



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
page 1 of 8  
Oct 2010  
Rev: June 2013  
This article  
is NOT free\*

### Introduction

Let's say you browse through some price charts and notice a price consolidation as in the weekly chart of MLX in Figure 1. In this example we can see that Metals X Limited could not close above resistance at about 14.5 cents over at least a 15 month period until August 2010.

Remember that the price resistance situation comes about because the market participants don't believe the stock is worth any more than this price. This might be due to broker or analyst published views and recommendations regarding so-called *fair value*. At some stage, if there is positive news about the stock, or a situation that causes a re-rating, the views of participants will change, and more people will want to own it. An increased level of interest in the stock will cause a bidding war and the share price will at some stage rise above the resistance level (as has happened in this chart in late 2010).

If only we could easily and quickly find out as soon as the share price closes above the resistance level. Such a breakout might be the start of a new uptrend that might be worth riding. In this case we can see in the chart that there were tests of higher prices above the resistance level in late July and August 2010 with the upper candle tails rising above the dotted resistance level. There were then enough buyers to cause the MLX share price to break out above resistance and go on to rise about 93% in the following 7 weeks.

There are several ways to be on the ball and to spot such price breakouts, and without much effort. Utilising share broker alert tools is one way, and the alert features in charting software is another. In this regard, the Alerts feature in the BullCharts charting software can readily do this.

The BullCharts Alerts feature can also be set on a sloping line (as in a trend line) as shown in the sample in Figure 2 at right, and also on Volume



Figure 1: Set a Price Alert in order to spot a breakout.

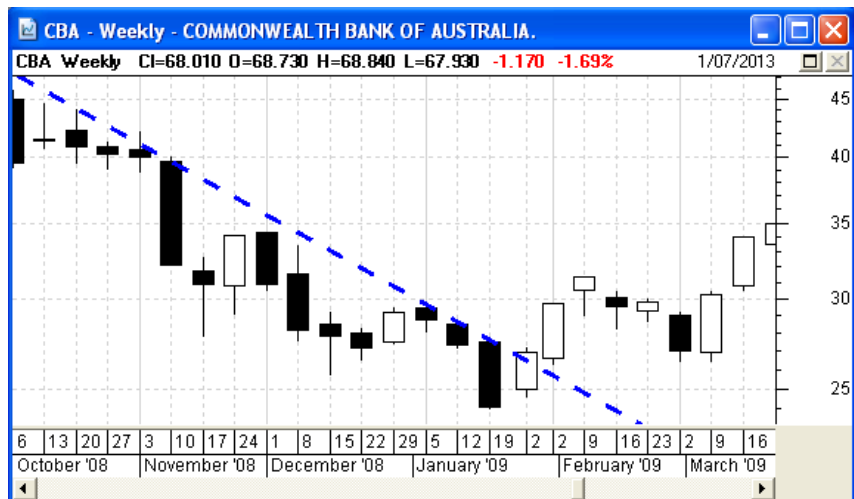


Figure 2: Alert Trend Line - a sloping alert line.

This Article in Brainy's series on BullCharts, BC-40-300, "Alerts and the Alert Manager", describes the Alerts feature in BullCharts as well as a number of the scenarios in which you might want to use it. Also see Article BC-40-310, "Alert settings strategy", for more details about the Alert feature options, and some ideas about how to best utilise them.

\* — Brainy's eBook (PDF) Articles are only available to **Share Market Toolbox** members. Visit [www.robertbrain.com/articles/](http://www.robertbrain.com/articles/) for more information.

The first page of every article is free, and some of the articles are completely free (eg. shorter ones and Table of Contents).



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
page 2 of 8  
Oct 2010  
Rev: June 2013  
This article  
is NOT free\*

### Alert scenarios

Following are just some of the scenarios about which you might like to be alerted using the BullCharts Alerts feature. The notes on the following pages describe these in more detail, as well as how to use the Alerts feature.

1. **End-of-day price alert.** We are an end-of-day or end-of-week trader/investor. On a particular stock we have noticed that the share price has been consolidating for weeks below a horizontal resistance level. We want an alert when the price closes above this level (as in Figure 1 above).
2. **Break of a trend line.** We are watching a down trending stock, and anxiously looking for the down trend to end, and a new up trend to start. We can set an "alert trend line" so that we are alerted when the current trend is broken (as shown in Figure 2 above). The converse also applies to an uptrending stock — wanting an alert when the rising trend fails.
3. **Volume increase for (thinly) traded stock.** We keenly watch smaller cap mining and exploration stocks which tend to trade thinly. However, we notice that with these stocks a potential price breakout can be preceded by a significant increase in volume. So we want to set a volume alert at a specific volume level above an average of the recent trading volume (as shown at right).
4. **Intraday price alert on snapshots.** We are an investor/trader who is happy to watch the screen at times during the trading day. We have a data plan which allows us to download data *snapshots*<sup>1</sup> every hour. Price has been consolidating below a horizontal resistance level for several days. We want an alert when the price trades above this level during the day so that we can quickly capture some of the short term price increase.

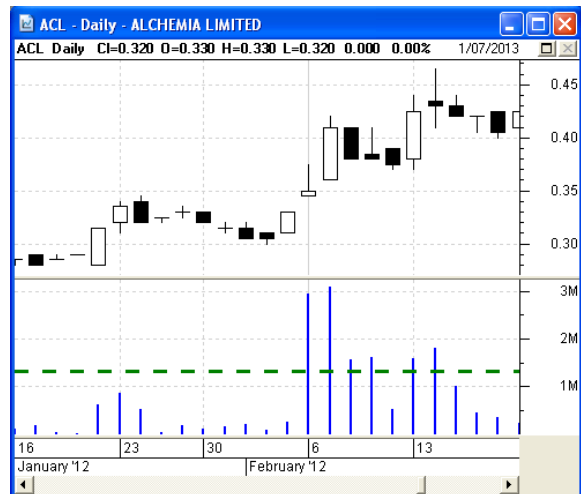


Figure 3: Volume Alert.

### BullCharts Alerts — summarised

The BullCharts Alert feature can be set to trigger when the desired value is greater-than, or when it is less-than, the Alert value. And each alert can be set to trigger based on an **end-of-day** situation, or based on an **intra-day snapshot**. It is possible to set an alert based on a price value — any of Open, High, Low, Close — or on Volume. The Alerts feature has been included in BullCharts since Version 3.8 (late 2008), and can handle up to 300 alerts.

In addition to these features, Version 3.9 of BullCharts (January 2012) also includes a sloping alert line feature. This sloping line (*alert trend line*) can be applied and used in the same way as the regular (horizontal) alert line mentioned in the previous paragraph.

To view and manage the list of alerts, BullCharts includes two tools which are both explained in more detail below:

- Alert Summary — a simple summary list.
- Alert Manager — a more detailed tool to view and manage alerts, and the alert history.

1 A BullCharts *snapshot* is the set of price values for every stock that can be downloaded 20 minutes past the hour, every hour. This data is dropped into the BullCharts database as though it is the End-of-Day data, and it can be compared in scans, and used in price and volume Alerts.



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
page 3 of 8  
Oct 2010  
Rev: June 2013  
This article  
is NOT free\*

### The Alert Summary screen

The Alert Summary screen (within the BullCharts Control Panel) shows a summary list of the alerts along with some details (further details are available in the Alerts Manager tool). You can access the Alert Summary using either of the following methods:

- Menu option: *Tools > Alert Summary*.
- Use the Control Panel (function key <F8> or <F6>), and then the Alert tab at the bottom of the Control Panel (see figure at right).

The Alert Summary is one of six features that is accessible via the BullCharts Control Panel. When you display the Control Panel (or the Security Manager), there are six tabs across the bottom as shown in Figure 4. By default the Alert Summary is the last tab (but this can be changed by dragging the tab across the screen to another location).

[In Figure 4, the Alert Summary screen is shown un-docked away from the side of the window. When it is docked somewhere around the edge of the BullCharts window, its appearance is a little different to this, but the same details are displayed.]

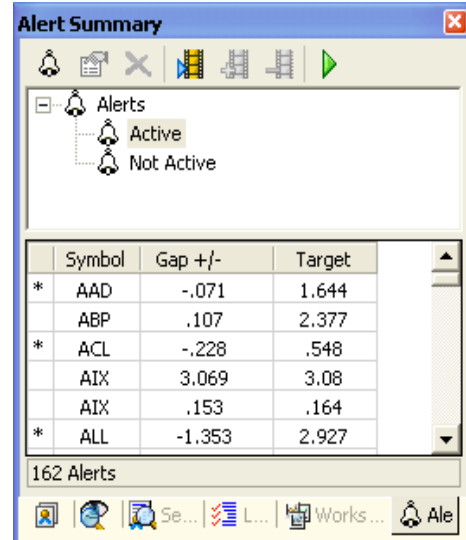


Figure 4: The Alert Summary screen.

In the figure at right we can see in the upper portion of the panel that we can view a list of the “Active” alerts, or a list of the “Not Active” alerts (ie. the alert is not “enabled” — see this option in the lower left corner of the *Alert Properties* dialogue box in Figure 7). The screen shot above is currently showing the Active alerts in the lower panel, for which some of the stocks have an asterisk in the first column to indicate that these alerts have just been triggered.

The last two columns in this figure show:- the distance (or gap) between the latest price (or volume) value and the Target value, and the actual Target value.

The four displayed columns can each be sorted — simply click on the column header to sort by a specific column, and click a second time to reverse the sort sequence. A small downward pointing triangle is displayed in the column header to indicate the sort sequence, or grouping.

The toolbar buttons across the top of the Alert Summary (see Figure 5 at right) have similar functions to the other Control Panel features as follows:



Figure 5: The Alert Summary Toolbar buttons

- The bell icon — functions much the same as the Alert button on the Line Studies toolbar — it is used to create a New Alert for the currently displayed price chart, and it opens the Alert Properties dialogue box.
- The second button displays the Properties (opens the Alert Properties dialogue box) for the currently selected Alert in the list of Alerts.
- The big red cross will Delete the currently selected Alert from the list of Alerts.
- The fourth button, as in other panels, will “Flip through the securities...”. That is, if a price chart is displayed it will step through each Alert in the list of Alerts and show the relevant stock and price chart for each Alert. If there is no price chart displayed, then one will be opened. Clicking on this button to commence the viewing of the price charts will enable the next two buttons to either increase, or decrease, the speed at which the price charts are flipped through.
- The final button (green right-facing triangle) will cause the *Alert scanning* process to run.



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
page 4 of 8  
Oct 2010  
Rev: June 2013  
This article  
is NOT free\*

### Setting Alerts

There are two ways to set an Alert on either price or volume:

**Option 1 — On the chart** (this is the quickest and easiest way to set an Alert). With a price chart displayed, locate the Alert button on the *Line Studies* toolbar (it is towards the right hand end of the toolbar as shown in Figure 6). If you click on the small downward pointing triangle just to the right of



Figure 6: Line Studies toolbar - the Alert button (bell icon towards the right).

the Alert icon a drop-down menu will be offered with two choices — either the regular Alert option or the Alert Trend Line option. Click on one of these options and then click on the displayed price chart at the desired price point (or volume level). Then enter the remaining relevant information in the Alert Properties dialogue box (see Figure 7 below for more details). If you had have selected the Alert Trend Line then you will need to click twice on the chart to indicate the slope of the trend line.

**Option 2 — Within the Alert Summary** — Click on the Alert button on the *Alert Summary* toolbar to open the Alert Properties dialogue box (see Figure 7 below), and enter the relevant details including the Symbol name (ie. the stock code).

### Alert properties

With reference to Figure 7 at right, following is a brief description of the elements within the *Alert Properties* dialogue box.

Note there are three tabs — *Alert*, *Style*, *Advanced*.

Options on the *Alert* tab:-

- **Symbol** — This field is not available to change if you have used the Alert button on the Line Studies toolbar to place an Alert on a displayed price chart. However, it is available if using the Alert Summary to create a new Alert.
- **Condition Type** — can be one of:- Close, High, Low, Open or Volume. When selecting one of these options, the last value in the database for this is shown in the “Last Value” field to the right. This can help with setting the Target Value.
- **Condition Comparison** — is either “greater than or equal to” or it is “less than or equal to”.
- **Condition Target Value** — is the level you have clicked on the price chart, and which can be revised by clicking and typing within this field.
- **Alert Settings** — is either “Alert Everytime”, or it is “Alert Once”.
- **Data Source** — NOTE:- this is either “End of Day”, or it is “Snapshot”. It cannot be both, so take care about how you want to use this specific Alert. If you want an Alert on a stock to trigger on either the EOD or on the snapshot, whichever occurs first, then you will need to set two Alerts on the stock.

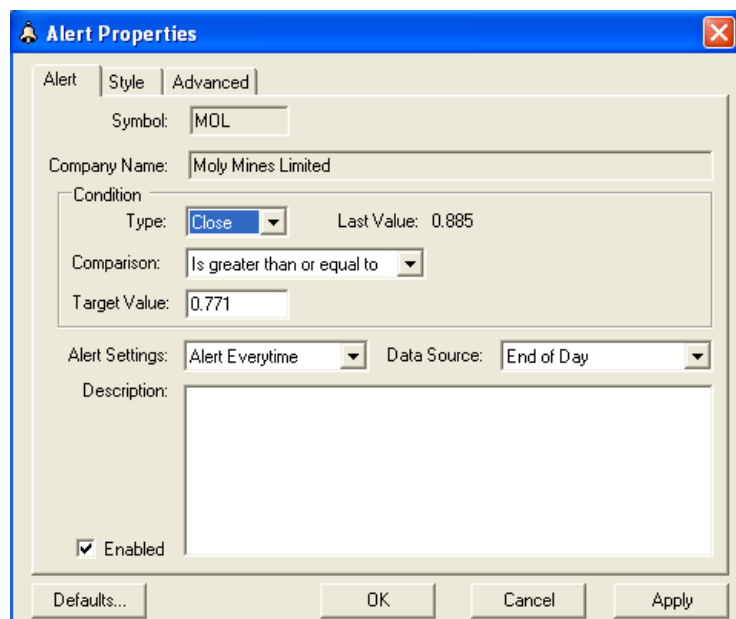


Figure 7: The Alert Properties dialogue box.



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
page 5 of 8  
Oct 2010  
Rev: June 2013  
This article  
is NOT free\*

- *Description field* — a free-text description (optional).
- *Enabled* check box — Note that this box can be un-checked so as to ignore this Alert.

With reference to Figure 8 at right, the options on the *Style tab* are to set the colour, line style and line thickness for the pending Alert line on the chart, and for the triggered Alert line.

That is, until the Alert is triggered, it's properties are as shown on the left side, and after the alert is triggered, the properties are as shown on the right.

Note that these settings can be different for each stock. If you want to set these settings for all future Alerts, then you will need to use the "*Defaults...*" button at the bottom of the window to save the current values for all future new Alerts (but not for existing Alerts).

Anyone who makes good use of the BullCharts alerts feature will soon realise that it is important to be able to quickly differentiate the triggered alerts from the not triggered alerts. And in addition to this, it can be very useful to be able to quickly and easily differentiate a "when closes above" alert from a "when closes below" alert. To achieve all this, careful choice of the alert colours and styles should be made. Refer to Brainy's Article BC-40-310, "*Alert settings strategy*", for a discussion on this topic.

With reference to Figure 9, note the following key points regarding the *Advanced tab* in the Alert Properties:-

- The *Alert Method* can be set, selecting a specific sound file.
- The (recent) *Triggered History* is displayed, showing key values.

### How to change an Alert

It is easy to change an existing Alert which might have been triggered, or might not have been triggered. With a price chart displayed, and the specific Alert visible on the chart, simply click on the horizontal Alert line and drag it to another point on the chart. This will change its status from *Triggered* to *Not Triggered*.

To be more precise with adjusting the new Alert value, open the Alert Properties dialogue box by either double-clicking on the Alert line on the chart, or right-click on the Alert line, and select "Alert Line Properties" from the drop-down options. Then in the Alert Properties dialogue box you can edit the Target Value (see Figure 7 above).

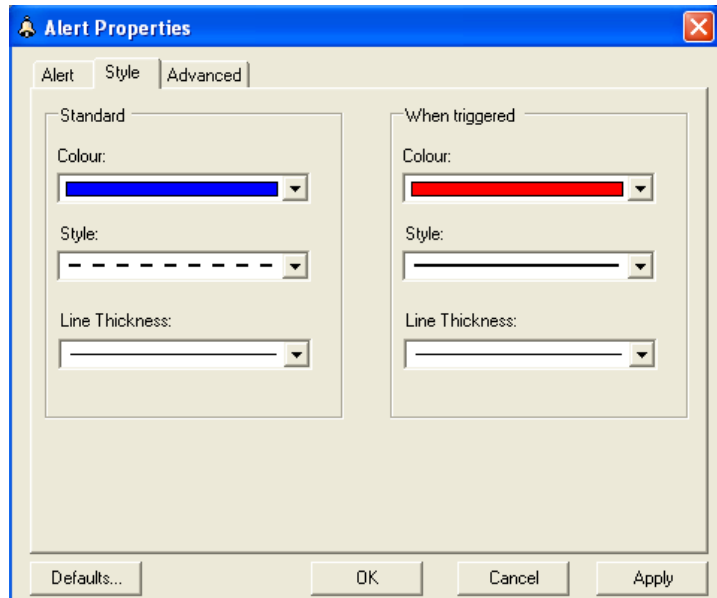


Figure 8: Alert Properties - Style tab.

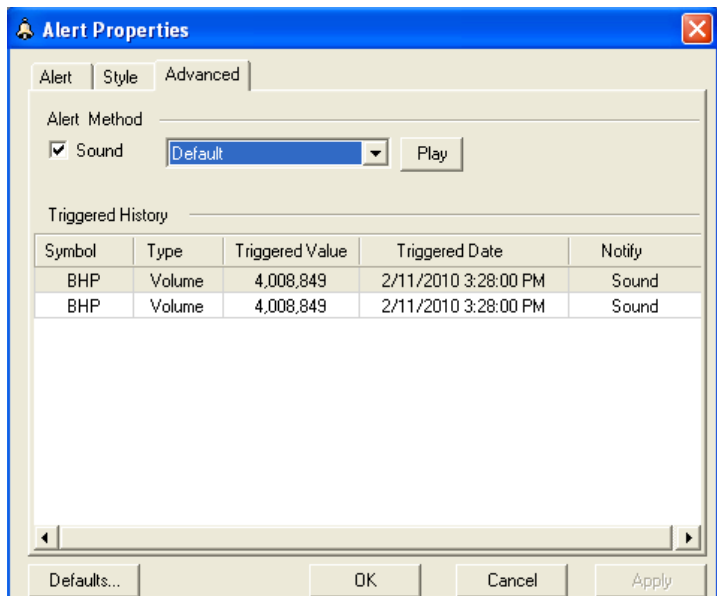


Figure 9: Alert Properties - Advanced tab.



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
 page 6 of 8  
 Oct 2010  
 Rev: June 2013  
 This article  
 is NOT free\*

### Alert scanning

Okay, so we have seen how to set an Alert on Price (or on Volume); but how do we go about scanning for triggered Alerts? Well, there are a couple of ways to do this as follows as follows.

**Option 1 — Alert Scan at EOD data download** — When downloading the End-of-Day (EOD) data using the “Get Daily Data (Ctrl+G)” menu option, note the check box “Scan alerts after download” in the Data Manager, as in Figure 10.

By selecting this option, the EOD data will be downloaded, and then BullCharts will work through the list of defined Alerts to identify any alerts that have been triggered. This check box in the Data Manager is either on or off by default depending on the setting shown in Figure 16 below (under the menu option Alerts > Properties).

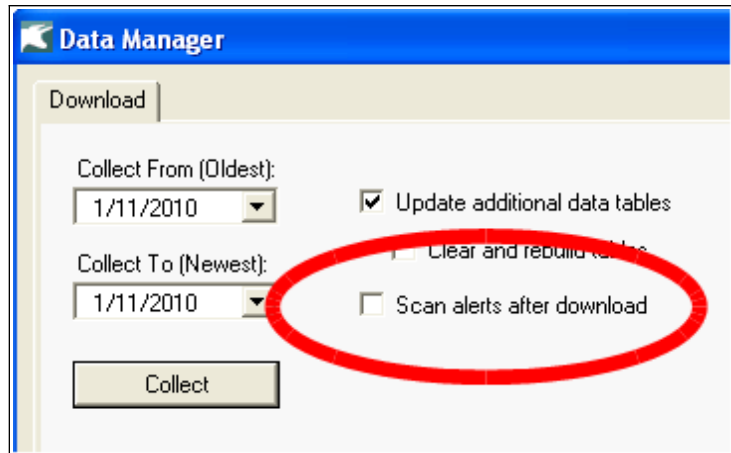


Figure 10: Alert Scan when downloading EOD data.

**Option 2 — “Run Alert” from the Alert Summary toolbar** — Use the last button on the Alert Summary toolbar to Run an Alert Scan. This option allows you to run a scan for Alerts at any time, even intraday. The Alert Scan that is running during the day can check the latest Snapshot data provided it has been downloaded, and provided each Alert is using the “Data Source=Snapshot” option in the Alert Properties dialogue box. This option is also available from the menu option discussed in the following section.

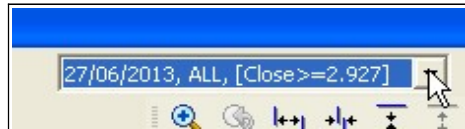


Figure 11: Triggered stocks.

While the Alert scan is running, an information field in the top of the BullCharts window shows all the stocks that have a triggered Alert (see Figure 11 at left). Once the Alert Scan has completed, you can review this list using the drop-down button at the right of the field as shown in Figure 12.

This is simply a quick-view of the stocks that have been triggered during this Alert Scan. Further details are available in the Alert Summary list (described above and shown in Figure 4 above), and in the Alert Manager and Alert History screens, described in the next section below.

A sample Alert History window is shown in Figure 13 at right. This can be displayed after running an alert scan, using the menu option: Alerts > Alert History.

While the Alert scan is running, an information field in the top of the BullCharts window shows all the stocks that

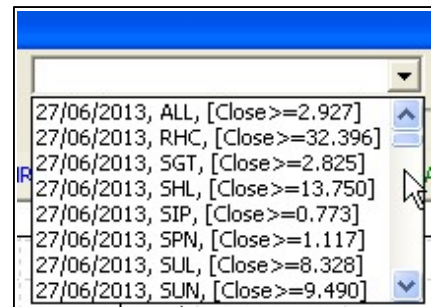


Figure 12: List of triggered stocks.

Symbol	Type	Triggered Value	Triggered Date	Notify
SIP	Close	.78	27/06/2013	Sound
TCL	Close	6.78	27/06/2013	Sound
TGR	Close	2.45	27/06/2013	Sound
SUL	Close	12	27/06/2013	Sound
SPN	Close	1.19	27/06/2013	Sound
SUN	Close	13.00	27/06/2013	Sound

Figure 13: Alert History window.



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
 page 7 of 8  
 Oct 2010  
 Rev: June 2013  
 This article  
 is NOT free\*

### The Alert Manager

Another view of the Alert details and Alert History is available from the menu option: *Alerts*. The menu options are as shown in Figure 14 at right.

When you select the *Alert Manager* from this menu, a fairly detailed screen opens up showing all Alert details in a tabular form, and the *Alert History* in the lower pane of the window (with a limit on the number of history items displayed, as specified in the dialogue box shown in Figure 16 below).

The Alert Manager window pane includes a number of columns of information as shown in Figure 15 below. As with other features of BullCharts, this list of information can be sorted based on any column in this window by simply clicking on the column heading.

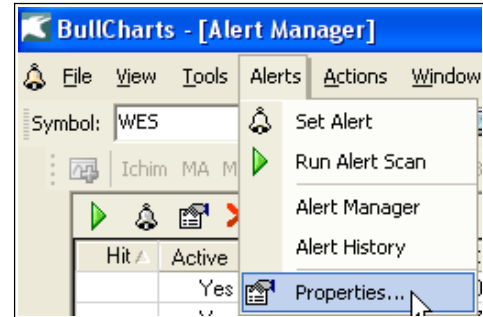


Figure 14: The Alerts menu option.

Hit	Active	Symbol	Gap %	Gap +/-	Type	Last Value	Condition	Target	Triggered Value	Triggered Date	When
*	Yes	AAD	-4.32	-.071	Close	1.715	>=	1.644	1.715	28/06/2013	Everytime
	Yes	ABP	4.50	.107	Close	2.27	>=	2.377	2.38		Everytime
	Yes	ACL	-45.21	-.264	Close	.32	<=	.584			Everytime
	Yes	AIX	99.64	3.069	Close	.011	>=	3.08			Everytime
	Yes	AIX	93.29	.153	Close	.011	>=	.164			Everytime
*	Yes	All	-46.22	-1.353	Close	4.28	>=	2.927	4.28	28/06/2013	Everytime

Symbol	Type	Triggered Value	Triggered Date	Notify
SIP	Close	.78	27/06/2013	Sound
TCL	Close	6.78	27/06/2013	Sound
TGR	Close	2.45	27/06/2013	Sound
SUL	Close	12	27/06/2013	Sound
SPN	Close	1.19	27/06/2013	Sound
SUN	Close	12.02	27/06/2013	Sound

Figure 15: The Alert Manager window (includes Alert History in lower pane).

The last menu option under the Alerts menu item is “Properties...” and opens a dialogue box with two tabs — General and History — as shown in Figure 16 below. The General tab has two check boxes to change the default Alert scanning options, while the History tab sets the number of history items to retain (up to 300).

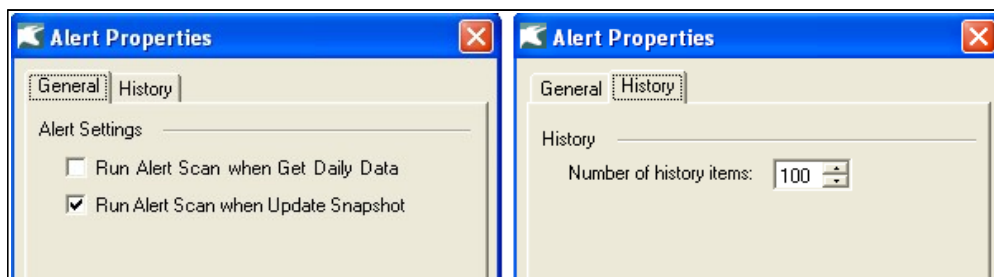


Figure 16: The dialogue box from the menu option: Alerts, has two tabs.

If you find that the Alert Scanner is running with every snapshot, and you don't want it to, then you can un-check the option under the General tab.



# Brainy's Articles on BullCharts

## Alerts and the Alert Manager

Article No:  
**BC-40-300**  
page 8 of 8  
Oct 2010  
Rev: June 2013  
This article  
is NOT free\*

### Summary

This Article in Brainy's series on BullCharts (number BC-40-300) describes the BullCharts Alerts feature, including some possible Alert scenarios. Also see Article BC-40-310, "*Alert settings strategy*", for a discussion about utilising the available colours and styles for the Alert lines.



For more information on Share Trading, or  
Technical Analysis, or BullCharts software,  
look for more of Brainy's articles, or the other resources, in  
**Brainy's Share Market Toolbox:** [www.robertbrain.com](http://www.robertbrain.com)

.....  
.....  
.....