

Computer Hardware Configurations

MHT members who want to upgrade their computer hardware systems might be interested in this document. Several members agreed to share their hardware configurations for the benefits of the other members. This document is not an endorsement of specific vendors, etc. It is simply the sharing of various members on the subject. Thanks for their contributions.

First, here are a few links provided by members:

<http://www.evga.com/products>

http://www.frys.com/product/5908044?site=sr:SEARCH:MAIN_RSLT_PG

Second, Chris Reynolds shared his set up. (Sorry, Chris, but your photos wouldn't transfer over.)

Last week you asked for info on how some of us are set up with our computers etc. Attached are photos of my setup, a short explanation given below. I would welcome any feedback that you have to offer.

1. Office Setup 1

- TV on the left to watch/listen to BNN and CNBC.
- Desk top computer, under the desk, connected to the two left monitors.
- Laptop computer connected to monitor on the right.

2. HP Windows 7

- This computer is an HP Desk Top with Windows 7 installed.
- Left Monitor is an Acer. On here I view:
 - i. Trade Ideas Pro to get my searches done.
 - ii. FreeStockCharts.com for viewing charts.
- Right Monitor is an HP. On here I view
 - i. TeleChart Platinum, normally 5 min charts.
 - ii. Enter the Gap Ups and Downs, generated in TradeIdeasPro, and go through them throughout the morning.

3. HP Laptop Windows Vista

- This computer is an HP laptop with Windows Vista installed.

· On the laptop I view:

i. FHT

ii. MHT.

· Right Monitor is a Samsung. On here I view:

i. Interactive Brokers trading platform.

ii. IB 15 min charts.

Best Regards,

Chris Reynolds

Third, Scott Brooks shares his set up.

MY PURCHASE EXPERIENCE BUYING A
NEW TRADING COMPUTER WORKSTATION
By Scott Brooks

As I began to get more serious with my approach to day trading, I could not get past the need for a fast, reliable computer system that could keep up with all of the various elements that a day trader needs to be successful. Of course a laptop will do just fine when you are traveling, but if you want to have a clear picture of the intraday trend in the markets and be able to monitor multiple stocks all at the same time you will need a faster computer and multiple monitors. For example; I run My Brokers Trading Platform (Schwab or Interactive Brokers, Live Chat Rooms (MHT), Multiple Real Time Charts (12), Email, and more. I used to be able to run the basics on my older computer that used an Intel Pentium 4 Processor and 4 Gigs of RAM. But now all of the real time charts and indicators were bogging down my once fast computer. It was time for an upgrade. Here is what I discovered.

I searched many online computer companies that specialize in building trading computers that can keep up with running multiple applications and processes (charts, indicators) all in real time.

A Few of The Most Popular Online Computer Retailers Are:

Falcon Trading Computers: www.falsontradingsystems.com

Elite Trading Computers: www.elitetradingcomputers.com

Custom Trading Computers: www.customtradingcomputers.com

Blue Aura Computers: www.blueaurapc.com

After careful consideration and personally calling each of the companies I decided to go with Blue Aura PC (www.blueaurapc.com) Like most online computer retailers, Blue Aura has a great online user interface that allows you to build your own PC to your specs and personal needs. When you do this you can see how much each item you select will cost you.

Why did I choose Blue Aura Computers: Simple! May of the other companies would have definitely met my computing needs but Blue Aura had the best priced computers on the web. Period! They beat the competitors by nearly \$1,000 for the exact computer configurations that I wanted. How did they do it? Easy, Blue Aura is a small company. Each system is built one at a time, no assembly lines. And they have very low overhead. This guy is probably making only \$200 profit on each machine he sells. The other companies I spoke with tried to put companies like this one down because of their size and they all promised “the best” support and customer service. Sounds tempting but... I liked being able to actually call the guy that was building my computer personally and if I ever have trouble ... I could make one call ... to one person... the guy who built my system... and get my problem solved.

Here is what I ordered:

1 Trader-8000



- Configured Price: \$1,799 each
- Shipping Price: \$29 each
- Motherboard: ASRock X58 Extreme LGA 1366 Intel X58 ATX
- Processor: Intel Core i7 950 Nehalem 3.06GHz Quad Core (LGA 1366)
- CPU Cooler: ARCTIC COOLING Freezer 7 Pro Rev.2
- System Memory: 6GB (3x2GB) Corsair XMS3 DDR3 1600 SDRAM Triple Channel Kit
- Power Supply: 450 Watt Corsair ATX12V
- Video Card: 2x EVGA NVIDIA GeForce 9400 GT 1GB (supports 4 monitors)
- Case: COOLER MASTER Storm Scout ATX Mid-Tower Case
- Primary Hard Drive: 500GB Western Digital SATA II (7,200 RPM)
- Additional Hard Drive: 500GB Western Digital SATA II (7,200 RPM)
- Sound Card: Onboard High Definition Audio (Recommended)
- Optical Drive #1: Sony Optiarc 24X DVD/CD Burner SATA
- Network: Onboard 10/100/1000Mbps Gigabit LAN Port
- Case Fans: Default Case Fans
- Operating System: Windows XP Professional Edition
- Keyboard: 104 Key Generic Black Keyboard
- Mouse: Standard Black 3 Button USB Wired Optical Mouse
- Software (security): AVG Antivirus (FREE)

The Computer Chip or “Processor” is the single most important item to consider when selecting a computer.

This speed of the processor will determine the speed and computing power of whatever application you are running.

The processor I ordered is the new Intel i7 950. I don't know all of the technical stuff but this is one of the fastest computer chips ever produced. The processor alone is responsible for being able to "process" multiple calculations at the same time. So if you think about it in terms of trading. I have 12 "real time" charts running all at the same time (12 Processes) each chart has multiple indicators (Bollinger Bands, MACD, MA 20, MA 50, Pivot Points, Volume) That is 7 different calculations "processes" for each chart or 84 processes. I am running a trading platform with multiple processes. I am running a live chat room, freestockcharts.com and my email program. That is well over 100 different things that my computer has to be able to do all at the same time without skipping a beat.

I questioned the builder about the processor only being rated at 3.0 GHz because my 5 year old Intel Pentium 4 processor was rated at 2.88 GHz. He told me that there was no comparison between the old single core chips and the new dual core or quad core processors. For example the quad core chip in the computer I purchased can process up to 4 times as many processes just because its is a "quad core processor". Then you combine that with the newest processing technologies and you have one very fast computer.

If you do not plan to use this many monitors and or watch this many charts I am confident that the Intel i5 Processor will work fine for you with 2-3 monitors. In fact it will probably run the four monitors that I purchased, but I just wanted to be sure that my system never glitches or hangs up on my when I am day trading so I ordered the Intel i7 Processor.

I am sure that I am not doing justice to the real technical explanations here but its enough to get the basics of understanding the technology.

The next item to consider is the RAM: The computer I ordered has 6 Gigs of RAM. This is the memory that is used "on-the-fly" to temporarily store information and "processes" that will not be saved on the hard drive. I would suggest that whatever computer you get have a minimum of 2 gigs of RAM and I would personally recommend not getting less than 4 Gigs of RAM. You want you r computer to be able to think fast in real time. To do that its needs sufficient RAM (Random Access Memory) for whatever task you are performing.

HARD DRIVES: I ordered a second hard drive so I can create an exact "Ghost" backup of the primary hard drive. This way if my main drive should ever fail I will have everything I need on the backup drive. You may not feel the need to do this or you may have an external Hard Drive that you can essentially accomplish the same thing.

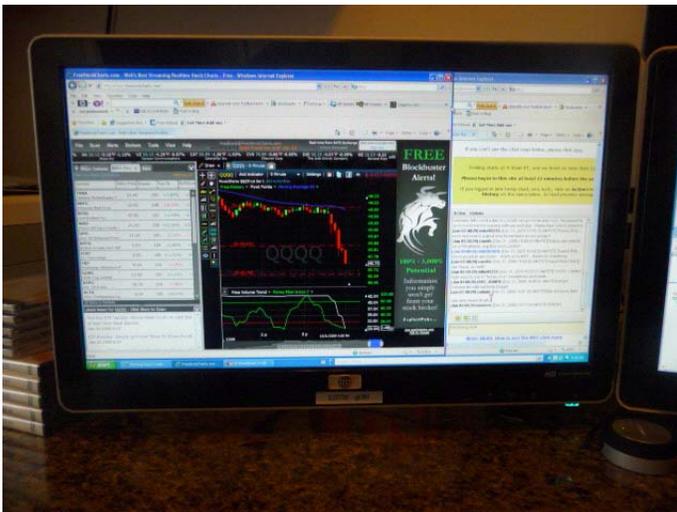
VIDEO CARDS: You will need to order the proper video card configuration depending on the number of monitors you want to run. For day trading, I can't ever imagine ever using less than 2 monitors again. I love the 4 monitor configuration I have now.

Here are some pictures with explanations of how I have it set up:



As you can see in the above picture I use four monitors. These are four (4) 20" widescreen monitors that I purchased from a different site. I did this because I thought that the computer companies were charging too much just to resell me a monitor that they purchased somewhere else. I purchased these monitors as "refurbished" for \$99 each and free shipping. I am not afraid of buying refurbished electronics as long as they come with the full manufacturer's warranty as a new one. Look at www.tigerdirect.com For great deals. Or just Google search for "refurbished 20" monitor" or whatever size you are looking for. These monitors are HP, High Definition monitors that have a DVI cable input. This is important because the computer you buy will most likely come with video cards that use the newer DVI cables. The old cable was called a VGA cable but VGA cannot deliver the High Definition picture quality.

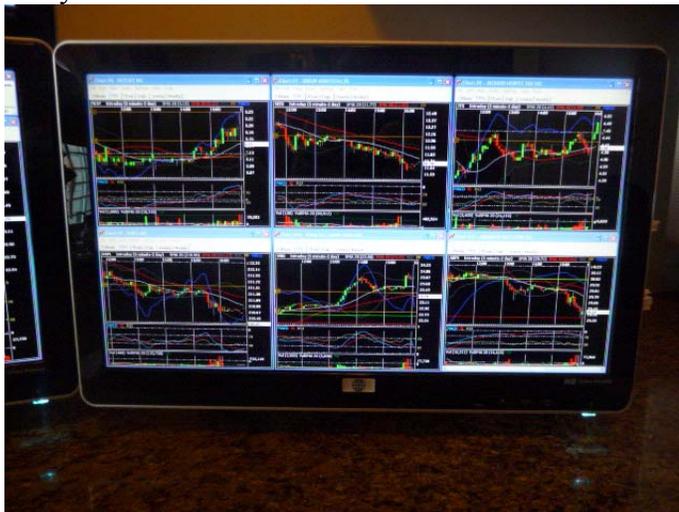
MY SET UP:



BOTTOM LEFT MONITOR: This monitor I have Free Stock Charts Running along side the Live MHT Chat Room. When Bob gives us the morning list I enter the stock symbols into my watch list in FSC so I can toggle through them every 15 minutes or so to look for possible entry points.



BOTTOM CENTER MONITOR: This is where I have my trading platform control set up and ready to execute any trade that I make. Whenever Bob says, “I am watching XYZ stock”, I enter it in here and get ready to execute the trade.



BOTTOM RIGHT MONITOR: This is where I have set up six (6) real time charts to keep a close eye on several stocks at once. This might be stocks that we are watching that have gapped overnight and waiting for a move and certainly I use these charts for stocks that are active trades. When we enter into a day trade, I enter it in on one of these charts and draw lines on the Entry Price, Exit Target and Stop. This way I can always visually see where the trade is at a simple glance.



TOP CENTER MONITOR: This monitor is set up to monitor the markets. I have a chart for the Dow Jones, S&P and NASDAQ. I also monitor the QQQQ's ETF because I trade it every day. On the right of this monitor I have some screens and watchlists that I use to help find potential stocks to trade.

Of course I had to buy an Ergotron stand to configure the monitors this way but I love this set up and I have found that my trading has gotten better because I can see everything I need to at the glance of a monitor.

The system was easy to set up and has performed flawlessly. It is very fast, in spite of the multiple monitors and 100 + processes that I am running each day. I am very pleased with Blue Aura Computer Systems and would recommend you check out their web site to see how much the system you design will cost. I spent less than \$2,500 and I have a top of the line trading system. Good Luck!