

# Topshare Newsletter

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## **Topshare version 1.12 released!**

It's been just over a year since the last Topshare newsletter, coinciding with the release of version 1.11. That's a long time between mutterings, but it doesn't mean nothing's been going on here at Topshare Central – far from it. We've been hard at work for most of the last twelve months, building the next release.

I'm pleased to now be able to say that Topshare Version 1.12 has now been released. This is an important new release of Topshare, and it will provide new benefits for everyone. *These are features that you've all been asking for!* And as always, there's no charge for updates.

If you're a regular user, chances are you've already installed v1.12 through the Auto Update system - but if not, you should click *File|Check for Update* now, to install the latest.

## **New features**

Here are the main enhancements in the latest release:

- Restriction on day-trading removed - now you'll be able to enter unlimited transactions on the same day, for any stock
- New facilities and reports for managing trading accounts (click on *View|Trading Accounts*)
- New performance / benchmarking report and chart (click on *View|Portfolio Returns*)
- Improvements for Topshare's handling of ASX name change, conversion of options / instalments, and splits / consolidations.
- Now allow purchase of fractional units
- New, easier facilities for editing existing data (see the new entries in the *Edit* menu)
- Support for multi-user network operation - intended for up to 3 or so users, primarily the situation where one or two people have responsibility for data entry while another does analysis

- Easy backup and restore of your transaction database, using a single external file (*File|Backup/restore*)
- Now it's easy to change the location of your transaction database (from the default in My Documents\Topshare Data) - see *File|Change Topshare database location*
- Faster operation

Because of the large number of changes introduced in this version, it's inevitable that we didn't get everything exactly right. So you can expect a few maintenance releases over coming months, where minor glitches are patched up (maintenance releases will be labelled 1.12b (current), 1.12c, etc).

## **For the beta-testers**

A big thank-you for your help, suggestions and patience during development of version 1.12.

## **If you're not a registered user**

Perhaps you tried Topshare some time in the past, were interested enough to register to receive these newsletters, but haven't actually purchased our software. Maybe it didn't quite meet your needs at the time you tried it out.

Have a look at the new features in this latest release, and consider whether you'd like to have another try. If you try an evaluation again, but get the message that your evaluation period has already expired, no problem - just drop us an email through the Support page on the website, and we'll re-enable your evaluation.

## **Confused between Snapshots and Backups?**

*Snapshots* and *Backups* are both ways of helping you to protect your investment of time in entering transaction data - they can help you restore your database to active duty if it

gets damaged, or if you have a computer problem. But their purposes are quite different.

### Snapshots

*Snapshots* have always been a part of Topshare. They're akin to 'Undo' in programs like Excel - they are designed to let you undo some action you've taken that may have had unintended consequences. In Topshare, by default, it works this way: every time Topshare exits, a complete copy of the database is saved - this is the snapshot. Up to five consecutive snapshots are saved - each time a snapshot is saved, the oldest existing one is overwritten if necessary.

So Snapshots are a short-term data protection mechanism - each time you exit, you will overwrite the oldest snapshot, so you can only "step back" into the recent past.

Using the Snapshot system is easy. If you want to "step back" to a snapshot, first use *File|Data Snapshots|View/restore from snapshots* to "connect" to one of the available snapshots, instead of your main database. You'll see that Snapshots are identified by date, so make a guess at when you last had a problem-free database. Once connected to the snapshot, you can run reports, or view charts, to see if this is the version of the database that you want to restore - if so, simply click the button labelled 'Use from now on'. If not, click 'Cancel' and you'll be reconnected to the main database.

There are two key Snapshot options in *Edit|Preferences*. The first lets you set the number of Snapshots that Topshare maintains. Although the default is 5, there's nothing (apart from the size of your disk!) stopping you increasing your level of protection by increasing this number to 10, 20 or even more.

The second *Edit|Preferences* option allows you to fine-tune when a snapshot is taken. The default behaviour is to take a snapshot every time Topshare exits, but you can also specify that this is not done more than once on any particular day. This might be preferable if you're starting and closing Topshare frequently, to avoid 'using up' your snapshots too quickly and hence losing the older ones.

### Backups

Backups are a new feature in v1.12. The purpose of backups is to protect you against a catastrophe, like:

- Your hard drive suddenly dies
- There is a spike on your power line that damages your computer - no data are retrievable
- There is a fire in your house and your computer is ruined
- Your house is robbed and your computer is stolen
- Your grandson asks to borrow the computer, and accidentally deletes all your Topshare data

None of these individually might be very likely - but it's almost inevitable that *one* of them *will* happen to you, one day. It's a sad fact that most people don't take backups until the unthinkable happens to *them*. Use a proper backup program, and it will minimise the impact when the unthinkable happens to *you*.

In Topshare, taking a backup is easy - simply use the *File|Backup/restore* option. This creates a single "zip" file that contains all your transaction data. For the best protection, do this regularly (eg, weekly), burn the file to a CD, and store it away from the computer (preferably away from your house).

If you need to restore from a backup, it's easy - use the *Restore* tab in *File|Backup/Restore*, and open the backup "zip" file to restore from.

### Late notice - Erratum

Finally, we have discovered an error in '*Edit/Buy Transaction*', Topshare version 1.12b, that can cause the purchase price to be rounded to the nearest dollar.

This can happen even if you open the form on a transaction and then change a different parameter, without deliberately altering the price.

This problem will be fixed in a maintenance release within the next few days. In the meantime, please refrain from using *Edit/Buy Transaction*.

If you *have* used it since version 1.12b was released (on 12 March), please wait until version 1.12c is released - *and then check the relevant transactions*.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

*Chris Jackson*