



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper



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Revision 1.01, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2008

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**Publisher** : Accura-FX Limited

**NOTE: For ease of identification, changes since the previous revision of this manual will be highlighted in cyan.**



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## Foreword

First, I would like to thank you for trying the **Forex Auto-Scalper** robot though, in fairness, the name is not exactly accurate as it generally aims for much larger targets than a 'scalper' robot would.

There are two extremely important points that I want to make you fully aware of:

- 1) The Forex Auto-Scalper robot includes a number of **very** advanced features and principles which, together, will help you to make the most of each trading opportunity whilst avoiding some of the 'dirty tricks' which many brokers now resort to when a profitable robot hits the streets.
- 2) It is vitally important that you read the entire manual thoroughly before making any attempt to use or back-test the robot as there are some critical settings that you need to understand in order for the robot to function optimally.

So... time to begin!

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## Getting Started With Forex Auto-Scalper

The **Forex Auto-Scalper** robot requires the "**MetaTrader 4**" trading platform which is freely available from a wide selection of Forex brokers.

### New Users

If you do not have MetaTrader 4 installed on your computer then you can download a copy by going here and requesting a "practice" account:

<http://www.forexmeta.com/bonus>

I personally like ForexMeta as they are extremely helpful, they do not penalize robot users (unlike some brokerages) and they normally offer a minimum of one good cash bonus for people requesting a live trading account, however, you are free to use any MetaTrader 4 broker you wish.

**Note:** The instructions in this guide for requesting a live or practice account and subsequently downloading MetaTrader 4 relate specifically to ForexMeta, however, the actual setup processes of both MetaTrader 4 and the Auto-Scalper robot are exactly the same for the versions of Metatrader 4 provided by other brokers.

So, let us begin! If you visit the link above then you will see a screen similar to the one shown on the next page.

As you can see, you should complete the left-hand form to request a live trading account (and qualify for any current cash bonus) and the right-hand form to request a practice account.





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Sign Up Page - Internet Explorer provided by Dell

http://www.forexmeta.com/bonus/

Google

Search web..

Sign Up Page

## ForexMeta

FOREX TRADING SIMPLIFIED

### Open Your Account Now!

- \$500 Bonus Opportunity
- Real-Time Executable Quotes
- 24 Hour Customer Support
- Competitive Spreads
- Ability To Open Any Account Type
- Extremely Reliable Platform
- Automated Trading Capability

### Metatrader 4

- Free Platform
- Fast And Easy Execution
- Advanced Charting with Numerous Indicators and Line Studies
- Capability To Trade From Your Charts
- Autostrategy Feature So You Can Program Your Own Strategies

Live Account

Practice Account

Open a Live Account w/ up to a \$500 Bonus:

First Name:\* None.

Last Name:\*

Phone:\*

Email:\*

Country:\* [SELECT]

Clear Send

Signup for a Practice Account:

First Name:\* None.

Last Name:\*

Phone:\*

Email:\*

Country:\* [SELECT]

Clear Send

Restrictions apply to the \$500 Bonus. **See terms**

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Done Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%

Please note that you need to click the relevant **"Send"** button to submit your details... do not try to click the "Live Account" or "Practice Account" images just above the forms – they do look like buttons but they are not.

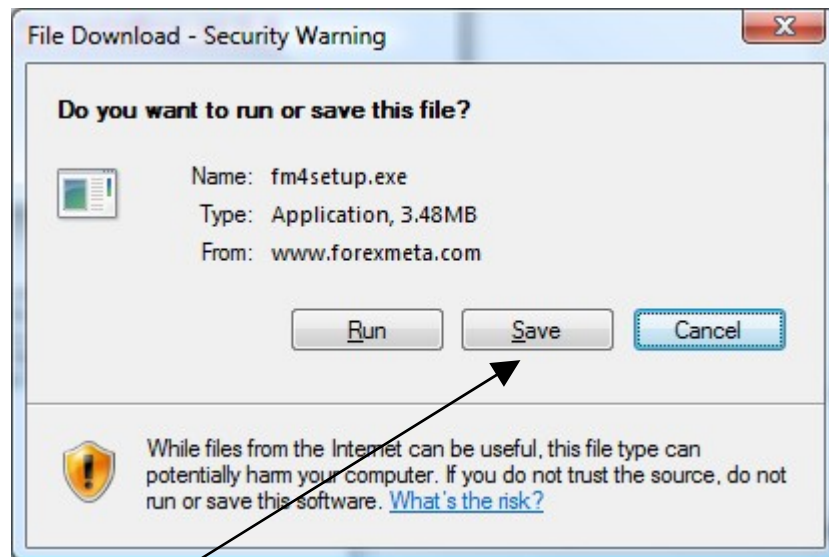




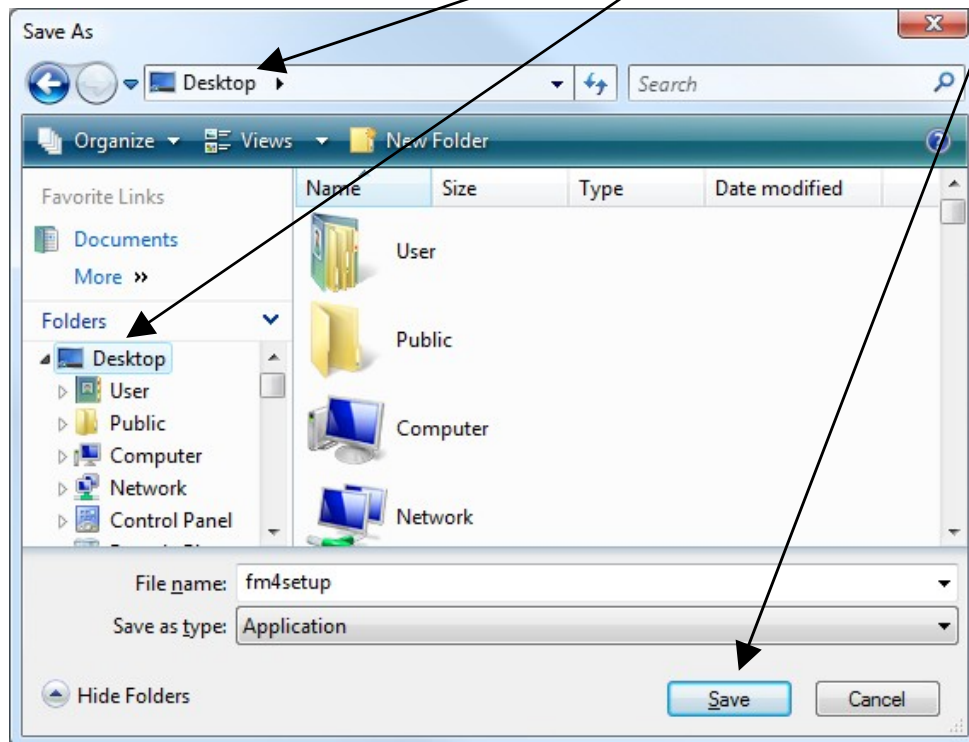
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After submitting your details, you will be presented with a link to download MetaTrader 4 - simply (left-) click the link and a download window similar to the following one should appear:



Either click the **"Save"** button, then select **"Desktop"** followed by **"Save"** from the window that appears next:



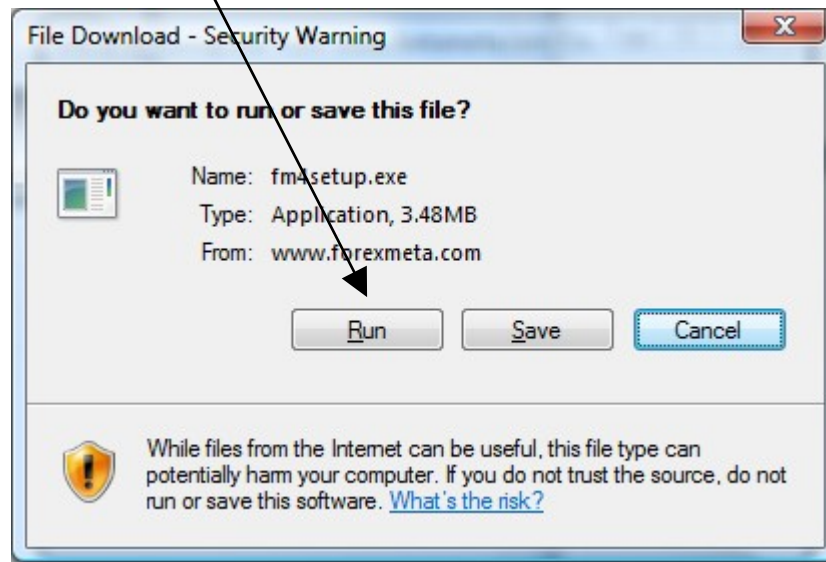


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...then double-click (left mouse button) the new **fm4setup** icon that will have been created on your Windows Desktop, or...

...simply click the “**Run**” button instead.



In either case, you are likely to be asked to confirm that you know / trust the source of the file and that that it is okay to continue – this is perfectly normal and simply part of the Windows security system so just agree to any questions asked.

Please be aware that you *\*might\** receive a warning from your Anti-Virus system that the **fm4setup** file contains a virus – this is not the case at all and any anti-virus warnings should be ignored. The MetaTrader 4 system includes protection code to prevent hackers from reverse-engineering the software - this protection code looks very “virus-like” to some Anti-Virus systems which are unable to determine the difference.

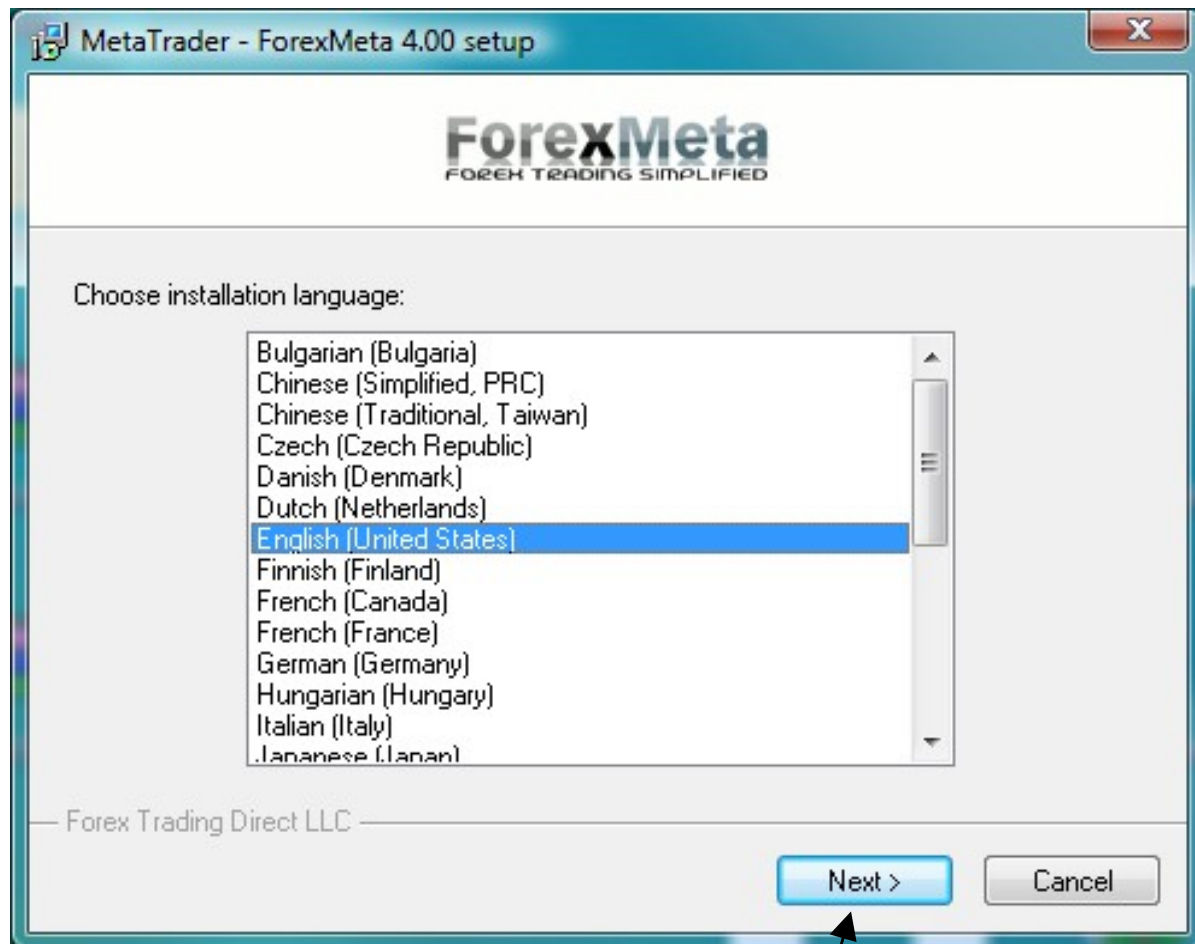
From this point onward, the installation process is identical...



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As you make your way through the installation process, you will see screens looking very similar to the following ones:



Select your preferred language then click the "**Next**" button to continue...



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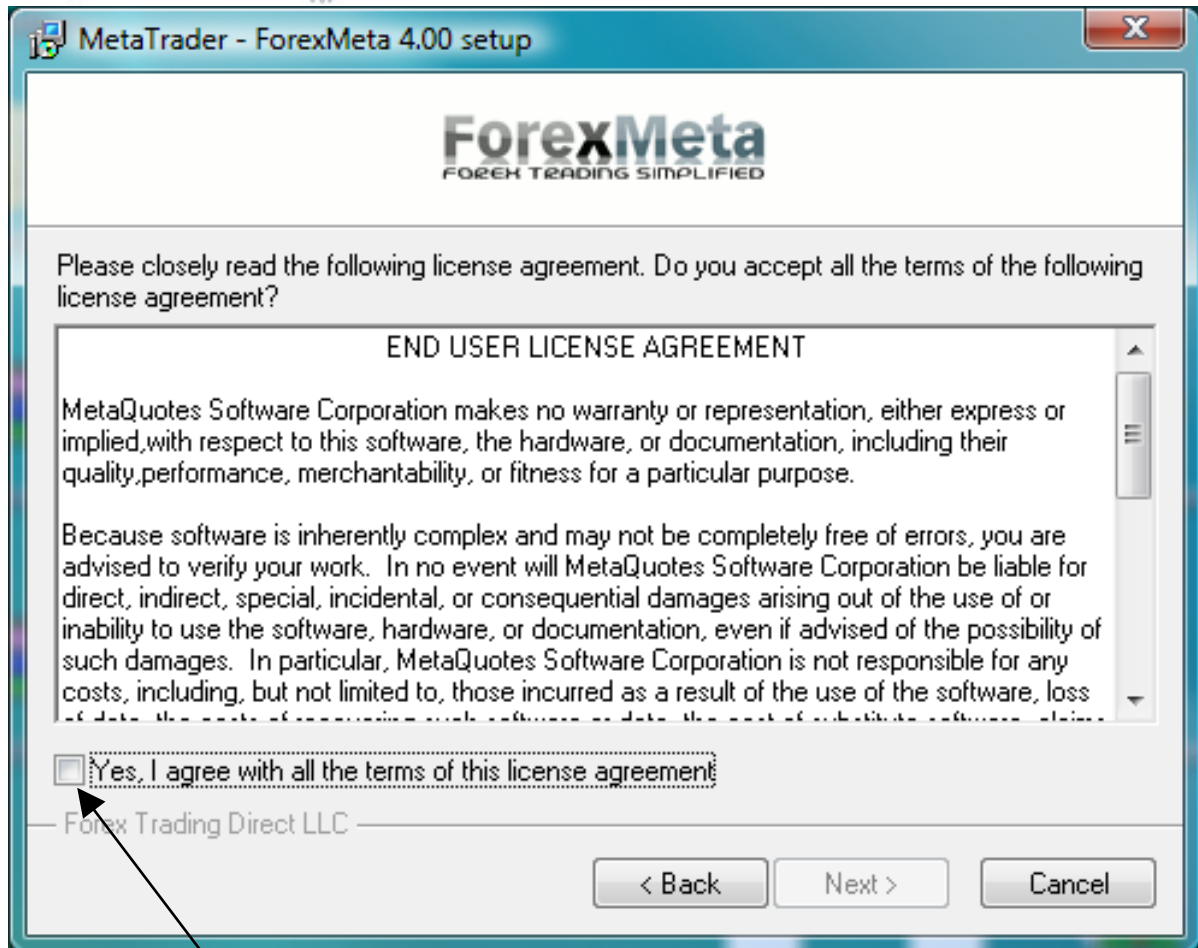


Click the "**Next**" button to continue...



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Check the agreement box...

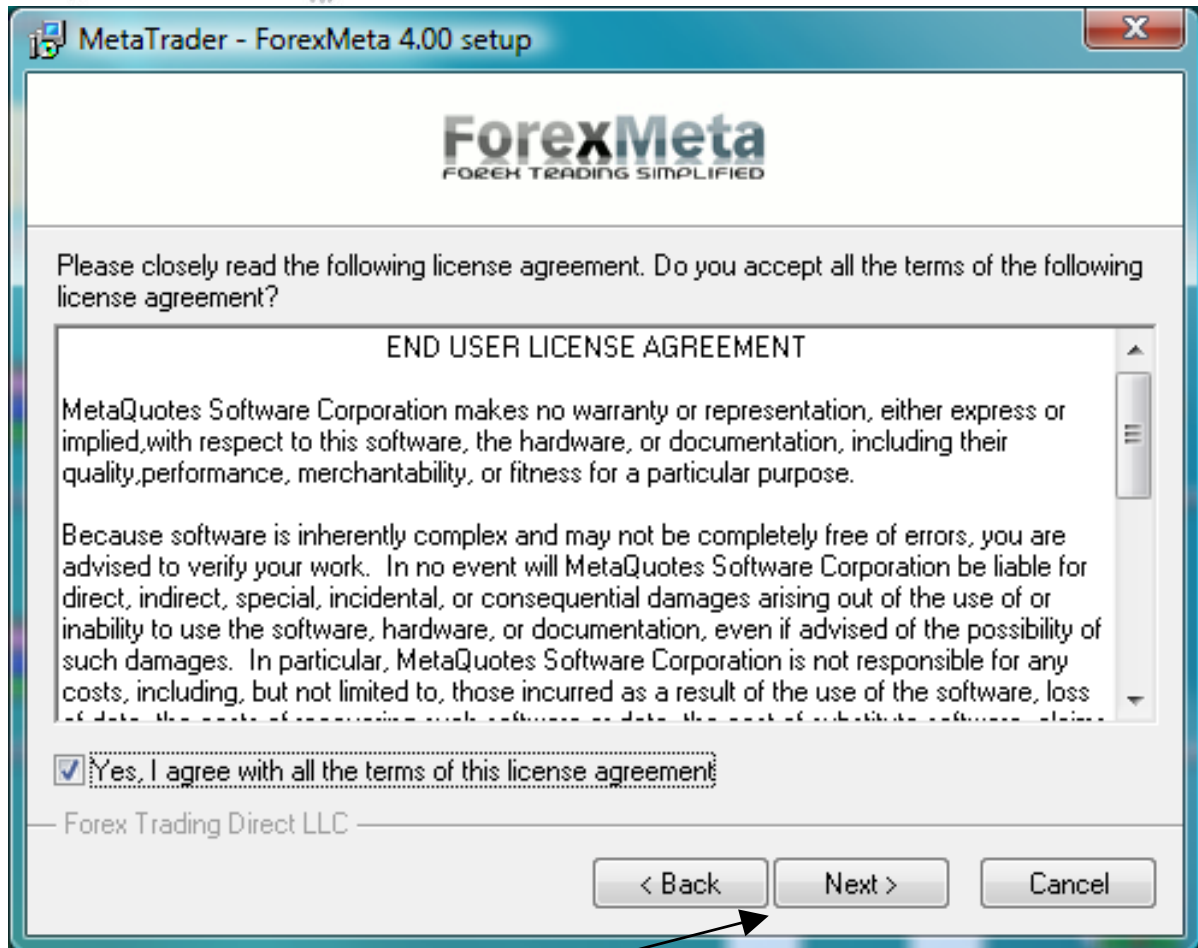
(the "**Next**" button remains inactive until the agreement box is checked)





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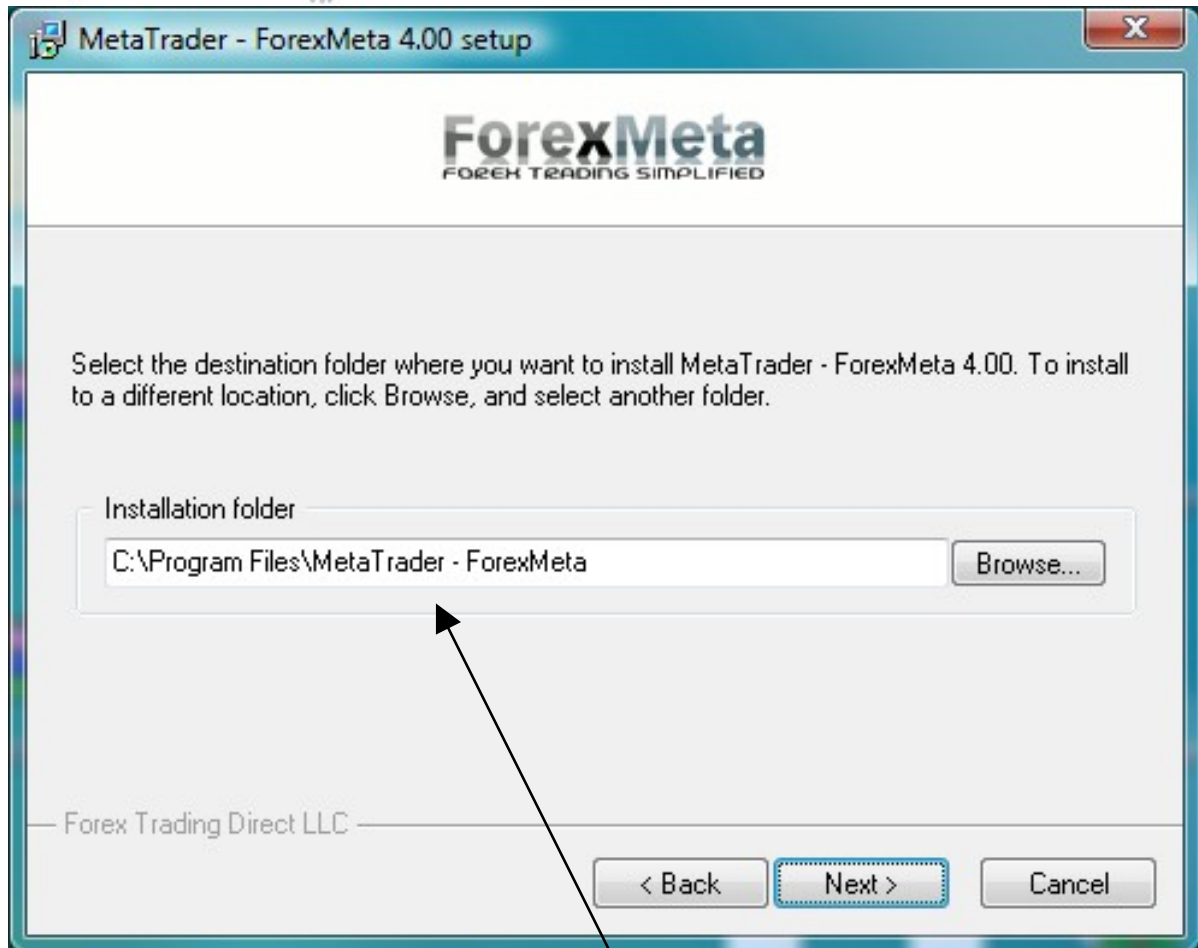


Click the "**Next**" button to continue...



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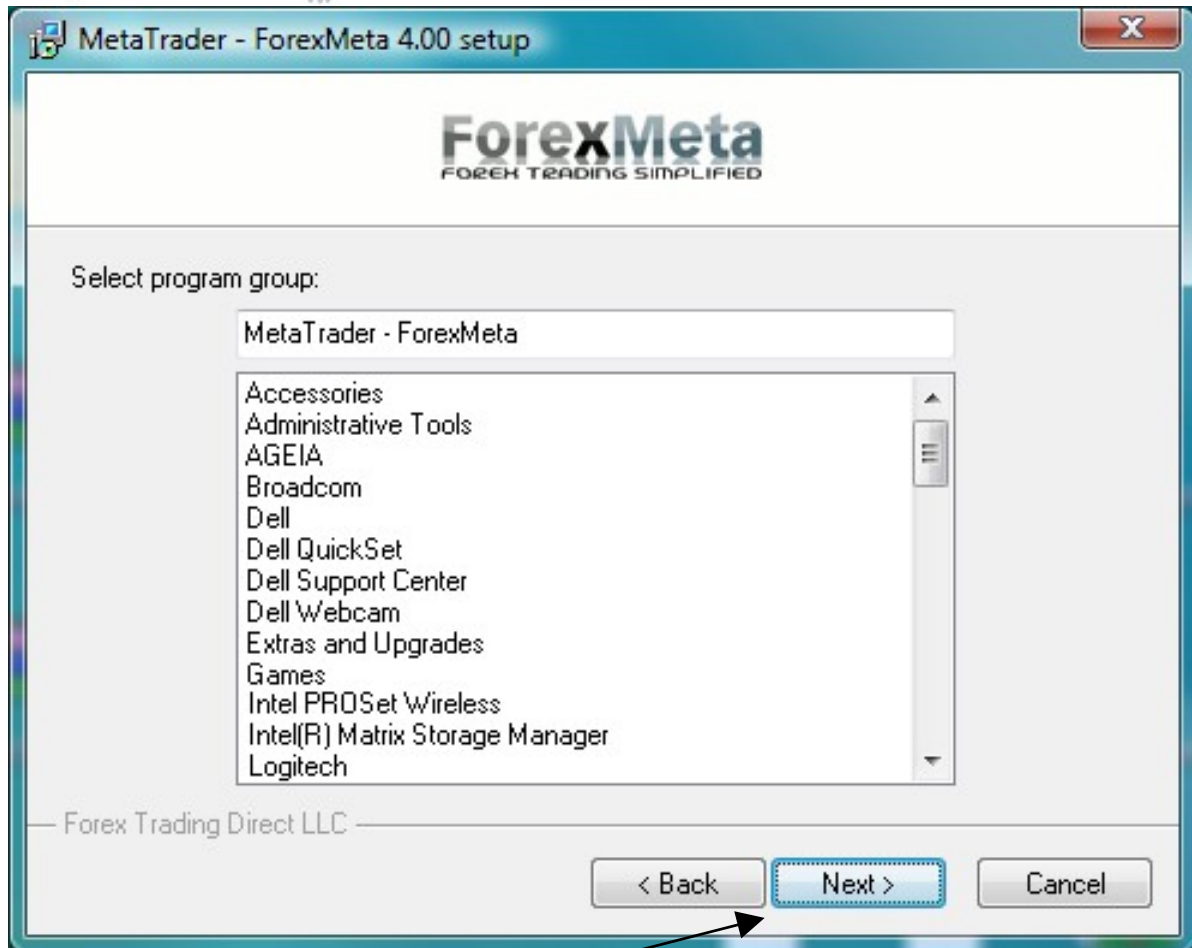
**Important:** Make a note of the installation folder – you will need to know it later to install any robots you may wish to test / trade.





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Click the "**Next**" button to continue...



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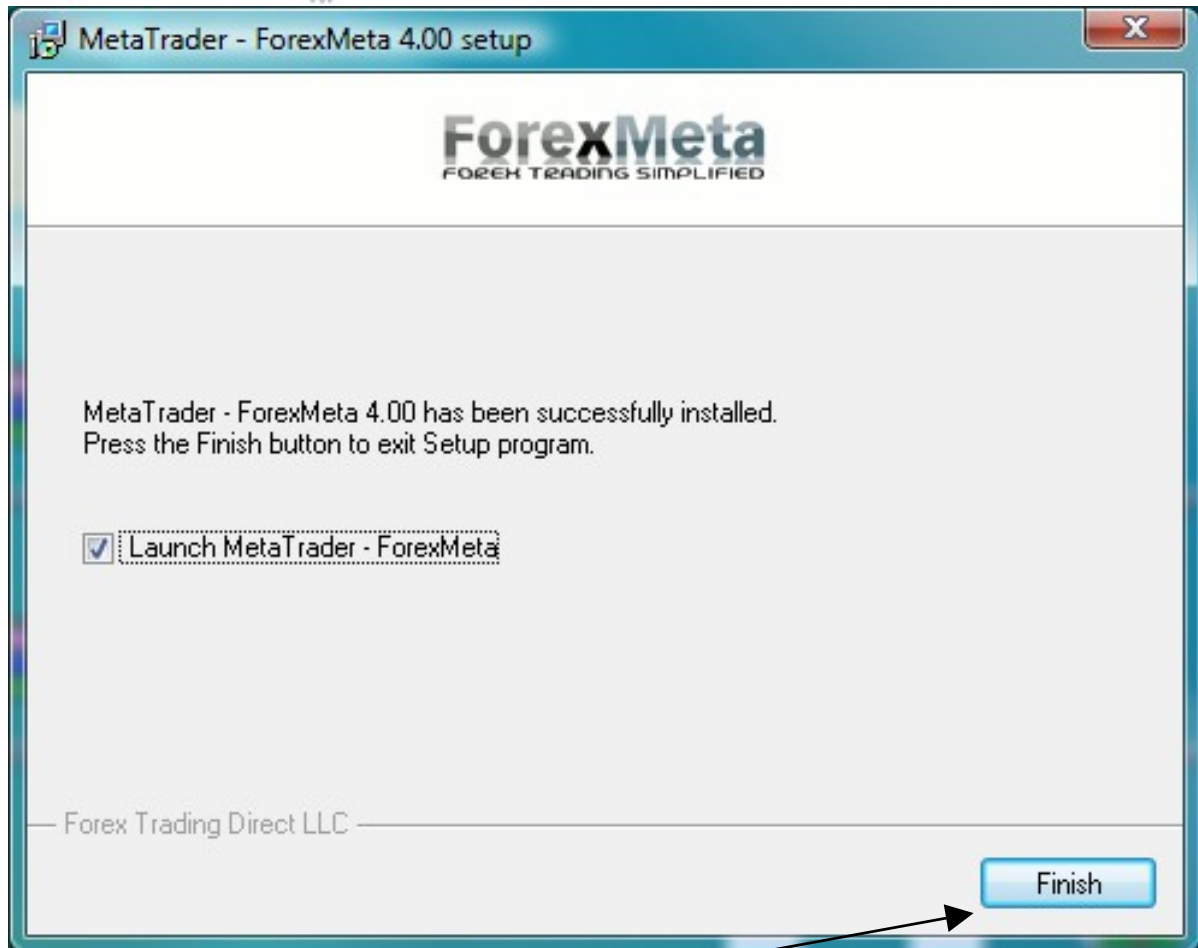


Click the "**Next**" button to continue...



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Click the "**Finish**" button...

When MetaTrader 4 starts up for the first time, you will need to create a "demo" / "practice" account.



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Open an Account

**Personal details**  
To open an account, please fill out all the following fields:

|   |                      |                  |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| Name:   | <input type="text"/> | min 6 chars      |
| Country:  | United States        |                  |
| City:   | <input type="text"/> | min 2 chars      |
| State:  | <input type="text"/> | min 2 chars      |
| Zip code:   | <input type="text"/> | min 3 chars      |
| Address:  | <input type="text"/> | min 6 chars      |
| Phone:  | <input type="text"/> | min 6 chars      |
| Email:  | <input type="text"/> | name@company.com |
| Account Type:   | FxMeta               |                  |
| Currency:   | USD                  |                  |
| Leverage:   | 1:200                |                  |
| Deposit:  | 5000                 |                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I agree to subscribe to your newsletters |                      |                  |

< Back   Next >   Cancel

First, complete...

...the details shown in **red**

...then select your country

...then check the agreement box...



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...then change the **"Account Type"**, **"Leverage"** and **"Deposit"** settings as shown for maximum compatibility with various expert advisors you may wish to try out. Of course, you can leave the Leverage setting at 200:1 (some brokers even offer higher ratios!) if you are not aiming to compare robots on a "like-for-like" basis.

If you are considering funding a live account with an amount between \$500 and \$10,000 then the "Deposit" setting for your demo account should ideally be 10x that amount.

The reason is actually very simple: When you fund a live account with up to \$10,000, the smallest order size permitted is 0.01 lots. Demo / practice accounts, however, cannot open orders smaller than 0.1 lots i.e. 10x larger on many MetaTrader versions.

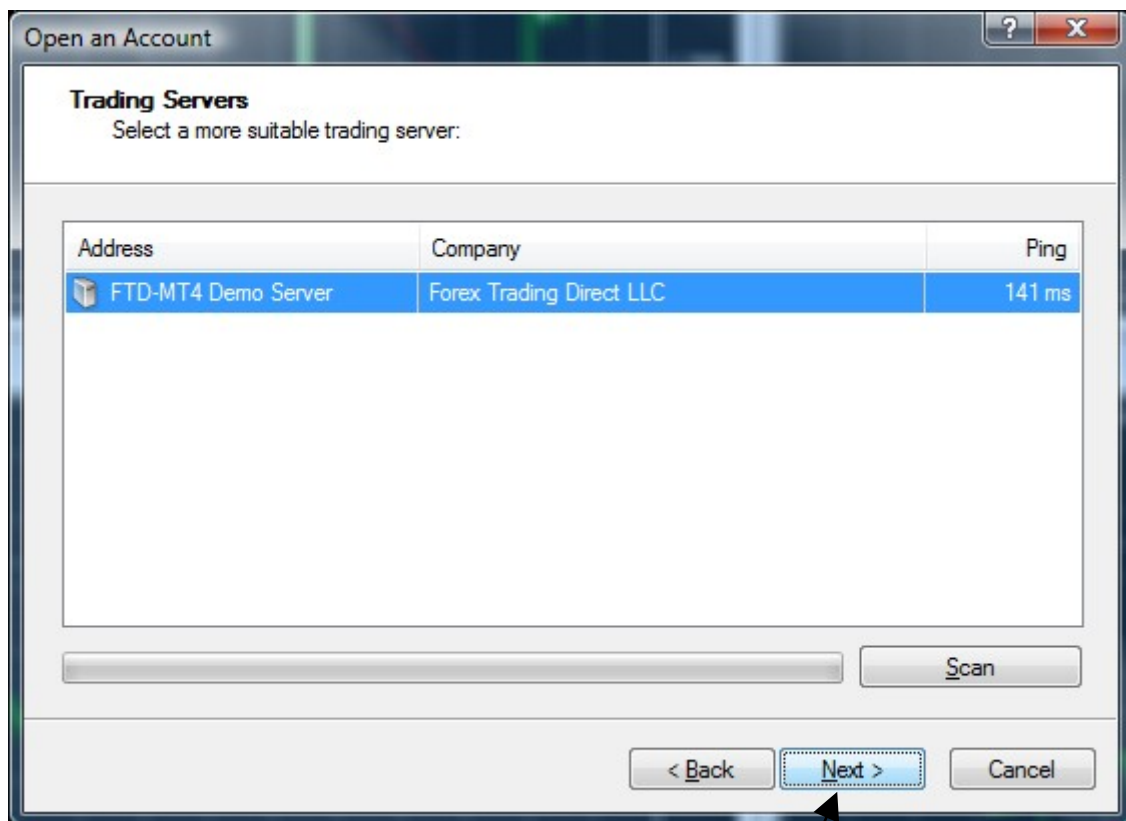
This can produce vastly skewed results when comparing demo trades with live trades so, to compensate, we simply increase the demo account deposit by a factor of 10 so, for example, if you plan to open a \$5,000



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live account then specify a \$50,000 demo account - the larger demo account deposit therefore provides a means of comparing systems on a more level playing field.



Normally on this screen you can just click the "**Next**" button to continue...  
(if more than one server is listed, select one with "Demo" in its name, otherwise just leave the default server selected)





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Open an Account

**Registration**  
Wait a little, please

Name: Demo Trader  
Account Type: demoFxMeta-usd (1:100)  
Deposit: 10000  
Server: FTD-MT4 Demo Server

Login: **6071348**  
Password: **zdk4kt**  
Investor: **akkh5km** (read only password)

Please keep your username and passwords in a safe place.

< Back Finish Cancel

Finally, click the "**Finish**" button to complete the installation process.





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## Existing Users

If you already have MetaTrader 4 installed on your computer then the first step is to ensure that you have the most recent version. To do this, click "**Help**" in the main MetaTrader 4 menu, then click "**About...**" - a window similar to this:



...will appear showing the version and 'build' details plus the date it was released.

**Note:** The Forex Auto-Scalper robot requires **Build 220** or higher.

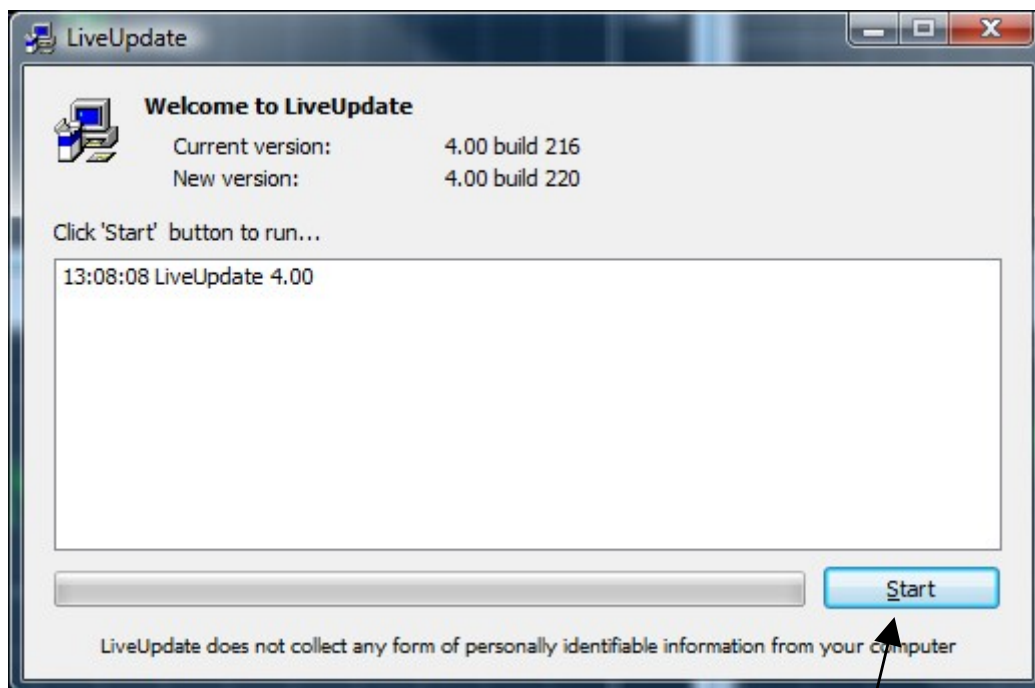
Under normal circumstances, MetaTrader 4 will automatically check for newer builds each time you start the application and will immediately offer you the opportunity of updating your version. If you find that an earlier version is installed on your computer and you are not being offered the option of updating then please call your broker for assistance.



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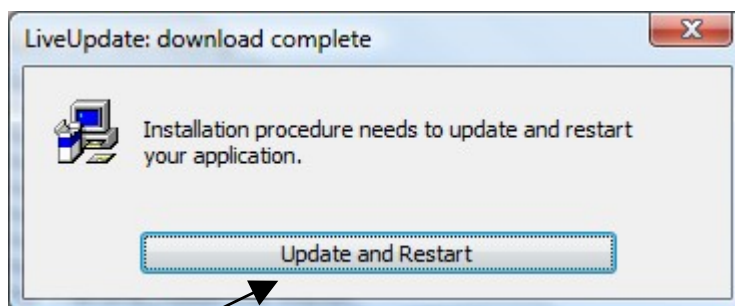
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Assuming that everything is working correctly, you will see a screen similar to this:



Whenever you see a screen like this, click the **“Start”** button and MetaTrader 4 will update itself to the latest release. The process does not take very long and will reduce the possibility of you encountering issues with robots that you may wish to use.

Once complete, the following screen appears:



Click the **“Update and Restart”** button to launch the updated version of MetaTrader 4.

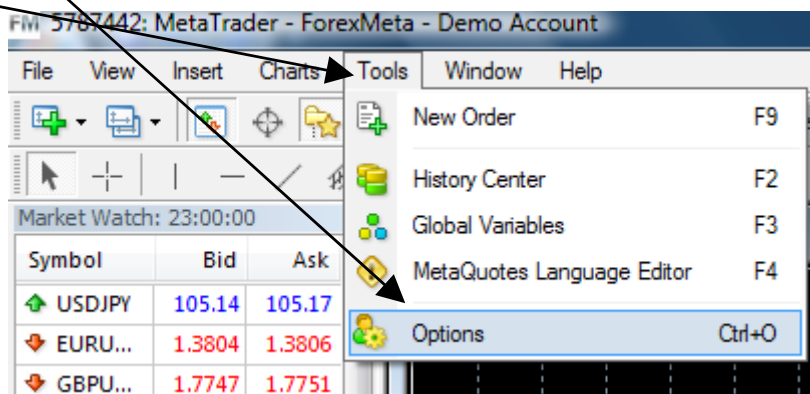


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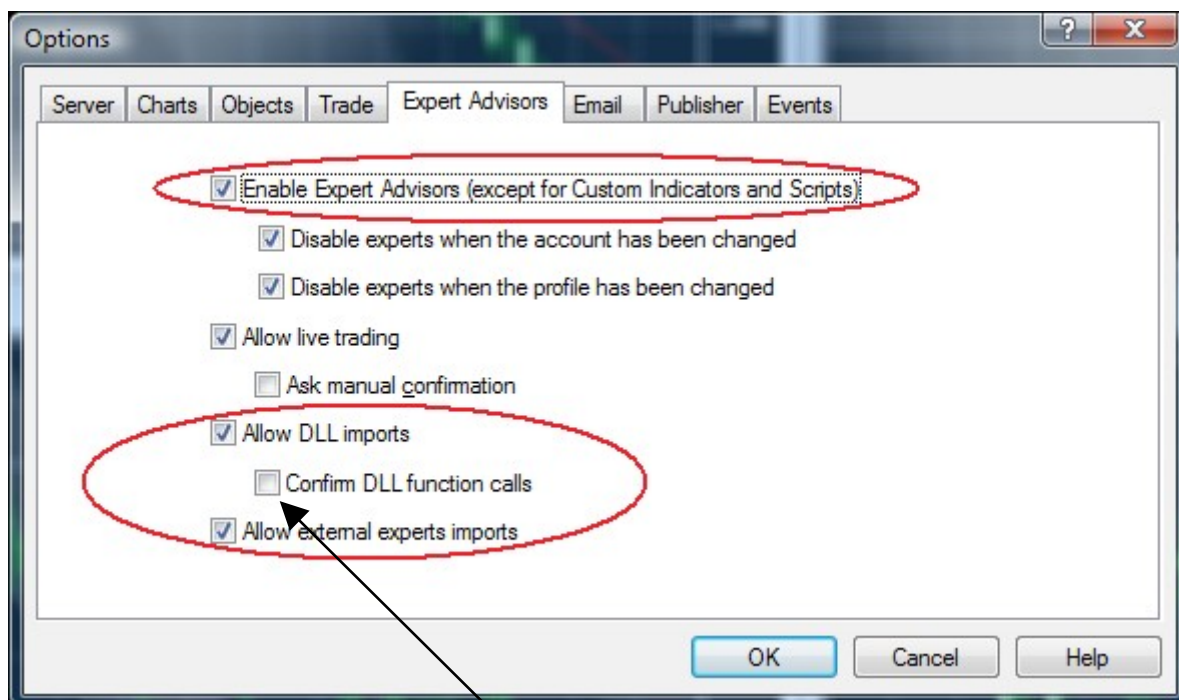
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## Configuring MetaTrader 4

Once MetaTrader 4 has been installed, the next thing to do is go to the **Tools – Options** menu.



Select the **Expert Advisors** tab and ensure that the highlighted options are set **exactly** as shown below:



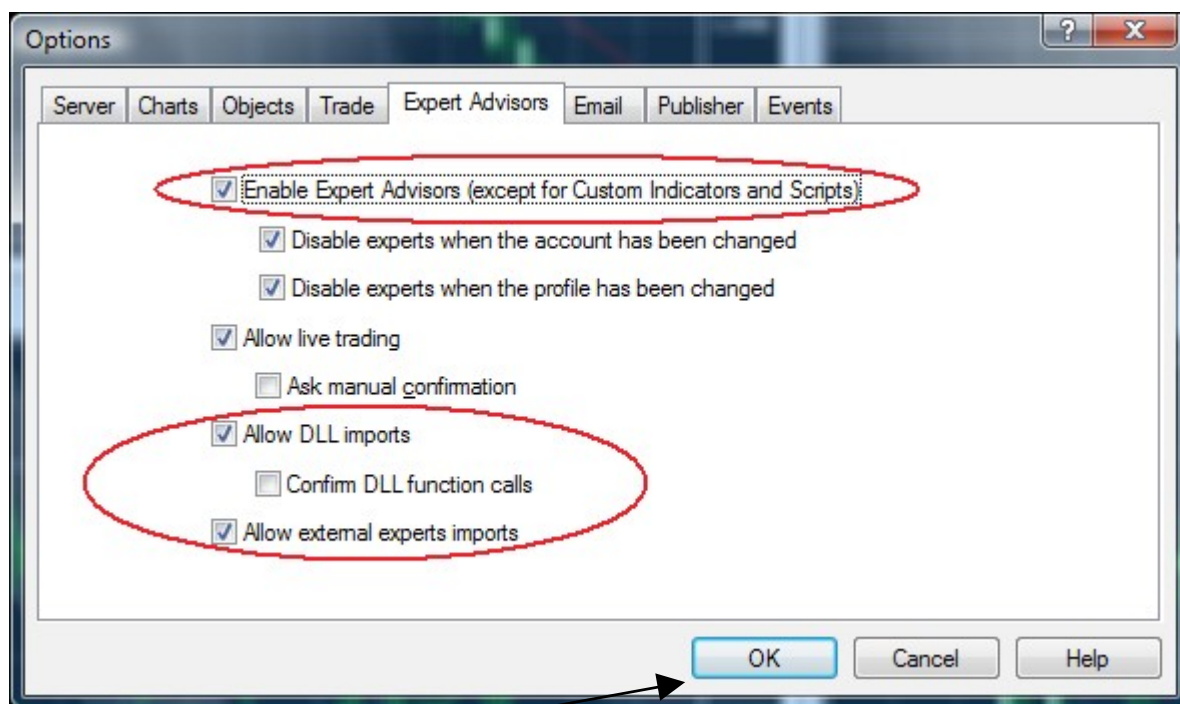
Do **not** overlook the "Confirm DLL function calls" option (which should be **unchecked**) when doing this or the robot will not function correctly later. You may also wish to uncheck "Disable experts when the account has



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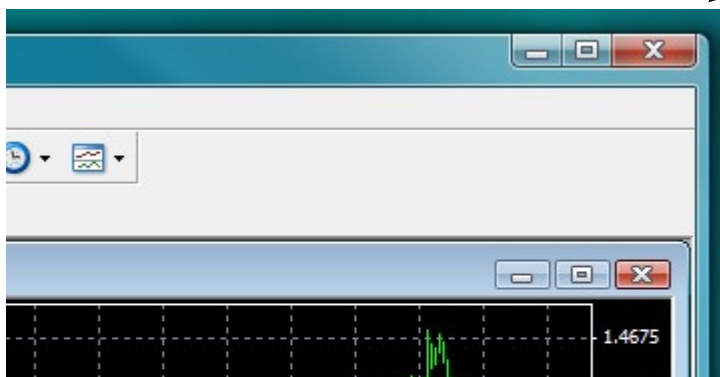
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been changed" and "Disable experts when the profile has been changed" options though this is more of a convenience rather than a requirement.



Click the **"OK"** button to continue.

The next stage is to install the Forex Auto-Scalper robot but before doing so, Metatrader 4 should be closed down by clicking the large **"X"** button in the top-right of the application window as shown:





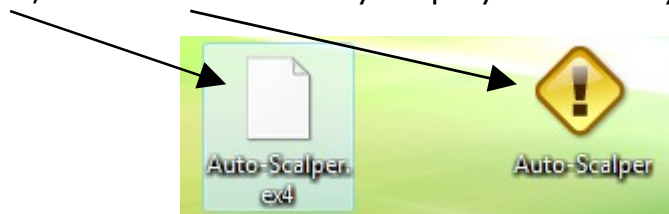
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## Installing the Forex Auto-Scalper Robot

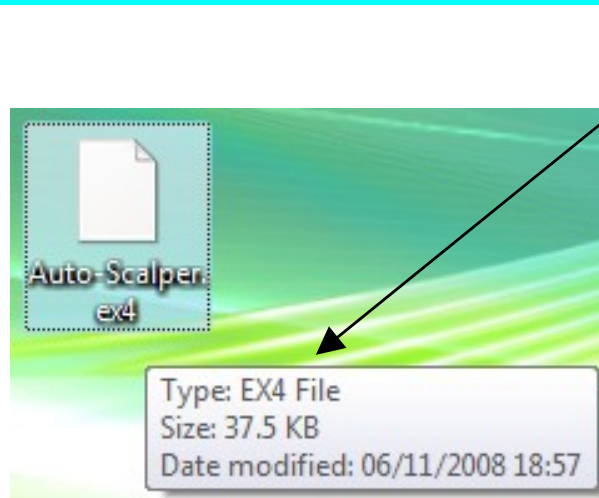
Once you have the robot on your Windows Desktop, you will need to locate the icon. Please note that the robot is a ".ex4" file, not a ".exe" file. Do **NOT** attempt to execute it as it will not run as a Windows application.

Depending upon how your computer is set up, the Auto-Scalper icon may look like this,... like this... or may display an entirely different icon image.



The actual icon image displayed is not relevant and in no way affects the operation of the robot.

Whilst the icon image is not relevant, please be careful to locate the correct file – do not confuse the robot file with any other "Auto-Scalper" file – if you are in any way unsure, click the icon once then hover your mouse over the highlighted icon – you will see a small panel appear with some details about the file. The details should state "Type: EX4 File".



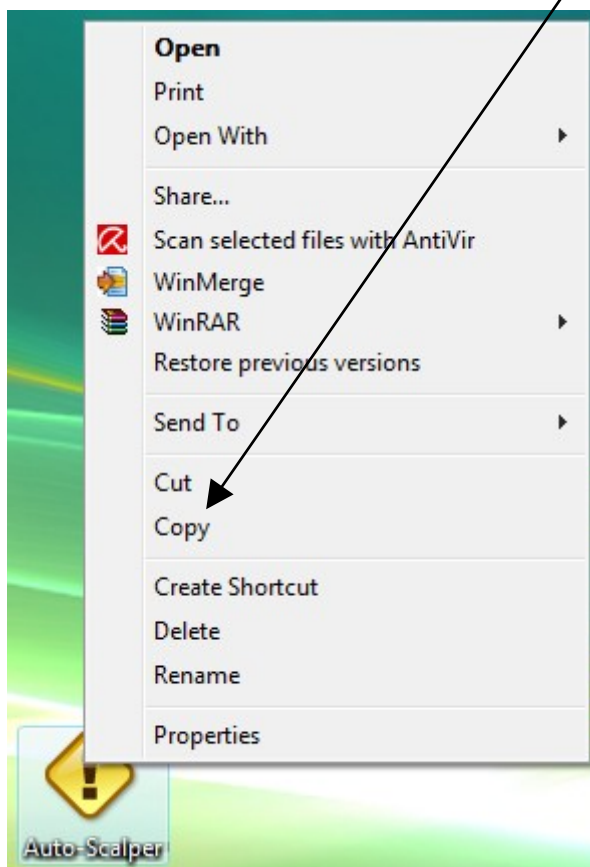




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Once located, simply click the Auto-Scalper icon using your right mouse button to bring up the context menu and select "**Copy**".



The next thing to do is locate the correct folder to install the robot into.

As standard, **all** installations of MetaTrader 4 follow a specific convention for installing the various files which make up the MetaTrader system:

**C:\Program Files\MetaTrader Folder\experts**

**Primary Path**

**Application Folder**

**Robots Folder**

Unless you have deliberately chosen a different location, the Primary Path (C:\Program Files) will always remain constant. The only variation appears in the newer 64-bit (x64) versions of Windows where older, 32-bit applications such as MetaTrader 4 are installed into the "C:\Program Files (x32)" folder.



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By contrast, the Application Folder varies for every broker providing MetaTrader 4 and is the reason for the earlier suggestion to make a note of the installation folder during the MetaTrader 4 installation process.

If you are not certain where your installation is located then one simple way to find out is to position your mouse cursor directly over (do **not** click!) the icon on your Windows Desktop that you use to start MetaTrader 4...



...and the location will be displayed. As you can see, in this case it is:

**"C:\Program Files\MetaTrader – ForexMeta"**



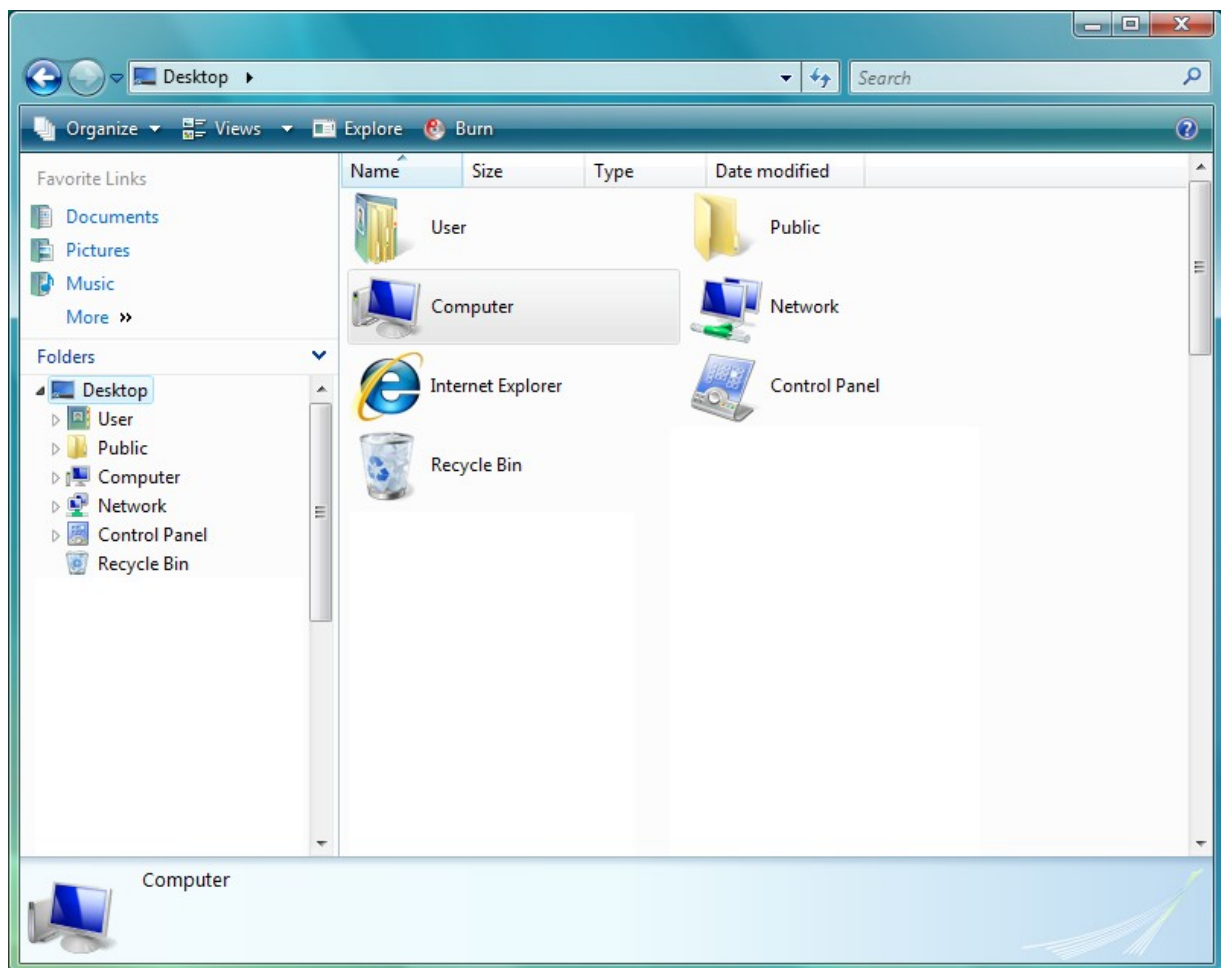


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Having confirmed the location of MetaTrader 4, it is a simple task to navigate there and install the robot.

To do this, you can use either the **My Computer** (Windows XP) or **Computer** (Windows Vista) utilities located on your **Start** menu:



Begin by navigating to the "Program Files" folder which is under:

"My Computer – Local Disk (C:)" for Windows XP, and

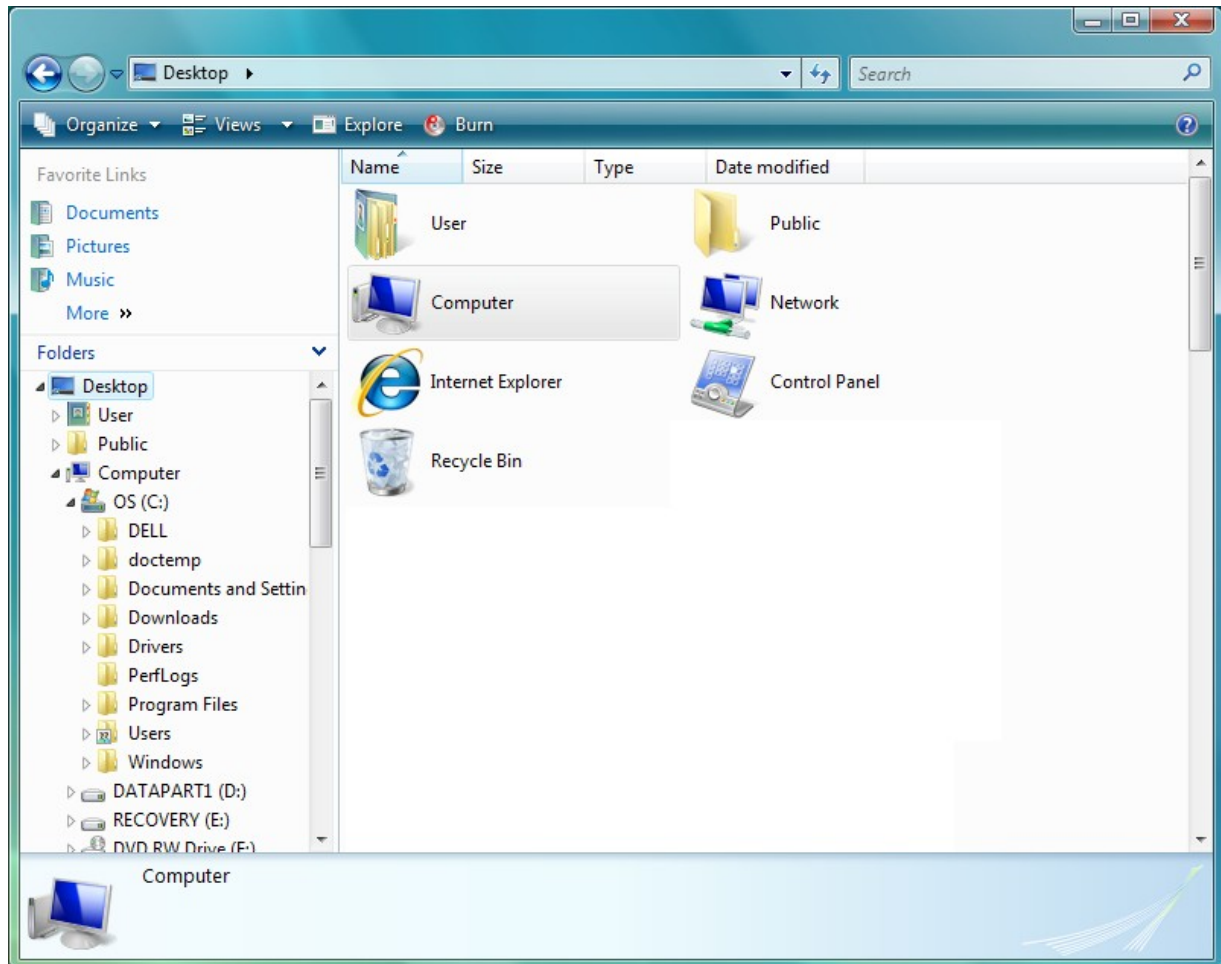
"Desktop – Computer – ???? (C:)" (where "???" is the drive name) on Windows Vista



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...as shown below:



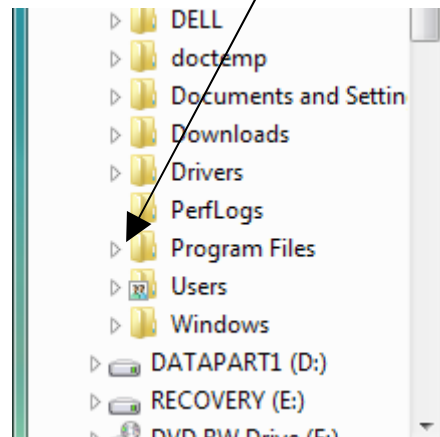
This example shows Windows Vista but Windows XP looks quite similar and intuitive.



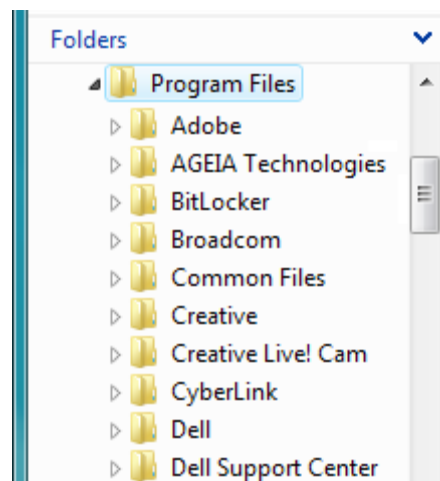
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The next thing to do is expand out the "Program Files" folder by clicking the small **[+]** (Windows XP), or small arrow (Windows Vista) to the left of it...



...so it looks something like this:

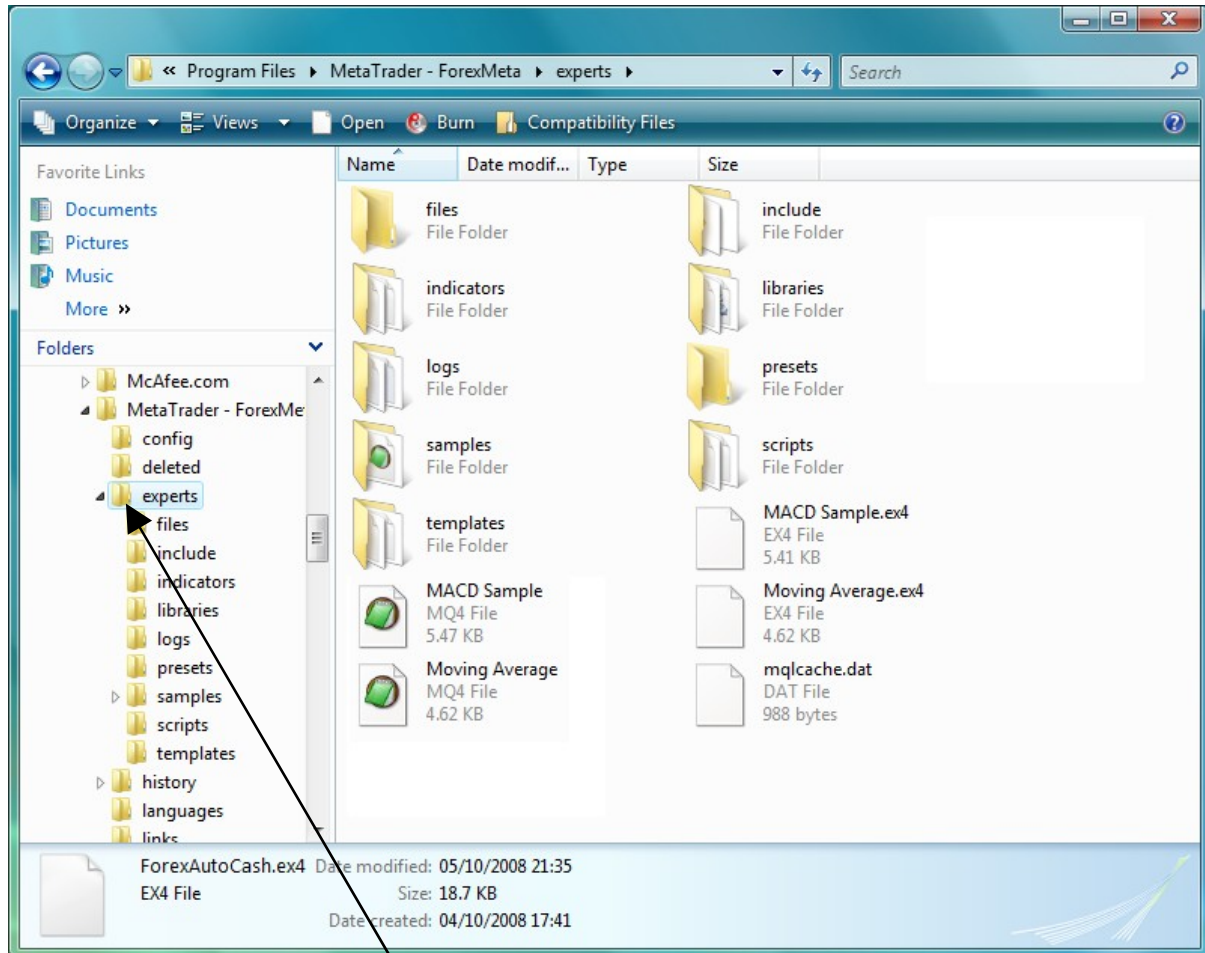




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Now, scroll through the list of folders to locate the installation folder for MetaTrader and expand that too, followed by the "experts" folder:

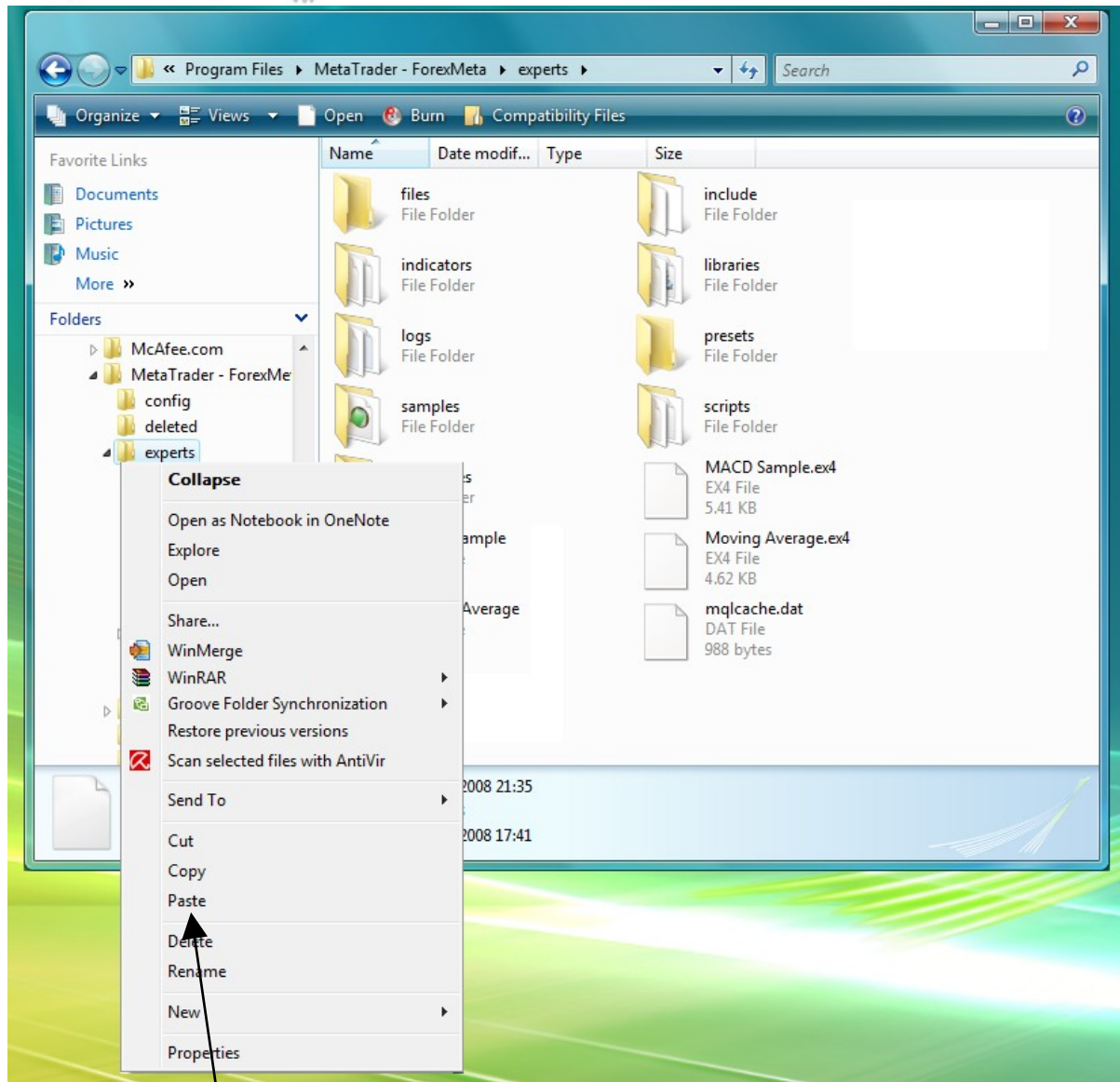


By simply clicking the "experts" folder icon using your right mouse button (to bring up the context menu) and selecting "**Paste**"...



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...as shown here, the robot will appear in the "experts" folder...

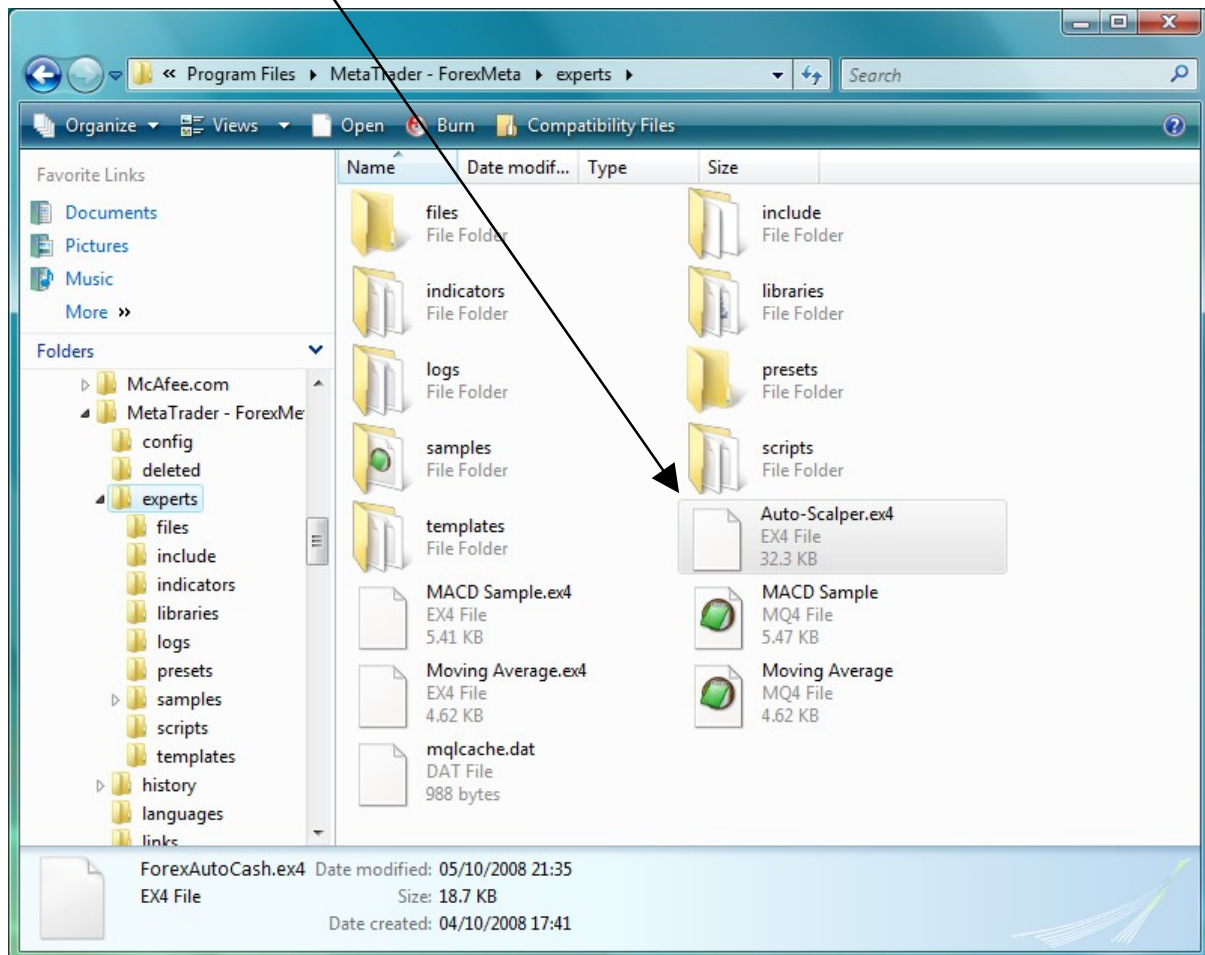




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...as you can see:



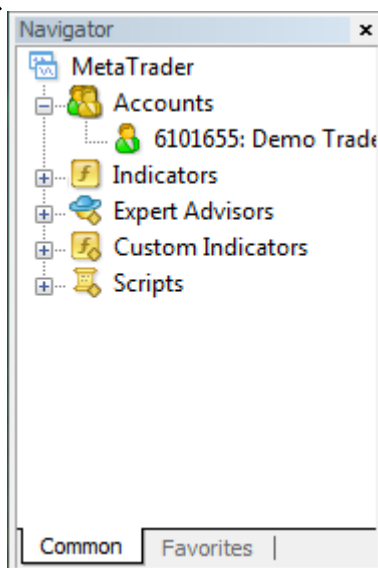
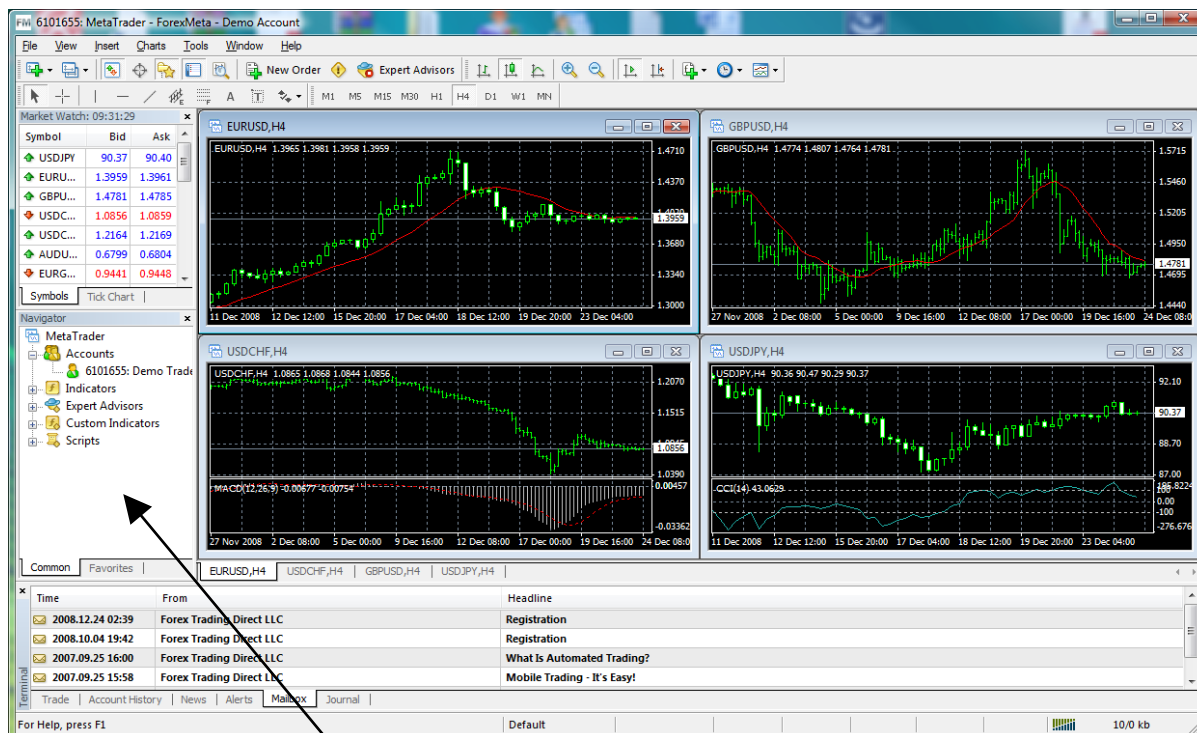
...and will be available to you from within MetaTrader 4.



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## Using the Forex Auto-Scalper Robot

Having installed the robot, restart MetaTrader 4 and check the Navigator pane on the left side of the MetaTrader 4 window:



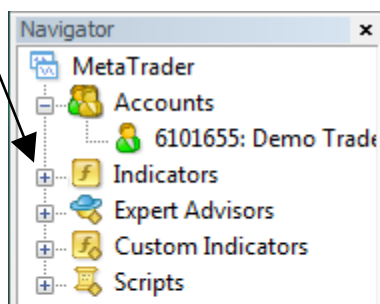




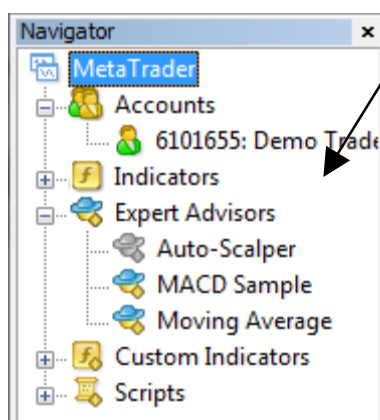
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Clicking the small [+] to the left of "Expert Advisors"...



...will expand that section to display the available experts (robots):



If everything is correct then the list will contain the "**Auto-Scalper**" robot along with any other expert advisors that you have installed or were provided as part of the MetaTrader 4 system.

Please note that the Auto-Scalper icon is gray whilst other icons in the list are colored – **this is perfectly normal**.

A colored icon means that you have the "source code" for that particular expert i.e. the instructions that tell the expert how to trade. A grey icon means that you do not – almost all commercial experts will be gray.



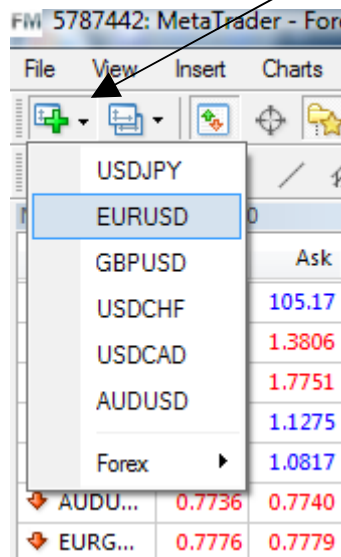
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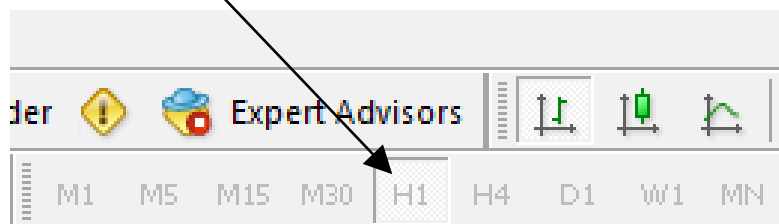
## Setting Up For Trading

Although it is fine to trade a demo account at any time, avoid trading a live account in and around major holidays as volume is generally light and market movement can be erratic. In addition, large gap openings are common after weekends and holidays.

To begin trading, you will require a EUR/USD chart. You can either use an existing chart (if no other expert advisor is attached to it) or just open a new one. To open a new chart, click the **New Chart** button in the toolbar:



...then click EURUSD. The chart timeframe usually defaults to "H1" but if not, simply click the **H1** button in the toolbar:





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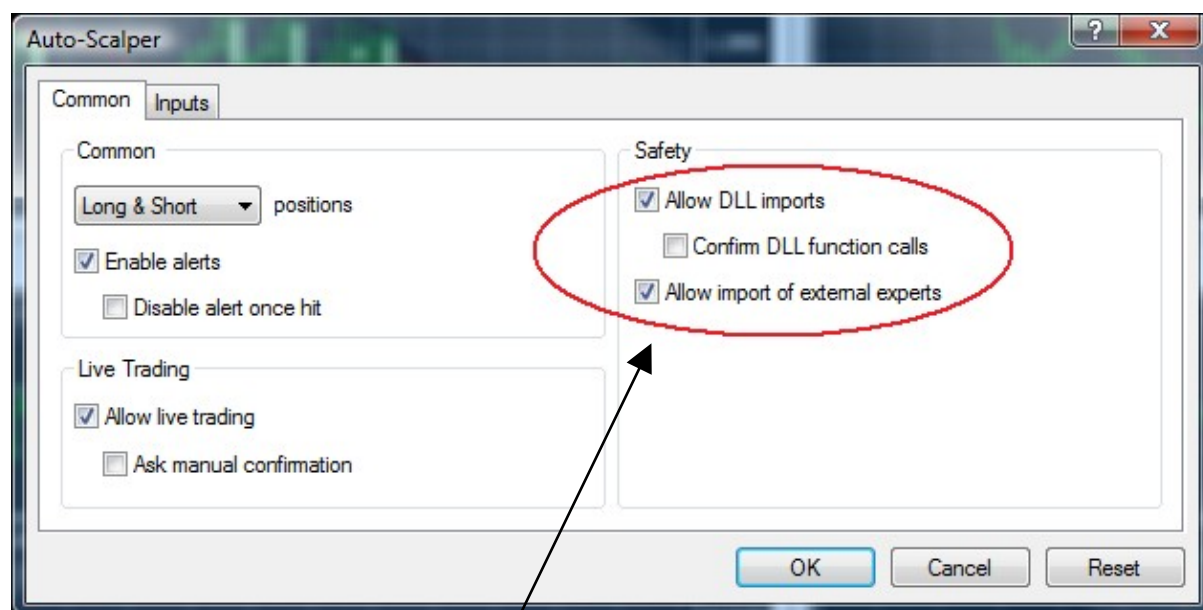
# Forex Auto Scalper

Once the chart is open, left-click the "**Auto-Scalper**" icon in the Navigator and drag it to the chart.

**Important:** Do **not** change the chart timeframe once the robot is attached.

When you drop the expert advisor onto the chart, a "Properties" dialog window will open. The dialog contains two tabs – "Common" and "Inputs".

The Common tab looks like this:



It is very important that **all three** of the settings circled in red match the image above or the expert advisor will not function correctly.

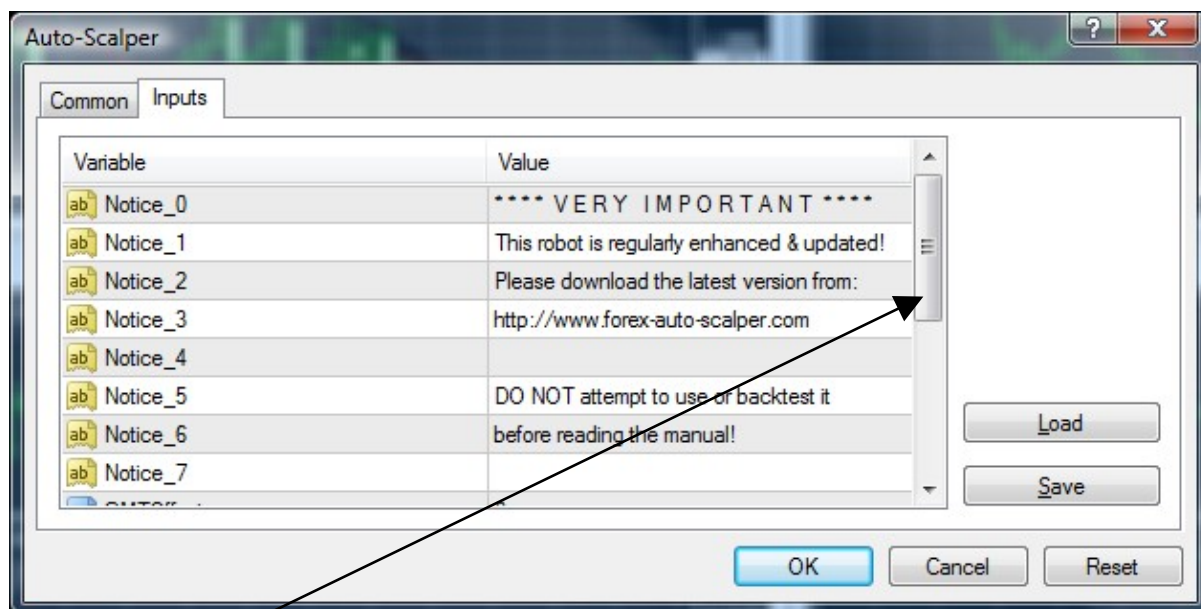
Please pay special attention to the "Confirm DLL function calls" option which should be **unchecked**.



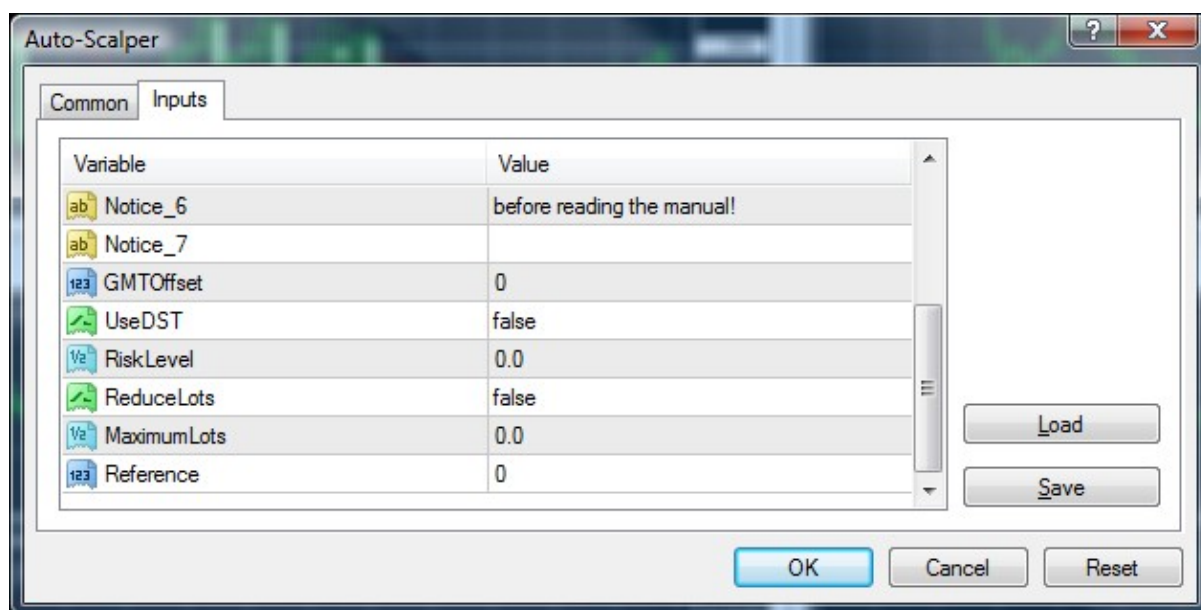
Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

The Inputs tab looks like this:



By scrolling the list, you will see that the Inputs tab has a number of adjustable settings which are explained in the following pages.



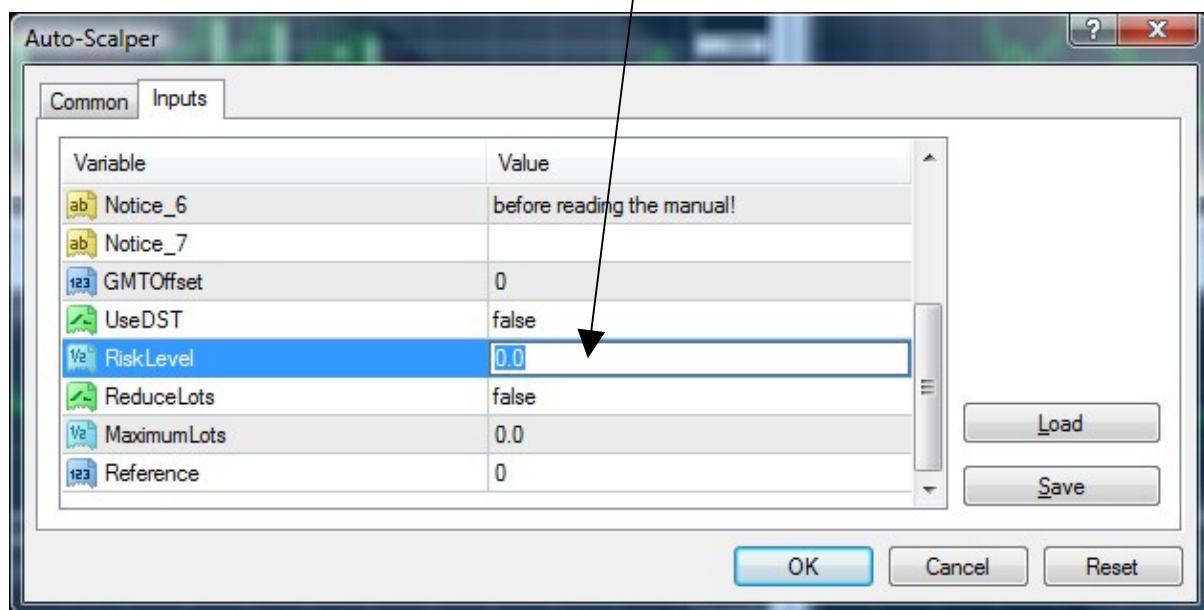


Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

To change the value of any setting, double left-click in the **Value** column of the setting you wish to edit.

For example, to change the "RiskLevel" setting, simply activate the property editor by double-clicking the **value** area (the right portion of the parameter line) as shown below and the property editor will activate.



Once the new settings are entered, click the OK button to restart the expert advisor.



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

## Inputs – An Explanation

The first thing you will notice is that there are actually not many inputs at all – this is because much of the strategy information is taken directly from our trade servers without you needing to worry about it. The remaining “user settings” are explained below:

### **GMTOffset:**

This parameter is **only** required by the Strategy Tester as the robot is able to compute the offset during normal trading. Unfortunately, this is not possible when using the Strategy Tester and a manually specified value is therefore required in order to achieve realistic results. Determining the correct value is covered later in the section on Strategy Testing.

### **UseDST:**

This parameter is **only** required by the Strategy Tester. Many brokers use servers which are aligned to GMT, however, some brokers have servers which change time in line with Daylight Saving Time. This is an optional setting which may provide more realistic test results depending upon your broker.

### **RiskLevel:**

Many people starting out in trading have difficulty with the principles of Money and Risk Management. To simplify this aspect of trading, the expert advisor can calculate everything for you and adjust the size of your trades based on the balance of your account whilst respecting your tolerance for risk.

Look at an example:

Assume that you have a \$1,000 **micro** trading account - that means that the minimum lot size is 0.01 and each pip (the minimum price move) is worth \$0.10. Let us also assume that you are prepared to risk 3% of your account on each trade.

$\$1,000 \times 3\% = \text{\$30}$  risk capital





*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

The robot automatically determines the correct Stop Loss distance based on recent volatility but the actual distance is usually around 100 pips so we can use that value in this example:

$\$30.00 / 100 = \text{\$0.30}$  maximum risk per pip

Since the minimum lot size for micro account is 0.01 and a pip is worth \$0.10, the expert advisor would open a trade of 0.03 lots.

Therefore, your maximum actual risk would be:

$3 * \$0.10 \text{ pip value} * 100 \text{ pip Stop Loss distance} = \text{\$30}$

So, what RiskLevel should you use? Really, that is a question that only you can answer! Some people will be quite cautious and use a very low value whilst others will be more interested in the larger gains possible with a high value. Whichever value you decide on – be it 1 or 100 – base it on what you feel comfortable with and do **not** over-extend yourself.

In addition to the automatic lot sizing (scaled lots) based on RiskLevel settings of 1 – 100, it is also possible to use a set lot size (fixed lots) by entering a **negative** value for the RiskLevel i.e. -0.5

So, values:

- > 0 result in scaled lots within the equity percentage specified
- < 0 result in fixed lots where you are responsible for your own risk calculations

## **ReduceLots:**

The robot is able to adjust the trade size based on RiskLevel and account equity i.e. the trade size will go up after a winning trade and down after a losing trade. This option allows you to specify that trade sizes may only increase i.e. the previous trade size will be maintained after a losing trade. Ability to reduce is determined as follows: False = No, True = Yes. "False" has proven to increase overall profitability by as much as 50%!



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

## **MaximumLots:**

This specifies the maximum number of lots that will be traded when using scaled lots. With the default value (zero), the expert advisor will restrict the maximum lot size to whatever the broker specifies (usually 100.00 lots).

You may decide that you wish to restrict trading to a maximum of 2 lots, in which case, set the "MaximumLots" value to 2.

## **TradeNote:**

This parameter allows you to specify a comment which is added to orders as they are opened and can be used to differentiate orders placed by the Forex Auto-Scalper robot from manual trades or those placed by other robots.

When a robot trades profitably, certain brokers will look to manipulate price to their advantage. To reduce the likelihood of this happening, it is prudent to provide minimal identifying information to the broker to help prevent them from identifying the trades and, therefore, it is sensible to avoid mentioning "Auto-Scalper" in the comment.

## **Reference:**

This parameter is used by expert advisors to identify which open orders they should be controlling. You need to specify a value as the default (-1) will trigger a warning message. As with the "TradeNote" feature, it is wise not to use a default value so you are required to choose a number yourself. You can select almost any number you wish but do not change it while a trade is open or the expert will stop managing the trade (and may open an additional trade). If you are not trading manually then you can also use 0 (zero) which would be the normal code for a manual trade – this will help reduce the likelihood of trades being identified.

That is all there is to do!... everything has been set up, all of the parameters have been configured so the only thing left to do is click the **OK** button to start the robot trading!

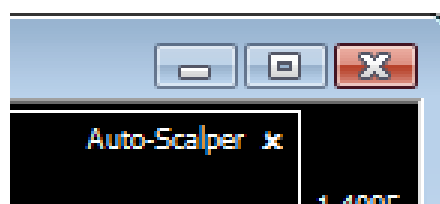


*Martin Alexander's*

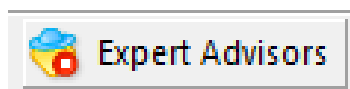
# Forex Auto Scalper

Depending on how well you have followed instructions so far, there will be one of three possible things displayed in the top-right corner of the chart with the robot attached:

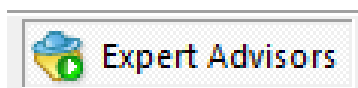
The first possibility is a "X", as shown below.



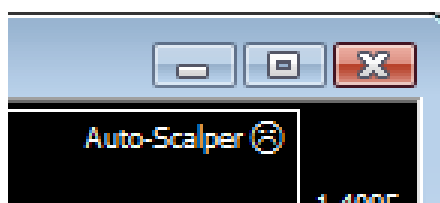
This means that expert advisors have not been enabled and can be confirmed by the red "Expert Advisors" button in the toolbar:



Simply click the button to turn it green and enable expert advisors:



The next possibility is a sad face, as shown here:

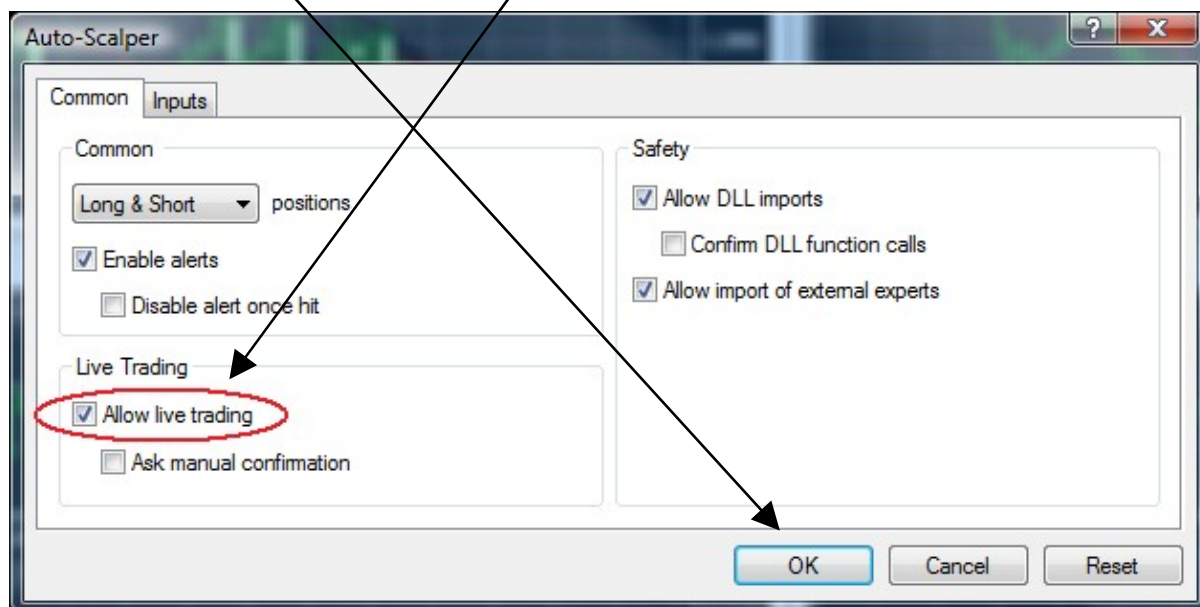




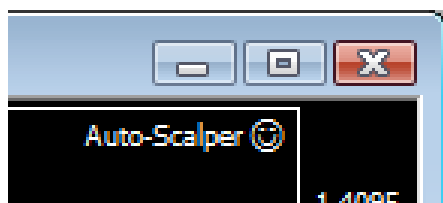
Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

This means that the Common tab settings are incorrect. Either press the **"F7"** key or click the sad face to open the properties dialog window again then confirm that the "Allow live trading" setting is checked before clicking the **"OK"** button.



The final possibility is a smiley face which means that the robot is correctly configured:

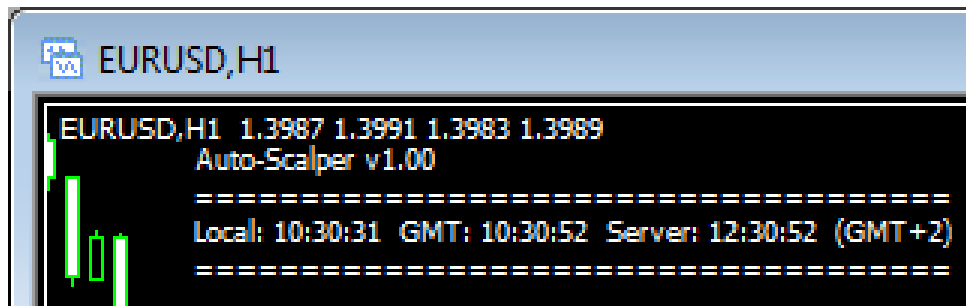




*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

Assuming that all is well, there will be a status message in the top-left of the chart...



As you can see, there are three times displayed – one with an “offset”.

Working from left to right, they represent:

Local: This is the time reported by your computer.

GMT: The strategy for the Forex AutoScalper Robot relies on GMT-based (Greenwich Mean Time) price information

Server: This is the chart time and varies between brokerages so, the offset (GMT+?) displayed will vary dependent upon which broker supplied your copy of MetaTrader

The “offset” (2 in the example above) is the value that you should set the “GMTOffset” parameter to when using the Strategy Tester.



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

## On-Chart Messages – An Explanation

The Forex Auto-Scalper Robot is quite advanced and will identify a number of situations which might require action on your part. Should any of these situations occur, the robot will display a message in the top-left of the chart with instructions for resolving the issue.

There are a number of messages that can be displayed, such as:

```
EURUSD,H1 1.4092 1.4123 1.4090 1.4121
*** Change MetaTrader Options ***
Press 'F7' to access the Expert Advisor properties dialog and click the 'Common' tab
'Allow DLL imports' must be checked
'Confirm DLL function calls' must be unchecked
```

The full list of messages is as follows:

**\*\*\* Change MetaTrader Options \*\*\***

**Press 'F7' to access the Expert Advisor properties dialog and click the 'Common' tab**

**'Allow DLL imports' must be checked**

**'Confirm DLL function calls' must be unchecked**

This message is warning you that one of the important configuration settings (covered in the installation section of this manual) has been overlooked – the instructions will resolve the issue temporarily but you should really update the settings under **Tools => Options => Expert Advisors** as shown in the installation notes.





Martin Alexander's

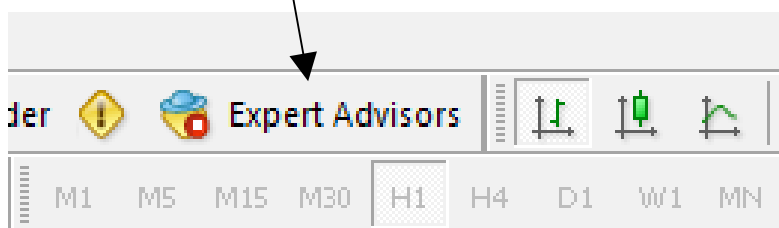
# Forex Auto Scalper

## \*\*\* Change MetaTrader Options \*\*\*

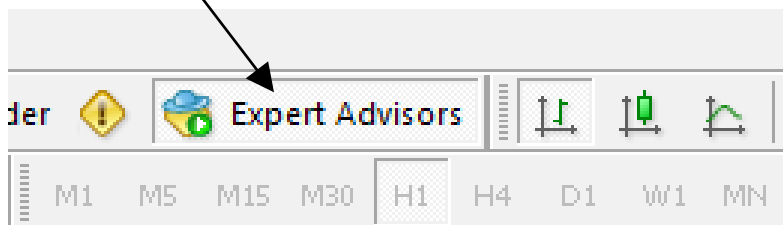
Click the red 'Expert Advisors' button to enable EA processing

Press 'F7' to access the Expert Advisor properties dialog then click the 'OK' button

Receiving this message means that expert advisors have not been enabled. Simply click the red button in the toolbar...



...so that it turns green like this:



## \*\*\* Unable to communicate with server \*\*\*

Check internet connection and Windows Firewall / Anti-Virus settings before restarting MetaTrader 4

If this message appears then something is preventing the robot from receiving the trade parameters from our server.



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

## **\*\*\* \*\* Change Expert Advisor Options \*\*\***

**Press 'F7' to access the Expert Advisor properties dialog and click the 'Inputs' tab**

**Enter a suitable RiskLevel value**

**- a positive value (i.e. 10) = the percentage of the account equity to risk per trade (scaled lots)**

**- a negative value (i.e. -0.15) = the lot size to use (fixed lots)**

Enter a positive value to trade using the in-built money management system or specify a negative value to trade with fixed lots.

You can find a full explanation for RiskLevel in the "Inputs" section of this manual.

## **\*\*\* Wrong Currency Pair \*\*\***

**This version of Auto-Scalper trades EURUSD only!**

This message means that you have inadvertently dropped the expert advisor onto a non-EUR/USD chart.

## **\*\*\* Wrong Chart Timeframe \*\*\***

**Please change the chart to the XX-minute setting!**

This message means that either:

- a) you selected the wrong chart timeframe,
- b) you changed the chart timeframe during trading, OR
- c) new parameters have been downloaded from our server which require a different chart timeframe to be set



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

**Please update this copy of Forex Auto-Scalper!**

**Visit: <http://www.forex-auto-scalper.com> and resubmit your details**

This advisory message is slightly different to the warning messages above in that it displays beneath the standard time details rather than replacing them.

If you receive this message then do as instructed and obtain the latest version from the website. Upgrade your system by following the standard upgrade process explained at the beginning of this manual (or in an updated manual if provided).

The only other standard message that you should see is this:

**Cannot adhere to RiskLevel due to trade size restrictions!**

**Optimal order size: x.xx**

**Actual order size: x.xx**

This message occurs due to a combination of low RiskLevel setting combined with high minimum lot size.

For example: Assume that you have a \$500 **micro** trading account - that means that the minimum lot size is 0.01 and each pip (the minimum price move) is worth \$0.10. Let us also assume that you are prepared to risk 1% of your account on each trade.

$\$500 \times 1\% = \textbf{\$5.00}$  risk capital

Now, using the average Stop Loss distance of 100 pips, we get the following:

$\$5.00 / 100 = \textbf{\$0.005}$  maximum risk per pip



*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

Since the minimum lot size for micro account is 0.01 and a pip is worth \$0.10, the expert advisor would want to open a trade of 0.005 lots.

This, however, is smaller than the minimum lot size permitted.

Therefore, your maximum actual risk would be:

$$1 * \$0.10 \text{ pip value} * 100 \text{ pip Stop Loss distance} = \mathbf{\$10}$$

Based on this calculation, the expert advisor concludes that you are trading in an over-leveraged fashion meaning that the requested "RiskLevel" cannot be maintained.

This is a purely informational message and will not prevent trades from being opened.

Although not strictly a warning message, you may also see this:

**Waiting for price data...**

This message will mostly appear if you attach the robot to a new chart (or edit the parameters of a running robot) while the markets are closed i.e. Friday night through to Sunday evening and/or on major holidays.

As long as you are certain that your internet connection is functioning correctly, the solution is simply to wait until the market re-opens.



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# Forex Auto Scalper

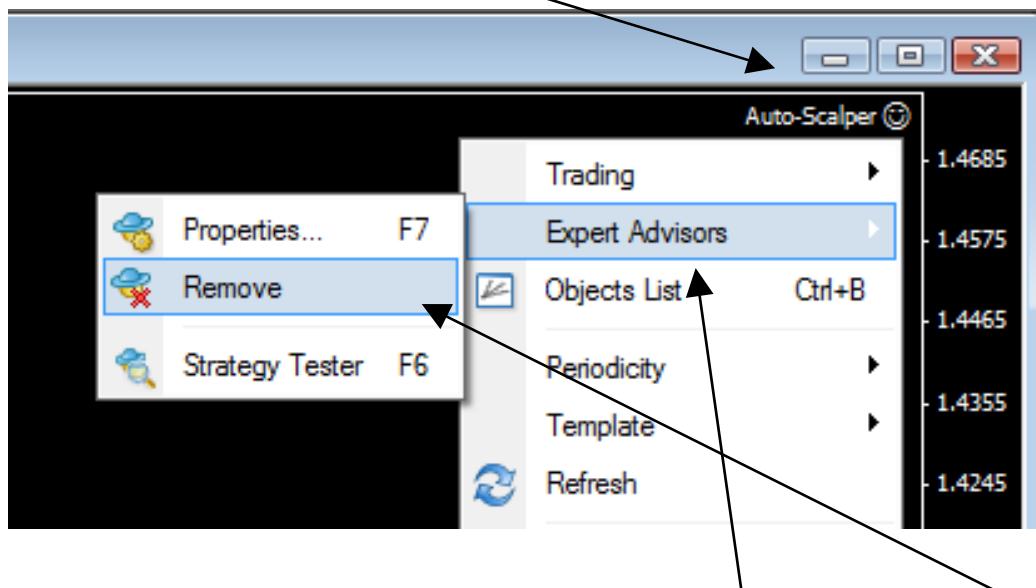
## Stopping Trading

There are four ways to stop the **Forex Auto-Scalper Robot** from trading:

- 1) Click the green "Expert Advisors" button in the toolbar – please be aware that this will also stop any other expert advisors that you may be running.



- 2) Right-click the smiley face in the top-right of the chart window



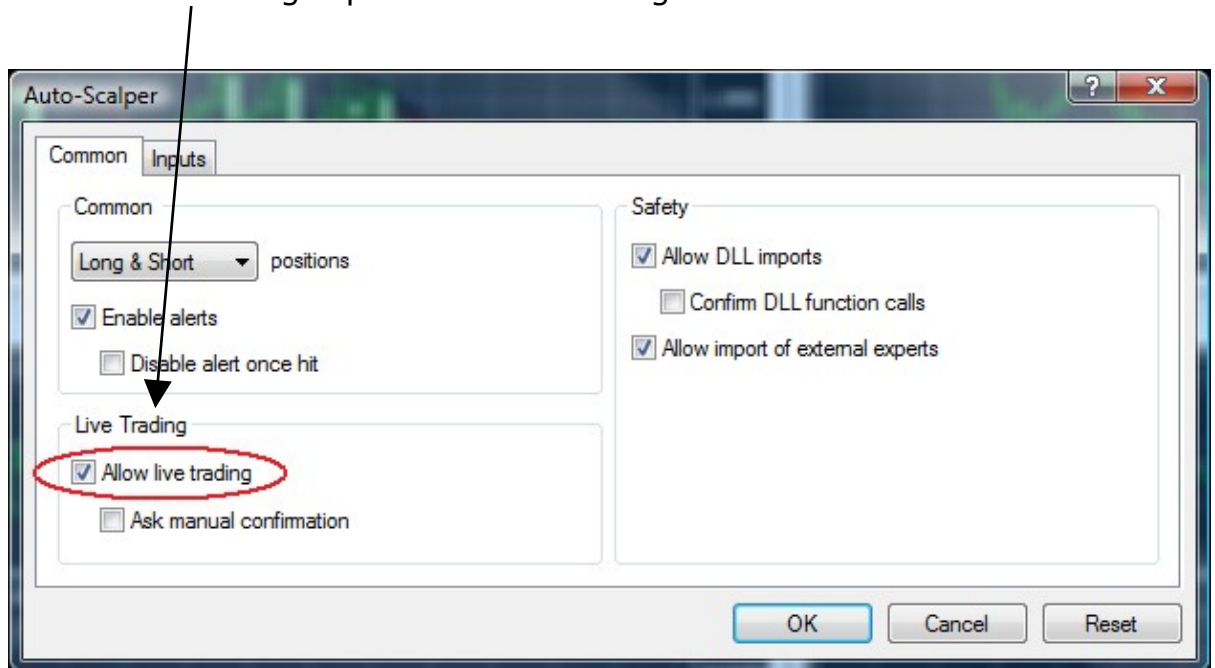
When the context menu, select **Expert Advisors => Remove**



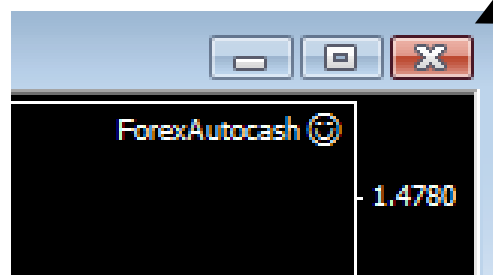
Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

- 3) Click the EUR/USD chart then press the **F7** key to open the properties dialog window. You can also right-click the smiley face in the top-right of the chart window and from the context menu select **Expert Advisors => Properties**. Once the properties dialog window is open, switch to the "Common" tab and **un-check** the "Allow live trading" option before clicking the **OK** button.



- 4) Last, but not least, simply close the chart by clicking the red "X" button in the top-right of the chart window.



**Do not** click the red "X" button in the top-right of the MetaTrader window unless you actually want to close MetaTrader.





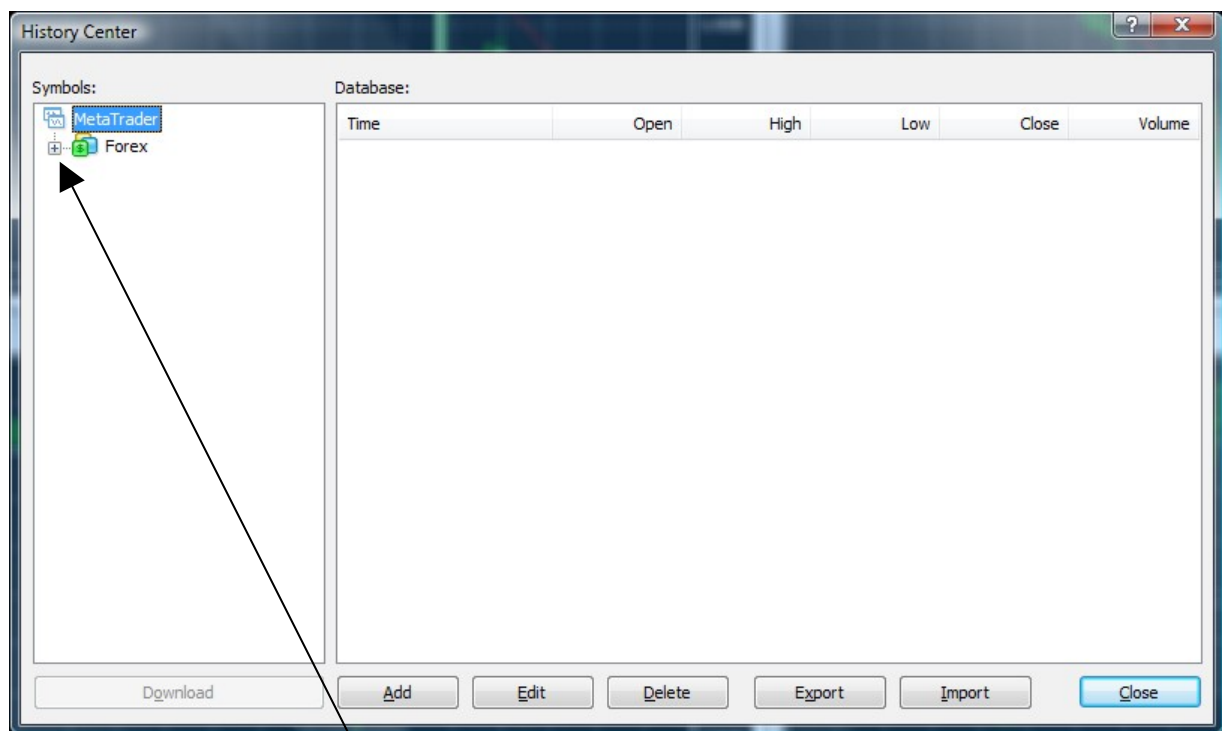
*Martin Alexander's*

# Forex Auto Scalper

## Strategy Testing

If you intend to perform strategy testing then you will need data to test against. When installed, MetaTrader contains no historical data at all so it must be downloaded.

From the MetaTrader menu, click the "**Tools**" option, then select "**History Center**" (alternatively, simply press the **F2** key) and the following window will appear:



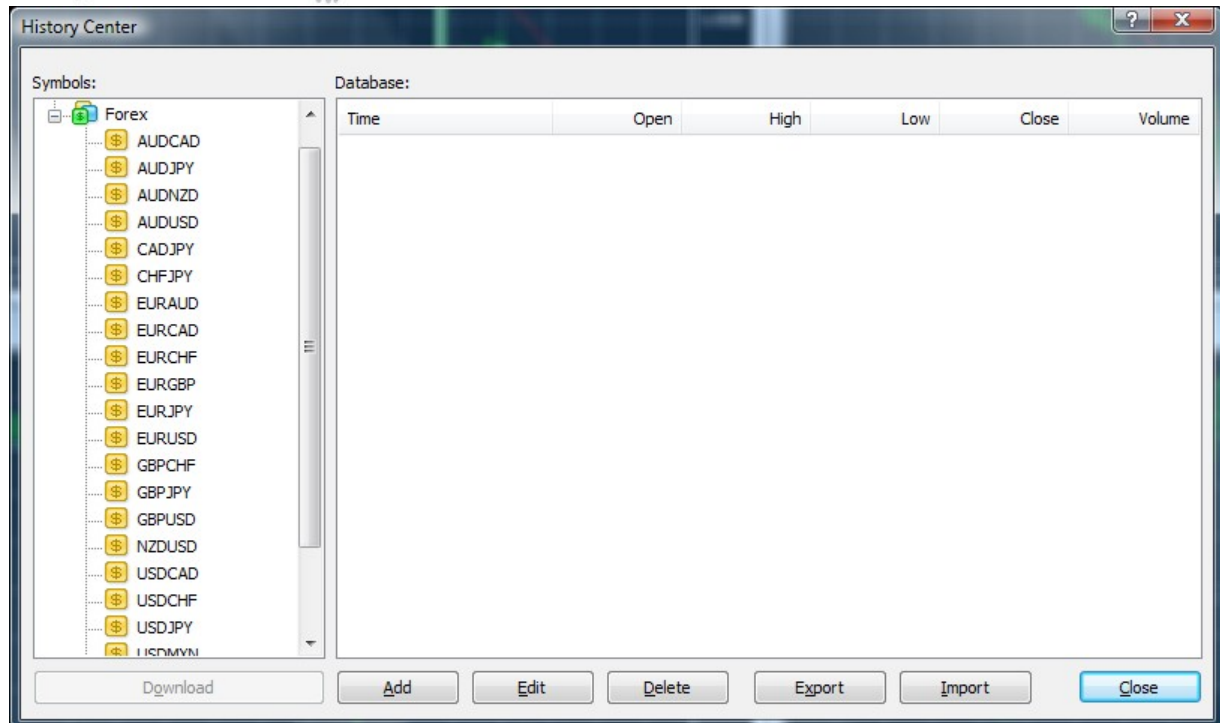
The layout of the left-hand panel varies between brokers but the operation is the same.

Start by clicking the small [x] to the left of "Forex" to open out the list of available currency pairs.

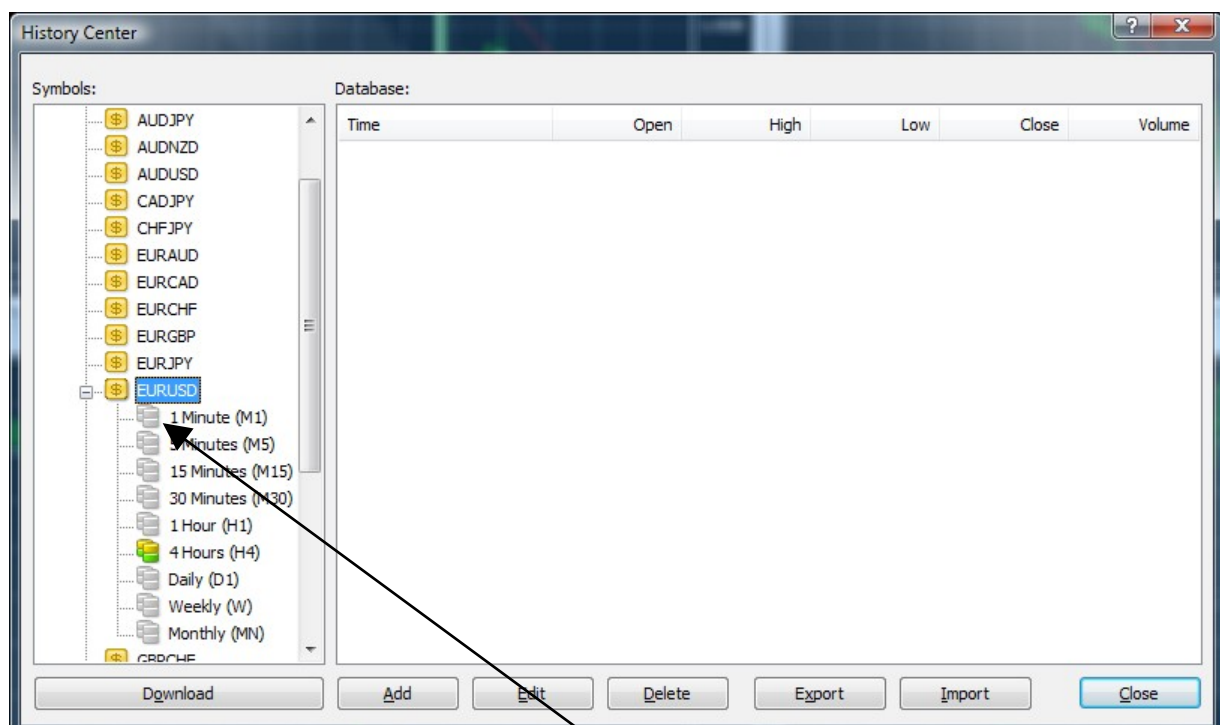


Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper



Next, locate the EUR/USD entry and double left-click it to expand out the data timeframes.

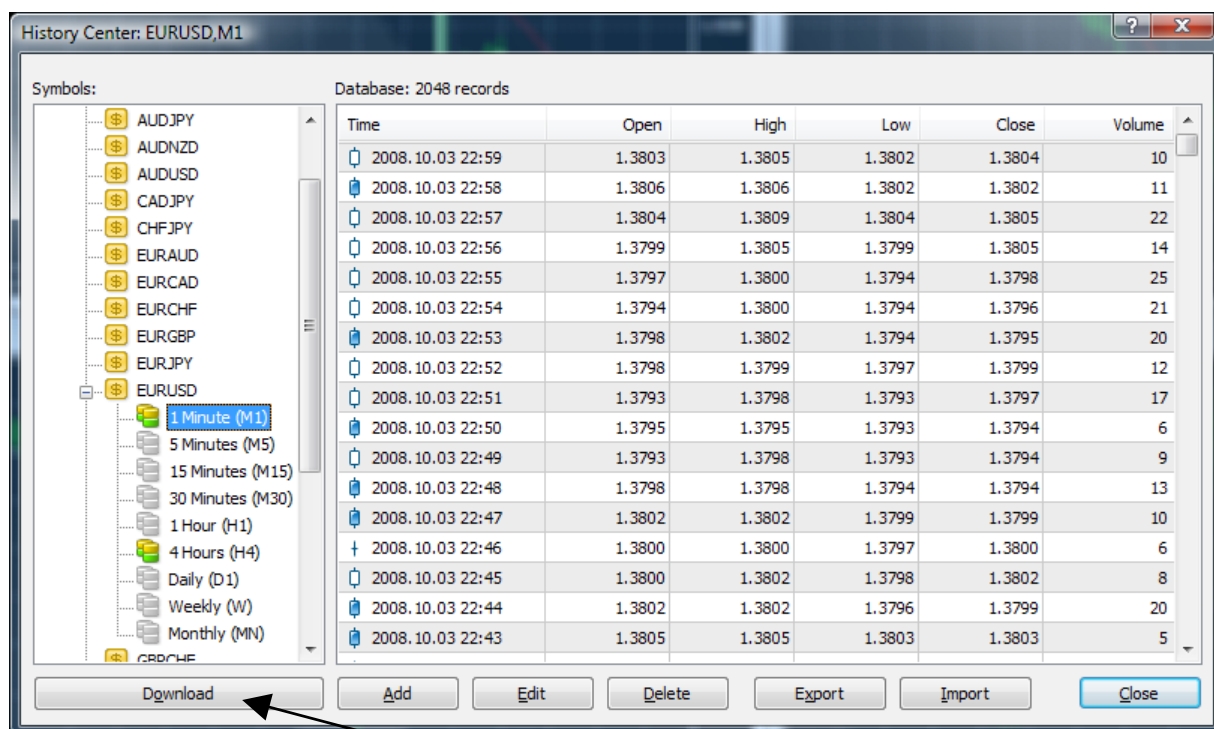




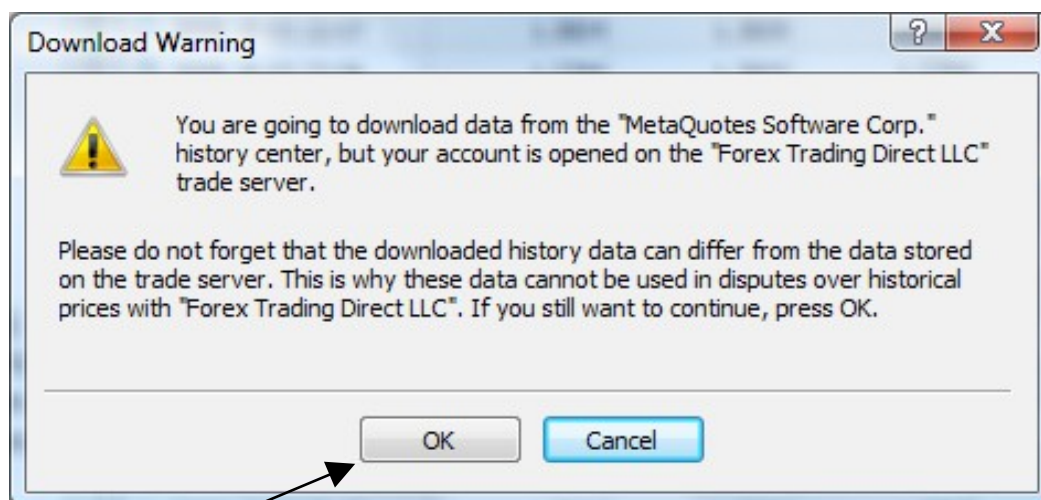
Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

Now double left-click on the **"1 minute (M1)"** tag which loads a few recent data records.



The last thing to do is click the **Download** button which will trigger the download warning window...



Click the **OK** button to begin downloading – the process can take several



*Martin Alexander's*

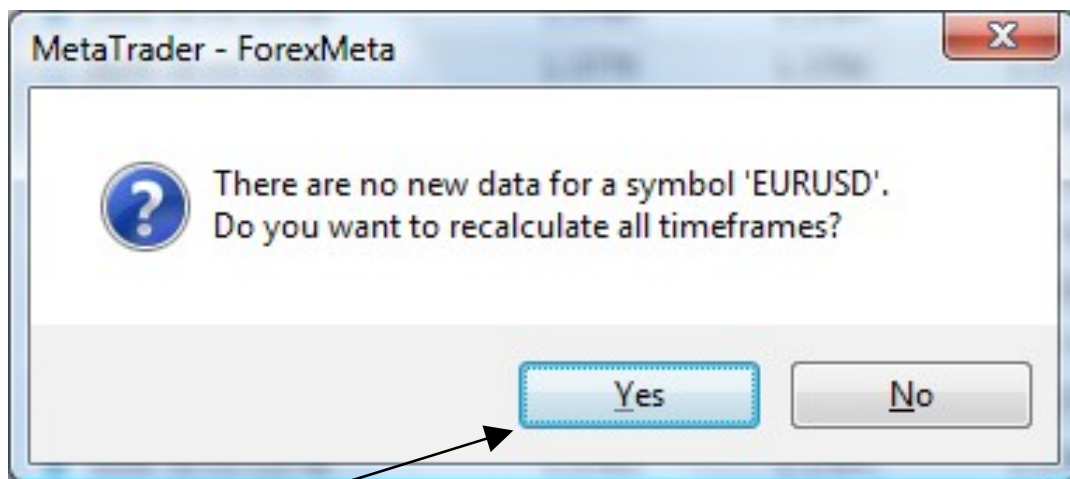
# Forex Auto Scalper

minutes so be patient.

A rather annoying issue with the data that can be downloaded is that it includes a number of errors. It is possible to purchase excellent quality data from commercial data providers but the cost tends to be prohibitive – usually in excess of \$200 per currency pair and only for a limited historical period (approximately 2 years).

Fortunately, it is possible to “repair” the most glaring errors in the free data provided by MetaQuotes.

As soon as the download has completed, click the **Download** button again. The download warning window will appear again and, a few seconds after clicking the **OK** button, a new window will open, explaining that no new data is available and offering you the option of recalculating all timeframes.



Choose “Yes” and, after a few moments, the recalculation will be complete and your data will be of significantly better quality.

If you find that strategy test reports mention a number of “Mismatched data records” then you may wish to repeat this process one or more times.

Click the **Close** button to close the History Center window to finish.



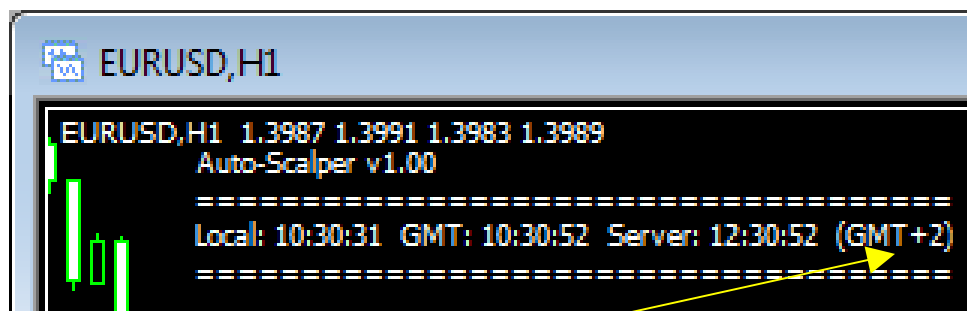
Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

## Preparing for Testing

Before running a test with the **Forex Auto-Scalper Robot**, you will need to discover the correct "GMTOffset" value.

This is actually done for you, however, in order to obtain the correct value, the markets must be open (late Sunday through to late Friday).



You will need the Server time offset displayed on the chart when the **Forex Auto-Scalper Robot** is running. As you can see, in this case, the required value is +2.

There are well over 100 brokerages offering MetaTrader so it I cannot list them all, however, here are the values for a few well known brokerages:

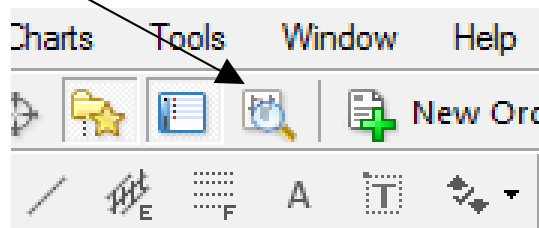
|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| ForexMeta | +2 |
| FXDD      | +2 |
| Alpari    | +2 |
| IBFX      | +0 |



# Martin Alexander's Forex Auto Scalper

## Running a Strategy Test

In order to begin testing a strategy, the Strategy Tester must be selected – click the Strategy Tester button in the toolbar...

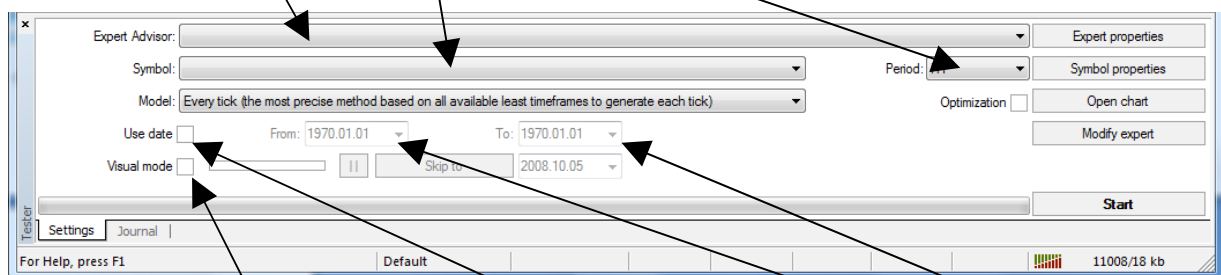


...to display the Strategy Tester panel at the bottom of the MetaTrader window.

Click here to select the expert advisor...

...here to select the currency...

...and here to select the 1-hr (H1) timeframe



Select "Use date" then specify a start & end date  
- you may wish to test back from 01/01/2000  
though it will take some time to complete.

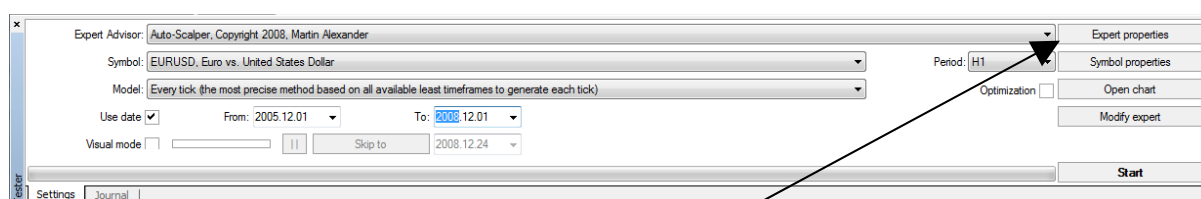
Finally, select "Visual mode" or you will not see the trades being made (or any of the warning messages if you have missed something!)



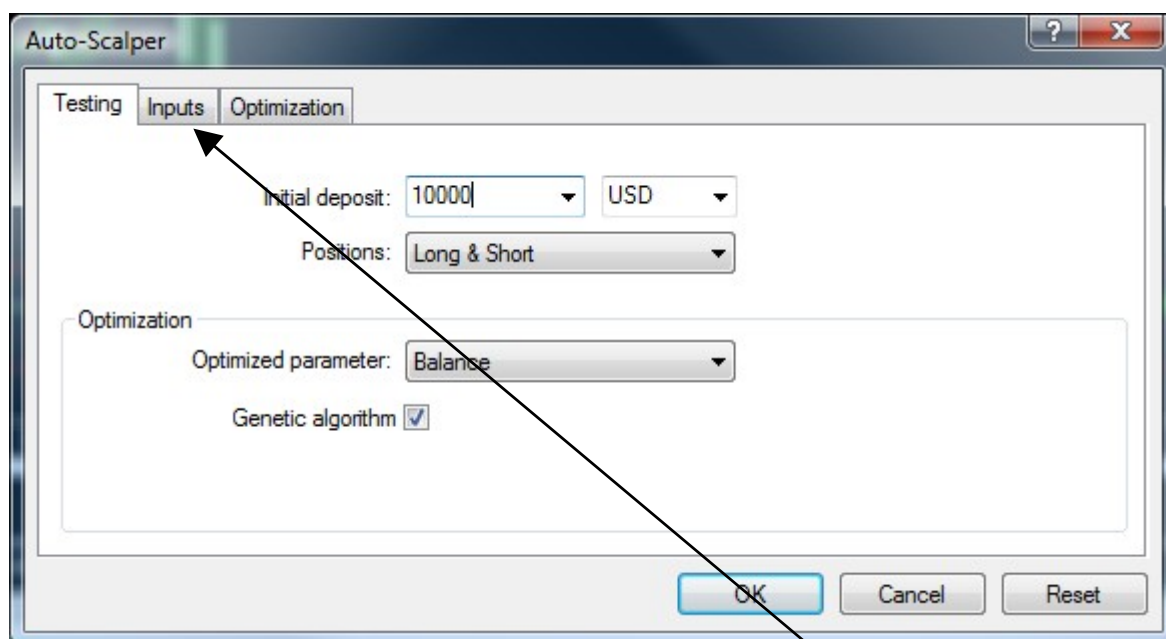


# Martin Alexander's Forex Auto Scalper

Once everything has been set, the Strategy Tester panel should look like this:



The last task is to click the **Expert Properties** button which opens a dialog window similar to the usual properties dialog covered earlier:



Accept the \$10,000 initial deposit then click the "Inputs" tab.



Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

The "Inputs" tab lists the same parameters as the normal properties window covered earlier but has some additional columns.

| Variable                                       | Value | Start | Step | Stop |
|--|-------|-------|------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GMTOffset             | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UseDST     | false |       |      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RiskLevel             | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ReduceLots | false |       |      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MaximumLots           | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reference             | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0    |

Load Save OK Cancel Reset

As this is the first time running a test with the Forex Auto-Scalper Robot, some values will require changing (only update the Value column):

- GMTOffset: Set to the correct value for your broker
- UseDST: Set to the correct value for your broker (it isn't a critical setting so just experiment)
- RiskLevel: Set to a positive value (10 is fine for testing)
- ReduceLots: Optional
- MaximumLots: Optional
- TradeNote: Optional
- Reference: Enter a positive number – even zero is fine

Once the values have been updated, click the **OK** button.



# Martin Alexander's Forex Auto Scalper

The last thing to do is to click the **Start** button.

A “visual mode” test chart will appear and, after a short delay while MetaTrader loads the historical data required, you will hopefully see the system opening and closing trades.

I suggest that you limit any historical testing to a maximum of **THREE YEARS** but generally just the last 12 months for the following reason...

...the robot retrieves trade parameters from our main server and those parameters are optimised for current market conditions. Since markets change personality over time, the settings which we are trading with now may be wholly inappropriate (or at best, less than optimal) for earlier time periods so long term historical testing is going to produce flawed results.

If any MetaTrader or parameter settings are incorrect then you will see the relevant message (covered earlier in this manual) displayed on the chart.

If a warning message does appear, simply click the **Stop** button (which was the **Start** button earlier), resolve the issue then click the **Start** button again.

During testing, you may switch between the various tabs at the bottom of the Strategy Tester window. The most interesting will be the “Results” tab

| #    | Time             | Type          | Order | Size | Price  | S / L  | T / P | Profit  | Balance  |
|------|------------------|---------------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|---------|----------|
| 1224 | 2008.09.23 15:42 | close         | 612   | 0.10 | 1.4736 | 1.4080 |       | 6.00    | 14193.77 |
| 1225 | 2008.09.24 18:05 | buy           | 613   | 0.10 | 1.4684 | 1.4034 |       |         |          |
| 1226 | 2008.09.25 04:18 | close         | 613   | 0.10 | 1.4690 | 1.4034 |       | 5.58    | 14199.35 |
| 1227 | 2008.09.26 16:31 | buy           | 614   | 0.10 | 1.4592 | 1.3942 |       |         |          |
| 1228 | 2008.09.26 16:33 | close         | 614   | 0.10 | 1.4599 | 1.3942 |       | 7.00    | 14206.35 |
| 1229 | 2008.09.30 15:34 | buy           | 615   | 0.10 | 1.4285 | 1.3635 |       |         |          |
| 1230 | 2008.10.03 22:59 | close at stop | 615   | 0.10 | 1.3770 | 1.3635 |       | -515.70 | 13690.65 |

Settings Results Graph Report Journal

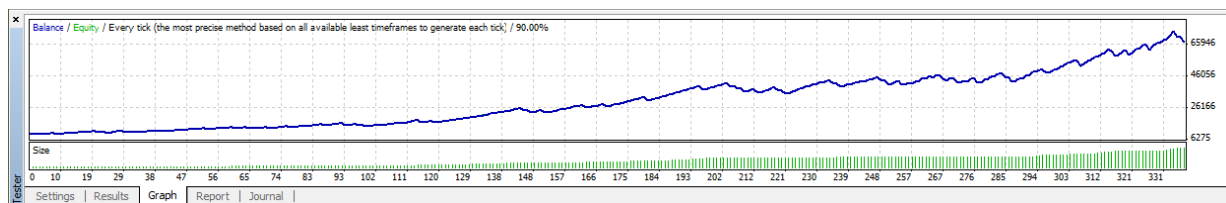
For Help, press F1 Default 2008.10.02 07:00 O: 1.3978 H: 1.3990 L: 1.3937 C: 1.3962 V: 532 11025/22 kb

...which shows each trade, its profit (or loss) plus a running balance, and

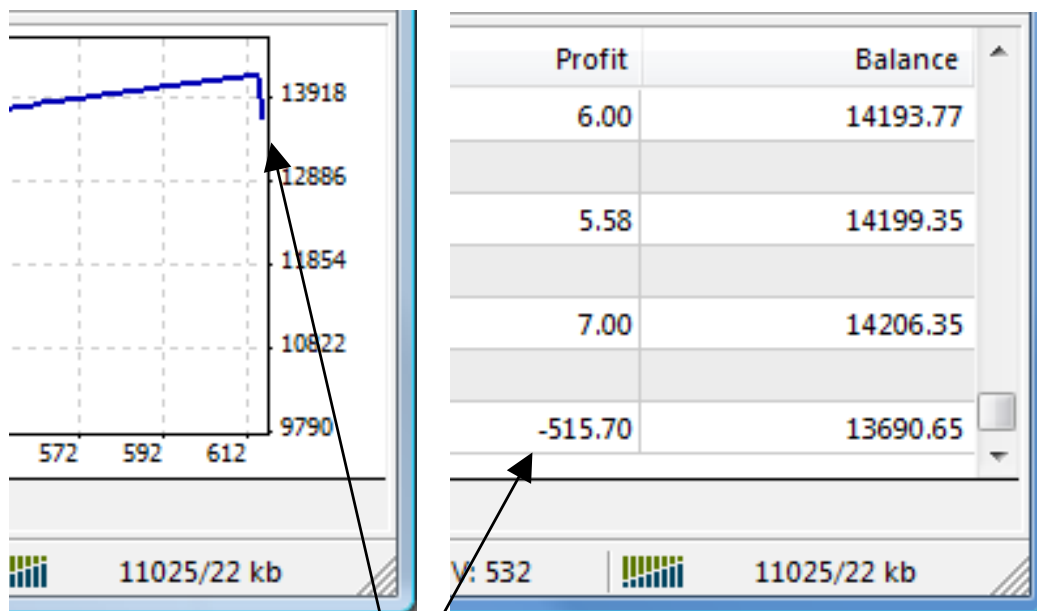


# Martin Alexander's Forex Auto Scalper

the "Graph" tab which shows the trading results in graphical format:



**Important:** One point that I need to clarify is shown in the following Results and Graph extracts...






Quite often, the very last trade in a strategy test will appear as a losing trade... but all is not as it seems!

If you look at the comment just to the left in the results list...



Martin Alexander's

# Forex Auto Scalper

|                    |   |         |                  |               |         |     |
|--------------------|---|---------|------------------|---------------|---------|-----|
| Tester             |  | 1228    | 2008.09.26 16:33 | close         |         |     |
|                    |  | 1229    | 2008.09.30 15:34 | buy           |         |     |
|                    |  | 1230    | 2008.10.03 22:59 | close at stop |         |     |
|                    |   |         |                  |               |         |     |
| Settings           |   | Results | Graph            | Report        | Journal |     |
| For Help, press F1 |   |         |                  |               |         | Def |

...you will notice the phrase "close at stop". That does not mean what you assume it does! As you can see in the following screen shot, the Stop Loss did not get hit at all.

|               |     |      |        |        |
|---------------|-----|------|--------|--------|
| buy           | 615 | 0.10 | 1.4285 | 1.3635 |
| close at stop | 615 | 0.10 | 1.3770 | 1.3635 |
| Journal       |     |      |        |        |
| Default       |     |      |        |        |

The order was closed at 1.3770 yet the Stop Loss was at 1.3635 – 135 pips away! What actually happened is that the Strategy Tester reached the end of the test period and still had that order open, so it was simply closed.

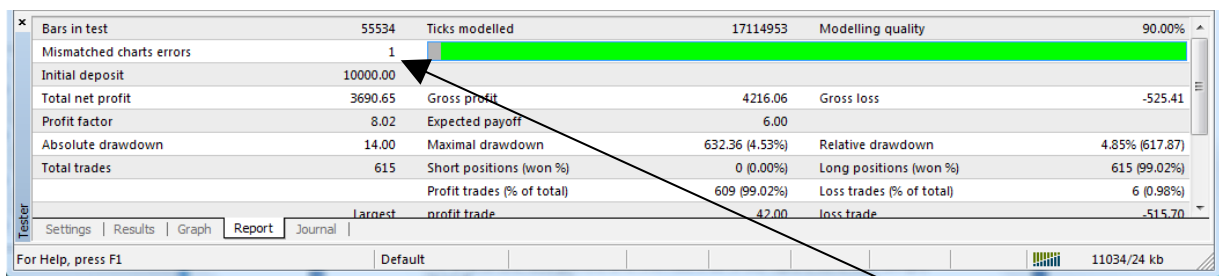
That is an aspect of strategy testing that you always need to be mindful of. The Strategy Tester can only do the best it can and sometimes that can result in misleading information if you are not aware of how things work.



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Once the test has concluded, you will want to review the "Report" tab which provides a summary of the test results.



|                          |          |                            |                |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Bars in test             | 55534    | Ticks modelled             | 17114953       | Modelling quality        | 90.00%         |
| Mismatched charts errors | 1        |                            |                |                          |                |
| Initial deposit          | 10000.00 |                            |                |                          |                |
| Total net profit         | 3690.65  | Gross profit               | 4216.06        | Gross loss               | -525.41        |
| Profit factor            | 8.02     | Expected payoff            | 6.00           |                          |                |
| Absolute drawdown        | 14.00    | Maximal drawdown           | 632.36 (4.53%) | Relative drawdown        | 4.85% (617.87) |
| Total trades             | 615      | Short positions (won %)    | 0 (0.00%)      | Long positions (won %)   | 615 (99.02%)   |
|                          |          | Profit trades (% of total) | 609 (99.02%)   | Loss trades (% of total) | 6 (0.98%)      |
|                          |          | Largest profit trade       | 42.00          | Loss trade               | -515.70        |

As mentioned before, one thing to watch for is "Mismatched chart errors" which are shown in the top left of the report – if the number is more than 2 or 3 then you should try cleaning the data again.

One final aspect of Strategy Testing that you should be aware of is the inherent inconsistency between brokers. As I hope you already realise, each broker will have different server times, treatment of Daylight Saving Time, spreads, swap rates, etc.

All these things will impact on your testing results so great results on one platform may equate to poor results on another.

To further complicate matters, the spread used by the Strategy Tester is the actual spread when you begin your testing process so, tests initiated during the main sessions will generally enjoy a narrow spread whereas tests initiated during the Asian session may have spreads several pips wider – this can mean that Stop Loss levels which were missed during main session tests may be hit during Asian session tests and will affect the profitability.

These are just some of the things to keep in mind when running tests, especially because this makes it quite difficult to reproduce results.





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## Issues and Solutions...

### Meta Trader Crashing – The Solution

If you experience issues with MetaTrader crashing after installing the Forex Auto-Scalper Robot then the most likely cause will be an out-of-date version of MetaTrader 4.

If this is the case, simply closing down and restarting MetaTrader should activate the LiveUpdate system and resolve the problem.

One other possibility is a security feature of Windows and most often affects Windows Vista systems. If you experience such a crash after installing the robot into MetaTrader then please follow these steps:

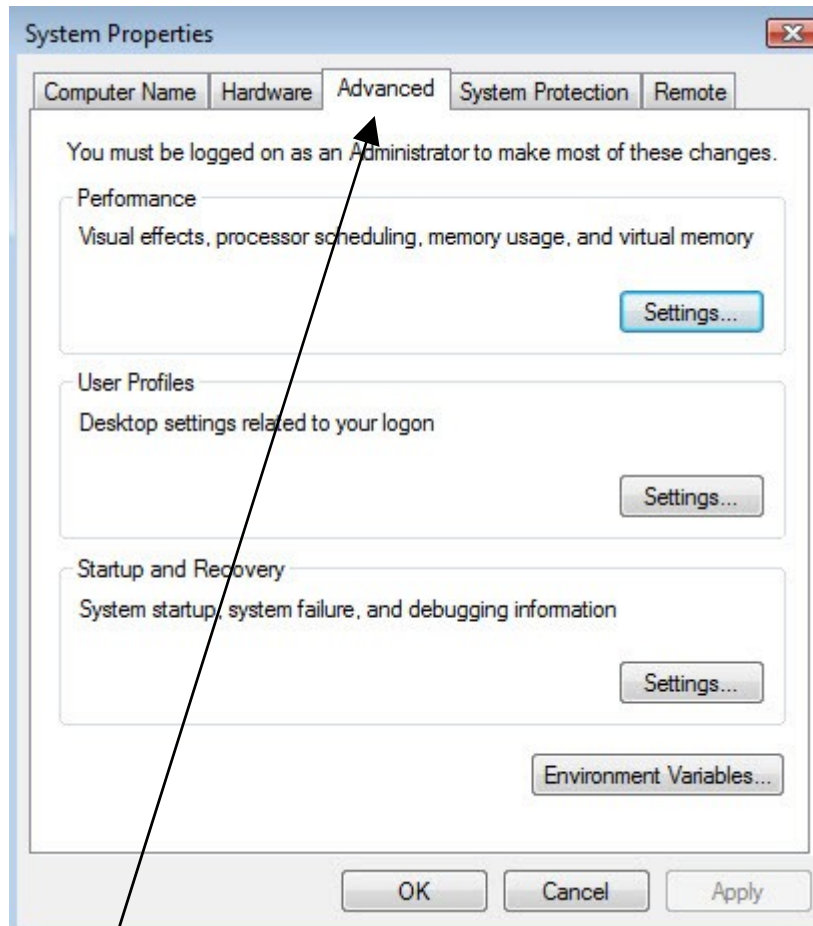
- 1) Click the **Start** button in Windows
- 2) From the menu that appears, click on "Control Panel"
- 3) From the displayed options in the Control Panel window, click on "System"
- 4) On the right-hand side, click on "Advanced System Settings"



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5) You will see the following window pop up:



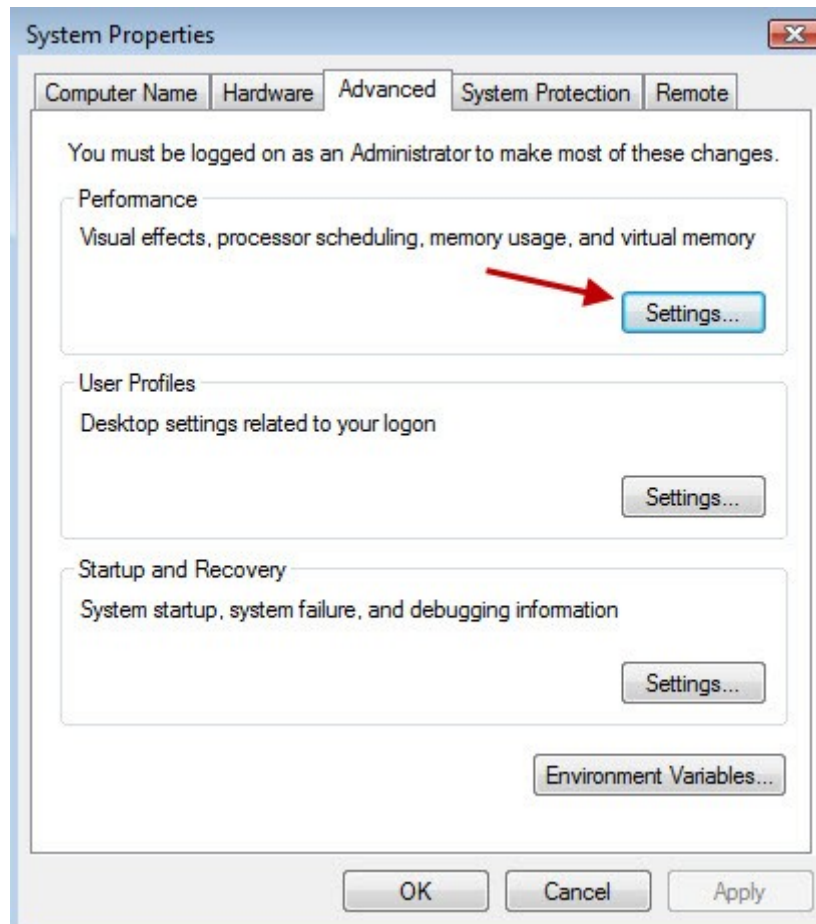
If the "Advanced" tab is not active, click it.



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6) Now, click on the top **Settings** button:

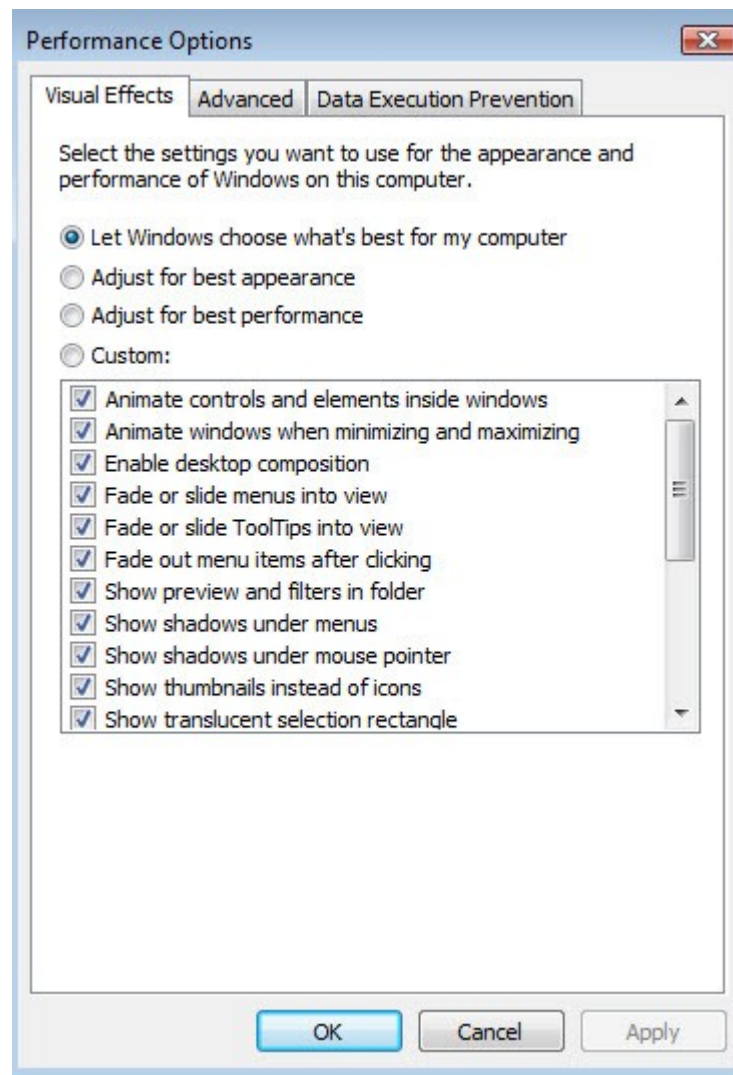




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7) The following window will appear:

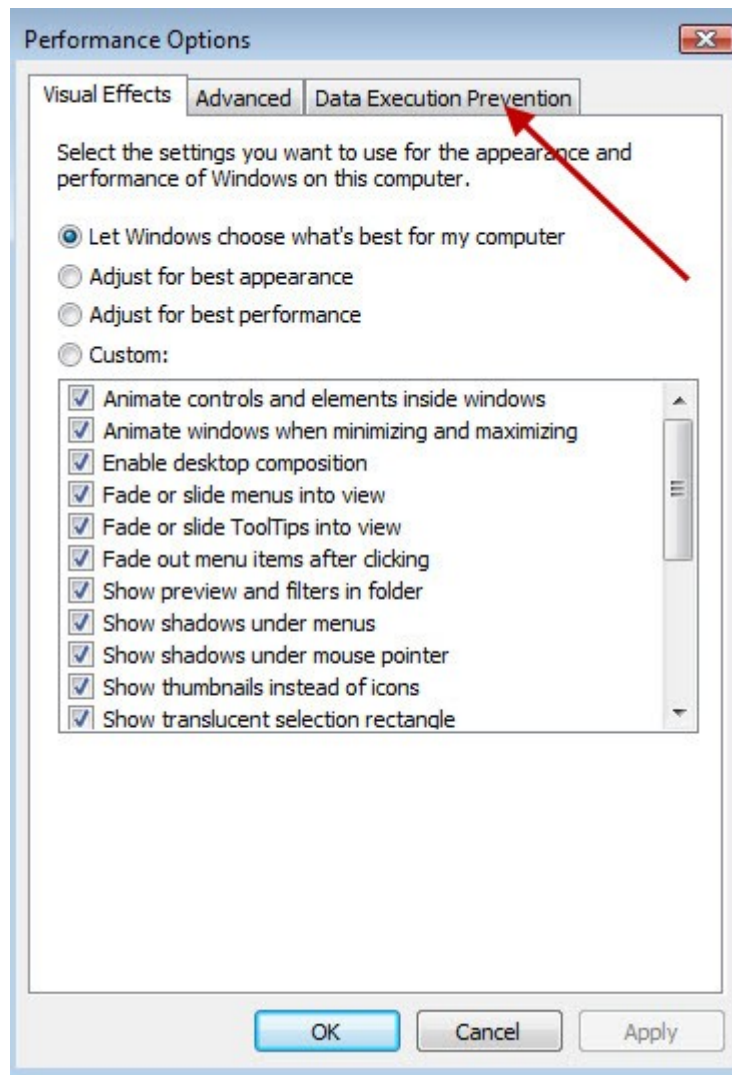




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8) Now click on the tab labelled "Data Execution Prevention" in the top right-hand corner:

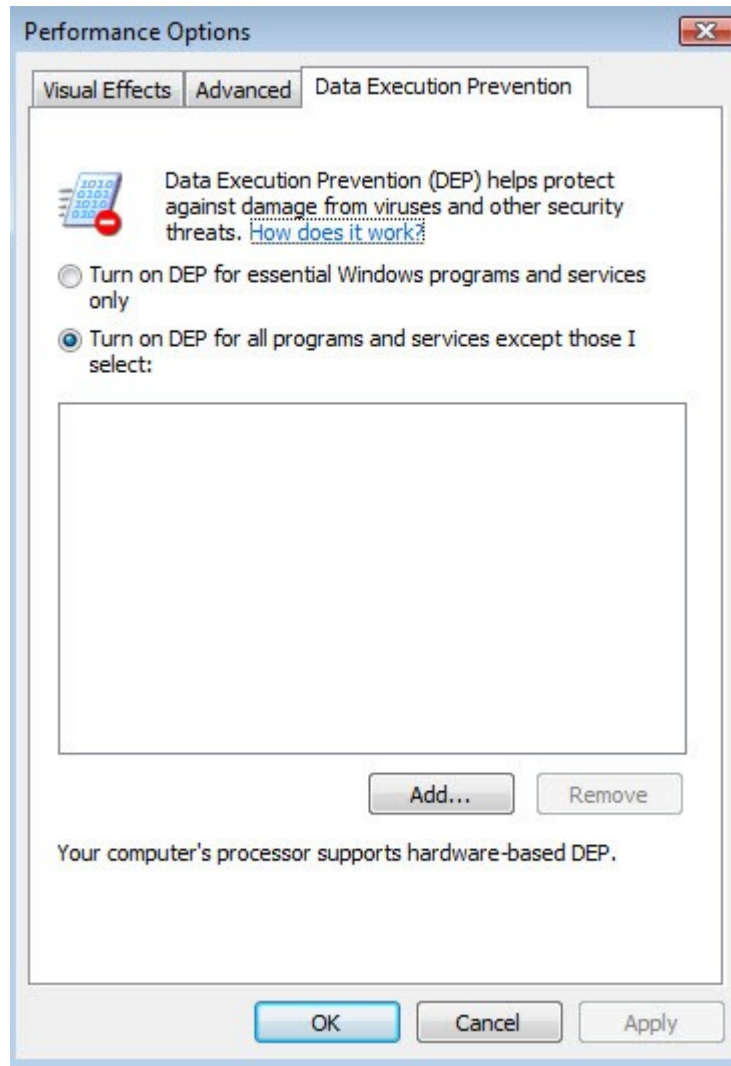




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9) After clicking it, the tab will become active and you will see the following in the window:



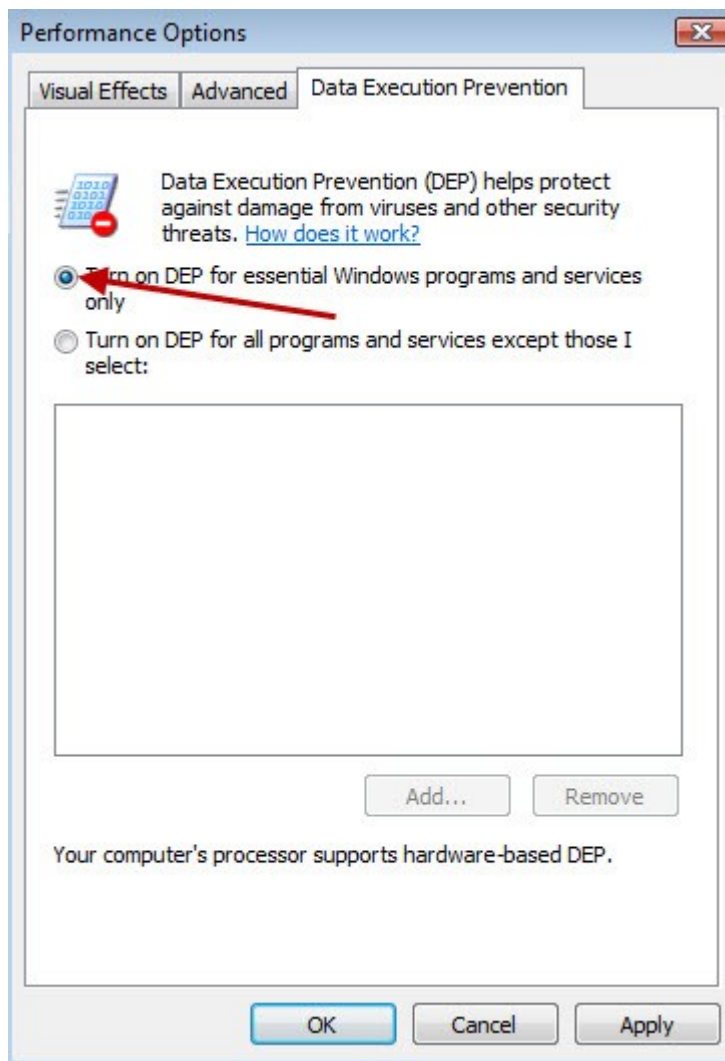




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10) If your system is set to option #2, "Turn on DEP for all programs and services except those I select", as in the previous example then that is very likely to be the cause of MetaTrader crashing so please select the top option instead:



The red arrow shows the option that **SHOULD BE SELECTED** in order to avoid MetaTrader crashing (particularly on Windows Vista systems). Once again, if the bottom option is active then please select the top option, as indicated by the red arrow.



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11) After selecting the correct option, click the **Apply** button. You will be asked if you want to restart your computer. Click the **Yes** button. If it does not restart automatically then restart it manually.