**Initial Conversation**

**Geoffrey McGowan**

Hi and thanks for your reply. Before we go any further, would it actually be possible for the EA to take the signals from the VA change on the website charts and link this sitgnal to a brokers account to place the trade? And would it be possible to backtest the EA performance on the website charts and alter stops, targets etc to see which gives the best result? Thanks Geoff McGowan.

**Me**

Hi!  
Theoretically it's possible, but it is actually not the proper way of doing it and it might take enormous efforts and time (and hence, would cost a lot). There must be some other way of doing it. For example, calculating the signals from some API instead of trying to scrape the data displayed on a web-page.

*(edited)*

**Geoffrey McGowan**

I am not familiar with programming or how to transfer data from the web charts to an MT4 platform to place the trade, but I will try and explain what needs to happen. The EA needs to recognise the colour change of the VA on the chart and then open the position at the close of the candle after the VA change on the MT4 platform. It also needs to be able to recognise the trend from the slope of the intermediate orange trend and only place trades with the trend. Stops and targets would adjustable and backtesting is needed on the web based charts to verify which parameters are most profitable.

**Me**

Web charts are not intended to extract data from them. They only display the chart, there is no simple or correct way to get the data. There should be some other way. To try to extract the data from a web-chart I would need to scrape it from a web-page which means a lot of time and efforts without any guaranteed result, and it would cost you a lot. These charts are for manual trading, not for data usage in an external program like MT4.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

If I give you access to the website, why can the data not be extracted from the web-page using a standard scraping tool?

**Me**

I'm not sure what you mean by "standard scraping tool". There is no such thing. Yeah, there are a lot of scraping tools out there, but they mostly work with text, input fields, not with graphics. It may be extremely hard to extract the data from graphics, because it's just a drawing, it contains no data actually, it's just dots, lines, circles etc.

I'm not telling you it's completely impossible, I just cannot give you any guarantee that it can be done, and it might take a lot of time and efforts.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok thanks for your reply. What I meant was something like ParseHub which can collect data and put it into an Excel sheet. But moving on, the graphics are produced from the data coming through from the website and it is this data we need to mine just before it produces the graphics. This data then needs to feed into an EA to execute the trade via API broker?

**Me**

Yep. But this data might come not in the original form, but in the form of commands like "draw line from (123,456) to (678,901)", "draw circle at (123,456) with radius 10". Then it is useless.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

Ok so if I give you access to the website can you check if the data is in its original form and is usable?

**Geoffrey McGowan**

The site is Charting Center which I subscribe to monthly so it can only be accessed through entering my password and login which I will now give to you;

Charting Center website <https://platform.chartingcenter.com/login>

Email geoffrey@geoff7.plus.com

Password mcgowan

**Me**

Alright, I will check shortly!

**Me**

I've looked. It receives the data for the instrument price and for the indicators separately, and it looks like this is the original data which is then displayed on the chart. So let's say it is most probably possible to extract it in the correct way and to use in some external application like MT4.

**Me**

It can be done in various different ways:

1. Using a browser. You open a Chrome browser, login, open the page(s) you want and then start a Chrome extension which monitors the incoming data and sends it to an MT4 EA.

2. Without a browser. You just start an application that logins to the site, sends HTTP requests to it and gets the data automatically. This is only possible if they don't have a sophisticated defense against bots which they seem do not have.

Technically, this is not a difficult task, I know how to do it. But it includes a bunch of small things that need to be done, so it will not be fast. What's your budget for this task?

**Geoffrey McGowan**

Thanks for your reply Dobrynya. I appreciate your efforts and would ask you to consider how long you think it would take you to cover the bunch of things required to get it up and running and work out a cost from that and present it to me. I also appreciate it would not be fast and I am looking toget the job done correctly first time for a longer term goal.

**Me**

Hi!  
Alright, I'll think carefully and get back to you today.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok thanks. Just to give you more of an idea of connection to the trading platform, I have accounts with IC Markets who can host a VPS and this is their website: <https://www.forexvps.net/lp/icmarkets>

They comment

"Is there any setup or configuration required?

No. All [ForexVPS.net](http://forexvps.net/) systems are delivered ready-to-go. You will be emailed all the information you need to access your Forex VPS immediately. All you will need to do is log in to your MetaTrader 4 account, or download and install other software you would like to use. We have included Chrome browser and a number of other applications pre-installed for your convenience.

**Me**

Alright, thanks! I will look into it today.

Actually it does not matter where you are going to install it. It might be your local PC, any cloud-based VPS/VDS or collocation or such specialized VPS. The crucial thing is that it must have very good low-latency internet connection to the trading server of the broker you use.

And because you are going to use [chartingcenter.com](http://chartingcenter.com/) , it also must have good and fast connection to that site.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok thanks. I gave IC Markets VPS as an example because I already have an account with them. I am assuming that the ForexVPS can provide the required low-latency internet connection, and a good and fast connection to [chartingcenter.com](http://chartingcenter.com/). If not, as you say, there are others available ie.  
[ForexVPS.net](http://forexvps.net/): latency of 1ms to IC Markets trade servers, 24/5 live chat and email support, lite IC Markets VPS capable of running up to 2 MT4 platforms simultaneously

<https://www.forexvps.net/lp/icmarkets>

NewYorkCityServers: Fast connectivity to IC Markets, round the clock operations, and instant setup

<https://newyorkcityservers.com/icmarkets-vps>

Beeks FX VPS: Provides low latency, solid VPS in fast response times

<https://www.beeksfinancialcloud.com/store/catalogue/category/vps_1/>

I look forward to seeing if one these meets the criteria.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

What I need is the EA to be able to:

1. BACK-TEST the strategy when variaous parameters can be change ie changing target, stop, time period, currency pairs, with/against trend etc when linked to Charting center

2. Link to my broker when final strategy chosen and place / close trades

**Me**

Hi!  
1. It's good that you've pointed this out, I did not think you would need the back-testing. It might be tricky and hard to implement. Because:

* MT4 tester consumes files of its own format with the price data and to be able to backtest you would first need to record those data.
* Charting center will provide only OHLC data (open, high, low, close) for history, not real ticks. If your strategy depends on tick data, this will not work. And I don't know how deep in the past Charting Center can provide the history data, that should be tested.

2. That's understood, it's significantly simpler than the backtesting.

**Me**

I can prepare a document with the description of what should be done and how much time each part might approximately take and a picture/flowchart of how it will work.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

Ok maybe if I explain a bit more it may simplify things. As I am only usung short time periods ie 1 min, 2 min then

I would only need to go back say 2-4 days.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

1. The strategy would not depend on tick data. The backtesting would only be of the historical data and would need to recognise (a) the open ie at the close of the candle after the VA change (b) the target = ATR on chart (c) stop loss at say = ATR on chart.
2. The stops, targets would need to be alterable to see which is the most profitable

**Me**

Alright, got it!

Then it naturally divides into two tasks: back-testing and online trading.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

yes

**Me**

Do you want to communicate here, or maybe you use team messengers like Slack?

**Geoffrey McGowan**

keep with this at moment if you have enough info to cost project

Can you cost up for 1. Backtesting and 2. online trading?

**Me**

Yeah, I'll prepare the document on that, in several hours probably.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok so if there are any other points please contact me. Are you now sure you understand everything that needs to be done?

**Me**

I believe so.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

If you would prefer to communicate via Slack then I can open an account.

**Me**

Let's negotiate everything first, you are right.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok

without going into full document prep would you have an idea on how much you would charge?

**Geoffrey McGowan**

If you need to access the website Charting Center please feel free

**Me**

It's roughly 3-4 weeks of work for me for the backtesting and the online trading part. That's 120-160 hours. If we use $25/hour rate which I'm using now for my projects, it would be $3000-$4000 approx., in that range. But that's negotiable, depending on the payment schedule and whether you want to pay via upWork or some other way.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok so if we took out the backtesting, and I let the EA run live on a demo account with 1 set of parameters and then changed say the target, what would that be?

So it would just be for online trading

**Me**

It's 7-10 days, I believe, that's $1400-1200.

If you can send it via BTC (or other crypto) and/or can pay in parts and/or can pay something upfront, you may deduce 10% off that amount. Because upWork takes 10% from what I earn and also delays payments for 5 days (actually more, because only withdrawal takes a couple of days).

**Geoffrey McGowan**

ok so if we can agree on $1200 then I would pay in 2 stages of $600 but I would have to send it via a bank transfer

**Me**

Alright, but please be advised that I'm outside of the US. Do you know how to send international payments? And I'll have to phone to the bank to make sure they can accept the payment.

**Geoffrey McGowan**

I am in UK and I have sent bank payment outside UK before

**Geoffrey McGowan**

I will look into opening a Bitcoin account

**Me**

We could try the bank transfer, but with smaller amount first to see how it goes.

Because I have no idea how local banks would react to that. They might accuse me of terrorism funding or of being a "foreign agent". :joy:

**Geoffrey McGowan**

Wow you live in a strict spot! If you let me have your bank details I will try tomorrow.

How do you usually get paid?

**Geoffrey McGowan**

Can you send me the document and flow chart to ensure that you fully understand what is required and I can respond with payment into the bank.

My email is <mailto:geoffrey@geoff7.plus.com>