

Welcome to StockXloader—getting quotes from any stock market

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1 GETTING STARTED

1.1 Introduction

Everything you need to know in your daily use of StockXloader is provided by the application, through menus or help buttons. All documentation, including this User Guide, is available from the menus, so there is no need to copy any documents anywhere. Any guidance are accessed via the following entries in the Help, Tools and Application menus:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>User Guide:</i> | The guide you are currently reading. |
| 2. <i>Read Me:</i> | Contains system requirements, installation instructions, etcetera. |
| 3. <i>Release Notes:</i> | What's new in this version, version history, any known "issues" (problems). |
| 4. <i>Troubleshooting:</i> | Procedures for isolating the source of a problem you may experience. |
| 5. <i>Online FAQ:</i> | "Frequently Asked Questions". |
| 6. <i>Ticker-List Guide:</i> | How to write a ticker list. |
| 7. <i>License...:</i> | How to purchase a License Key for StockXloader. |
| 8. <i>License Agreement:</i> | The License Agreement for using StockXloader in either Evaluation or Licensed mode. |
| 9. <i>Product Page:</i> | The web page for StockXloader. |

1.2 Highlights of StockXloader:

- ◆ StockXloader is a native Mac OS X application for fully automated downloading of stock market quotes and indexes to the technical analysis program *ProTA* or *ProTA Gold* from BeeSoft (<http://beesoft.net>) — effectively building an arbitrarily large database of tickers containing historical quotes for the open/high/low/close of each day!
- ◆ It collects quotes from *Yahoo! Finance* for any stock exchange in the world that *Yahoo! Finance* carry quotes for.
- ◆ The downloaded information is then imported into the ProTA database. In the process, it informs ProTA which tickers are stocks, which are mutual funds, and which are indexes, options or futures, so that any new ticker is placed into the right category by ProTA with the full name of the security.

1.3 Basic Usage

The StockXloader panel and menu items provide what you need to know in your daily usage, and StockXloader will report any anomalies in a “drawer” below the panel. Before you start downloading for the first time, however, read this section and [Chapter 6](#) to get a smooth start without problems or unexpected surprises.

- ◆ The first time you start StockXloader, you are prompted to set the *Last Date* of downloads according to a choice of: 1 day, week, month, year, 5 or 10 years. That is just a starting point—you can easily change the date for the individual ticker lists later.

- ◆ Enter Yahoo tickers of your choice (with or without their full security names and types) in one or all of the four ticker lists accessed from the Tools menu: Tools > Yahoo Tickers (EU), or Yahoo Tickers (US), or Yahoo Tickers (A), or Yahoo Tickers (X). Each list is a separate plain-text file.

The guide Tools > Ticker-List Guide shows you examples and rules.

The three lists, (EU), (US) and (A), could be thought of as three regions in the world. What EU and US stand for is obvious, but A can be thought of as suitable for, or matching any of the following: Asia, Australia, Africa, Americas, Argentina, Austria, Amsterdam, Auckland, Abroad, Auxiliary, A-list, All, Alternate, Active, Abridged, Abbreviated, Addendum, Augmented, Assorted, Autonomous, just to name some examples.

The (X) list is primarily meant as a temporary “extra” list for getting quotes for some individual security you may be interested in. It makes it easy to “catch up” on a single security or a few securities without having to modify any of the other lists.

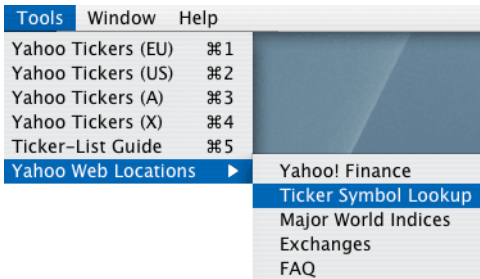
To find the right ticker symbol for a certain security (share/stock, fund, index, future, option, currency) choose Tools > Yahoo Web Locations > Ticker Symbol Lookup, or the shortcut equivalent Cmd-9, and then search for the security you are interested in.

- ◆ Basic use is of course to just push the Download button after having enabled/disabled (and possibly also reordered) *sources* according to your needs and according to the current time of day. Alternatively, choose the menu item Tools > Download, or the shortcut equivalent Cmd-D.

- For YahooCurrent, it will get the current intraday quotes, so to really get the true end-of-day figures, it is important that you wait until at least 15-30 minutes after the stock exchange for the requested tickers has closed! Check the Yahoo site for the latest information on the delay for the different stock exchanges: <http://finance.yahoo.com/exchanges>.
- For YahooHistorical, the quotes make it into the databases some time after the exchanges have closed, usually during the night. The exact time is not specified, and it varies, but in practice, the quotes usually lag about one day if you download in the evening after the exchange has closed.

To get the current quotes of today, you may want to enable YahooCurrent in addition to YahooHistorical.

- ◆ If you have a check mark for a YahooCurrent source (i.e for today), then, after a download, it will display the current date in the Last Date column for that row, but it will **not** set the Last Date for the corresponding Yahoo-Historical source! Therefore, next time you download historical data, it will download data also for that day, even if you might already have data for it. This way, you are ensured not to miss any data, since it is common that the data for the current day does not include all fields (open/high/low/close/volume), whereas the historical data might include that. Also, if the exchange was not closed when you downloaded current day data, you will want to have the real end-of-day quotes later. It is therefore recommended that you set ProTA so that new data overwrites data for existing dates.



Order	Quote Source	Last Date
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YahooHistorical[EU]	2006-03-15
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YahooHistorical[US]	2006-03-17
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YahooHistorical[A]	2006-03-10
4	<input type="checkbox"/> YahooHistorical[X]	2006-03-04
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YahooCurrent[EU]	
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YahooCurrent[US]	
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YahooCurrent[A]	
8	<input type="checkbox"/> YahooCurrent[X]	

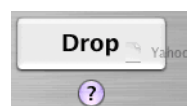
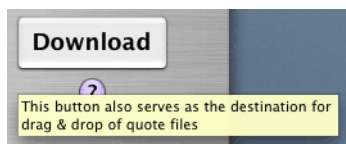
Order
1
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8

- ◆ Why would you want to reorder sources? Essentially, the reason is that the order of downloads affects quote priority—later values may or may not overwrite earlier values if you have the same ticker in more than one ticker list.
 - The current version (3.2) of ProTA for OS X can be set to either skip existing dates or overwrite (replace) data for existing dates (In ProTA: Tools > Universal Text Importer, click Settings Database).
 - If a future version of ProTA for OS X makes it possible to control Skip/Replace/Fill-In via a script, StockXloader might be updated so that it can communicate the appropriate setting to ProTA according to a choice in the main panel.
- ◆ The Download button will intentionally be grayed-out when you enable/disable or reorder the sources or change the Last Date. Press the Save or Revert button when you are ready, whereupon the Download button will be enabled again. Similarly, during download or after drag-and-drop of files, it will also be grayed-out until the process has finished.
- ◆ Your ProTA may be set in any date format you like—no need to use the US date format! Also, you may have ProTA set with decimal comma instead of decimal point if you like.
- ◆ After StockXloader has finished downloading, it will launch ProTA and show its Universal Importer for a file called Import2ProTA. At this stage, you can choose whether ProTA should create new symbols automatically or not, and whether to skip or replace data for existing dates, and if you need to map tickers to new names. You can set up ProTA so that it automatically makes those settings each time you import from StockXloader; read more about that feature in [Chapter 6](#) of this guide. With the proper settings, all you need to do at this stage is to click the button Start Import.
- ◆ After you have imported into ProTA, you may want to do Tools > Notes from the StockXloader menu, which will open a text document, where you can enter various notes, such as new or missing tickers, renaming or merges, changes etcetera. Other notes of relevance to enter in that file are information about various corrections you have done to the database.



Tools	Window	Help
Yahoo Tickers (EU)	⌘1	
Yahoo Tickers (US)	⌘2	
Yahoo Tickers (A)	⌘3	
Yahoo Tickers (X)	⌘4	
Ticker-List Guide	⌘5	
Yahoo Web Locations		▶
StockXloader Files	⌘6	
Notes	⌘0	

1.4 Drag-and-drop Usage

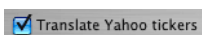
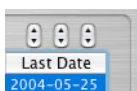


You can also drag files to the Download button; these files may either be those that StockXloader have already downloaded for you, or they may be files you have manually downloaded to complement some missing dates. They must **exactly** match the following specification:

They must be Yahoo historical quotes. They **must** have either US spreadsheet dates with either 2- or 4-digit year, or they may have ISO dates (yyyy-mm-dd). (You will automatically get one of these when you download data in spreadsheet format—even when you browse from a “national” Yahoo version), and each file name **must** contain: “(ticker)” where *ticker* is any sequence of characters enclosed by the parentheses, but preferably the actual Yahoo ticker.

2 STOCKXLOADER FEATURES

- ◆ The system treats current quotes and historical daily quotes of securities such as stocks, mutual funds and indexes. For a list of Yahoo tickers, you can:
 - (1) download all current quotes, even for hundreds of tickers!
 - (2) download historical quotes for all those tickers for many years back in time! (Provided Yahoo has the data.)
- ◆ StockXloader keeps four separate “region” lists, which you can fill with “arbitrarily” many tickers (hundreds, preferably not thousands) from almost any stock exchange in the world. They are simple plain-text files that can be edited with any editor for plain text. The reasons there are four lists are:
 - Due to time zone differences, you will want to differentiate your downloads, so you can make sure that the exchange has closed when you download the quotes for today.
 - While only one or two regions in the world might be your trading interest, it is extremely convenient to have extra lists for temporary usage, such as when picking up a new ticker for which you want to download a few years of data.
- ◆ For each ticker list, StockXloader keeps track of the last date you successfully downloaded historical data (really got some data, not just attempted a download!). All this information is kept visually updated in a live table so you immediately know the status.
- ◆ For all dates of last download, you can back any of them as much as you need—days, months, years—for building a historical database! Just click a row and then change the date by clicking date steppers above the table.
- ◆ StockXloader provides you with very detailed progress information concerning how the download and conversion proceeds. In addition, it provides a Message Log drawer that gradually fills up with various information as to how much has been downloaded, what is currently being processed, missing dates, empty tickers, error conditions etcetera.
- ◆ For Yahoo historical quotes, StockXloader warns you about those tickers that do not have any data or that do not have as recent quotes as the most recent ticker has—that protects you from being misled, so that you can choose to set the date back and download again at a later time when the Yahoo databases have been updated. This way, you minimize the risk of getting “holes” in your own quote database.
- ◆ After all the files have been downloaded, they are processed to fit the import specifications for ProTA and the character set used in Mac OS X. The resulting information is assembled into a single file, and ProTA is launched and told to import this into its database. The processing of each file includes:
 - pattern matchings to search and verify fields, and to find out what the latest date is that really had some data;
 - date interpretations and conversions, using 4-digit years in a format that is independent of your preferred date format in ProTA;
 - creating the appropriate columns from file content and file name;
 - optionally strips the stock exchange suffix from the Yahoo tickers;
 - insertion of the *full security names*, obtained from the ticker lists, into a column of the file to import into ProTA so that when ProTA shall create new symbols, it will automatically get the full security names—this way, you automatically get the proper names into the database without having to enter each name in a dialog; the full security names may even contain such characters as “å, ä, ö, ü, é, è, ç”;
 - insertion of special type codes that inform ProTA which tickers are stocks,



which are mutual funds, and which are indexes, options or futures, so that any new ticker is created in the right category by ProTA, and on subsequent downloads, the ticker category is automatically identified so that it knows which ticker to update;

- insertion of special control lines at the beginning of the file to import—which instructs ProTA to use the correct column settings, delimiter and number format, plus it specifies a named settings format that e.g can associate a named ticker mappings file (read more about that feature in [Chapter 6](#)).



- ◆ Help buttons are provided that guide you right where you might need the guidance, and throughout the application there is an extensive set of error handling functionality for a range of conceivable cases.
- ◆ StockXloader is extremely fast since it exploits many highly efficient Unix routines at the core of Mac OS X, while at the same time exploiting the best of the Mac OS X for its graphical user interface.

3 LICENSE KEY

Extended evaluation period

If the trial period has expired, but you really need more evaluation time, e.g due to a long “inactive” period, you can apply for an extended evaluation time. The procedure for requesting such an extension is provided when you start StockXloader and the trial period has expired or there are only three more days left. You must provide at least some form of motivation, although we are pretty liberal and generous about extensions.

Second license key

A license key is valid for one user, identified with either the login *Short Name*, which is the same as the name of the home folder, or with the full user name as shown in System Preferences > Accounts. If you buy a new computer, or use more than one computer, you will normally use the same account name and identifier. In special rare cases, however, you may have elected to use different such names on the different computers, despite you are the only user of StockXloader. If you really need to get a second license key, BragIt may offer you that if you send a mail to support@bragit.com and provide:

- * My full name = ...
- * My current license key = ...
- * The licensed User Name for the current key = (these are case sensitive)
- * The User Name (either 'Short Name' or full name) for the new requested key = ...
- * My motivation for getting an additional license key = ...

Note that the User Name (both the 'Short Name' and the full name) are case sensitive—Joe is not the same as joe. Naturally, BragIt can not grant you a new license key automatically—only if the statement of reasons is motive enough. Different people using StockXloader should buy their own license keys, unless you accept that they all use the same login account on your computer and they all work on the same database.

4 GENERAL NOTES

Dates All dates presented by StockXloader in numerical form adhere to the International Standard ISO 8601, which stipulates: YYYY-MM-DD, where Y, M and D are digits for year, month and day respectively.

Message log You can save the Message Log to a plain-text file if you want (use the File menu Save...). The name of the file is automatically set to a name that includes the current date, as in the following example: StockXloader log [2006-05-04].txt.

In the Message Log, certain warnings are highlighted in red. These warnings are not necessarily fatal, but worth reading. An example being old data for some tickers because new data has not yet arrived to the Yahoo databases; if only *some* tickers have received new quotes, whereas others are not yet updated, then, unless YahooCurrent provides the data, you should set the date back so that you really get the complete data for *all* tickers the next time you download. But if you are downloading old data, there might simply be no data for that ticker in that time period.

Location of StockXloader files The menu item Tools > StockXloader Files will take you to <your home>:Library:Application Support:StockXloader: That's where StockXloader stores the ticker files (the ticker lists). Temporary files are downloaded into a subfolder there, along with the finally converted and assembled file to be imported into ProTA: Import2ProTA.

How to reset If you delete the whole folder:
<your home>:Library:Application Support:StockXloader:
StockXloader will automatically recreate it and any necessary files in that folder the next time StockXloader starts. This will also reset the Last Dates of downloads according to a choice of 1 day, week, month, year, 5 years, 10 years. If you delete an individual file (such as the Notes file, or a ticker list), it will be recreated as a new fresh file the next time you run StockXloader.

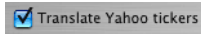
How to get a new ticker list template If you delete or rename a ticker list, StockXloader will create a new fresh ticker list template when you choose Tools > Yahoo Tickers (EU), Yahoo Tickers (US), Yahoo Tickers (A) or Yahoo Tickers (X), or when you restart StockXloader.

Ticker categorization StockXloader can automatically categorize most tickers into either stocks, mutual funds, or indexes. The method to do that is based on the ticker format: Indexes usually start with the character '^'; US mutual funds are exactly 5 characters long of which the last is an 'X'; stocks are expected to be all other tickers.

Version 3.1.5 of StockXloader introduced simple means to explicitly specify the category of each ticker. Tools > Ticker-list Guide shows examples and rules. This way of explicitly specifying the category is now the preferred method, since it is both general and robust—it enables you to specify also other categories, such as options and futures, for which Yahoo has no unambiguous syntax. ProTA is informed about the category by inserting a special character in the Universal Text Importer's type column.

5 NOTES ON YAHOO TICKERS

Translate tickers Most Yahoo tickers for non-US exchanges have a suffix indicating the stock exchange, such as 'ST' for Stockholm.



StockXloader can automatically strip this suffix if you tick Translate Yahoo tickers. Example: 'ERIC-B.ST' will then translate into 'ERIC-B'. If you only deal with tickers from one stock exchange (besides looking at world indexes), this may make the tickers more familiar and easy to read, but if you work with several stock exchanges, it is safer to keep the suffix.

Finding the ticker symbol To find the right ticker symbol for a certain security (share/stock, fund, index, future, option) choose Tools > Yahoo Web Locations > Ticker Symbol Lookup (or the shortcut equivalent `Cmd-9`), and then search for the security you are interested in. Beware though, that not all tickers carry historical data—as of this date, most futures, options, currencies and metals only have data for the current day. A recent exception, however, is EURUSD=X, which, as of this date, actually *has* historical data, despite it's not seen on their web page!

2-digit year interpretation Historical quotes from Yahoo may use either 4-digits or only 2 digits for the year, whereas current day quotes always use 4 digits (but in a different format). StockXloader converts *all* dates into the form 5-Oct-2004. This date format is independent of the one you choose in ProTA! Any 2-digit year higher than 27 is interpreted to be 19xx. The new scheme will also accept 4-digit years, so as to be prepared for such a change at Yahoo.

Close vs adjusted close The term *Adjusted Close* means that the Close quote has been multiplied by a value as a result of splits and/or dividends. All Close quotes that StockXloader imports to ProTA are the real Close quotes rather than any form of Adjusted Close.

Although files for historical quotes from Yahoo do contain a column named Adjusted Close, the majority of tickers for non-US markets have not been adjusted at all, despite the claim and despite splits really have been performed. And for tickers that actually have been adjusted, only the close is adjusted, which means that the open/high/low quotes remain untouched, which is totally unacceptable when charting these quotes! In contrast, when ProTA adjusts for splits, all quotes for the day are adjusted, i.e open/high/low/close.

To avoid the risk of getting an inconsistent database of mixed Close/Adjusted Close, depending on *when* you download, StockXloader only uses the real Close, leaving any necessary database adjustments to be made in ProTA under your full control. This will also ensure that when you perform such a split/price adjustment, ProTA will set the appropriate note that specifies for which dates the adjustment was executed.

6 PROTA SETTINGS, CLASSIC VS OS X

6.1 Classic vs OS X

StockXloader works with both the Classic version of ProTA and the OS X version (ProTA 3.x), but we assume that users now only use the OS X version of ProTA. If you have not migrated from Classic ProTA to OS X ProTA, you can go directly to [Section 6.2](#).

If you have been using the Classic version of ProTA together with StockXloader, and have migrated to the OS X version of ProTA, you probably have two Settings Files called Min Standard and Min Standard1 (in ProTA, see Tools > Universal Text Importer, click Settings Database). You can now safely delete those settings if you want, and also delete any “bogus” ticker names Min Standard and Min Standard1 in your database.

The rest of this chapter assumes that you are using ProTA version 3.0 or later, i.e an OS X version of ProTA, which may either be a regular or a Gold version.

6.2 Settings for the Import Format

StockXloader can automatically tell ProTA (version 3.0 or later) which columns contain which fields, and what the delimiter is, and what the number format is, and ensure correct interpretation of dates. In addition, it specifies a *Settings* file named `StockXloader`. The purpose is that it provides you with a method to automatically associate a ticker mapping file, and a few other settings that StockXloader itself does not control.

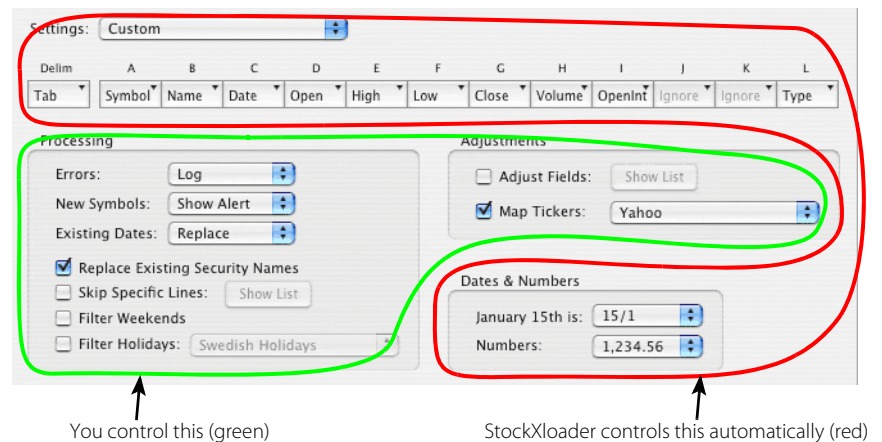


Figure 1 This is the import window that is shown each time you import from StockXloader. StockXloader automatically sets all items encircled by red, whereas the items encircled by green are items you control, and if you make a settings file called `StockXloader`, you can have those items set automatically each time you import from StockXloader.

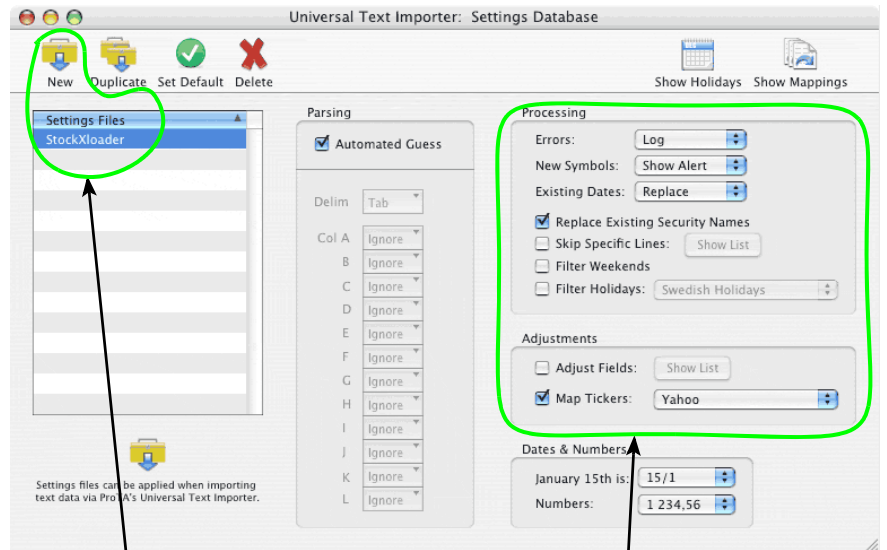
[Figure 1](#) shows what StockXloader automatically controls, and what you can choose to control. The latter items, encircled by green, can automatically be set if you specify them in a *Settings file* named `StockXloader`, which automatically will be loaded each time you import from StockXloader.



A common and very useful feature is the Map Tickers: by defining a mapping file, e.g called Yahoo, you can automatically have “awkward” Yahoo tickers mapped to names you are more comfortable with, or you can separate ticker names from different markets that happen to be identical. Once you have defined this, each time you import from StockXloader, all you have to do is to click the button Start Import!

Create a Settings File

You create and edit the Settings File from within ProTA. Choose Tools > Universal Text Importer, click Settings Database. [Figure 2](#) shows what to do.



Create this Settings File.
Must be named StockXloader.

Make the settings as you desire.
Create a Mapping if you wish.

Figure 2 This is the Settings Database in ProTA. Create a Settings File called StockXloader, and make your settings as desired. Ignore items outside the green line (Parsing, Dates & Numbers) since StockXloader controls those.

Next time you import from StockXloader, your settings will be loaded automatically together with those that StockXloader controls. The import window that is shown each time you import from StockXloader ([Figure 1](#)) will say that the Settings File is called Custom; that is simply because it starts with your settings StockXloader, and then control statements “modifies it” by setting the items encircled by red in [Figure 1](#).