

News Indicator v 3.0

Features new to the latest release are highlighted like **this**.

DISCLAIMER — Please read carefully

The attached indicator is supplied 'as is', free of charge. No warranty or obligation of support is implied. I have been able to test the code **ONLY** on Windows XP (Home Edition SP2). Moreover, if the location or the format of the news provider's web site is changed, the results may become unpredictable, for which I can accept no liability. **Download and use the indicator AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

The source code is **NOT** available.

OVERVIEW

This news indicator plots the same numbered (circular) symbols, above or below the MT4 chart candles, just as its predecessors did. In other words, both prior news events (so that you can see the effect that they had on price) and upcoming news events (to warn you of their imminence) are highlighted. See the image below. The news data is currently being sourced from Forex Factory's calendar.

The four (independent and optional) functions of the indicator are:

1. Show selected prior and upcoming news announcements (or 'events') as numbered symbols, above/below the price candles.
2. Show upcoming news events, along with a countdown timer (hours:mins), as a 'rolling window' in any corner of your MT4 price chart.
3. Sound an audio/visual alert prior to an upcoming news event.
4. Allow custom-formatted exporting of news events to an output file, for subsequent analysis by other software (e.g. MS Excel).

I hope that you find the indicator useful. Please feel welcome to post questions, and/or report any bugs or shortcomings in the thread.



In the above chart, the rolling window shows that (for example) 'Core Retail Sales m/m NZD' will be announced in 9 minutes.

Hovering the mouse cursor near the top of a numbered circle shows the detail for the news event:

```
10:30 GBP H Claimant Count Change |0391  
Wed 20:30 | A: -3.8K | F: -17.0K | P: -15.9K | R: -20.8K  
0.90623
```

- The first description line shows MT4 time; the currency; the expected impact level (Low, Medium or High); a description of the event; then a vertical bar followed by a 4-digit serial number (which can be ignored). If the event description is too big to fit inside MT4's character limit, a tilde (~) is used as a placeholder for missing characters.
- The second description line shows local time; then (in square brackets, if the news event hasn't occurred yet) the number of hours and minutes before it will occur; then any relevant actual (A:), forecast (F:), previous (P:) and/or revised from (R:) values, separated by vertical bar symbols.
- The third description line merely shows the price under the mouse cursor, and can be ignored.

NOTE: Deleting the indicator should remove all relevant objects from the MT4 chart.

INSTALLATION

1. Download and unzip the [News v302.ZIP](#) file into your [MT4](#) folder, unzipping the files within to the relevant sub-folders, and overwriting any existing files of the same name.
2. Restart MT4.
3. Run the [Calc Timeshifts.EX4](#) script if you wish to have the time offsets calculated automatically for you - see Appendix 1.

To get the news events plotted, you must then:

4. Run the [Download News.EX4](#) script, to download the news data from the Forex Factory calendar.
5. Attach the [Recent News.EX4](#) indicator to a MT4 chart, to have the symbols plot on the chart.

DOWNLOADING NEWS FROM THE CALENDAR

Open MT4's Navigator (press Ctrl-N), and drag the [Download News](#) script onto any MT4 chart.

N.B. You must have the 'Allow DLL imports' box (on the 'Common' tab) checked ON, for this script to work correctly.

FilesFolder — Type the folder name where your MT4 is located over the underscores. You must get the spelling exactly correct, including any punctuation and spaces, otherwise the download application will not run. You can use MT4's SAVE and LOAD buttons to save and recall your settings.

AutoplayMode — if TRUE (the recommended option), this will automatically call a separate download application after a few seconds, which retrieves the current week's news announcements (Sunday thru Saturday) from the provider's web site, adds them to its own database, and then sends the last 4-5 weeks' worth of announcements to a file, ready for plotting on your MT4 chart(s). Depending on your computer's spec, this process will likely take 5-15 seconds, after which both the application and script automatically close down, returning the focus to your MT4 chart. **WARNING: Do NOT attempt to interfere with this process while it is running.** After the process has completed, switch between timeframes to force a manual refresh of the [Recent News](#) indicator (see next section).

If FALSE, the application pauses at its input screen, allowing you to change its settings, prior to its running as described. This should not normally be attempted. However, see Appendix 2.

Note: this process also creates a CSV file ([@backup.csv](#)) that contains all news events from Jan 1, 2007 to the present. Format is: "date","time","currency","description","impact","actual","forecast","previous","revised from","wingdings symbol","level","spacing","reference id"

Every time there are additions or changes to the data on the FF calendar, you will need to re-run the [Download News](#) script to download this updated data.

DISPLAYING NEWS EVENTS ON YOUR MT4 CHARTS

Open MT4's Navigator (press Ctrl-N), and drag the [Recent News](#) indicator onto your MT4 chart.

You can either set the parameters when attaching the indicator, or have them stored permanently in a text file, which saves the retyping them each time you attach the indicator. The text file must be named [Presets---Recent News.XXX](#) and reside in your [...../experts/files](#) folder. Then you simply enter XXX (or whatever extension you used, in naming the file) into the **ParameterFile** option, and the parameter settings will be automatically loaded from the text file. You can use any text editor (e.g. Notepad) to change the settings. For detailed information, see the **PARAMETER FILE** section below.

WARNING: attaching more than one instance of the indicator onto the **same chart** will likely cause unpredictable results.

ParameterFile — leave the default setting of NONE if you want to enter parameters each time you attach the indicator. Otherwise enter the extension name as described previously.

NewsInputFile — this should be left as the default news.csv value. News events will be retrieved from this file.

SourceTimeIsGMTplus — this is the number of hours the news provider's time is ahead of GMT (use a negative value if behind GMT). It determines which candles the news symbols will plot under. The current provider is the Forex Factory calendar, which uses New York time. Hence your entry here should be -5, unless New York is on daylight saving time, in which case it should be -4.

The Forex Factory calendar can be found here: <http://www.forexfactory.com/calendar.php>

More information about New York time can be found here: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=179>

See also Appendix 1.

MT4TimeIsGMTplus — this is the number of hours your broker's MT4 time is ahead of GMT (use a negative value if behind GMT). It determines which candles the news symbols will plot under.

- To shift the news symbols forward in time (rightward) on your MT4 chart, increase the value of this setting.

- To shift the news symbols backward in time (leftward), decrease the value.

See also Appendix 1.

LocalTimeIsGMTplus — this is the number of hours your computer's time is ahead of GMT (use a negative value if behind GMT). It is used to count down time in the **ShowUpcomingXEvents**, and alert, facilities.

See also Appendix 1.

TimeOffsets — this parameter supersedes SourceTimeISGMTplus, MT4TimeISGMTplus, and LocalTimeISGMTplus, and should be set to their 3 values, respectively, with values being separated by commas, e.g. -5,3,13

Or if you simply enter auto, the indicator will attempt to calculate these automatically (if, for whatever reason, this does not work correctly, you can type the three values instead).

SourceDataFromXML —

if set to TRUE, the indicator will get its news data from the URL http://cdn.forexfactory.com/ffcal_week_this.xml

There are no 'actual' values, and no historical data (earlier than the current week), stored there.

if set to FALSE, the indicator will get its value from the FF calendar's HTML. You will need to run the FFcal.EXE application to download the data. See Appendix 2 for more information.

FromDate

ThruDate — only news events whose MT4-adjusted time lies between these dates/times will be plotted.

VertSpacingPips — this controls how many pips above/below the candle highs/lows the symbols will be plotted. A positive value results in plotting below the candle; a negative value, above the candle. If set to zero, the symbols will not be plotted (i.e. but the **ShowUpcomingXEvents**, alert, and export facilities continue to operate).

ClearanceFactor — a larger number gives greater clearance, preventing symbols plotted on adjacent candles from obscuring each other.

SymbolSize — controls the size of the plotted symbols; should be a value between 0 (smallest) and 5 (largest) inclusive. A negative value means that the symbols will not be plotted (i.e. but the **ShowUpcomingXEvents**, alert, and export facilities continue to operate).

MainChart — if TRUE, the indicator plots both the circular symbols and rolling window in the main chart window, exactly as before. Note that v3.10 must create a new sub-window regardless, due to MT4 idiosyncrasies. Drag the separator to make this empty sub-window as small as possible (or use v 3.03 instead)

If FALSE, the indicator plots both the circular symbols and rolling window in a separate chart sub-window. Use **VertSpacingPips**, **SymbolSize**, etc to adjust symbol spacing (and/or drag MT4's between-window separator), and **ShowUpcomingXEvents**, **EventCorner**, **EventFontSize**, etc to likewise adjust the rolling window of impending events.

TimeFrames — the plotted news events will display only on the timeframes that you specify. Entries may be upper or lowercase, and must be separated by commas.

PlotTheseImpacts — only news events matching the specified impacts will be plotted, and in the color specified. Entries may be upper or lowercase, and must be separated by commas. Each entry must be in the form impact=color (e.g. High=Red)
































































































































































































































You can use the abbreviations H, M or L for High, Medium or Low, if you prefer. Colors must either be valid MT4 tokens (e.g. Green, CornflowerBlue, SaddleBrown, Magenta, etc - use the **DummyColorChart** parameter to view these), or in the form RnnnGnnnBnnn defining the red, green and blue components (each between 0 and 255), respectively, e.g. G255R255 is the equivalent of Yellow. If an impact specifier is removed from the list, then no news events of that impact level will be plotted, alerted or exported.

PlotTheseCurrencies — only news events matching the specified currencies will be plotted, and using the Wingdings code specified (see the table below). Entries may be upper or lowercase, and must be separated by commas. Each entry must be in the form currency=wingdingscode (e.g. GBP=143)

You can use the abbreviations U for USD, C for CAD, E for EUR, F for CHF, G for GBP, J for JPY, N for NZD, and A for AUD, if you prefer. Each Wingdings code must be a 3 digit number between 0 and 255. If a currency is removed from the list, then news events relating to its country will not be plotted, alerted or exported.

RelevantCcyChartsOnly — if TRUE, only news events relating to either currency on the chart will be plotted, alerted or exported, e.g. only EUR and USD related events on a EURUSD chart. If FALSE (the default), the restriction is lifted.

WINGDINGS

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
20	32	33 	34 	35 	36 	37 	38 	39 	40 	41 	42 	43 	44 	45 	46 	47 
30	48 	49 	50 	51 	52 	53 	54 	55 	56 	57 	58 	59 	60 	61 	62 	63 
40	64 	65 	66 	67 	68 	69 	70 	71 	72 	73 	74 	75 	76 	77 	78 	79 
50	80 	81 	82 	83 	84 	85 	86 	87 	88 	89 	90 	91 	92 	93 	94 	95 
60	96 	97 	98 	99 	100 	101 	102 	103 	104 	105 	106 	107 	108 	109 	110 	111 
70	112 	113 	114 	115 	116 	117 	118 	119 	120 	121 	122 	123 	124 	125 	126 	127 
80	128 	129 	130 	131 	132 	133 	134 	135 	136 	137 	138 	139 	140 	141 	142 	143 
90	144 	145 	146 	147 	148 	149 	150 	151 	152 	153 	154 	155 	156 	157 	158 	159 
A0	160 	161 	162 	163 	164 	165 	166 	167 	168 	169 	170 	171 	172 	173 	174 	175 
B0	176 	177 	178 	179 	180 	181 	182 	183 	184 	185 	186 	187 	188 	189 	190 	191 
C0	192 	193 	194 	195 	196 	197 	198 	199 	200 	201 	202 	203 	204 	205 	206 	207 
D0	208 	209 	210 	211 	212 	213 	214 	215 	216 	217 	218 	219 	220 	221 	222 	223 
E0	224 	225 	226 	227 	228 	229 	230 	231 	232 	233 	234 	235 	236 	237 	238 	239 
F0	240 	241 	242 	243 	244 	245 	246 	247 	248 	249 	250 	251 	252 	253 	254 	255 

ColorAndSymbolOverrides — The latter overrides the symbols specified in **PlotTheseCurrencies**, and the colors in **PlotTheseImpacts**, as follows:

You can specify up to 50 entries, separated by commas. Each entry must be of the form

[criteria]=[value]

Tests may change either the Wingdings symbol code or the symbol color, and are performed from left to right across the parameter text. If two or more tests turn out to be true, a later result overrides a previous result. The examples below should clarify this.

[criteria] determines the test that will be applied, and may be any one of the following:

>**F** : actual value is greater than the forecast value

<**F** : actual value is less than the forecast value

>**P** : actual value is greater than the previous value

<**P** : actual value is less than the previous value

>**R** : actual value is greater than the 'revised from' value (if there is no 'revised from' value, then the previous value is used)

<**R** : actual value is less than the 'revised from' value (if there is no 'revised from' value, then the previous value is used)

! (exclamation point) : it is an 'unvalued' news event (i.e. there are no values in any of the actual, forecast, previous and 'revised from' fields)

(anything else) : is assumed to be text in the news description field (case insensitive). If the text exists anywhere within the description, the test criteria passes as true; if not, it is false.

[value] determines the action that will be taken, if the test criteria passes as true.

--- If [value] is simply a **number**, then the **symbol itself** will be changed (overridden) by the Wingdings symbol that corresponds to [value], which should be greater than 32 and less than 255.

--- If [value] is a valid MT4 color token (e.g. Orange, LimeGreen, SaddleBrown, DarkSlateGray etc) or an RedGreenBlue color combo, e.g. R75G33B211, then the symbol's **color** will be changed accordingly.

If you want to override both the symbol type, and its color, include the same [criteria] in two different tests, e.g.

>**F=225, >F=DodgerBlue**

In the case of [criteria] being any one of >F, <F, >P, <P, >R or <R, these apply only if the news currency is one of the two currencies applicable to the current MT4 chart. If applicable to the second named currency, the > or < is effectively reversed. For example, if the current chart is AUDUSD and *ColorAndSymbolOverrides* is set to

>F=225, <F=226

THEN:

--- if actual>forecast for an AUD-based news event, Wingdings character 225 (up-arrow) will be plotted

--- if actual<forecast for an AUD-based news event, Wingdings character 226 (down-arrow) will be plotted

BUT

--- if actual<forecast for a USD-based news event, Wingdings character 225 (up-arrow) will be plotted

--- if actual>forecast for a USD-based news event, Wingdings character 226 (down-arrow) will be plotted

i.e. an actual>forecast situation is assumed to be good for the first currency in the pair, and bad for the second; and vice versa for actual<forecast. For some news events (e.g. unemployment), the opposite may be true, but the indicator is not intelligent enough to understand this, hence you'll need to hover the mouse cursor near the top of the symbol to see the description of the event, and form your own opinion.

If the news event applies to a currency other than either of those in the chart pair (e.g. a CHF-based event on a AUDJPY chart), then the [criteria] test will return false, and the symbol/color override will not be applied.

Example: the *ColorAndSymbolOverrides* setting

>F=225, <F=226, day=DimGray, speak=DarkGreen, meeting=DarkGreen

will do the following:

#1. The actual vs forecast tests will be applied, and the symbol changed to 225 (up-arrow) or 226 (down-arrow), exactly as described above.

#2. If the text 'day' occurs anywhere in the news description (e.g. [All day], holiday, daylight saving etc), the symbol color will be changed to DimGray.

#3. If the text 'speak' or 'meeting' appears anywhere in the news description, the symbol color will be changed to DarkGreen.

If (for example) both tests #2 and #3 were true, then the symbol color would be changed to DarkGreen, because the **last** entered test/action takes precedence over any previous test/action. In other words, the last symbol type and color in any test that returns true, will be applied.

If none of the tests pass as true, then the symbols in **PlotTheseCurrencies**, and the colors in **PlotTheseImpacts**, will be applied, i.e. the way that the indicator worked previously.

DescriptionContains1 thru **DescriptionContains4** — these parameters are 4 **independent** tests that allow filtering of news events by description. All fields are case-insensitive and, if left blank, perform no filtering (i.e. are ignored).

Note that all other filters (e.g. **PlotTheseCurrencies**, **PlotTheseImpacts**, etc) must also be met, in order for an event to be plotted, displayed, exported, etc (depending on other parameter settings)

- If the text in the news event description (e.g. "GDP") matches ANY one of the 4 filter parameters, then the event passes the test (i.e. think "OR" condition), and will be plotted, displayed, exported, etc
- You can create multiple (up to 20) conditions in each parameter, separated by vertical bars (|), ALL of which must be met in order for the event to pass this part of the test (i.e. think "AND" condition).
- You can precede a component condition by a tilde (~), which means that the following text must NOT be present in the event description

Example: If you set the parameters as follows:

DescriptionContains1: FARM|PAYR|~ADP

DescriptionContains2: GDP

then the only news events that will be output will be:

(1) any event that contains the text "FARM" (any mix of upper/lowercase) and also the text "PAYR", anywhere in its description, but NOT the text "ADP";

OR (2) any event that contains the text "GDP"

ShowUpcomingXEvents — if set to zero or a negative value, this facility is effectively disabled. Otherwise the next X upcoming events will be displayed on the screen in a 'rolling window', showing the time (hours:mins) remaining before the event. The **EventFont**, **EventFontSize** and **EventScreenCorner** (0=top left; 1=top right; 2= bottom left; 3 = bottom right) control the typeface style, size and location.

RefreshEveryXMins — this deletes, recalculates, and re-plots all of the screen objects every X minutes. A value of -1 means that this will occur only when the indicator is first attached, or a manual refresh takes place. A value of 0 means an update occurs with every new tick (**note: this can potentially slow computer performance**). A value of 1, 5, 15, 30, 60 or 240 means that an update occurs immediately a new M1, M5, M15, M30, H1 or H4 candle starts to form, regardless of the chart timeframe to which the indicator is attached. This parameter has no bearing on when the news data is re-gathered from the provider's web page (you must run the [Download News](#) script to download the latest news data). A value of 1 is necessary if you want the 'rolling window' to automatically count down every minute to each news event (the window will update itself when the first tick during each new minute occurs). You can always force a manual refresh by switching between timeframes.

AlertXMinsBeforeNews — a negative value disables alerts. A zero or positive value will cause an audible/visual alert to occur X minutes before each news event (0 means at the time of the event). Each event should alert only once; however, if you perform a manual refresh, the indicator's memory is completely reset.

EmailAlertSubject **[new in v 3.02]** — if set to a non-blank value (and provided that **AlertXMinsBeforeNews** is zero or positive), this will additionally send an e-mail, with the subject line you specify here, to your e-mail address as set up in the Email tab in the MT4 options (press Ctrl-O). However, its real value is that it's possible to have e-mails re-routed as SMS text messages to your cellphone, providing you with a personal 'FX news alarm clock'. (I have this working for me here in New Zealand - please contact your cellphone telecommunications provider for more info). The body of the e-mail, and/or SMS text, reads something like

News event "USD FOMC meeting" due in 4 min 48 sec

If the setting is left blank, e-mail/SMS messaging is disabled, but audio/visual alerts will still occur if **AlertXMinsBeforeNews** is zero or positive. Each event should alert only once; however, if you perform a manual refresh, the indicator's memory is completely reset.

OutputFile — a non-blank value means that an export (CSV) file of this name will be created in your [...../experts/files](#) folder. The data output can then be imported into other applications (Excel, for example) for further analysis. One line is output for each news event, and all of the parameters that follow determine which fields will be output, and the formats that will be used to output them. The fields are output in the following order:

- date/time, currency, description, impact, actual, forecast, previous, revised from

Delimiter — type the character you wish to be used to delimit the fields in the export. Usually this will be a comma (,), semicolon (;) or a space (if you want to produce a columnar table). You can also type a caret (^) to represent a TAB. All carets in each export line will get converted to tabs just before the line is output. See the EXPORT SAMPLES section below.

EncloseInQuotes — TRUE means that each field in the output will be enclosed in double quotes ("). FALSE means that they won't.

Date_Source_MT4_Local — determines which date/time will be output. Enter S for the provider's local time (New York time), G for GMT, M for your broker's MT4 time, or L for local time. Upper or lowercase doesn't matter.

[new in v 3.02] You can also add or subtract a number of hours to any of these, e.g. G+5 = 5 hours ahead of GMT; L-3 = 3 hours behind local time.

Mask_DateTime — leave the field empty if you don't want the date/time to be exported. Otherwise your entry determines how the date/time will be formatted. All except 'reserved' characters will be output 'as is'. You can include your delimiter in the mask, if you want the date and time to be separate fields. Reserved characters include D for the day of the month; M for the month of the year; Y for a 4-digit year; W or w for the day of the week (Sunday, Monday; or Sun, Mon, etc); N or n for the name of the month (January, February; or Jan, Feb, etc); H for the hour; I for the minute; S for the second; A for am/pm. Usually a lowercase token results in an abbreviated form of its uppercase equivalent (e.g. Y causes a 4-digit year to be output; y causes a 2-digit year to be output).

Mask_Currency — leave the field empty if you don't want the Currency to be exported. Otherwise your entry determines how the Currency field will be formatted. All except 'reserved' characters will be output 'as is'. Reserved characters are L<integer>, C<integer>, R<integer> and T<integer>, which will result in the currency value being left-aligned, centered, right-aligned, or output as is into a sub-field that is <integer> characters wide, either truncated to the first <integer> characters, or padded with spaces, if of insufficient length. Use L<integer> to create a columnar report.

Mask_Descr — leave the field empty if you don't want the event description to be exported. Otherwise your entry determines how the description field will be formatted. The mask value works the same as described as for **Mask_Currency**.

Mask_Impact — leave the field empty if you don't want the Impact to be exported. Otherwise your entry determines how the Impact field will be formatted. All except 'reserved' characters will be output 'as is'. Otherwise your entry determines how the description

field will be formatted. The mask value works the same as described as for **Mask_Currency**. For example, T1 would result in merely a H, M or L being output.

Mask_Actual — leave the field empty if you don't want the Actual value to be exported. Otherwise your entry determines how the Actual field will be formatted. If you simply use a text mask (L<integer>, C<integer>, R<integer> or T<integer> - as explained in **Mask_Currency**) the content of the field will be displayed as straight text. However if you precede the mask with a N, then all non-numeric characters (everything except 0 thru 9, a minus symbol and a decimal point) will be stripped out, and the resulting number will be formatted according to a numeric mask. For example, NTR-9.1 means output the number into a field that allows 9 digits max to the left of the decimal point, and 1 digit max to the right. The - means display a leading minus symbol, if the value is negative. The R means to round the number to the specified (1, in this case) number of decimals. The I means trim any leading or trailing spaces from the field, thereby compacting it. You can also include (to have negative values enclosed in parentheses, \$, £, ¥, etc for floating currency symbols, a comma (,) to have commas separate every 3 integer digits, L to left align the field, % for a trailing percent symbol, a semi-colon (;) to reverse the use of the comma and decimal point, a Z to zero fill any unused integer positions, a B to blank the whole field if its value is zero, and a tilde (~) to display an tilde if there is numeric overflow (the integer part of the number is too large to fit in the field). Alphabetic tokens in the mask may be upper or lowercase.

Mask_Forecast — this works exactly the same as the **Mask_Actual** parameter, determining whether the Forecast value will be output, and if so, how it will be formatted.

Mask_Previous — this works exactly the same as the **Mask_Actual** parameter, determining whether the Previous value will be output, and if so, how it will be formatted.

Mask_RevisedFrom — this works exactly the same as the **Mask_Actual** parameter, determining whether the Revised From value will be output, and if so, how it will be formatted.

EXPORT SAMPLES

Here are 4 sample outputs, and the parameters (in **blue typeface**) used to generate them:

Example 1: Comma separated output

=====

```
Delimiter           = ",";
EncloseInQuotes     = false;
Mask_SerialNo       = "Z4";
Date_Source_MT4_Local = "M";
Mask_DateTime       = "M/D/Y,H:I";
Mask_CurrencyMask   = "T3";
Mask_Descr          = "T65";
Mask_Impact         = "T1";
Mask_Actual         = "T20";
Mask_Forecast       = "T20";
Mask_Previous       = "T20";
```

```
0001,12/06/2009,13:01,NZD,QV House Prices (YoY) (NOV),L,1.0%,,0.2%
0002,12/07/2009,00:30,AUD,AiG Perf of Construction Index (NOV),L,47.6,,50.9
0003,12/07/2009,01:50,JPY,Official Reserve Assets (NOV),L,$1073.7B,, $1056.8B
0004,12/07/2009,02:30,AUD,ANZ Job Advertisements (MoM) (NOV),L,5.2%,,-1.7%
0005,12/07/2009,11:30,EUR,Sentix Investor Confidence (DEC),L,-5.5,, -7.0
0006,12/07/2009,13:00,EUR,German Factory Orders s.a. (MoM) (OCT),L,-2.1%,0.8%,1.3%
0007,12/07/2009,13:00,EUR,German Factory Orders n.s.a. (YoY) (OCT),L,-8.5%,-6.2%,-12.8%
0008,12/07/2009,15:30,CAD,Building Permits (MoM) (OCT),L,18.0%,1.0%,3.2%
0009,12/07/2009,19:00,USD,Bernanke Speaks to Economic Club of Washington Lunch,L,, ,
0010,12/07/2009,21:01,NZD,New Zealand Manpower Survey (1Q),L,14.0%, ,1.0%
0011,12/07/2009,21:01,AUD,Australia Manpower Survey (1Q),L,19.0%, ,9.0%
0012,12/07/2009,22:00,USD,Consumer Credit (OCT),M,-$3.5B,-$9.4B,-$8.8B (R+)
0013,12/07/2009,23:45,NZD,Manufacturing Activity (3Q),M,-5.1%, , -4.8%
0014,12/08/2009,00:45,USD,New York Fed President Dudley Speaks at Columbia University,L,, ,
0015,12/08/2009,01:50,JPY,Current Account Total (OCT),L,1397.6B,1483.2B,1567.9B
0016,12/08/2009,01:50,JPY,Adjusted Current Account Total (OCT),L,1376.2B,1564.9B,1338.0B
0017,12/08/2009,01:50,JPY,Trade Balance - BOP Basis (OCT),L,949.0B,864.6B,599.2B
```

Example 2: Numeric values enclosed in quotes (suitable for import into Excel)

=====

```
Delimiter           = ",";
EncloseInQuotes     = true;
Mask_SerialNo       = "";
```

```

Date_Source_MT4_Local = "M";
Mask_DateTime         = "Y-M-D`, `H:I";
Mask_Currency         = "T3";
Mask_Descr            = "T65";
Mask_Impact           = "T6";
Mask_Actual           = "NTRB,-6.1";
Mask_Forecast          = "NTRB,-6.1";
Mask_Previous         = "NTRB,-6.1";

```

```

"2009-12-06","13:01","NZD","QV House Prices (YoY) (NOV)","Low","1.0","", "0.2"
"2009-12-07","00:30","AUD","AiG Perf of Construction Index (NOV)","Low","47.6","", "50.9"
"2009-12-07","01:50","JPY","Official Reserve Assets (NOV)","Low","1,073.7","", "1,056.8"
"2009-12-07","02:30","AUD","ANZ Job Advertisements (MoM) (NOV)","Low","5.2","", "-1.7"
"2009-12-07","11:30","EUR","Sentix Investor Confidence (DEC)","Low","-5.5","", "-7.0"
"2009-12-07","13:00","EUR","German Factory Orders s.a. (MoM) (OCT)","Low","-2.1","0.8","1.3"
"2009-12-07","13:00","EUR","German Factory Orders n.s.a. (YoY) (OCT)","Low","-8.5","-6.2","-12.8"
"2009-12-07","15:30","CAD","Building Permits (MoM) (OCT)","Low","18.0","1.0","3.2"
"2009-12-07","19:00","USD","Bernanke Speaks to Economic Club of Washington Lunch","Low","", "", ""
"2009-12-07","21:01","NZD","New Zealand Manpower Survey (1Q)","Low","14.0","", "1.0"
"2009-12-07","21:01","AUD","Australia Manpower Survey (1Q)","Low","19.0","", "9.0"
"2009-12-07","22:00","USD","Consumer Credit (OCT)","Medium","-3.5","-9.4","-8.8"
"2009-12-07","23:45","NZD","Manufacturing Activity (3Q)","Medium","-5.1","", "-4.8"
"2009-12-08","00:45","USD","New York Fed President Dudley Speaks at Columbia University","Low","", "", ""
"2009-12-08","01:50","JPY","Current Account Total (OCT)","Low","1,397.6","1,483.2","1,567.9"
"2009-12-08","01:50","JPY","Adjusted Current Account Total (OCT)","Low","1,376.2","1,564.9","1,338.0"
"2009-12-08","01:50","JPY","Trade Balance - BOP Basis (OCT)","Low","949.0","864.6","599.2"

```

Example 3: Columnar table output
=====

```

Delimiter              = " ";
EncloseInQuotes        = false;
Mask_SerialNo          = "4";
Date_Source_MT4_Local  = "M";
Mask_DateTime          = "w D n Y   H:Ia";
Mask_Currency          = "L3";
Mask_Descr             = "L60";
Mask_Impact            = "L8";
Mask_Actual            = "L14";
Mask_Forecast          = "L14";
Mask_Previous          = "L14";

```

1	Sun 06 Dec 2009	01:01pm	NZD	QV House Prices (YoY) (NOV)	Low	1.0%		0.2%
2	Mon 07 Dec 2009	12:30am	AUD	AiG Perf of Construction Index (NOV)	Low	47.6		50.9
3	Mon 07 Dec 2009	01:50am	JPY	Official Reserve Assets (NOV)	Low	\$1073.7B		\$1056.8B
4	Mon 07 Dec 2009	02:30am	AUD	ANZ Job Advertisements (MoM) (NOV)	Low	5.2%		-1.7%
5	Mon 07 Dec 2009	11:30am	EUR	Sentix Investor Confidence (DEC)	Low	-5.5		-7.0
6	Mon 07 Dec 2009	01:00pm	EUR	German Factory Orders s.a. (MoM) (OCT)	Low	-2.1%	0.8%	1.3%

7	Mon 07 Dec 2009	01:00pm	EUR	German Factory Orders n.s.a. (YoY) (OCT)	Low	-8.5%	-6.2%	-12.8%
8	Mon 07 Dec 2009	03:30pm	CAD	Building Permits (MoM) (OCT)	Low	18.0%	1.0%	3.2%
9	Mon 07 Dec 2009	07:00pm	USD	Bernanke Speaks to Economic Club of Washington Lunch	Low			
10	Mon 07 Dec 2009	09:01pm	NZD	New Zealand Manpower Survey (1Q)	Low	14.0%		1.0%
11	Mon 07 Dec 2009	09:01pm	AUD	Australia Manpower Survey (1Q)	Low	19.0%		9.0%
12	Mon 07 Dec 2009	10:00pm	USD	Consumer Credit (OCT)	Medium	-\$3.5B	-\$9.4B	-\$8.8B
13	Mon 07 Dec 2009	11:45pm	NZD	Manufacturing Activity (3Q)	Medium	-5.1%		-4.8%
14	Tue 08 Dec 2009	12:45am	USD	New York Fed President Dudley Speaks at Columbia University	Low			
15	Tue 08 Dec 2009	01:50am	JPY	Current Account Total (OCT)	Low	1397.6B	1483.2B	1567.9B
16	Tue 08 Dec 2009	01:50am	JPY	Adjusted Current Account Total (OCT)	Low	1376.2B	1564.9B	1338.0B
17	Tue 08 Dec 2009	01:50am	JPY	Trade Balance - BOP Basis (OCT)	Low	949.0B	864.6B	599.2B

Example 4: Academic Interest only

=====

```

Delimiter           = ",";
EncloseInQuotes     = false;
Mask_SerialNoMask   = "";
Date_Source_MT4_Local = "M";
Mask_DateTimeMask   = "";
Mask_CurrencyMask   = "T3";
Mask_DescrMask      = "T65";
Mask_ImpactMask     = "";
Mask_ActualMask     = "A=T14";
Mask_ForecastMask   = "F=T14";
Mask_PreviousMask   = "P=T14";

```

```

NZD,QV House Prices (YoY) (NOV),A=1.0%,F=,P=0.2%
AUD,AiG Perf of Construction Index (NOV),A=47.6,F=,P=50.9
JPY,Official Reserve Assets (NOV),A=$1073.7B,F=,P=$1056.8B
AUD,ANZ Job Advertisements (MoM) (NOV),A=5.2%,F=,P=-1.7%
EUR,Sentix Investor Confidence (DEC),A=-5.5,F=,P=-7.0
EUR,German Factory Orders s.a. (MoM) (OCT),A=-2.1%,F=0.8%,P=1.3%
EUR,German Factory Orders n.s.a. (YoY) (OCT),A=-8.5%,F=-6.2%,P=-12.8%
CAD,Building Permits (MoM) (OCT),A=18.0%,F=1.0%,P=3.2%
USD,Bernanke Speaks to Economic Club of Washington Lunch,A=,F=,P=
NZD,New Zealand Manpower Survey (1Q),A=14.0%,F=,P=1.0%
AUD,Australia Manpower Survey (1Q),A=19.0%,F=,P=9.0%
USD,Consumer Credit (OCT),A=-$3.5B,F=-$9.4B,P=-$8.8B (R+)
NZD,Manufacturing Activity (3Q),A=-5.1%,F=,P=-4.8%
USD,New York Fed President Dudley Speaks at Columbia University,A=,F=,P=
JPY,Current Account Total (OCT),A=1397.6B,F=1483.2B,P=1567.9B
JPY,Adjusted Current Account Total (OCT),A=1376.2B,F=1564.9B,P=1338.0B
JPY,Trade Balance - BOP Basis (OCT),A=949.0B,F=864.6B,P=599.2B

```

PARAMETER (OR 'PRESETS') FILE

To remove the nuisance of having to retype the same parameter settings every time you attach the indicator to a chart, you have two options. EITHER:

1. Use MT4 templates (but these overwrite any other indicators, objects, etc that you also have on the chart). In this case, the indicator settings are defined when you attach or edit the indicator, using MT4's built-in dialog; OR

2. Use parameter file(s), as follows:

- If you enter nothing or TXT into the **ParameterFile** setting, then the indicator looks for a parameter file called **Presets---Recent News.TXT** in the **...../experts/files** folder.
- If you enter any other text (e.g. XXX, 001, etc) into the **ParameterFile** setting, then the indicator looks for a parameter file called **Presets---Recent News.XXX**, **Presets---Recent News.001**, etc in the **...../experts/files** folder. (This allows you to set up a different definition in each file, then simply enter the file suffix when you attach the indicator).
- If the file can't be found, then the settings in MT4's dialog will be used. If the file is found, then the settings in the file will be used instead. Hence if you want to force the use of the MT4 dialog settings, enter the name of a non-existent file (e.g. 'NONE').

Use a text editor like Notepad to view and/or edit the parameter presets files.

To disable an individual entry in the file, start the line with two slashes (//). This means that the setting specified in the MT4 dialog (when you attach/edit the indicator) will be used instead. To re-enable it, remove the slashes. If you have multiple 'unslashed' entries in the file, the last will be used. You can also disable an entry by setting its parameter value to an asterisk (*). Thus either of

```
// VertSpacingPips = 5;
```

or

```
VertSpacingPips = *;
```

will allow you to adjust the symbols' vertical spacing via the MT4 dialog, i.e. without the need to edit the parameter file.

You may use any number of embedded spaces or underscores, and/or any combo of upper or lower case, to aid readability, however you wish. The only exceptions are **FromDate** and **ThruDate**, which must be entered exactly in the form YYYY.MM.DD<space>HH:MM

Every line in the file (including blank lines, and lines beginning with two slashes) **MUST** end with a semi-colon (;). Failure to do this will cause unpredictable results.

If an entry occurs multiple times in the file, the last occurrence is used to set the parameter value, e.g.

`VertSpacingPips = 5;`

`VertSpacingPips = 10;`

means that the vertical spacing will be set to 10 pips.

To save typing and improve accuracy, copy/paste the sample lines in the file.

To disable the entire file, either rename it, or delete its content.

To have any changes take immediate effect, either (1) re-attach the indicator to your chart; (2) edit the indicator (press Ctrl-I); (3) switch between timeframes, or (4) switch between currency pairs. Otherwise the chart will not be refreshed/re-plotted until the **RefreshEveryXMins** setting takes effect.

OPERATIONAL RULES

To summarize what's been stated previously:

1. Every time there are changes to the data in the FF calendar, these changes will not be plotted until you run the [Download News](#) script, and then the [Recent News](#) indicator is refreshed (either manually or automatically). [Download News](#) writes the current calendar data to the [.../experts/files/news.csv](#) file, overwriting the previous version of the file.

2. Refreshing causes:

- a) a re-read of the parameter file ([.../experts/files/Presets---Recent News.XXX](#)), causing any newly saved changes to become effective; and

- b) a re-read of the [....experts/files/news.csv](#) file (which contains the news data from the last time [Download News](#) was run);
- c) then it deletes and re-plots all of the numbered symbols on your MT4 chart with the updated news data.

3. A refresh can be either auto or manual. Either one will achieve the same results described in point 2.

A **MANUAL** refresh can be performed in ANY one of the following ways:

- switching between timeframes; OR
- switching between currency pairs (drag them from the Navigator panel onto your chart); OR
- editing the [Recent News](#) indicator (press Ctrl-I, then double click on the [Recent News](#) indicator, and click OK to accept the 'dummy' non-change); OR
- removing and reattaching the [Recent News](#) indicator

(NOTE: This is a standard MT4 operation and applies to any indicator).

An **AUTO** refresh occurs, according to the [RefreshEveryXMinutes](#) setting. For example, if this is set to 15, then a refresh will take place every time a new candle starts to form on the M15 chart of the pair to which the [Recent News](#) indicator is attached (even if it's attached to a non-M15 chart).

If you set [RefreshEveryXMinutes](#) = 0, then an auto refresh will occur on every new price tick. **WARNING: this could slow computer performance significantly.**

I prefer to use a MANUAL refresh as it's a forced, guaranteed refresh.

RELEASE HISTORY

v 3.00 (Aug 13, 2010):

- Initial release

v 3.01 (Aug 16, 2010):

- Fixed minor bugs
- Events on the calendar lacking a specific time ('All day', 'Tentative', etc) now display <<All day>>, <<Tentative>>, etc as part of their description
- The two timeshift parameters have been replaced with **SourceTimeIsGMTplus**, **MT4TimeIsGMTplus**, **LocalTimeIsGMTplus**, as GMT based time offsets are possibly easier to understand. These new parameters allow decimals to be entered, to accommodate timezones that are GMT+x.5 hours
- It's now possible to export events with their output date/time set as GMT, by setting **Date_Source_MT4_Local** = G

v 3.02 (Aug 23, 2010):

- Overhauled this document. Added OPERATIONAL RULES section and Appendix 2
- Alerts now show countdown times as 'XX min YY sec', i.e. seconds are now included
- New **EmailAlertSubject** parameter now allows e-mail/cellphone alerts, effectively turning your cellphone into a personal 'FX news alarm clock'
- **Date_Source_MT4_Local** parameter now allows +/- hours, e.g. G+3 means that the date/time output will be GMT+3 hours
- **Calc Timeshifts** now displays output values to then nearest half hour (to cater for timezones that are GMT+x.5 hours)

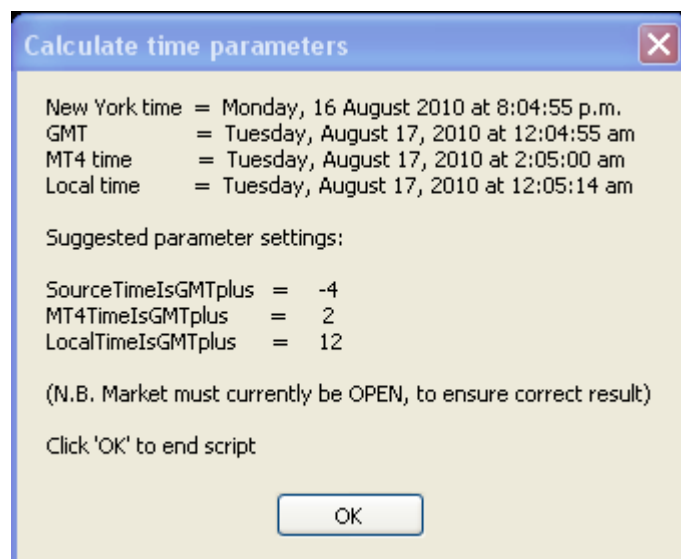
v 3.03 (Aug 30, 2010):

- Fixed bug where **Mask_RevisedFrom** in MT4 dialog window was overruling **Mask_RevisedFrom** in the parameter file.

APPENDIX 1 — CALCULATING THE TIME OFFSET PARAMETERS

The [Calc Timeshifts](#) script will automatically calculate suggested values for the time offset parameters (**SourceTimeIsGMTplus**, **MT4TimeIsGMTplus**, **LocalTimeIsGMTplus**). **To display a meaningful result, it must be run while the market is open.**

Drag the script onto any MT4 chart, and note the values. Enter these values when you later attach the [Recent News](#) indicator onto your chart(s). You can re-run this script at any future time (e.g. to recalculate the values when daylight saving shifts in or out).



APPENDIX 2 — THE 'FFcal.EXE' DOWNLOADING APPLICATION (expert users only)

This app has been resurrected from the original Plot News indicator thread: <http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=16364>

The app:

(1) calls the GNU freeware app [WGET.EXE](#), which downloads news events from the FF calendar, and then FFcal.EXE adds them to the Clarion database files [CALENDAR.DAT/K01/K02/K03](#). This database comes pre-loaded with a history of news events back to Jan 1, 2007. It continues to grow every time a new week's news events are downloaded. If the same week's data is re-loaded, the relevant data gets overwritten.

(2) reads the [CALENDAR.DAT/K01/K02/K03](#) database, and outputs specified news events to the [....experts/files/news.csv](#) file, overwriting the file.

(3) outputs all news events in the [CALENDAR.DAT/K01/K02/K03](#) database to a file [....experts/files/@backup@.csv](#)

Its format is:

"date","time","currency","description","impact","actual","forecast","previous","revised from","wingdings symbol","level","spacing","reference id"

It's also capable of performing a number of other functions, including complex exports, Effect Analysis reporting, external data plotting (e.g. fundamentals vs price, market indices, futures), and NCI plots (see <http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=165961>). See the original Plot News thread for more info.

With **AutoplayMode** = TRUE, [Download News](#) automatically downloads the current week's news (Sunday to Saturday) – step (1) above, and outputs events dated from the previous 35 days, to Dec 31, 2019, to the [....experts/files/news.csv](#) file – step (2) above.

With **AutoplayMode** = FALSE, the process pauses at FFcal.EXE's input screen, allowing you to change the settings, to download and/or output news events from different date ranges selected by you:

Download parameters (top area of screen) - these impact step (1) above:

To change the week's data that will be downloaded, enter a new value in field **1** in the screenshot below. This should be a Sunday. Alternatively, you can click the button to the right of the field, and select a date from the pop-up calendar.

You can have it download multiple weeks' news by changing the value in field **2**. (A large value means the process will take some time, as [WGET.EXE](#) gets called once for each weekly download).

You can filter the types of news events that will be downloaded by checking/unchecking the boxes in area **3**.

Output parameters (central area of screen) - these impact step (2) above:

You can change the date range of events that will be output by changing the values in fields **4** (or use the pop-up calendar)

You can also filter the events output according to text in their description (area **5**). For more information, see points 3 & 4 in this post: <http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?p=1981207#post1981207>

Many of the other filtering capabilities are duplicated in [Recent News](#)' parameters (e.g. **TimeFrames**, **PlotTheseCurrencies**, **PlotTheseImpacts**, **RelevantCcyChartsOnly**), effectively making them redundant. DON'T change any timeshift settings (areas **6**), as these are more easily adjustable in [Recent News](#).

Click 'OK' to proceed, or 'Cancel' to abort the process (area **7**).

Build News.CSV from FF calendar

History update from weekly FF Calendar

☒ Update Events History database from FF calendar

Setup

FF calendar format

2

Download data from FF calendar starting from what date (format: mm/dd/yyyy)

1

8/15/2010

Number of weeks' worth of data to load

2

1

☐ Auto set

No. of hours your MT4 is ahead of FF calendar

6

0

☒ Automatic calendar load (uses WGET.EXE)
Note: if unchecked, you must first manually save the relevant week's FF Calendar as "ffcalout" in the same folder as this EXE

☐ Convert 2006 currency names

3

☒ Include Non-Economic events as Low Impact
☒ Include untimed events ("Tentative", "All day" etc)
☒ Include unvalued events ("... speaks", "... Minutes" etc)

Settings for output from History to News.CSV

Path\name of output (News.CSV) file (name is mandatory; path must exist, unless omitted, then assumes same folder as EXE)

news.csv

☐ Include auxiliary data (swaps, Sundays, etc)

No. of hours your local time is ahead of your MT4 time

6

0

☐ 24 hr format
☐ Use local time in exports

Default chart for vertical spacing (1,5,15,30,60,240) mins

60

Output only events between

4

7/11/2010

12/31/2019

☐ Show only on relevant currency charts
☐ Omit events with no 'Actual' value

Show on

☒ M1 charts
☐ H4 charts
☒ M5 charts
☐ Daily charts
☒ M15 charts
☐ Weekly charts
☒ M30 charts
☐ Monthly charts
☒ H1 charts

5

or

or

Clear

Wingdings symbol output (* enter 0 to omit output)

ALL	139	0	139
* USD	140	1	140
* CAD	141	2	141
* EUR	142	3	142
* GBP	143	4	143
* CHF	144	5	144
* JPY	145	6	145
* AUD	146	7	146
* NZD	147	8	147
* Other	148	9	148

W Reset M 0 Dup +1

Color for impact levels (enter 0 to omit output)

Low	1	1
Medium	2	2
High	3	3

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11

Reset M 0

Descr Line #1: what to output first
☒ Time
☐ Date
☐ Currency
☐ Event descr

Export (news only) also to XML / CSV (Excel)

☐ No
☐ XML
☒ Tab
☐ Char

☐ Cols
D.Fmt (D#.M#.Y#)

Y/

Path\filename

XLOutput.csv

5

Preview

Plot_External_Data format

Clear

☒ Date
☒ Time
☒ Currency
☒ Description
☒ Impact

☒ Numbers only

Plot_News format

All

☒ Actual
☒ Forecast
☒ Previous
☒ Revised from
☒ FF ID code

NCI

Outputs

☐
☒ Auto

OK (F10)

7

Cancel (Esc)

Profiles

>>>

Load

Save

Delete

Clear

ALL

USD

CAD

EUR

GBP

CHF

JPY

AUD

NZD

.

Currency Pairs

Setup

Effects

===== END OF DOCUMENT =====