

Help

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1. What is over the counter trading?

The most popular type of trading is exchange trading: one party lists an asset with a stock exchange, and a second party comes along and buys it at the exchange. This makes trades inherently transparent: anyone can see the details of trades.

Over the counter trading is an alternative to exchange trading. Here, instead of conducting business through a third party, the buyer and seller communicate directly. Unlike in exchange trading, the OTC trading is not inherently transparent. To combat this, all OTC trades must be made public and placed in a central repository.

2. What is the purpose of this application?

The aforementioned repository is, in reality, a big pile of data consisting of over 500 files, with no easy way to visualise the trades: it's extremely user unfriendly and by itself doesn't really achieve its goal of providing transparency, for example it's extremely difficult to see how the price of an asset has changed over time, you'd need to manually browse of the files of the repository and look for relevant trades.

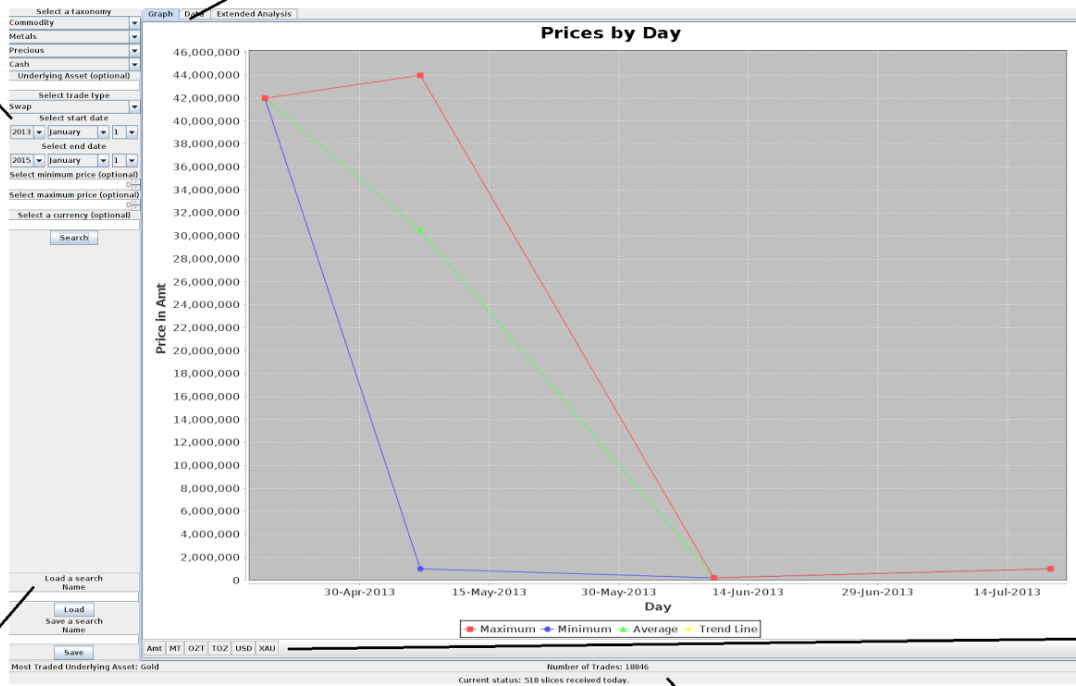
This application supplements the repository by providing data visualisation and analysis, as well as better search tools than other free alternatives.

3. Using the application

a. Application layout.

Search pane

Change display: line graph, raw data or extended analysis



Change displayed currency

Save pane

Current application status

b. Conducting a search

The only thing you actually need to specify to search using this application is the UPI taxonomy. This is a system used to classify assets, for example, Commodity::Metals::Precious metals is the UPI taxonomy of precious metals like gold and silver.

However, it may be useful to specify further parameters to narrow your search.

- Underlying asset: as the precious metal example shows, within each class of the taxonomy, there are actually many different assets, for example steel and copper are both in the same taxonomy class: non-precious metals. In this example, to specify that you really want steel, set the taxonomy to Commodity::Metals::Non-precious and the underlying asset to steel.
- There are two types of trade: swap and option. Swaps are the type of exchanges you expect: the two parties involved in the trade items, usually one of the parties trades cash. Options allow one party to pay a fixed sum to a second in order to have the right to buy an asset for a set price at a later date, regardless of what happens to the market for that asset. The default type is swap.
- Narrowing the date will allow you to make more detailed analysis. Note that there is no data available from before the end of February 2013: this was when the repository was opened.
- Selecting a price range will again let you make more detailed analysis. NOTE: the application will assume you don't want to specify the price range if the values are equal.
- Trades are performed in many currencies. By default, the application will return all trades in all currencies (each currency is browsed separately), but you can also narrow the search to one currency, e.g. USD.

c. Saving a search for later

- This application can save up to 5 searches for use at a later date. When more than 5 are saved, the oldest search is deleted.
- To save a search, just type any name into the name field of the save pane (this name must have at least one character), then click save. The save should appear in the dropdown menu for loading saves now.
- To load a search, simply select the desired search from the dropdown box in the save pane and press load.

Other info

- Trades are made constantly, so the repository that this application uses is constantly updated. To keep the application up to date, a network connection is required while the application is running.
- The first time the application is run, it must download the entire repository. This may take several minutes.