

Q&A: Upgrading to ADE/ELC 2.0

What will change when I move to ADE/ELC 2.0?

After upgrading to ADE/ELC 2.0, you can share data between charts even when multi-core is enabled. You can also share data between charts and RadarScreens, which was not possible with the original ADE/ELC.

What will I need to learn in order to use the new version?

The overall functionality of ADE/ELC has not changed. All of the EasyLanguage functions and indicators have the same inputs and behave in the same way. Thus, if you already know how to use ADE/ELC, there is nothing new to learn.

When I run the installer for ADE/ELC 2.0, it copies some files, then launches the TradeStation platform and starts importing EasyLanguage techniques. When it asks whether to replace my existing ADE/ELC functions and indicators, what should I do?

You should click the **"Yes to all"** button to overwrite all your existing ADE/ELC functions and indicators. **This is very important.** Even though the interface of the functions and indicators is identical to the old version, the *implementation* of many of the functions has changed in the new version. Thus, you must replace the old functions and indicators with the new versions, or you will have an incomplete setup that will not work properly.

My setup contains custom code and/or other libraries that rely on ADE/ELC. What will happen to this code when I install the new version?

As long as your custom code and add-on libraries rely solely on the EasyLanguage interface of ADE/ELC, they should work seamlessly with the new version. The EasyLanguage interface is 100% backwards-compatible with the original ADE/ELC, so there should be no need to change any of your existing code. Just install ADE/ELC 2.0 and everything should continue to work – but now it will work even when multi-core is enabled!

What do you mean by "code that relies solely on the EasyLanguage interface"?

The official interface of ADE/ELC (as described in the documentation) is the EasyLanguage functions and indicators. This interface has not changed. However, the ELC functions internally call the ELCollections DLL, and this internal interface **has** changed. The DLL interface was never intended to be called directly from user code, but there is nothing to prevent you (or library vendors) from doing this. Since the DLL interface has changed in ADE/ELC 2.0, any existing user code that calls the DLL directly will not work in the new version. The vast majority of ADE/ELC code out there probably uses the EasyLanguage interface, so this is unlikely to be a problem. However, it's important to be aware of this caveat if you have code that does call the DLL directly.

What happens if I import an older ADE/ELC add-on library *after* installing ADE/ELC 2.0?

You need to be careful when doing this, because older ELD files that rely on ADE/ELC 1.x will contain at least some of the functions from the original libraries. It's important to avoid overwriting any of the standard ADE/ELC functions when you import the add-on library. Otherwise, you will have older versions of these functions that will not work correctly with the new DLL.

If you accidentally replace the new versions of some ADE/ELC functions with older versions, it's easy to correct the problem: just import the TS-ADE-ELC.ELD file from your ADE directory and say "Yes to all" to overwrite all the standard ADE/ELC functions and indicators. (Or if you prefer, you can run the ADE/ELC 2.0 installer again.)

In fact, we recommend always reimporting the new ADE/ELC functions after importing an older library based on ADE/ELC. It only takes a couple minutes, and it will ensure that your ADE/ELC setup is correct.

How can I be sure that I don't have older ADE/ELC functions that are incompatible with the new version?

The best way to be sure of this is to delete the old DLL (which is named ELCollections.dll) from your TradeStation Program directory. Note that the new DLL is called ELCollections2.dll, so be sure not to delete that one. If you don't wish to delete the old DLL, you can rename it to something like ELCollections.dll.old.

If you have older ADE/ELC functions, they will attempt to access the original DLL. Because you have deleted or renamed it, you will get an error saying "Cannot find DLL library file: ELCollections.dll". This lets you know that you have some incompatible functions, and you can correct the problem by reimporting the TS-ADE-ELC.ELD file (or running the installer again).

How can I protect myself in case something goes wrong when I install the new version?

It's always a good idea to back up your existing EasyLanguage library before making any major changes. Thus, we recommend backing up all your EasyLanguage analysis techniques before you install ADE/ELC 2.0. If something goes wrong and you need to return to your previous setup, you can simply restore everything from your backup.

The easiest way to perform the backup is to use the "Backup TradeStation" command that is available under the "File | Backup/Restore TradeStation" menu. Since you only need to back up your analysis techniques in this case, you can create a new backup configuration (e.g. "EasyLanguage Library"), clear all the component check boxes, and check just the "Analysis Techniques & Strategies" component.

If you prefer to back up your analysis techniques by exporting them to an ELD, then you can export just your functions and indicators, since these are the only kinds of EasyLanguage code that the ADE/ELC installer imports. However, the "Backup TradeStation" command is generally faster if you follow the instructions above.

When I insert a study or strategy that uses ADE or ELC, a program called "ELC Server" appears in my Windows task bar. Is this normal? Why is it there?

Yes, this is perfectly normal. ADE/ELC 2.0 uses something called "shared memory," which allows your stored data to be accessed by different applications (such as multiple charts when multi-core is enabled). The ELC Server program manages shared memory for the ELCollections library, so it should always remain open while you are using ADE/ELC. When you close the last study or strategy that uses ADE/ELC, the ELC Server program will shut down automatically.

You don't normally need to worry about ELC Server at all; it just does its job in the background and disappears when it is no longer needed. However, if TradeStation exits abnormally for some reason, the ELC Server program may remain open. In this case, you should close it manually. To do this, just click the "ELC Server" button in the task bar and then click the close box in the upper-right corner of the window. You may also press Ctrl+C to close the server.

Are there any other changes I should know about?

The ADE.Directory function has been modified to read your ADE directory path from the registry instead of using a hard-coded value. When you run the ADE/ELC 2.0 installer, you must specify the path for your ADE directory, and the installer will write this path to the registry. Then the ADE.Directory function will automatically return that path; thus, you no longer need to modify this function if you are using an ADE directory other than C:\ADE.

If you rename or move your ADE directory, it's easy to update the path in the registry. Just open Windows Explorer, navigate to your new ADE directory, and double-click the UpdateADEPath.cmd file. The next time you apply a study that uses ADE, the ADE.Directory function will return the new location.

If I'm not using multi-core charts, do I really need ADE/ELC 2.0?

If you have the multi-core option turned off, the original ADE/ELC libraries will work fine with charting, so it is not necessary to upgrade.

If you want to use ADE/ELC with multi-core charts, or you would like to share data between charts and RadarScreens, then you do need to upgrade to ADE/ELC 2.0.

Also, note that only ADE/ELC 2.0 or later are supported by TradeStation. Furthermore, future versions of TradeStation will contain new functionality that is not compatible with the original version of ADE/ELC.