13 DISPLAYING A TICKER

YOU CAN SET a Ticker window to display any combination of quotes, limit alerts, news alerts, and headlines in a horizontal or vertical scrolling format.

Figure 13-1 is an example of a Ticker window with a horizontally scrolling format.

Figure 13-1. Horizontally Scrolling Ticker Window.

Figure 13-2 is an example of a Ticker window with a vertically scrolling format.

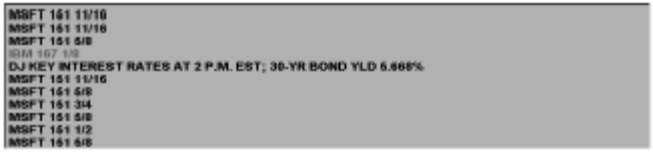

Figure 13-2. Vertically Scrolling Ticker Window

Because options are set separately for each Ticker window, you can set up different tickers for different information—one for quote information and one for news, for example.

Opening and Closing Ticker Windows

Use the File menu commands to open, close, save, and create Ticker windows. When you create a new Ticker window (File, New, Ticker) a submenu appears. Select the type of ticker you want to create: news, alert, quote, or Market Maker Activity Ticker (MMAT) and the new Ticker window opens.

Setting Up the Ticker Window

When you create a new Ticker window, it takes on the default characteristics for a Ticker window. If this isn't what you're looking for, then you can do a number of things to tune the content and appearance to your particular needs.

As with other eSignal windows, you can change fonts and colors, resize and reposition the window, and toggle the title bar on and off. You can also change the scrolling characteristics and define just what information the ticker will display. These properties are determined by settings in the Ticker Window Options dialog box.

To change Ticker window properties

1. Click inside a Ticker window, and then choose Properties from the Ticker Options menu (Alt-O, P).

The Ticker Window dialog box appears displaying the current settings for the open Ticker window.

Choosing Which Data to Display

Working in the Ticker Window Options dialog box, you can set up a Ticker window to display quotes, limit alerts, news alerts, headlines, and files. If you're displaying quotes, you can pick the quotes and specify the information to display.You can specify quotes for all the issues in a Quote window, for individual symbols, or for a combination of the two.

To choose data categories

1. Click the checkboxes next to the data categories you want displayed. If there are categories you would like to remove from the Ticker window, click their boxes to remove the checkmarks.

NOTE: Grayed-out boxes indicate that the data category is not available for display.

Customizing News Sources

You can pick and choose the news sources that you want to appear on a Ticker window. To customize your Ticker window news sources, select Ticker Options, Properties (Alt-O, P), then click on the Head-lines Options but-

ton. The News Sources dialog box appears. Select the news sources that you want to appear on the ticker and click OK to save your preferences.

Refining Quote Data

You can further refine your ticker quotes by making changes in the Ticker Quote Options dialog box.

Here you can specify which symbols to include in the ticker, the information you want to display about each symbol, and how you want to filter the data.

You can choose the symbols to appear in the ticker by specifying a Quote window and/or specific symbols. By default, the Ticker window displays quote information for the active Quote window.

To open the Ticker Quote Options dialog box

1 Click the Options button in the display area of the Ticker Window Options dialog box.

2 When you're finished making changes in the Ticker Quote Options dialog box, click OK to return to the Ticker Window Options dialog box. Click OK again to complete the changes.

To choose a different Quote window

1 Click the arrow next to the Use Symbols in Quote Window field to see a list of Quote windows in the current layout.

2 Select the Quote window you want to track or blank out the box if you want the window to display information only for the symbols that you specify.

To choose specific symbols

l Type symbols into the Additional Symbols field. When you press Enter, the symbols will appear in the list that follows. If you've highlighted a symbol in a Quote or Portfolio window, you can click Paste to add it to the list.

To filter quote information

l Enter a minimum volume, a minimum trade dollar value, or both in the Trade Size Filter fields.

A ticker can display any combination of five types of quote information for each symbol: price (the last trade price), size (the trade volume), change (the change in price since the previous day's close), and bid/ask quotes and size.

To choose quote information

l Click the checkboxes in the Formatting Options area that correspond to the information you want displayed.

Changing Scrolling Properties

You can set scrolling properties in the Ticker Window Options dialog box that will cause the ticker to scroll horizontally or vertically.

- Horizontal scrolling displays data in the same way as an old-fashioned stock-ticker. Information moves horizontally across the window, disappearing as it reaches the edge.

- Vertical scrolling displays each item of information (stock quote, headline, and so on) on a separate line spanning the width of the window. When a new line is received, it replaces the previous one at the top of the window. The vertical size of the window determines the number of lines you can see.

To choose horizontal or vertical scrolling

1. Click the Horizontal or Vertical button in the Ticker Window Options dialog box, and then click OK.

You can control the speed at which data scrolls horizontally in the Ticker window. Scroll speed is also affected by your computer's processing power and other factors.

To set the ticker speed for horizontal scrolling

1. Adjust the scroll speed with the slider in the lower-left corner. Moving the slide to the left makes the ticker scroll faster.

You can choose between two scrolling methods for horizontal scrolling. If you select the Idle method, the ticker scrolls only when your computer is idle. This causes the least load on your computer, but can appear jerky. If you select the Timer method, scrolling takes place at a more even rate, but more load is placed on the computer.

To choose the horizontal scrolling method

1. Click the Idle or Timer button in the Scroll Method area.