

Thank you for purchasing the ***Visual Traders Studio for MetaTrader*** (VTS). We are truly grateful for your business and strive to over-deliver on every one of our products.

This sheet contains important information on getting started with VTS.

## Starting VTS for the First Time

### Step 1. Install VTS

Use the download link provided in your order confirmation to install VTS on your computer.

### Step 2. Enable VTS

The first time you start VTS, you'll be prompted to enter a license key. Enter the 28 character license key provided with your order confirmation.

### Step 3. Tell VTS where your MetaTrader platform is installed.

VTS creates MQL code and then uses the tools from *your installed* MetaTrader platform to build an Expert Advisor from the VTS-generated MQL code.

You need to set the ***VTS Tool Configuration*** folder to the location where you have installed your MetaTrader platform. Within VTS, navigate to **Tools->Options**, select the **Configuration** tab and then use the **Add** button to set the folder.

**Note:** The file selection window looks for the file **MetaEditor.exe** because this file is always present in the MetaTrader platform folder. When you navigate to the MetaTrader platform folder, select **MetaEditor.exe** and then select **OK**. Don't worry if you have not installed the MetaTrader platform yet. The ***VTS Tool Configuration*** folder can be set at any time.

## Types of VTS Systems

VTS was designed to accommodate both novice and advanced system builders. It is very easy to get started with VTS. (As you will see in the next section, ***Getting Started***). But first you should become familiar with the two basic types of VTS systems: the **QuickStart** system and the **Custom** system.

The **QuickStart** system is an empty template of a typical trading system. It contains 4 pre-defined functions for opening and closing long and short positions. In addition, it provides **System Managers** that allow you to easily configure advanced techniques. The **QuickStart** system was used to create the QS Strategy Templates, such as: QsIndicatorSystem, QsCrossOverSystem, QsBreakOutSystem, etc.

Each of these templates is a working example of a VTS system. We simply added the specific logic to a **QuickStart** system and named it appropriately. These templates serve as starting points as well as useful examples to help you learn how to create your own **QuickStart** systems.

So to recap, a **QuickStart** system is a standard, empty template waiting to have its logic defined. The **QuickStart Strategy Templates** are **QuickStart** systems that have had their initial logic defined.

A **Custom** system is an empty system. When you create a **Custom** system, the initial drawing is created with a *Start*, *Note* and *End* Element. It will build without errors, but there is no logic.

What you see is what you get (WYSIWYG). The designer is responsible for implementing all of the logic and actions for a **Custom** system. For example, in a **QuickStart** system, to open a *Buy* position, all that is needed is for the logic of the function *QsOpenBuyOrder* to result in a true value.

To open a *Buy* position in a **Custom** System, the designer must call the MQL function *OrderSend* with the correct parameters. Almost all trading systems can be created using a **QuickStart** system as a starting point. However, the **Custom** system is very useful for simple systems and also for learning MQL.

Remember, a **Custom** system is WYSIWYG, so you can create a drawing and then review the MQL code that results from the drawing. Many traders have become proficient MQL programmers by using the **Custom** system as an active tutorial.

## Getting Started

The Help resources describe the VTS platform in detail. The Help document (PDF) and the context Help within VTS are essentially the same information - they are simply in different formats.

You should at least review the Help files to become familiar with the names used to identify the different parts of the VTS application. If you are anxious to get started, here is one way:

1. Start VTS
2. Select the **New** button in the top left corner. The **New System** dialog will be displayed.
3. Select **CrossOverSystem** and select **OK**.
4. Select **OK** to create the new system. (A complete VTS system will be created).
5. Select the **Build** button in the top center. This will convert the VTS drawing into MQL code and then build an Expert Advisor.
6. Select the **MetaTrader Platform** button in the top right. This will start your MetaTrader Platform and load it into a VTS tab.
7. In the MetaTrader Platform's **Navigator** window, expand the "Expert Advisors" menu.\*
8. Double-click the Expert Advisor named "CrossOverSystem0". This will attach the Expert Advisor to a price chart.\*

\* These are the same steps you follow for loading all Expert Advisors, even if they are not created using VTS.

After following these 8 steps you have successfully created a working Expert Advisor! Theses 8 steps are just a quick way to get your feet wet. The best way to get started is to follow the **Getting Started** section in the Help file.

In VTS, go to **Help->Getting Started**. This will open the Help document. The **Getting Started** section covers some basics and then follows a step-by-step process for building an Expert Advisor in the subsection **Building Your First Trading System**.

Following the steps in the subsection **Building Your First Trading System** is the best way to get started with VTS.

## Moving On

One of the primary goals of VTS is to *easily* provide *powerful* programming techniques to Forex traders. Clearly, these needs are always changing - just like the markets are always changing.

The VTS platform was designed to be expandable. We are constantly adding new features, either as new VTS functions, new System Managers, new Strategy Templates, or even adding entire new components to the application.

**This is what we love to do!** So if you have an idea for new feature, or an idea about how to make something easier, please pass it along. We are always looking for ways to make VTS more powerful and easier to use. We can be reached at [support@iExpertAdvisor.com](mailto:support@iExpertAdvisor.com)

## Getting Help

If you have questions that you can't find an answer to in the Help documentation, please follow these steps.

**Step 1. Check the VTS FAQ.** We have answers to over 75 of the most Frequently Asked Questions. There is a good chance your question has already been answered. The FAQ can be sorted by the following categories to help you find your answer:

- Ordering, Setup and Support
- QuickStart Systems
- Drawings and Elements
- Building Expert Advisors
- Custom Indicators
- MetaTrader Broker Questions

The web address to the VTS FAQ is <http://www.iexpertadvisor.com/FAQ/index.asp>

**Step 2. Check the VTS Forum.** We have recently started a VTS forum to help traders with more advanced questions. This is a closed forum, meaning only VTS customers are able to post. We, the support team at iExpertAdvisor, will monitor the forum and respond to questions. Any VTS customer may also post replies. Hopefully the VTS community will be able to help each other out! The instructions for joining the forum are included in the VTS application in the documents section of the Knowledge Base. The web address to the VTS Forum is <http://www.iexpertadvisor.com/forum>

**Step 3. Email us.** If you are stuck and can't find help from the FAQ or the Forum, send us an email. We are happy to answer questions about using VTS. If you have the question, chances are others traders have the same question. So we'll be happy to answer and possibly post the response on the FAQ or Forum. Also feel free to post questions on the forum.

We can be reached at [support@iExpertAdvisor.com](mailto:support@iExpertAdvisor.com)

We'll do as much as we can to help you with your questions. We do offer consultant services for one-on-one specialized help, but we prefer to provide general solutions to the VTS community for all to share. If you are interested in purchasing consultation time please contact Kelly at [support@iExpertAdvisor.com](mailto:support@iExpertAdvisor.com)