

MULTIPLE MONITORS

Is it necessary to use more than one monitor? Each trader's setup may vary depending on the trading style employed. An investor who spends a limited number of hours each week on trading-related activities may not require additional monitors. However, a more active trader (i.e. swing or day trader) may need two or more monitors. I currently utilize a four-monitor setup. The following is displayed on those monitors during trading hours:

- 1) Charting program
- 2) Broker platform
- 3) Briefing.com
- 4) Reward-to-risk spreadsheet

Work space may also be a consideration. If your work space is tight, you may be limited to one or two monitors. With limited space, it is best to purchase flat screen panels unless you feel it is necessary to use a higher resolution CRT. Cost is another factor, although it is fairly inexpensive these days to purchase quality monitors. You'll also need to purchase a video card.

Note: Many older computers will not accommodate a video card. If your computer is several years old, plan on purchasing a new one if you intend to utilize two or more monitors on one computer.

What is the benefit of using multiple monitors? Multiple monitors allow you the capability of working on multiple tasks without having to constantly minimize and maximize the programs. In addition, you can work from several screens with a single keyboard and mouse. There are reports that indicate adding a second or third monitor can increase productivity between 10 and 15%. Over time, the additional cost should be retrieved through increased productivity.

If you plan on utilizing multiple monitors, it is imperative that you divulge that information at the time you purchase a new computer. A multiple monitor set-up requires a special video card. The computer's motherboard will need to have a slot to accommodate it and adaptors to plug the monitors into. You may also need to have a Windows XP operating system.

Multiple monitors are configured from the computer's desktop. Point the mouse at an open area on the desktop, right click, and select Properties. The Display Properties box will appear; click on the Settings tab.

