

Topshare Newsletter

No 6: January, 2010



Topshare version 2.0 released!

After a gestation period of over 12 months, we are very excited to finally announce the release of Topshare Version 2.0. This release brings some big improvements in printing and report-handling, several new reports, and more functionality for what you see on Topshare's main form. Best of all, we've replaced the obsolete "BDE" database system with a more modern alternative that is stable and fast, and doesn't exhibit the occasional annoying quirks and bugs of its predecessor. This also means that you no longer need to "Run as administrator" in Vista or Windows 7.

New features

- **Full compatibility with Vista and Windows 7.** There's no annoying interaction with the UAC – Topshare V2 runs fine without any special actions or setup.
- **Three new reports:** The *Dividends Report* summarises dividends received, over selected time intervals. You can summarise dividends over calendar years, financial years, half-years, quarters or months. Dividends are displayed by company. As with most other reports, you can report on one or more portfolios (Owners), and can combine Owners or list their results individually.
The *Trading Summary Report* displays trading results over a selected period, from a trading or business viewpoint. The summary section has the following line entries: Sales, Opening Holdings, Purchases, Closing Holdings, Cost of sales, Gross Profit. There are detail displays for each of these items.
The *Holding Summary* shows a concise summary of your previous transactions and income in any given holding. A bit like *Full Transactions*, only quicker and easier.
- **All Reports:** V2 has a brand new system for previewing and printing reports. This allows

you to completely customise a report before printing, including sorting by any column, repositioning columns, and showing/hiding individual columns.

- **Revised Dividends:** the separate systems for *Dividends* and *Other Income* in V1 have now been combined into a single form used for recording all income payments.
- **Access more features directly from the main-form.** You can now right-click on any holding shown on the main form, and get instant access to *Buy*, *Sell*, charts, and *Holding Summary*.

Upgrading from V1

We strongly suggest you upgrade as soon as possible, because support for V1 will be limited in the future. Because this is a major program upgrade, it can't be processed through the normal "Auto-update" mechanism. You'll need to download V2 manually from the website. And you'll also need the V2 Database Updater, a separate download, to convert your V1 transaction database into the new format. Just click on "Downloads", and follow the further links.

If you first purchased Topshare within the last 12 months, you will already have received an email containing your V2 license code, and detailed instructions about how to upgrade. Others will need to purchase an Upgrade License Key – the cost for most users will be only \$125. All the information you need about the upgrade process will be included with the new key.

Just click "Buy now" on the website, and select "Upgrade your license".

Two different licenses

Topshare V2 is now available under two different licensing options. Both have the same suite of reports, charts etc.

Topshare Portfolio Manager

www.topshare.com.au

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- **Standard license** will suit most normal private users, but does not allow simultaneous access by multiple users.
- **Professional license** is designed for an office or corporate installation, and supports multiple users.

Updates coming...

There are a few planned features that just didn't make it into this first release, due to lack of time. I still intend to add these over coming months, and they will be the subject of "minor release" updates like 2.1, 2.2 etc. And, because of the large number of changes introduced in this version, it's almost inevitable that we didn't get everything exactly right. So you can expect a few maintenance releases, particularly during the next month or two, where minor glitches are patched up (maintenance releases will be labeled 2.0a, 2.0b, etc). If you're interested in what's changed in any update, check the User Forum (look under Support on the Topshare website).

For the beta-testers

As always, a big thank-you for your help, suggestions and patience during the last 6 months.

Did you know?

There are some interactions between Topshare's two EOD data systems that aren't immediately obvious, and have caused great confusion from time to time.

In short, if you use the Yahoo (free) download, it will override the subscription data service, which will just appear to be inactive for that day. Here's what is happening:

The Subscription data service is driven by the "Valuation date" shown on the main form, which in turn is derived from the most recent date in your "Prices" database. When it's time for the Automatic download, Topshare retrieves prices for all stocks (in portfolios plus watchlist) *since – but not including* – the Valuation date.

If you use the Yahoo download during the day, the *Valuation Date* becomes "today". So when the Subscription data service's download gets scheduled later that evening, nothing happens!

This may not matter to you at all – after all, you have some stock prices for today. But they won't be the true EOD prices, which are only retrieved by the Subscription service after the market closes.

We have plans to make this work a little better, but that turned out to be one of those updates that didn't quite make it into v2.0. It will come – soon – but in the meantime, you may need to be aware of unplanned consequences when you use the Yahoo download.

That's all from us

Best wishes to all our customers for what remains of the festive season, and we hope that the markets treat you kindly in 2010.

Chris Jackson