

CRB InfoTech CD

Historical Market Data

“The Most Extensive Commodity Database in the Industry”

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Chapter 1: Getting Started

Installation Instructions

Before you start, you should know on which hard drive and directory you want to load your programs and data files (defaults are C:\CRB and C:\CRB\PRO).

To install the software, insert CD into the CD drive; select **Start** from the Windows toolbar, select **Run**, and type **d:** (or your CD-ROM drive letter) **xsetup.exe**

Follow the instructions and answer the questions as they appear on the screen.

Although the programs will take up less than one megabyte, you will want to allocate space for the data files you will be downloading from the CD-ROM and using in PowerSignals, Advanced Get, SuperCharts™, Fibonacci Trader, MegaTech, TradeStation™, Galactic Trader, MetaStock™, TESS, Elliott Wave Analyzer III and others. Depending on how much data you plan to extract off on to your hard drive, we recommend a minimum of 60 megabytes of free space for data files.

System Requirements

Processor: Pentium 200MHz or better

Memory: At Least 32 MB RAM

OS: Windows 95/98/NT/ME/2000/XP

Drives: At Least 5 MB free space (plus additional space for data storage) and a CD-ROM drive for installs and updates.

Start CRB DataXtract

Click Start > Select Programs > Select CRB > Click CRB DataXtract

Chapter 2: Historical Database

CRB InfoTech CD provides the widest variety of financial and commodity data available in one electronic source. Nowhere else can you access over 600 cash, futures, indices and option volatility markets. Compiled from major worldwide exchanges, trade associations, government agencies and private industry, *CRB InfoTech CD* offers the most accurate and complete historical price database possible. Descriptions of the types of data available on *CRB InfoTech CD* follow.

Cash Data

With *CRB InfoTech CD*, you possess daily cash prices on unique and hard-to-find commodity cash markets, some going back as far as 1900. In addition to major international commodity markets, you'll have quick access to some hard-to-find markets, like burlap, flour and wool.

You can also retrieve daily cash prices on financial markets, including 24-hour cash FOREX markets and all major U.S. financial instruments. Short, intermediate and long-term government securities are also provided.

Futures Data

Futures data on markets going back into the late 1950s is available quickly and easily with *CRB InfoTech CD*. Daily price data includes open, high, low and settle prices plus total volume and open interest by market. Weekly and monthly data can also be created from the daily data.

Indices Data

With *CRB InfoTech CD*, you'll enjoy exclusive access to CRB Spot and Reuters/CRB Futures indices. Calculated as the BLS Spot Indices until 1981 by the U.S. government, CRB now calculates these Spot Indices (including Raw Industrials and Foodstuffs), which are leading indicators of current U.S. economic strength. The Reuters/CRB Futures Indices, on the other hand, are the most recognized barometers of future price levels and buying power. *CRB InfoTech CD* provides these data as far back as 1947 for the Spot Index and 1956 for the Reuters/CRB Futures Index.

You can also retrieve stock indices such as the NYSE Composite or the S&P 500. In addition, you can retrieve Dow Jones Industrial Average data since 1901. In total, you will have nearly 100 index markets available in your *CRB InfoTech CD* database.

Volatility Data

Daily historical and implied volatility for futures options markets are yours exclusively from *CRB InfoTech CD*. Options volatility is the necessary tool for determining premium prices and for knowing when options on futures should be bought or sold.

Volatility measures how much prices move. The direction of the move, whether up or down, is irrelevant. The magnitude and the speed of the change are most important. The measurement of how much prices have changed is called *historical volatility*. The measure of how much the market thinks prices will change is known as *implied volatility*.

A volatility value indicates the probability of futures prices being in a particular range at the end of a specific time. For example, suppose the futures price is 100 with an implied volatility of 10%. In this case, the market believes that prices will range between approximately 90 (100-10%), 2/3 of the time at the end of one year. This does not mean that prices will exceed that range, just that the probability of staying in the range is 2/3.

When implied volatility increases, the market expects prices to move further and/or faster. Consequently, option premiums will rise. Options writers will demand more money for the risk they are taking; option buyers are willing to pay more for the increased chance that the option will move "in the money." When traders in the market believe prices are stabilizing, options premiums and implied volatility decrease.

A key feature of the data described above is the fact that it can be imported into many popular programs including spreadsheets, such as Lotus or Excel, and charting software, such as PowerSignals, TESS, TechCharts, SuperCharts, TradeStation and MegaTech.

Data Symbols

Refer to the current *Historical Data Guide* (dataguid.pdf) for a complete listing of all market symbols. To receive the most current copy, go to <http://www.crbtrader.com/support/default.asp>.

Chapter 3: CRB DataXtract

CRB DataXtract enables you to download entire trading histories from your *CRB InfoTech CD* in a variety of formats for your own independent analysis. Life-of-contract Financial and Commodity futures contracts are stored on the CD and can be manipulated by you to create Nearby contracts, Continuation contracts and Synthetic contracts, along with years of cash prices and volatility studies.

Futures contracts include the open/high/low/settle prices. The total volume and total open interest figures are available on unique nearby futures records (xxNFVOI). Financial and Commodity cash prices represent O/H/L/S prices when available; otherwise, the end-of-day quotations are used. The options volatility studies include both: the Implied and 20-day Historical volatilities.

Extracting the Data

CRB DataXtract enables you to customize the extraction parameters to meet your needs. The following pages will explain the use of the various settings that control your selection for the databases, file format, datatype, rollover period, start/end dates, expiration contracts and many other features to manipulate the data. To display the Help screen, press <Alt>H. Press <Alt>Q to quit CRB DataXtract at any time.

To set a parameter, press the <spacebar> until your selection is shown. To move forward and backward between parameter fields, press <Tab> and <Shift><Tab>. When you have set up your parameters on all fields, press <Enter> to begin your *CRB InfoTech CD* data extraction. Your files may be stored in the path/filename specified.

Database

You may choose your *CRB InfoTech CD* data from three databases:

- Futures – for all individual futures and nearby futures contracts.
- Cash – for the underlying cash or spot prices.
- Options – for the Implied (Black Model) volatility and 20-day Historical volatility.

File Type

Several file format types are available in which you may store your *CRB InfoTech CD* Futures, Cash, or Volatility data. The ASCII file formats store the Symbol/Date/Open/High/Low/Settle/Volume/Open Interest fields for futures and cash data, and the Symbol/Date/Implied/Historical/Futures Settle fields for the volatility data. The PRO format, used by the charting systems, merges the CD-ROM data into a PRO data file on your drive.

- **ASCII-1** is a comma-delimited, ASCII file using the serial date format, i.e., Dec-31-1899 is serial date #1, Jan-1-1900 is serial date #2, etc. This is commonly used with spreadsheet programs, however, this serial number may need to be adjusted to match the Base date used by the spreadsheet program within the spreadsheet.
- **ASCII-2** is a comma-delimited, ASCII file using a YYMMDD date.
- **ASCII-3** is a fixed-field, ASCII file using a YYMMDD date.
- **ASCII-4** is a fixed-field, ASCII file using a YYYYMMDD date.
- **ASCII-6** is the same as ASCII-2, but without the Symbol field.
- **PRO** format is a single, 26-byte, binary record file for each symbol. *Used by PowerSignals, Advanced Get, SuperCharts™, Fibonacci Trader, MegaTech, TradeStation™, Galactic Trader, MetaStock™, TESS, Elliott Wave Analyzer III and others.*

Data Type

Four Data Types are available for your *CRB InfoTech CD* futures and options volatility data. Along with specific futures contracts, you have the ability to create customized data series for your analysis.

- **Contract** – an individual Contract month, year, i.e. December 1998.
- **Continuation** – a Continuation of one contract, year after year, i.e. December 1992, December 1993, December 1994 ...
- **Nearby** – a data series constructed from the contracts nearest to expiration through the period specified in the Rollover field. (The 2nd, 3rd, ... nth Nearby can also be selected from the Expiration field).
- **Synthetic** – a data series created from the Nearby contract, calculating a backward cumulative adjustment for the difference between the current and previous Nearby contracts on the day specified in the Rollover field. For example, if on the rollover day, the Nearby contract is 94.80 and the next nearby contract is 95.00, then the Synthetic contract is the next Nearby minus (-) .20 plus (+) any cumulative adjustment prior to the rollover date (if any). The Synthetic data series is especially useful when analyzing long-term studies. **Note:** *Since the adjustment for the Synthetic contract is cumulative, it is possible to produce negative (-) price results.*

Rollover

For maximum flexibility when creating Continuation, Nearby and Synthetic data series, your CRB DataXtract features the ability to select the day on which you can “roll” from one futures or options contract to the next (not applicable for cash market data). An additional selection allows you to select the number of last trading days to extract for an individual futures or options contract.

Overlap

The Overlap feature allows you to extract duplicate days for the first and second Nearby or Continuation contracts for a specified number of days for futures or options volatility data. This special mode can be used by experienced programmers who may want to manipulate the data from the two lead contracts for their own special analysis (not applicable for cash market data).

OFF – no overlap occurs

*****Days** – overlap ***trading days prior to the Rollover specified.

Week Data / Month Data

In addition to extracting daily price data, you have the ability to include weekly and/or monthly price summaries in your DataXtract ASCII files. The summaries provide the Open/High/Low/Settle prices on a separate line at the end of each week and/or month.

- **Yes** – include a week and/or month summary with the daily price data.
- **No** – do not include a weekly or month summary ... only daily data.
- **Only** – provide only a week or month summary ... no daily price data.
- **Avg** – provide only a weekly or month average O/H/L/S summary.

Months: FGHIJKMNQUVXZ

When extracting the Nearby and Synthetic data series, your CRB DataXtract allows you to choose only the futures contracts you wish to be considered. Normally, all contracts may be used. But in some markets, a more reliable representation can be extracted by excluding certain contract months.

For instance, COMEX Gold may trade all 12 contract months each year, but only the February, April, June, August, October and December would be considered “active” months. The other serial months may only be listed for trading for two months, and then only have a nominal settlement without any trading activity.

Toggle the <Spacebar> to turn On/Off your contract selections, followed by <Enter>. Or press <Tab> to bypass this field and accept all contract months.

Start Date / End Date

If you do not require the complete history for a particular *CRB InfoTech CD* data extraction, you may set the date range desired. For specific calendar dates, enter the Start and End dates using the MMDDYYYY format.

In addition to calendar dates, you may specify a Start and End contract when extracting specific futures contracts or options volatility data. For example, to extract the complete trading history of all Eurodollar contracts expiring in 1996 and 1997, you would enter a Start Date of “1996F” (January) and an End Date of “1997Z” (December). This way, the entire trading history will be extracted for each contract trading between (and including) the January 1996 and the December 1997 contracts, even though, for example, the March 1996 contract started trading in 1992.

Data Code

Enter the Data Code you wish to extract. For easy reference, press <Alt>V to view the *CRB InfoTech CD Data Codes*. This will display the CCMaster.LST file stored in your \CRB directory. A complete listing of data codes is also available in the current Historical Data Guide.

The global DOS characters (*) and (?) may also be used in the Data Code field. For example, to extract all markets, enter “*”; to extract all markets beginning with the letter “R,” enter “R?” or “R*.”

Expiration

The Expiration field determines which futures or options contract to extract for your specific Contract of Continuation extraction. Enter the contract year and month code (YYYYM) for the contract(s) desired, i.e., “1998Z.” The valid month codes for January through December are F, G, H, J, K, M, N, Q, U, V, X, Z. **Note:** *The Continuation extraction will ignore the year and use only the month code.*

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, ... nth nearest contract is also determined in the Expiration field for the Nearby and Synthetic data extractions. Enter the respective number for the nearest contract to be considered. For example, enter “02” if you want to extract the second contract nearest to expiration, “03” for the third, etc.

File Name

CRB DataXtract will automatically assign target directory paths and names to the data files which you extract. The assigned names may represent the Data Code + Contract Year/Month, or some other unique symbol to easily identify the contents of the file. You may change the destination path or file name in the File Name Field, if desired.

The default directory for storing ASCII data files is the \CRB\TEXT directory. Press <Alt>V to view any ASCII files stored there. When using the PRO format, the default storage directory is your \CRB\PRO directory.

After you have set all CRB DataXtract fields to your desired settings, press <Enter> to begin processing.