

Product summaries are based on the information furnished to Computerized Investing by the producers of the software; they do not represent firsthand knowledge by Computerized Investing.

Quicktakes

SmartMoney Select

www.smartmoneyselect.com

SmartMoney has recently added a Fund Screener to its premium Web site, SmartMoney Select. The Fund Screener is built on the interface of SmartMoney's stock screening tool and can screen funds based on user-selected criteria. Users can screen 12,000 funds using over 60 different criteria based on data provided by Morningstar. Results of the screen are displayed in three different ways including histograms and thumbnail views. The user can also compare the chosen criteria with specific values, save custom-built screens for future use, and download results and export them to various spreadsheet formats. Predefined fund screens are also provided. Access to the site ranges from \$5.95 to \$28.95 per month.

Thomson On-Line Research

research.thomsonib.com

Thomson Financial has recently launched Thomson Research, a Web-based research application. The new program is a single application that allows access to Thomson's Research Bank Web and Global Access platforms, as well as the Thomson company and industry research. Users can also access the Investext collection (brokerage analyst research reports and corporate earnings conference call transcripts) and MarkIntel's database of industry-specific market information from investment banks, brokerage houses, and research firms. Two subscription plans are available: retail access that charges the user for each document upon consumption, or a flat

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Nirvana Systems' Visual Trader

Nirvana Systems has recently released Visual Trader, which employs Microsoft's Direct X graphic standard to display market information in three dimensions.

With Visual Trader, general market movement, current trend, change in trend, breadth of movement, and group rotation are presented in 3D. The program comes with "maps" based on the most popular indexes, including the S&P 500, S&P 100, Nasdaq 100, and the Dow 30. The Nirvana 500 list is designed to group stocks that are highly correlated, giving the user the ability to detect group rotations early.

Visual Trader's map display resembles three-dimensional bar graphs. Green cylinders (bars) above the horizon of the map convey stocks that are breaking out to the upside. Conversely, red cylinders below the horizon show that there is strong downward pressure on a particular group of stocks. In one display, users can see hundreds of stocks and their relative movement in real time.

Visual Trader also shows the same information in an Opportunity List, but sorts it for an easy and instant way to see which groups or symbols are turning up or down. Red bars on the Opportunity List represent red cylinders on the map, green bars on the list represent green cylinders on the map. This list can be made translucent or transparent so that the 3-D map view of the market is not obscured by the Opportunity List.

Users can view detailed charts for any stock by simply clicking on the cylinder in the map or on the bar in the list;

this brings up a chart showing the stock's trading information for the day. You can also elect to view an industry composite graph by clicking on the Industry Group in either the list or in the map. From the industry graph, you can access the individual stock graphs using hot keys.

A Leading Indicator in the upper right corner of the display shows market movement across the entire map. The current direction of the market as well as any new direction, based on breakouts across the map, are depicted by two "hands" on the indicator.

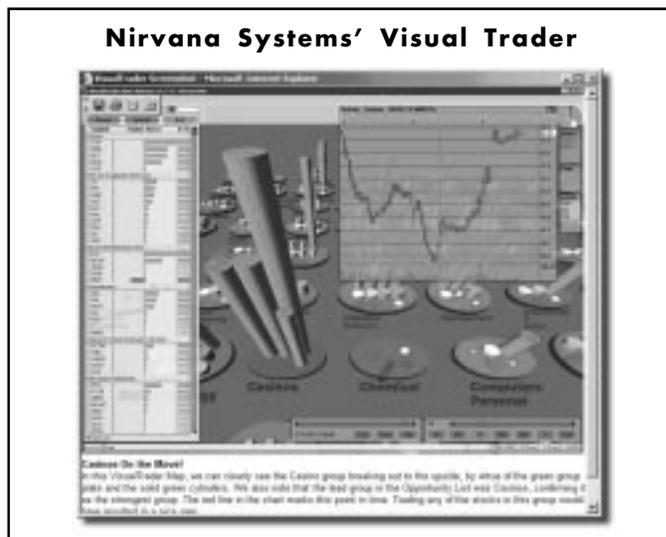
Users can customize the program by choosing a color scheme and the height of cylinders.

Visual Trader supports real-time quotes from eSignal, quote.com, and DTN IQ Feed. Price of real-time data subscription is not included.

System: Windows 98, ME, XP, or 2000; 128M of memory; 300 MHz Pentium processor or equivalent.

Price: \$1,495.00

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CCH Financial Planning Toolkit

The CCH Financial Planning Toolkit is a free Web site that provides users with extensive personal finance information. Material is divided into six main areas: financial planning, investing, insurance and risk management, retirement planning, estate planning, and tax planning.

In the financial planning section of the site, you can assess where you stand currently as well as define your own personal financial goals and objectives. You can also develop a plan for achieving your predefined goals by inventorying assets and liabilities, forecasting expenditures and income, and documenting all transactions into a Microsoft Excel ledger.

The investing section of the Web site offers a huge collection of information to tailor investing to your specific preferences. For instance, in the retirement subsection you can access a range of information from literature on Social Security to tables showing how much to invest per year based on your years from retirement.

In the insurance and risk management section, the site identifies risks that might interfere with your financial

plan. The site also shows ways to manage the risks through various types of insurance. Again, the site provides extensive information that can be easily navigated.

The retirement planning section helps you to make a realistic assessment of what steps need to be taken before retirement as well as advice for certain contingencies that may arise during retirement.

The estate planning section offers guidance on what to do with the assets that you have accumulated throughout your lifetime. The tax planning section helps you stay on top of tax obligations and shows you how much of what is acquired can actually be kept.

The Financial Planning Toolkit also has financial calculators and interactive planning tools that address such issues as retirement planning, loan refinancing, and comparison of investment options.

System: Internet connection

Price: Free

CCH Financial Planning Toolkit
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subscription fee for unlimited access.

NexTrend's LiveScan www.nextrend.com

NexTrend has announced the addition of LiveScan, a real-time stock scanning program. With LiveScan, users can continuously scan markets for stocks meeting their specific criteria, such as exchange, price, net or percent change, and 52-week high/low. Other new features include new chart templates, chart time scale linking, and chart compression scaling retention. LiveScan access is free during NexTrend's Pilot Program, but real-time exchange fees apply. NexTrend subscriptions range from \$24.95 to \$99.95 per month; LiveScan subscription is normally \$29.95 per month.

Power E*Trade www.etrade.com

E*trade Securities LLC has announced that the cost of its Power E*Trade program for active traders will decrease to a flat fee of \$9.99 per stock trade. E*Trade will also make it easier for users to qualify for Power E*trade accounts by lowering the requisite trades-per-month from 75 to nine.

AmiBroker.com New Release www.amibroker.com

AmiBroker.com has recently released a new edition of its software. With version 4.10, users can employ a real-time analysis platform of stocks, mutual funds and futures. New features include formula-based advanced real-time alerts, support for backtesting stocks and futures, chart interpretation, and a direct link to the FastTrack mutual fund database. AmiBroker supports data vendors such as eSignal, TC2000, and Yahoo. The AmiBroker permanent license costs \$99.00 for the standard edition, and \$199.00 for the real-time edition.

CCH Financial Planning Toolkit

