

WHAT IF?

Trade Calculator

Installation & Getting Started Guide

Version 0.9.0-beta

For cTrader

BETA SOFTWARE: Use this release for testing and evaluation. Save important analysis deliberately and report reproducible problems with enough detail to recreate them.

1. What WITC is

WHAT IF? Trade Calculator (WITC) is a cTrader chart indicator for plotting hypothetical Trade and Elliott series, calculating their trade outcomes, saving reusable analysis, and organising related series into Scenarios.

2. What is included

- WHAT IF? Trade Calculator 0.9.0-beta - the main cTrader indicator.
- WITC Session Garbage Collector - companion cTrader plugin used to remove confirmed orphaned automatic Working Session folders after WITC instances are explicitly removed.
- This installation and getting-started guide.

3. Installation

3.1 Install WHAT IF? Trade Calculator

1. Install/open the supplied WITC .algo package in cTrader using the normal cTrader Algo installation workflow.
2. Open the chart on which you want to use WITC.
3. Add WHAT IF? Trade Calculator to the chart.
4. Repeat on other charts/timeframes if you want separate WITC workspaces.

Important: Each WITC indicator instance has its own automatic Working Session. A Weekly chart and an 8-hour chart can therefore have different local workspaces.

3.2 Install and enable the Session Garbage Collector

5. Install/open the supplied WITC Session Garbage Collector .algo plugin in cTrader.
6. Open cTrader Settings > Plugins and enable the WITC Session Garbage Collector.
7. The plugin requires FullAccess because it must inspect and remove WITC Working Session files that have been confirmed as orphaned.
8. After enabling it, verify that the plugin starts normally in cTrader rather than relying only on the enabled toggle.

4. Antivirus and algohost.exe

cTrader runs Algo components through its own algohost.exe process. Because the Session Garbage Collector has FullAccess and removes confirmed orphaned WITC session folders, some antivirus products can treat this behaviour as suspicious.

During beta testing, Avast produced both protected-Documents/Ransomware-style file warnings and a Behavior Shield IDP.Generic detection involving cTrader's algohost.exe.

Do not simply ignore or whitelist an antivirus warning. Before allowing or creating an exception, verify that algohost.exe is located within the legitimate Spotware/cTrader installation and that Windows reports a valid Digital Signature signed by SPOTWARE SYSTEMS LTD.

Verification before making an antivirus exception

9. Locate the algohost.exe named in the antivirus alert.

10. Confirm its path is inside your Spotware/cTrader installation. Do not trust a copy found in an unexpected folder.
11. Right-click algohost.exe > Properties > Digital Signatures.
12. Confirm the signature is valid and the signer is SPOTWARE SYSTEMS LTD.
13. Only after those checks should you consider restoring/allowing the file or adding an antivirus exception.
14. Do not whitelist algohost.exe if its location is unexpected, its signature is missing, or its signature is invalid.

Why the plugin needs this access: WITC automatically keeps a private Working Session for each indicator instance. If an indicator is explicitly removed, cTrader does not provide WITC with a reliable way to distinguish that action from a normal shutdown. The companion plugin therefore checks currently active WITC instance IDs and removes only session directories that can be positively identified as orphaned. Malformed, missing, or inconsistent identity information is kept rather than deleted.

5. The three kinds of WITC data

Type	Purpose	Sharing / persistence
Working Session	Automatic recovery of the current chart workspace.	Private to that WITC instance. Restored automatically after normal restart.
Saved Series	Permanent library of individual Trade or Elliott snapshots.	Shared saved library. Loading a saved series creates a chart-local standalone working copy.
Saved Scenario	Permanent grouped Trade/Elliott analysis.	Shared saved definition. Explicit Save Group is the cross-chart synchronization boundary.

6. Standalone Trade and Elliott series

Standalone series belong to the local chart workspace. Create them from the Trade or Elliott sections and use the normal plotting, visibility, calculation, Trade Size, mode/degree, label and save controls.

A saved standalone series is available from the shared Saved Series library on other charts, but loading it on one chart does not automatically load it into every other chart. Each load creates an independent working copy with its own runtime identity.

Standalone rule: Saved library is shared; loaded working copies are chart-local.

7. Scenarios (Series Groups)

Scenarios group independent copies of Trade and Elliott series. A component inside a Scenario is not a live reference to the standalone source it may have been copied from.

- Editing a Scenario component does not change the standalone source.
- Deleting a Scenario component does not delete the standalone source.
- The same source can be copied into multiple Scenarios and each copy can evolve independently.
- Scenario-created components remain Scenario-owned and do not appear in the standalone Trade/Elliott panels.

7.1 Create a Scenario

15. Click New Group.
16. Enter the Scenario name.
17. Use + Trade and/or + Elliott.
18. Choose Create New to create a component owned directly by the Scenario, or choose an existing standalone series to copy it into the Scenario.
19. Plot and edit the components normally.
20. Click Save Group when you want to commit the Scenario to the shared Saved Scenario library.

7.2 Unsaved Scenario recovery

An unfinished New Group is part of the local automatic Working Session. If cTrader closes before you save it, WITC restores the pending Scenario, its name, ownership and components on that same WITC instance. It remains unsaved and is not shared to other charts.

After recovery, Save Group promotes it to a normal shared Saved Scenario. Cancel removes the pending Scenario and its owned components from the local workspace.

7.3 Cross-chart Scenario synchronization

Synchronization rule: Unsaved = local. Saved = global. Last explicit Save Group wins.

- Make a Scenario change on Weekly without saving: the 8-hour chart does not change.
- Save Group on Weekly: other WITC charts with that Scenario adopt the saved version.
- Make a different change on the 8-hour chart without saving: Weekly does not change.
- Save Group on the 8-hour chart: Weekly adopts that saved version.
- This applies to geometry, settings and Scenario component membership.
- There are no conflict warnings. A later explicit Save Group is authoritative and can replace unsaved work for the same Scenario on another running chart.

8. Visibility

Hide All Series temporarily hides standalone series. Show All Series restores the individual visibility pattern that existed before Hide All; a series that was already individually hidden remains hidden.

Scenario visibility is separate. Closing a Scenario hides/removes its Scenario chart objects from the chart. Reopening it recreates the component plots. Scenario series are not made visible by the standalone Show All Series command.

9. Saving and loading

Saved Series

- Use Save on an individual Trade or Elliott series to create/update its permanent Saved Series snapshot.
- Use Load Series to create an independent working copy from the saved library.
- The saved library can be visible from another chart even though the working copy you loaded remains local to the original chart.

Saved Scenarios

- Save Group commits the complete current Scenario and synchronizes that saved state across charts.

- Save on an individual Scenario component commits that component to the permanent Scenario snapshot without committing unrelated working changes.
- Save As creates a separate Saved Scenario with independent component identities.
- Deleting a Saved Scenario propagates to other running WITC instances and removes the corresponding working Scenario.

10. Working Session behaviour

WITC automatically maintains a Working Session for each indicator instance. Normal cTrader shutdown/restart restores that instance's local workspace, including standalone series, Scenario working state and an unfinished New Group.

The Working Session is recovery data, not the permanent Saved Series/Saved Scenario library. Do not treat it as a substitute for explicitly saving analysis you want to keep permanently.

11. Removing WITC and garbage collection

When a WITC indicator is explicitly removed, its automatic Working Session may remain on disk because the indicator cannot reliably distinguish explicit removal from normal cTrader shutdown.

The Session Garbage Collector solves this separately. It enumerates active WITC instance IDs and validates stored session identities. Only a session positively identified as belonging to an inactive/orphaned WITC instance is removed. Ambiguous or malformed identity data is kept.

If you later add a new WITC instance to that chart, it starts with a clean local Working Session. Permanent Saved Series and Saved Scenarios are separate and are not deleted by Working Session garbage collection.

12. Beta notes and reporting problems

Version 0.9.0-beta is intended for real-world testing before a final public release. When reporting a problem, include the instrument, timeframe, whether the affected series was standalone or Scenario-owned, what you did immediately before the problem, whether cTrader had been restarted, and whether the behaviour occurred on one or multiple WITC chart instances.

13. Quick reference

Action	Result
Create standalone series	Local to that WITC chart workspace.
Save standalone series	Stores it in the shared Saved Series library.
Load saved standalone series	Creates an independent chart-local working copy.
Create New Group	Creates a local pending Scenario.
Restart before Save Group	Pending Scenario is recovered on that WITC instance.
Save Group	Commits the Scenario globally; other charts update to the saved version.
Edit Scenario without Save Group	Change remains local.
Delete Saved Scenario	Deletion propagates to other running WITC instances.
Remove WITC indicator	GC can remove its confirmed orphaned Working Session.