Bluewater Trader Manual

(http://www.bluewatertradingsolutions.com)

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The Main Bluewater Window

After successfully logging into Bluewater Trader the software will automatically try to log into the live trading account and if all that succeeds there will be 4 green lights on the bottom of this screen.

Login Status

Login Successful Bluewater login
Data Successful login to Data Server for historical data and backfill
Price Successful login to Live account for market data (price feed)
**Trade** Successful login to Live account for order routing

Main Menu

The highlighted main menu is how you access application wide features.

**NOTE:** Always use "Application | Exit Platform" to exit the platform.
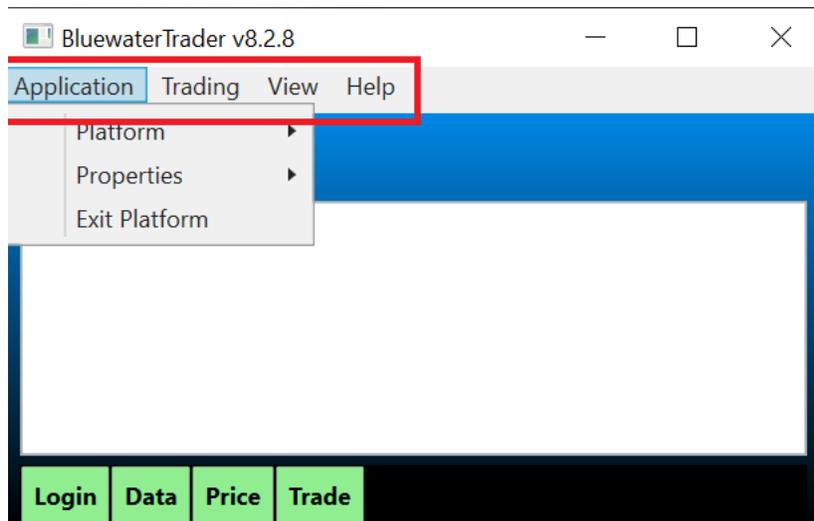
1. Application
    a. **Platform**, opens a new replay instance of the platform.
    b. **Properties**, application wide properties such as performance parameters.
    c. **Exit Platform**, proper way to exit and shut down the platform.
2. Trading
    a. **Order Manager**, open or close the Live and Simulation Order Manager to see working and completed orders.
    b. **Account Manager**, create or reset simulation accounts or view performance metrics and historical fills.
    c. **Order Strategies**, create advanced ways to manage order entries and exits.
    d. **Strategy Builder**, requires automation version or better. Used to build trade strategies using the available studies and price ranges.
3. View
    a. **Credentials**, information about platform credentials including the live login username and password.
    b. **Sound Properties**, manage sounds for various platform events.
    c. **Action Groups**, allows grouping of charts and windows for quick show or hide.
    d. **General Alerts**, shows general alerts for price ranges and associated behaviors.
    e. **Symbol Manager**, toggles the Symbol Manager window off or on.
4. Help
    a. **Remote Support**, gets the remote support number needed for a support technician to get on the customer's computer.
    b. **Documentation**, goes to Customer Portal to see documentation and to manage the Bluewater account.

If the live account credentials (username/password) is not working or entered incorrectly an error alert will be displayed as well as the Price and/or Trade lights staying red. If so, exit platform and re-login with "Prompt Creds" checked to update the Credentials according to the screen shots below.
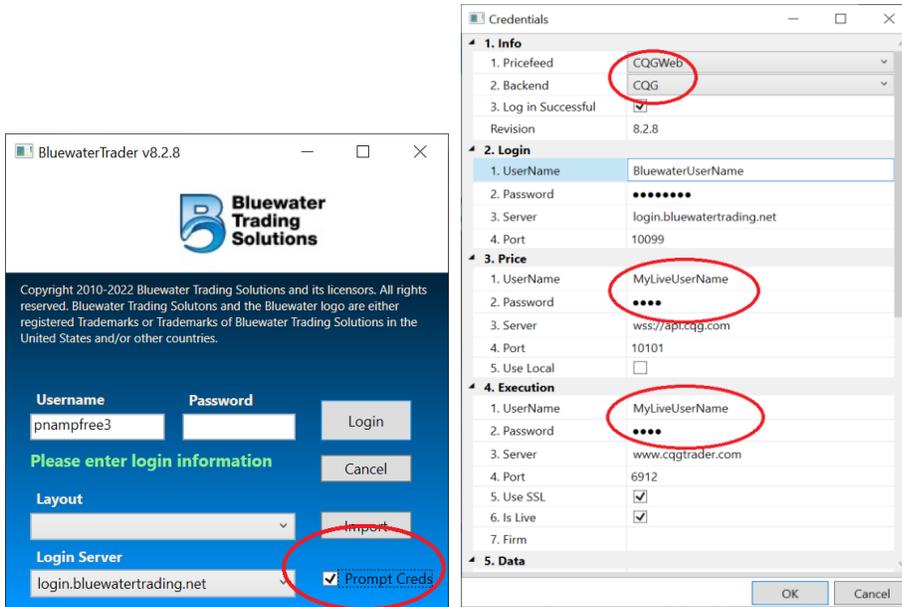
Symbol Manager

The Symbol Manager is the main window for managing the platform. The first step is to subscribe to the markets to watch or trade and then right click on the respective symbol line to initiate actions.
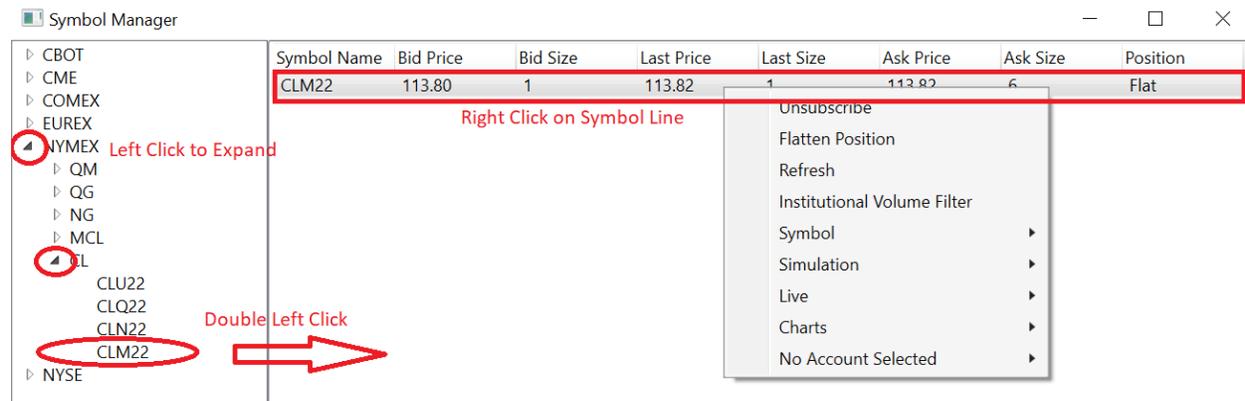
Subscribe/Unsubscribe

Navigate the Market Data structure on the left side of the Symbol Manager by clicking on the small triangles that are highlighted to the desired market. Subscribe to the market by double left clicking on the name and it will be moved to the right side, subscribed, and price activity should begin.

If NO price activity occurs but the **"Price"** light is green, make sure market data is enabled on the brokerage side (the live account) for this market.

Now, right click on the symbol line on the right side to initiate actions, such as opening charts.

Unsubscribe to the market by right clicking and selecting the "Unsubscribe" and it will be removed from the right side.

Flatten Position

If a default account is selected in the Symbol Manager using the last entry in the right click menu, the current position will be displayed for that account in the "Position" column for each subscribed market.

To close a position, select a symbol line by left clicking on it and then use the "Flatten Position" selection in the right click menu.

Refresh

This selection does a manual refresh of current positions, working and completed orders.

Use this to remove pending orders in the Order Manager, or if there was network related issues, to make sure your order status is current.

If there is ANY doubt ALWAYS call the broker and verify working orders and positions.

Institutional Volume Filter

Only available with at the professional level and gives a real time view of the order flow. The tick stream can be filtered on Quantity and aggregated based on Quantity, Time, Price and Trade Type or combinations thereof. Clicking "Reset" restarts the order flow filtering and analysis on demand.

Time	Type	Price	Quantity	Trades	Volume	
5/23/2022 4:59:21 PM	Short	3977.75	1	1	1	29
5/23/2022 4:59:21 PM	Short	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Short	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Long	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Long	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Long	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Long	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Long	3977.75	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:17 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	0
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	2	1	2	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:16 PM	Short	3977.50	1	1	1	
5/23/2022 4:59:14 PM	Long	3977.75	1	1	1	-29

Symbol

Used to roll a symbol to the current front month. Since each study and chart carries their own underlying symbols, it is crucial that you use the **"Roll to Current Front Month"** to make sure all underlying symbols roll correctly.

Right Click on the Symbol you want to roll and select the **"Roll to Current Front Month"**.

The **"Replace Symbol"** option should only be used to replace a given symbol with a different symbol (e.g., ES to NQ) or force a roll prior to the roll date.

Simulation

Opens a Depth of Market window or Trade Chart in Sim mode.

Live

Opens a Depth of Market window or Trade Chart in Live mode.

Charts

Used to open default charts. Specific chart templates will show under the "Templates" sub menu. Please note that all chart templates need to be located under the "Documents\BluewaterTrader\ChartTemplates" folder to show up here.

Once you open a chart, it can be customized for different the bar formations, number of panes and to add/remove studies.

Switching between Chart, Sim or Live modes

Used to switch a chart between regular chart, simulation or live trading.

Note, to see orders and fills on a chart which is not in Sim or Live mode switch it to the desired **Sim** or **Live** mode, select the account associated with the orders and fills and then switch the chart back to a regular chart.

Modify Quantity

Changes the Quantity for the order that is right clicked to the Quantity selected in the Quantity field.

Increasing the order quantity only adds the difference as a new order to achieve best possible fills.

Decreasing the order quantity will use the oldest orders at that price to be modified or cancelled to achieve best possible fills.

Chart Properties

The top row of tabs control the properties that applies to the entire Chart or to specific Views (View0, View1, etc)

Chart tab

The most important values to point out is the **"Bar Type"** and **"Bar Value"** which controls how bars are created. In the example below it's Time Bars set to 300 seconds (5 min), values are set in Seconds or Ticks.

The **"Primary Chart Symbol"** determines which symbol will be used to primarily scale and display the chart if there are multiple different symbols being displayed on the chart.

Also, the **"Time"** sections which controls how much data should be included on the chart.

Use Continuous   Controls whether historical data should roll to previous expirations or only stay on the current expiration.

Use Days Back   Controls whether the charts should use the **"Days Back"** setting or a defined Start/End date to populate the chart.

Days Back   If **"Use Days Back"** is checked sets the number of days back to use in the chart.

Start Time/ End Time   If **"Use Days Back"** is unchecked, defines the time frame to use in the chart.

NOTE: Normally charts should ALWAYS use the "Days Back" setting with 3 or 4 days back to get sufficient data in the chart and keep optimal performance.
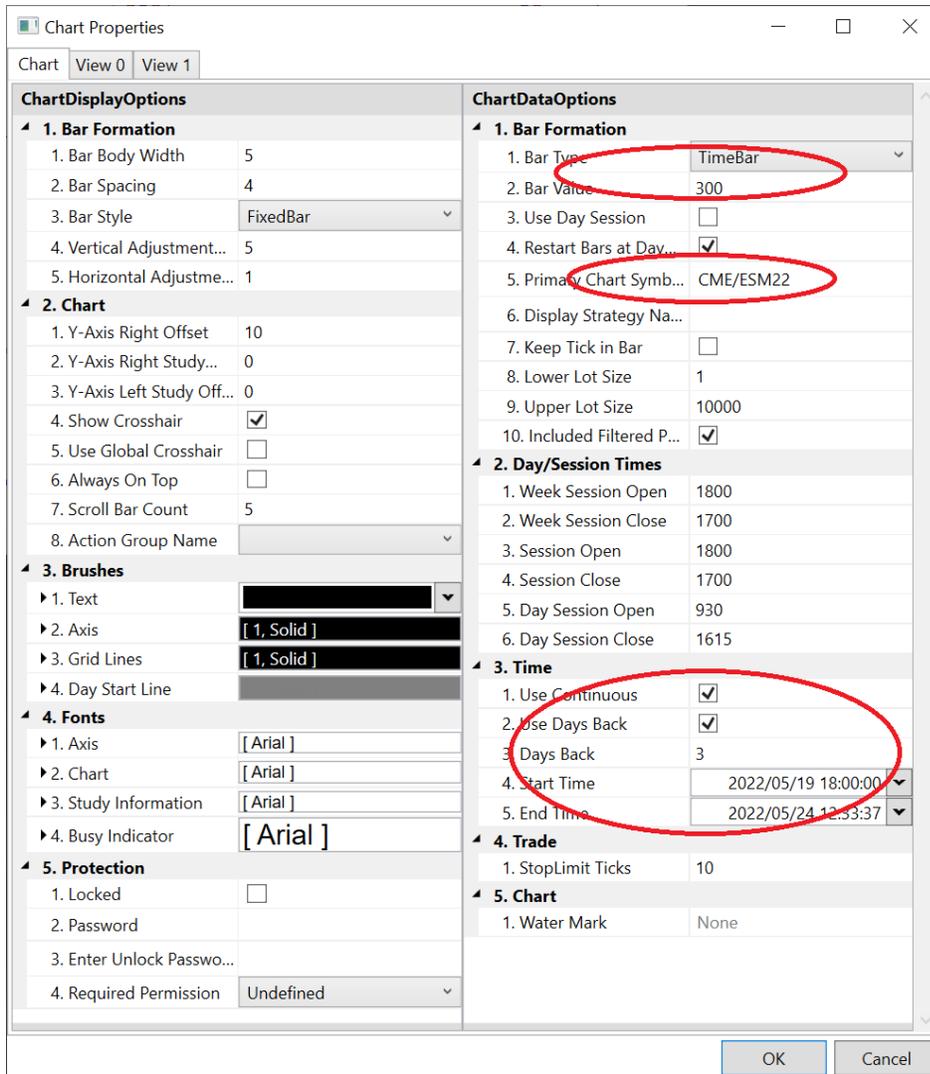

View tabs

The view tabs control how the view scales. The preferred option is to increase the **"Major Y-scale splits"** to get sufficient detail on the y-axis. The number controls how many values will be printed on the y-axis hence a higher number increases the detail without making it too busy.

The "Fixed Axis Increment" is used to manually set the ticks between y-axis prints. Set it to a value greater than 0 it will be used instead of auto splitting the axis.

Also, the background colors can be set per view.
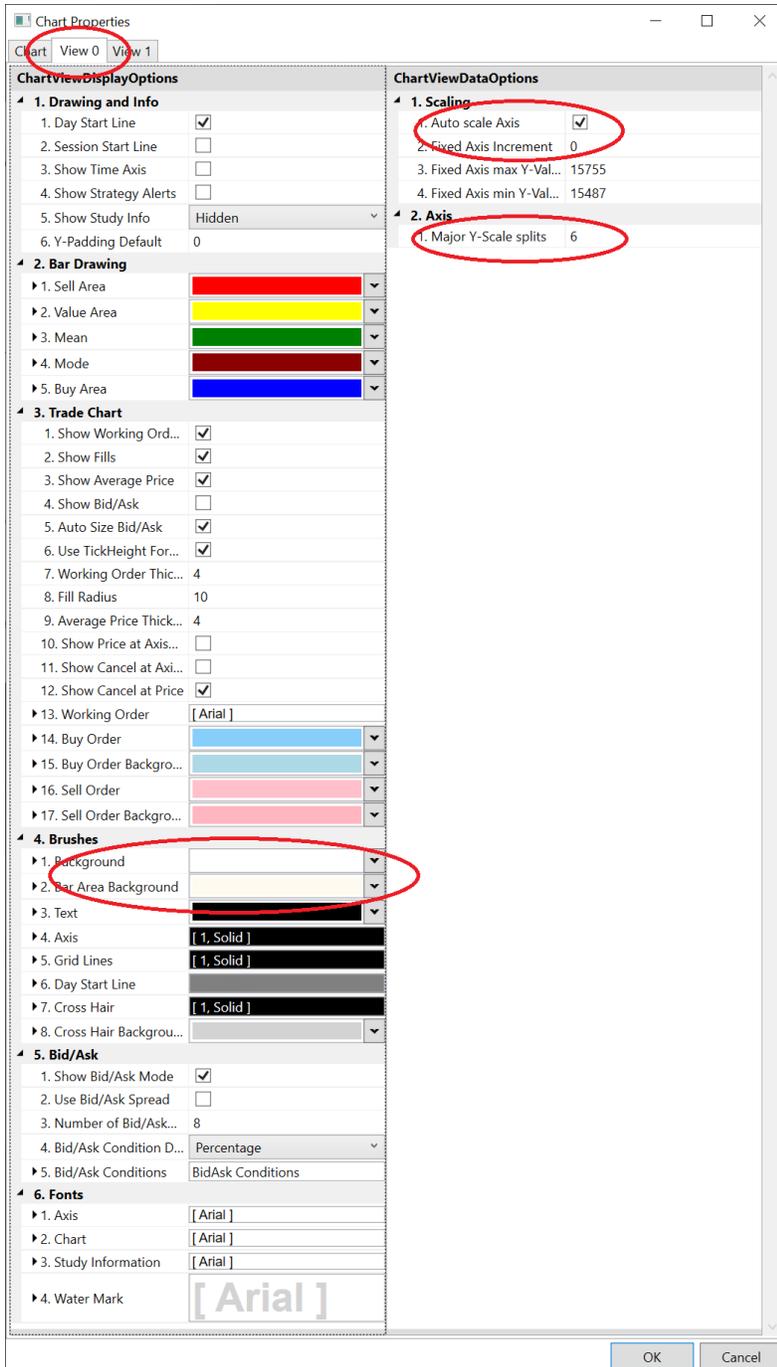
Study Info On/Off

Toggles to detailed study window on or off. This can be done for each view by right clicking on the respective view and toggling the window on or off. The window location can be changed under "Chart Properties", in the respective "View" tab.

Chart Misc | Saving Chart Templates

Save the current chart as a template. Once saved it is accessible from the **"Charts | Templates"** sub menu.

Profile

Pre-defined Profile splits to be used for the Bluewater Profile that is included in the Professional version or the Market Profile that is an add-on option.
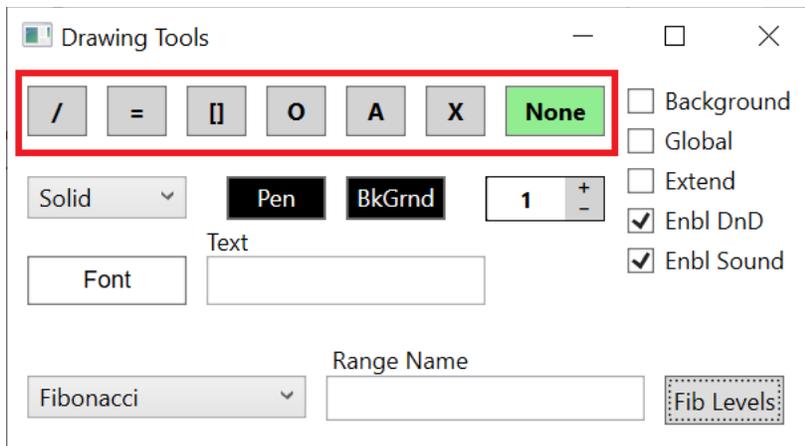
View

Adds or Removes a view from the chart. To delete a view right click on the specific view and select Delete.

Added views will be blank until you add at least one Study.

Drawings (incl. Fibonacci Levels)

Toggles the Drawing toolbox on or off.

Select the desired drawing tool, then select the coloration and draw.

Drawing Tools

"/"   Trendline or Fibonacci range

"="   Single horizontal line (just a left click) or Price Range (left click and drag)

"[]"   Square

"O"   Ellipse

"A"   Text, Type the text in the **"Text"** box prior to drawing the box on the chart

Check boxes

Background   Draw the shape in the background

Global   Add the shape to all charts that have the same Primary Chart Symbol

Extend   extends trend line to the y-axis.

Enbl DnD   Uncheck to disable drag and drop on shapes.

Enbl Sound   Uncheck to disable sounds when selecting drawing shape.

Fibonacci Levels

Select "Fibonacci" in the range type drop down circled in red. Use the trendline tool to draw the High to Low or Low to High. Click on "Fib Levels" to define what levels should be drawn.
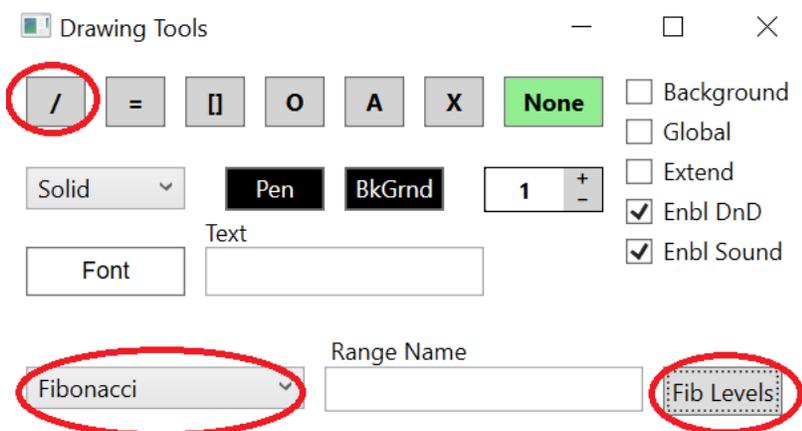
Center View and Resizing

Left click and hold mouse button down to the right of the Y-axis (Price axis) to re-scale, compress or decompress. Right click and hold the mouse down to scroll to chart up or down. Click "Center View" to remove any compress or scroll offsets from the chart.

Left click and hold the mouse below the X-axis (Time axis) to re-scale time, compress or decompress.

Scroll the chart backwards by left clicking and holding the scroll bar marker (marked in green) and drag back and forth. Note that if the scroll marker isn't all the way to the right no live price action will be visible.
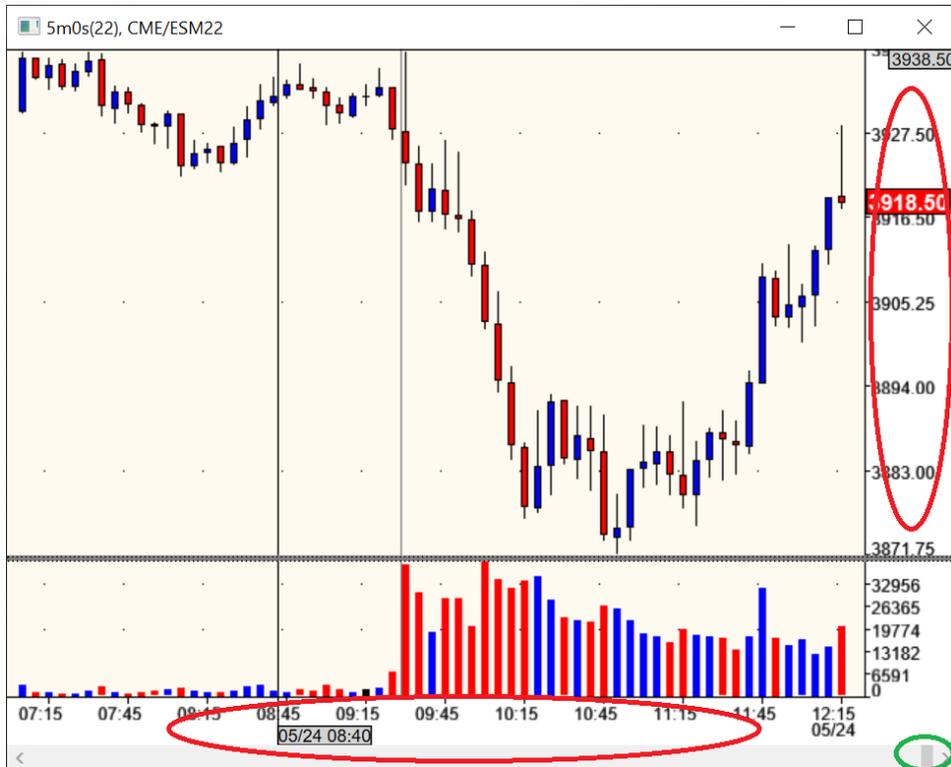
Rebuild Chart

Use this selection to force a tick rebuild of the chart and bypassing any bar cache files.

Before doing rebuilds make sure the **"Price"** button is green and you can see market action in the Symbol Manager.

Also make sure the **"Days Back"** have been correctly configured since it will take a while to tick rebuild an active market such as ES or NQ over several days. You can check that under Chart Properties.

Exit Platform

Always use this selection to properly close the platform. The **"Save Layout"** dialog will be prompted to for the current layout and if the same name is selected a second confirmation is prompted to confirm overwriting the existing layout. Say yes to both.

A good rule of thumb is to make a copy of the layout on a regular basis. Especially if symbols have been rolled or any bigger changes have been made so that there is something to go back to should anything go wrong.

To do this go to the "Documents\BluewaterTrader\Layouts" folder, then right click on the layout name and select "Copy" then right click on the back ground and "Paste" it. A new file with "- Copy" added to it should be visible. Next, rename the file so is not selected by mistake (e.g. add "Backup-") in the beginning). It can also be copied to an external drive, in case the computer crashes.

If something goes wrong and there is a need to revert back select your backup layout, load up the platform and then re-save it using the original layout name.

Order Manager

There are two order manager windows, one for simulation orders and the other for live orders.

Each Order Manager has two sections, the top section shows Open orders (Working or Pending) and the bottom section shows Completed Orders, which can be either Filled, Cancelled or Rejected.

NOTE: Open Orders should not remain Pending more than a few seconds and if they do you need to try a **"Refresh"** from the Symbol Manger and / or call your broker to verify what is working.

The bottom section shows Completed order

If multiple accounts are used, they can be used to filter the information in the view using the **"Account Filter"** drop down.

NOTE When trading live make sure the live order manager is open without any account filter selected so any orders are working are visible. Check this before walking away or closing the platform.
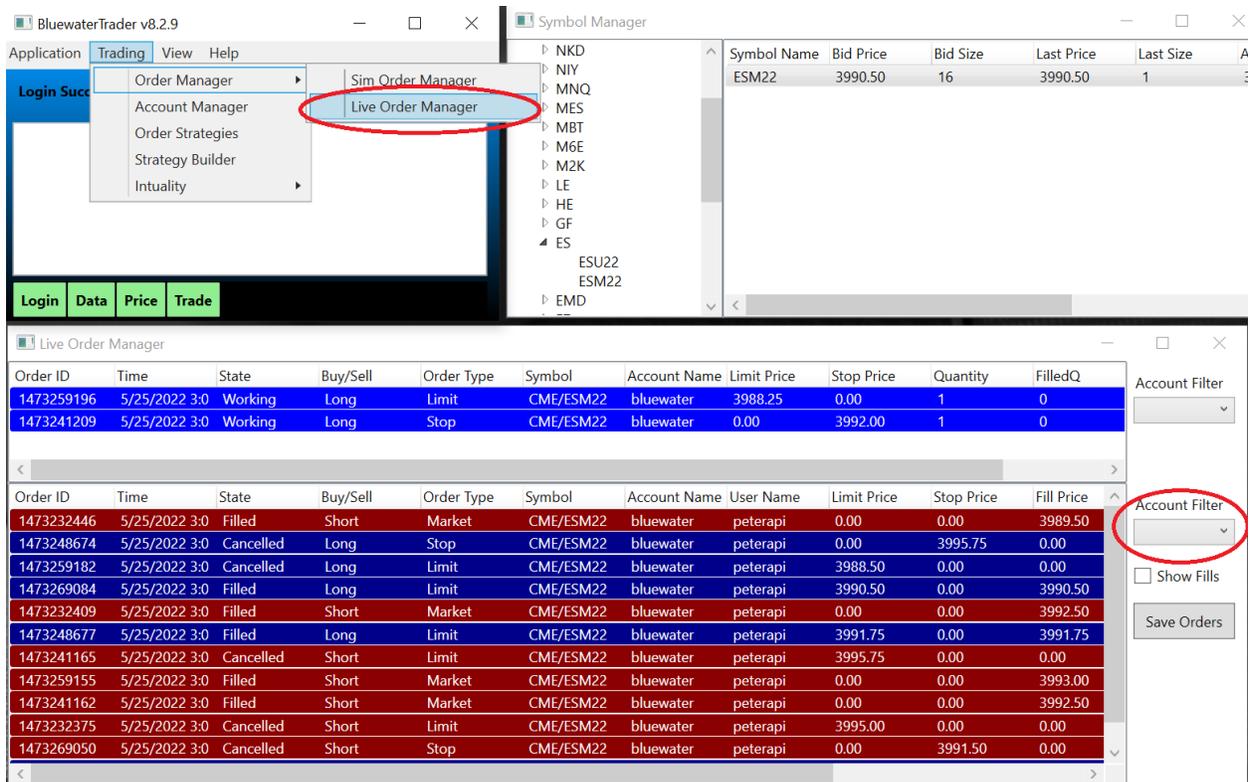
Order Strategies

Order Strategies are used to create complex strategies to enter or exit positions.

Entry   strategies are used enter a position.

Exit   strategies are used exit a position

To create a strategy enter the name in the **"Name"** box. Then, to create an Entry strategy right click on the **"Entry"** label and select **"Add"** or to create an Exit strategy right click on the **"Exit"** label and select **"Add"**.
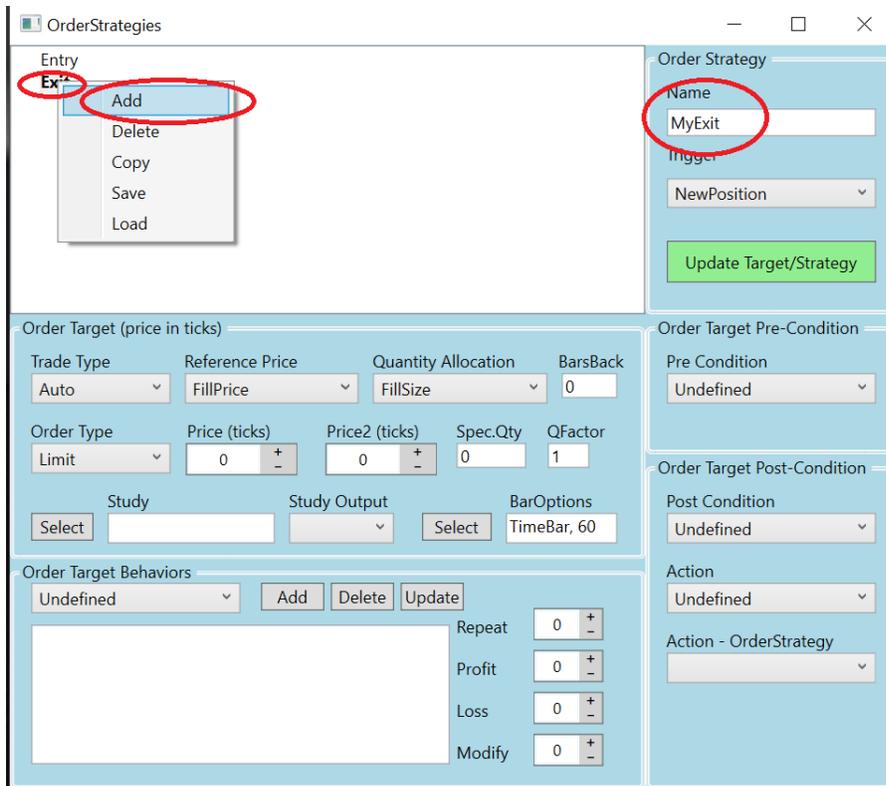
In the case above we are creating an exit strategy and the new strategy name "MyExit" will show up as a line under the "Exit" label.

To add order targets configure the **"Order Target settings"** , **"Order Target Behaviors"** and the **"Order Target Post-Condition"** and then right click on the Order Strategy Name (MyExit) and select **"Add"**

NOTE: Sub targets can be added below an existing order target which will be executed once the Order Target itself is completed.

Save (export) order strategies by selecting the Strategy Name then right click and select **"Save"**. A previously saved strategy can be re-loaded by right clicking anywhere in the strategy area and selecting **"Load"**.
NOTE: The default location for order strategies is "Documents\BluewaterTrader\ChartTemplates".

NOTE: New strategies will not show up in the Order Strategies drop downs until the Order Strategies window is closed.

Order Target Settings

NOTE: When selecting an existing order target the settings will be auto populated and if any changes are made click the **"Update Target/Strategy"** button highlighted in red to actually update the order target.

Trade Type

Auto-   Automatically determine the buy or sell order depending on fill type.

Long   Force a buy order to be placed.

Short   Force a sell order to be placed.

Reference Price

Sets the Price of the order target <u>offset</u> by the number of ticks set in the **"Price"** value. The **"Price2"** offset value is only used in conjunction with StopLimit orders to set the Limit price.

Most of these are self-explanatory.

Quantity

Set the Quantity of the order target. Most of these are self-explanatory.

Exception is references that include a **percentage**, **multiplier** or **add**, in those cases the value is defined in the **"QFactor"** field and the result is always rounded down. E.g. If a 3 lot fill has a 50% (0.50) factor the result is a quantity of 1.5 that is rounded down to a 1 lot.

Also any **"Specified"** quantity should be entered into the **"Spec.Qty"** field.

Order Target Behaviors

Defines what behaviors the order target should exhibit. The most common behaviors are **"move to break even"** and **"trail"**

First, select the Order Target then select the desired behavior, then configure the settings and add it. Behavior will be processed in the order they are listed. Values should be entered in ticks.

Repeat   Number of times to repeat the behavior
Profit   If a profit gain is included in behavior specify it here, e.g. after "Profit" move.
Loss   If a profit loss is included in behavior specify it here.
Modify   Number of ticks to move the target when each time the behavior is triggered.

To add/remove a behavior select the order target, then select the behavior and configure the settings and finally click on the **"Add"** or **"Update"** as appropriate.

In the example below we have a 12 tick Stop that will move to BreakEven plus 1 tick when 8 ticks of profit has been achieved.

Order Target Pre-Condition

Defines additional conditions to be met **BEFORE** an order target will be placed.

These behaviors are not currently implemented.

## Order Target Post-Condition

Defines a behavior to execute once the order target moves to a completed status (Filled or Cancelled). Most of these behaviors are self-explanatory.

Most common is to clean up working orders in case the position gets stopped out, see the image above.

In more advanced configurations new order strategies can be initiated on completion of an Order Target using the **"ExecuteStrategy"** option and specifying the Strategy Name to be executed.

Testing Order Strategies using Replay

Open a Replay instance then subscribe to a market from the Replay Symbol Manager and select start date and load the market. Open a Replay DOM and select the strategy to test. Once the strategy is active use the **"Up"** and **"Down"** buttons to force the market up or down to simulate market activity.
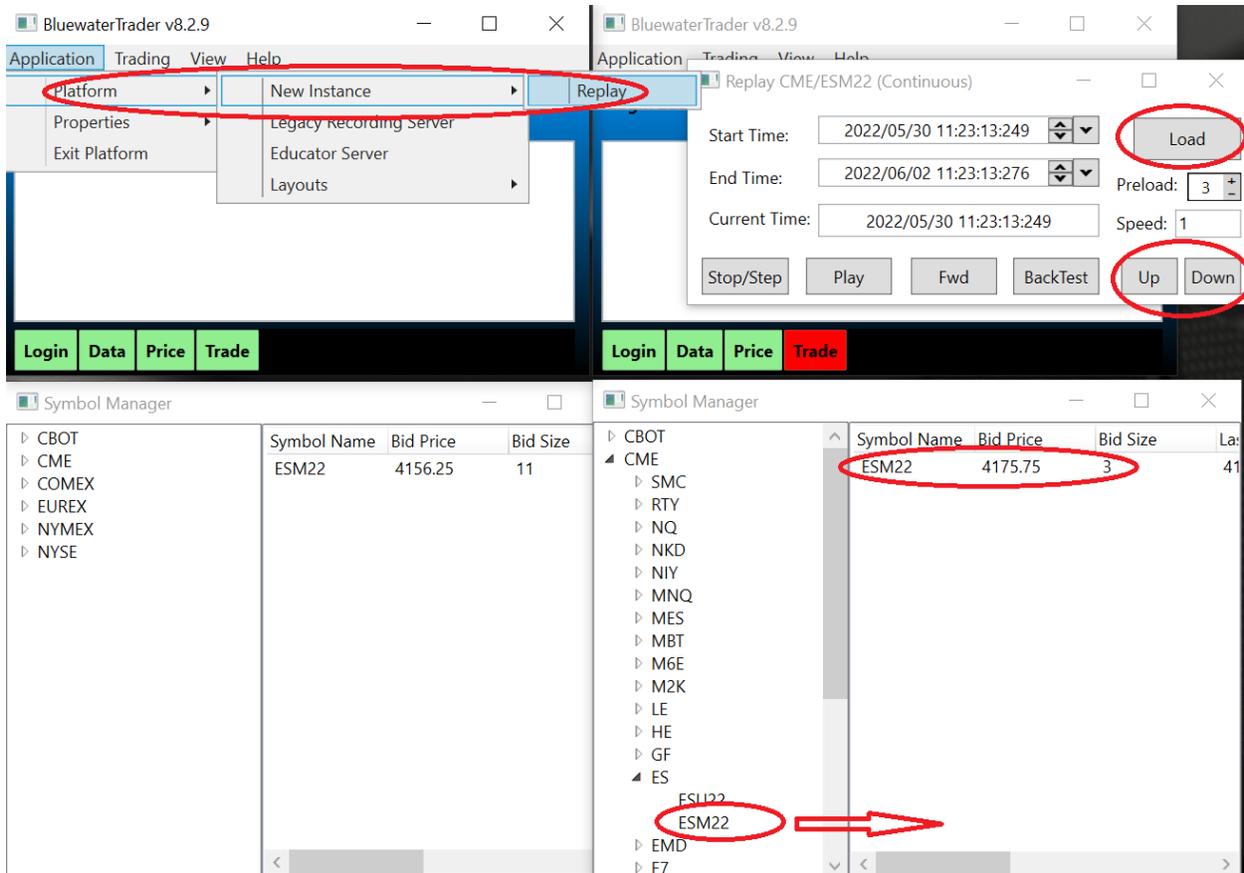
Account Manager

Shows the accounts that are available and allows drill down to see historical performance.

NOTE: The account records what happens on the front-end in terms of fills and is not intended to be any official record of what actual fills occurred on your trading account.
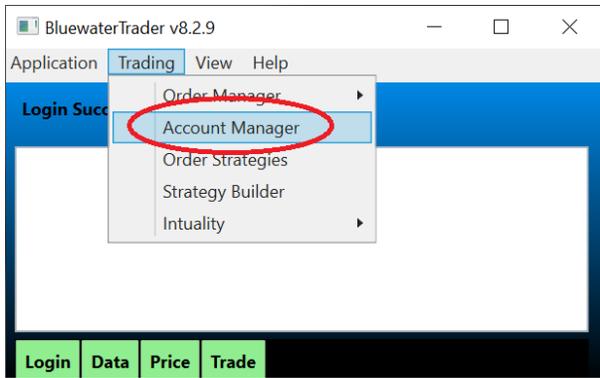
Click on the small triangles highlighted below to expand or collapse sections in the account to see various sections of the performance metrics all the way down the individual trades.

To Export fills click on the account name, the top node, and then click on **"Export Fills"**. The fills will be stored in a file under the "Documents\BluewaterTrader\Accounts\FillsReports" folder.

NOTE: This window is need to be closed to use other features/windows in the platform.

Use the **"Create Sim Account"** to create a new account.
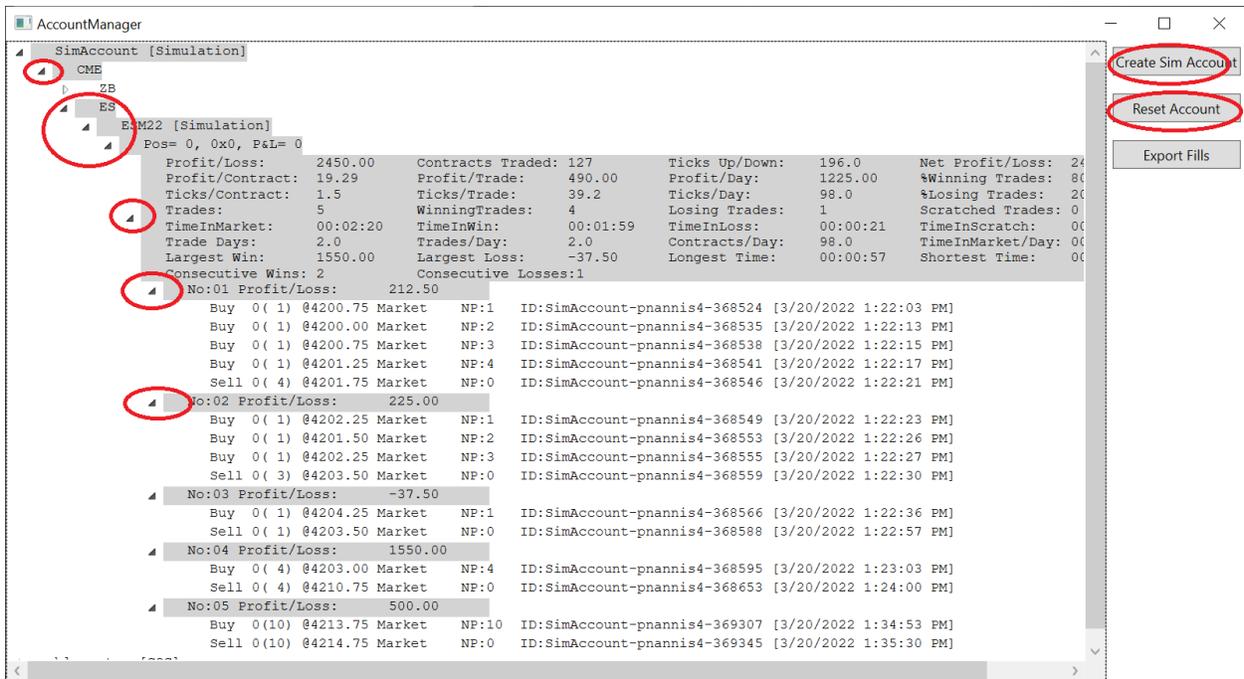
Right click to Add an account and right click on the account name to Edit or Delete it.

The only settings that should be changed are the **"Account Name"** and **"Commission"** fields. By entering a value in the commission field all Profit numbers will be adjusted accordingly. The value on the commission field is the cost of a round turn.

An account can be reset i.e. all fills will be removed by clicking on the **"Reset Account"** button.
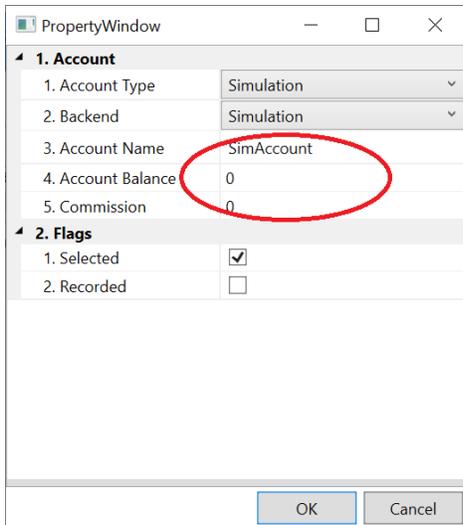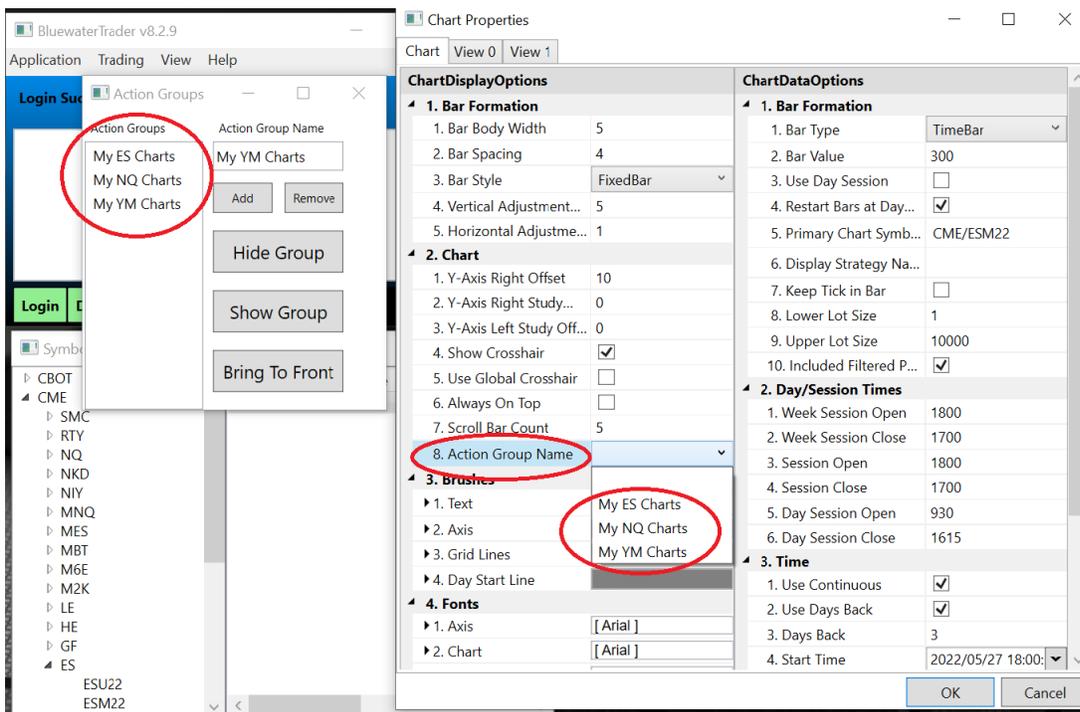
Strategy Builder

Coming Soon.

Action Groups

This feature allows for quickly hiding or showing groups of windows.

Open the Action Group window from "View | Action Groups". Define the different groups and then select them under the various properties settings for the different windows. The image below shows how to do this for a Chart.
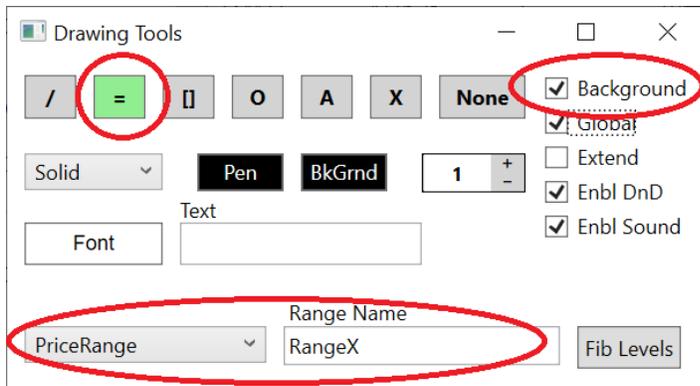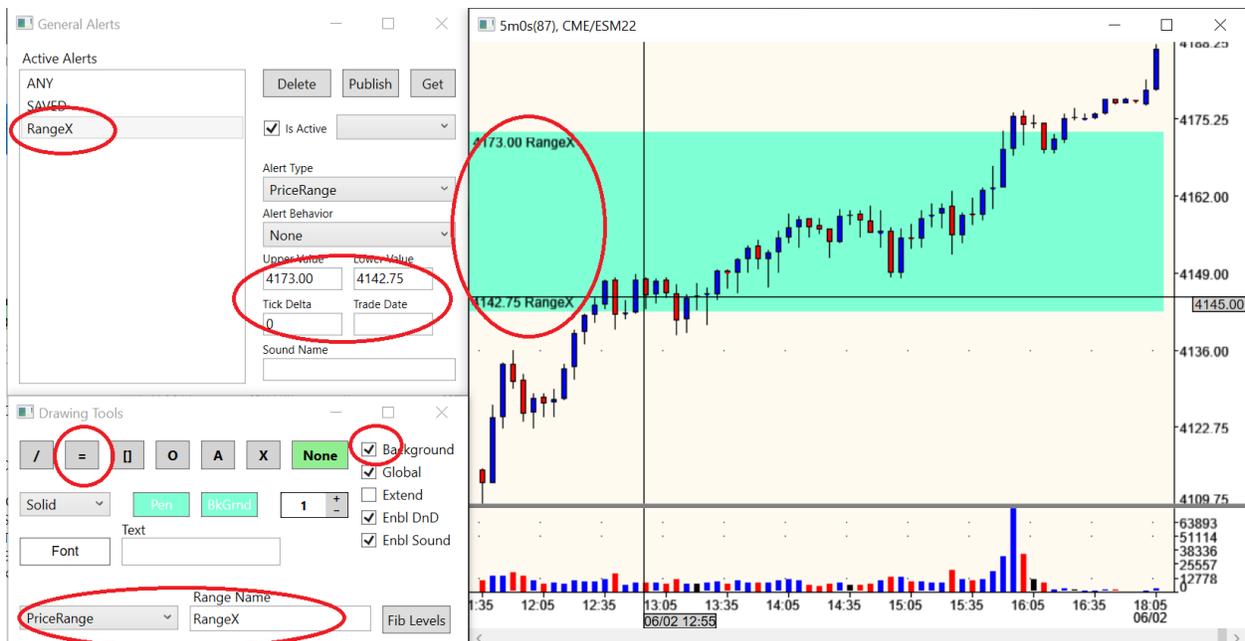
General Alerts

Open the General Alerts window by going to "View | General Alerts"

To create a General Alert use the Drawing Tools and draw a **"Price Range"** on a chart. To draw the price range select the range tool (**"="**), check **"Background"** so that the range shows in the chart background then select **"PriceRange"** as the type and enter a name in the **"Range Name"** box. Each price range has to have a unique name.

The key benefit of a price range defined as a General Alert is that it can be used in Trade Strategies.


Range drawn on chart as a general alert.

An alert can be modified directly by selecting it and then changing the values in the boxes on the window.

A behavior can be added to a general alert define when it should trigger the alert and make a sound. The alert only triggers once an then you have to manually click the **"Is Active"** box again for it to trigger again.

Educator Server

There is also a server supported feature to download Published price ranges by a third party, such as an educator that has been setup by Bluewater to publish ranges. In order to use this feature it has to be permissioned by Bluewater.
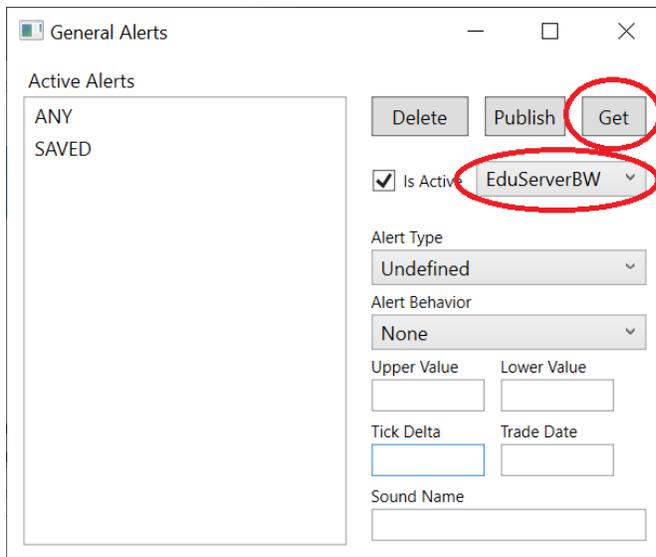

If you use the automatic download feature the proper steps to download price ranges are as follows:

1. Erase existing ranges by right clicking on any Chart and go to "Drawings | Delete Drawings Globally", only "ANY" and "SAVED" should show in the General Alert list (if anything else shows manually delete them in General Alerts)
2. Select educator permission in General Alerts (unless it is already selected)
3. Click on "Get" ONCE and the price ranges should download, do not re-download without doing Step 1 first.
4. Verify that the "Trade Date" showing in the General Alert matches the trading date (the publish date of the price ranges)

NOTE: The option "Drawings | Delete Drawings Published" can also be used in Step 1 to avoid deleting custom price ranges.

Sounds

Simple links to pre-defined sound files. To add new sounds files save them in the "Documents\BluewaterTrader\Sounds" folder and then click on the corresponding button to the left of the sound name and select the desired sound.
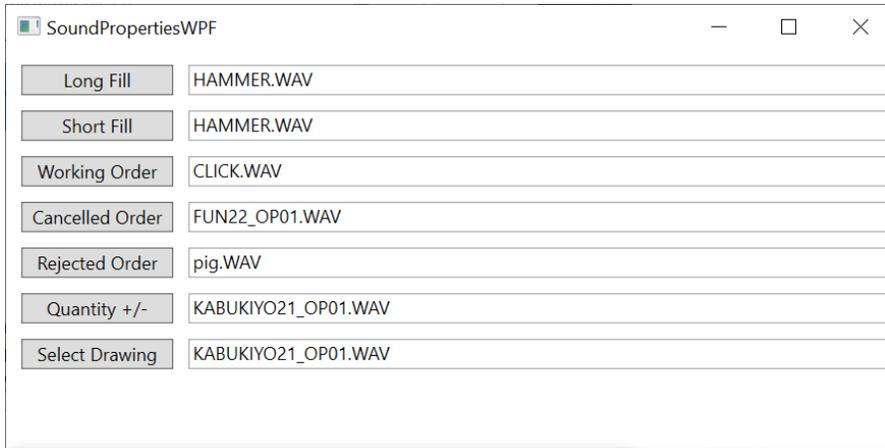
Application Properties

These are properties that apply across the application. For the normal users the only settings that should be modified are the **"Tick Throttle Speed"**, **"Tick Throttle Count"** and **"Enable Bar Cache"**

Tick Throttle Speed   Defines the minimum screen update time in milliseconds

Tick Throttle Count   Defines number of ticks to process before updating chart data for re-draw

Enable Bar Cache   Turns on feature that saves charts pre-calculated info so they load a lot faster.
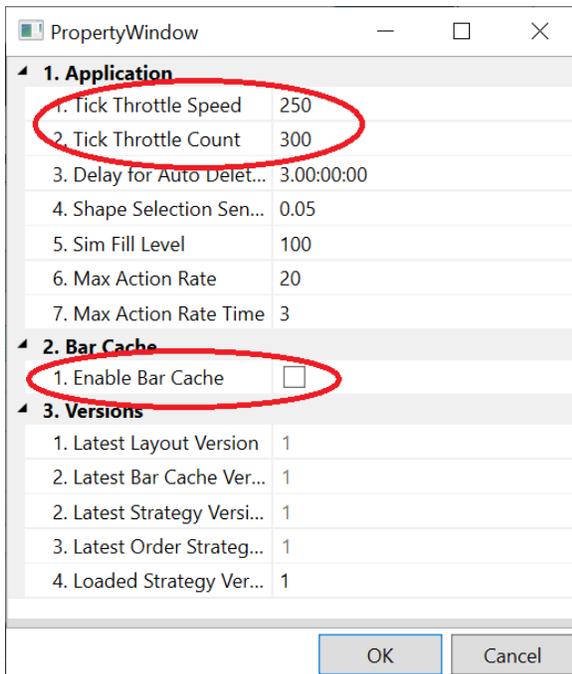
Best Practices and Performance Considerations

Trading Computer

For best performance get a computer with AT LEAST

1.   Intel i7 or i9 unlocked CPU (K, X or Z series) , comparable AMD processors works as well
2.   512Gb or bigger solid state drive (SSD).
3.   16Gb or bigger primary memory.
4.   Higher end graphics card with multi monitor support, no need for performance gaming cards but well above mid-level performance.
5.   Monitors with at least 1920x1080 resolution.

Network Connection

Any trading on the internet has the potential for connectivity issues which could be local to the home, between the home and the internet provider or at the final server destination. If there are persistent issues make sure the inside wiring, connection to provider and any routers are in good condition.

Use a speed test site (www.speedtest.net) to evaluate the connection speed.

Understand the markets (symbols) traded

Know the symbols that are traded. Learn what margin is and how it affects the trading. Don't trade close to margin limits to avoid unnecessary order rejections which can create stressful situations.

Also know when the market rolls to the next expiration and what the margin requirements is per market. See the Symbol Manager section how to roll them in the platform.

Learn the software basics

Know the platform and learn how it works and how to execute the trading methodology in simulation mode so that situations can be handled efficiently when real money is on the line.

Understand how the platform shows the connectivity for price feed and order routing, on the Bluewater platform you have 4 green lights on the main screen and if **"Price"** or **"Trade"** turns red there is a connectivity disruption.

Don't leave charts in trade mode to avoid clicking in orders by mistake

Handling order related issues

Before doing ANY trading for the day place a test order (place and cancel a live order) to make sure the order connection is working.

Anytime something out of the ordinary happens you should check your working orders and positions with your broker.

Also, when exiting and re-opening the platform it will re-synchronize with the backend and **IF** anything shows up that is not expected, such as an open position or working order, **immediately call and confirm with your broker before moving forward with any trading**.

Setting up Charts properly

Normally charts should always be using **"DaysBack"** with max 3 or 4 days selected

Account Statements and Mark to Market

The account statement gets generated daily by the broker. All trades (fills) for the day gets consolidated to the account and the profit or loss gets marked to market, e.g. either money is made or lost for that trading day.

Futures contracts are highly leveraged and are traded on margin hence it is crucial to review the daily statement and make sure it matches the trading for the day to ensure there are no unexpected open positions.

Trading Psychology

Check out the Bluewater Methodology on our website www.bluewatertradingsolutions.com and check out our Trading Room also available from the website.