

Unlocking Your NinjaTrader Workspace: A Guide to Window Management

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While NinjaTrader 8 does not currently offer a traditional "docking" feature to snap windows into a single, unified container, traders can employ several powerful techniques to organize and streamline their trading environment. This guide will walk you through NinjaTrader's native "Window Linking" functionality and explore popular workarounds for achieving a more integrated workspace.

The Reality of Window Docking in NinjaTrader

It's a long-standing request from the NinjaTrader community, but as of late 2024, the platform does not include a feature to dock windows (like charts, SuperDOMs, or the Control Center) together into one resizable frame. Each window in NinjaTrader 8 operates as a separate, independent entity.

However, this doesn't mean you're left to manually wrangle a desktop full of disparate windows. NinjaTrader provides a robust "Window Linking" feature, and the user community has identified several effective workarounds to manage window layouts.¹

Harnessing the Power of Window Linking

Window Linking is NinjaTrader's solution for creating a functionally integrated workspace. This feature allows you to link multiple windows together so that a change in one window—such as selecting a new instrument—is automatically reflected in all other linked windows.² This is a crucial tool for efficient analysis and trading across different chart timeframes and order entry tools.

To link windows by instrument:

1. **Locate the Link Button:** In the top-right corner of any NinjaTrader window you wish to link, you'll find a small, colored square.³ This is the Instrument Link button.
2. **Assign a Color:** Click on the Link button to reveal a color palette. Select a color to assign to that window.
3. **Link Other Windows:** Repeat the process for any other windows you want to link, assigning them the same color.⁴

Now, when you change the instrument in one of the linked windows, all other windows in that color group will automatically update to the new instrument.⁵

To link charts by interval:

Chart windows have an additional linking option for time intervals.⁶ This allows you to change the time frame on one chart and have other linked charts update accordingly. The process is similar to instrument linking, but you'll use the interval link button, typically located next to the instrument link button.⁷

Workarounds for a "Docked" Experience

To achieve a more visually organized and "docked-like" layout, consider these popular workarounds:

- **Windows Snap Assist:** Your Windows operating system has a built-in feature called "Snap Assist" that can help arrange windows on your screen.⁸ By dragging a window to the edge or corner of your screen, you can "snap" it into place, occupying a portion of the screen. While some users have reported

inconsistencies with NinjaTrader's custom window borders, it's a quick and easy first step to try for basic organization.

- **Third-Party Window Management Tools:** Several third-party applications are designed to give you more precise control over window placement. A popular choice among NinjaTrader users is **Divvy**, which allows you to create a custom grid on your screen and quickly place windows into predefined areas. This can effectively mimic a docked layout.
- **Virtual Desktops:** For traders who need to manage multiple complex layouts, Windows' "Virtual Desktops" feature can be a game-changer. You can create multiple desktop instances and dedicate each one to a specific workspace. For example, you could have one virtual desktop for your primary trading layout, another for research and news, and a third for backtesting. This allows you to keep your primary trading windows maximized and switch between desktops with a simple key combination, avoiding a cluttered single desktop.

By combining NinjaTrader's native Window Linking with these organizational strategies, you can create a highly efficient and personalized trading environment that overcomes the absence of a traditional docking feature.