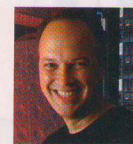




The best new open source software on the planet

LXF HotPicks

JStock » Open Cubic Player » XMLTV » Presage » KeePassX » Tubularix » Pasang Emas » Fritzting » Di » Padre



Nick Veitch

When compiling HotPicks, Nick makes frequent use of Curses. Tell us your favourite programming language at the usual address.

Stock market tracker

JStock

Version 1.0.5 Web <http://jstock.sourceforge.net>

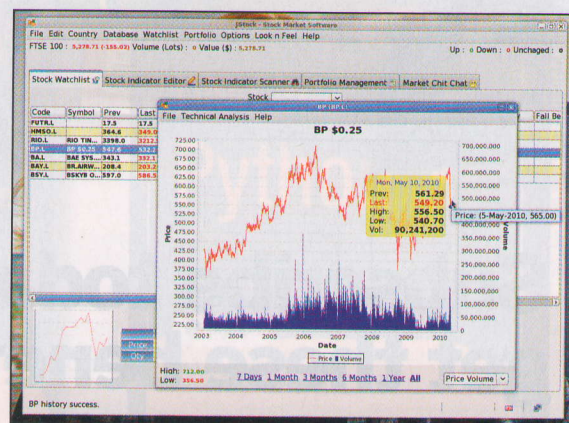
Thatcher promoted the stakeholder society. Gordon Gecko promoted red braces (but wasn't so hot on lunch). Even nostalgists find it hard to look back on the eighties with affection, but it did expose more people to the idea of the stock market and trading shares.

While cornering the commodity market for cereal crops by breakfast may not be your idea of a good game, most people know that the financial markets survive on information. Share prices rise and fall faster than Mike's drinking arm, and usually the only cause is some specious rumour about something that may happen in the

future. Staying in touch with your investments can be crucial.

And, if you're the spreadsheet type, it can be fun too. There are plenty of stock market tracking programs, but JStock stands out from the crowd. Written in Java, it's free and open source software that will run on any major platform – which will become more significant shortly.

The magic works by fetching data directly from the Yahoo APIs for stock markets, so although the information isn't instant, it's usually good enough for all but the most hardcore users. As well as simply listing the current stock prices, you can also enter buy and sell



» Oil spills are bad for business, unless you've invested in companies that'll supply the clean-up technology.

transactions to track a portfolio. Intelligently, this takes account of brokerage fees, so you can see the true profit and loss on your trades.

Chit chat

A bit of mouse clicking will also bring up a historical data chart on any stock, so you can plan your trades accordingly.

A nice addition is the chat channel. This is implemented through *Jabber* and enables you to converse with other JStock users on current trends, the state of the market, or what you're not having for lunch. I couldn't actually find anyone who wanted to chat, but maybe my 'evil' moniker was putting them off. Your mileage may vary.

The killer feature, at least for this sort of application, is that it has cloud storage. Running (apparently) as a Google App Engine project, it stores your email address and watched stocks/portfolio online, so you can retrieve them from anywhere on any compatible device running Java. You can monitor your stocks from your home, in your office (if your company policy allows, naturally) or even at the bottom of a septic tank in Shropshire, mobile internet reception permitting. What are you waiting for? Buy buy buy!

Exploring the JStock interface

Country choice

Make sure you select your country before you start to load the relevant stock data.

Market summary

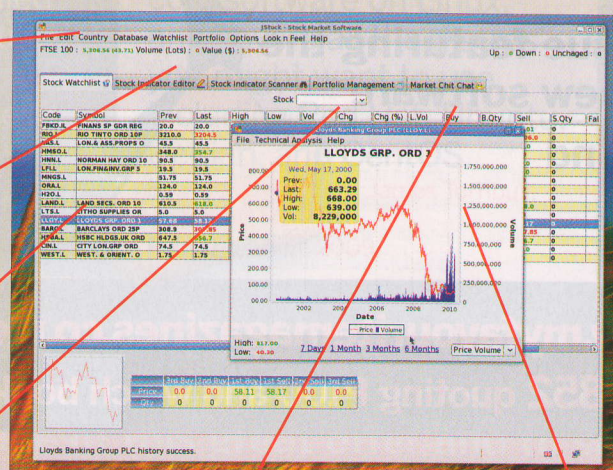
A market summary appears here, updated in near real-time.

Stock listings

The listing values are fetched from Yahoo with minimal delay.

Search

Look up stocks with the intelligent search functionality.



Chatter

JStock includes a *Jabber* client to chat to other users.

Visualise

Draw graphs for selected stocks by right-clicking and choosing History.

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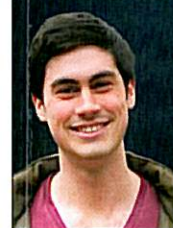
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