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Stox is portfolio management software that helps you keep track of all your liquid assets (ie, stock portfolio). It can download information from your broker's website if you maintain an online account, Quicken, Excel, or you can resort to manually enter all the information including when you purchased and sold the investment. It can save all your private information in a password protected file, so you don't have to worry that prying eyes will see how poorly your investments have done lately. It handles stock, mutual funds, options, as well as commodities giving you a quick overview of your net worth (or lack of same). It accesses online information primarily from Yahoo, but can use Google Finance or country specific Yahoo services. As a result, displayed quotes are 15 to 20 minutes behind. That's normal for most free online services, but some online brokerage sites can display real-time quotes. Stox can handle multiple portfolios, and display them separately, using different currencies besides the US Dollar if you wish. News articles are shown in a separate window, and these too are primarily downloaded from Yahoo. When you click on the overview window, news articles about the market and Market Indices can be seen. News services such as CNN, Reuters, Marketwatch, and others are accessed for this information.

With Stox you can see a number of different chart types to help you better analyze when to buy or sell stock. In addition to price, you can also see charts of commodity channel index, historical volatility, momentum, moving average convergence/divergence, on balance average, rate of change, relative strength index, stochastic fast, stochastic slow, and volume. Some can be displayed as overlays, but in any case you need to understand what they mean if this is going to do you any good at all. Fortunately, when you apply each one, Stox displays a bit about the chart type and gives a URL where you can read more about what the chart means and how to use it. Needless to say, what they all mean is beyond the scope of this article.

Stox will also quickly display options that are available for each stock you have listed and are grouped by their expiration month. Options allow you to leverage your money, so the astute trader can use these to his or her advantage commanding much more stock than the actual amount of money you have invested. However, they are also a fast way to lose your shirt.

A ticker window can be displayed over the main Stox window or other windows you may have open. The ticker is highly customizable displaying any or all your holdings, news

about those holdings, alarm when a certain value is reached, and quotes or market indices from different portfolios. The background color, display speed, and font size are also customizable.

Finally reports can be generated that give you an overall view of your portfolio, gains and losses, current value, unrealized gains and losses so you can spot the turkeys in your portfolio that you need to dump. All in all, Stox provides a convenient and fast portfolio management tool that can keep you abreast of your holdings. Many online brokerage sites provide similar capabilities, but with Stox you can see all your information in one neatly designed and customizable Mac application.

