Yield	Industry
% Franked	Dividend Cover	Sub Industry
Gross Dividend Amount	Ex Date	

Having said that, fundamental data can be useful to help identify stocks that meet certain fundamental criteria. More information is included in Brainy's Article number BC-02-500, “*Fundamentals in BullCharts*”.

Summary

This article in Brainy's series on BullCharts (number BC-02-100) provides an overview of the BullCharts charting software product. And there is additional detail on specific aspects in Brainy's Article BC-02-120, “*BullCharts — Market views, maps, scans*”.

There is more information, including independent product reviews, on this web page: www.robertbrain.com/bullcharts/



For more information on Share Trading, or
Technical Analysis, or BullCharts software,
look for more of Brainy's articles, or the other resources, in
Brainy's Share Market Toolbox: www.robertbrain.com

Your own notes and comments:

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