

Re-installing TradeStation 10 - the complete guide

Hello Traders,

One of my users was having problems with TradeStation stability after loading my SD Radar workspaces, and asked if I could share complete steps for re-installing TradeStation. I've been meaning for some time to write such steps and share with everybody, but procrastinated because... well, you'll understand when you see the steps below.

The SD Radar workspaces are putting TradeStation to work, scanning in real-time for zones across many, many symbol rows in RadarScreen. **That's the whole idea: To have the platform do the hard and tedious work, so you can focus on qualifying a few potential trade setups.**

On a smoothly working TradeStation installation that is no problem: You can load, use and save these workspaces all day long. I do. I also test them on a variety of hardware, including an 11-year old laptop. But even on the latest and greatest hardware, TradeStation can become sensitive if it has developed any kind of corruption or its installation is less than ideal. And that's when you may find the SD Radar workspaces to be "poking the bear" because they utilize TradeStation to its fullest.

Sometimes it's just one little thing in the TradeStation installation, and if you can fix it, you are good. Other times you can spend a day without solving it. That's why I often recommend re-installing TradeStation in those situations, to start over with a clean installation.

But even without corruption, **real-time OneDrive backup or Anti-Virus scanning can bring TradeStation to its knees**, essentially adding a huge tax to every tick received and processed by the platform. The re-installation guide below covers this. It is also covered in the **Speeding up TradeStation** section in my [SD Zones User Guide](#).

Simple remedies first

Before doing a full re-install, you can try some simple remedies:

- Restart Windows (and thus TradeStation). I recommend doing a Windows restart once a day. Admittedly, I don't do this myself, but my TradeStation is generally rock solid. If I ever DO see problems (TradeStation or otherwise) restarting Windows is the first thing I do. Note that Windows **Shut down** and powering back up usually does NOT actually restart Windows, but merely hibernates most of it and loads it back up – including any gremlins that may be hiding in its pipes.
- As a quick alternative to restarting Windows, run the **TSkill.bat** batch file to terminate all lingering TradeStation processes. You can download it [here](#). Of course save your work and close down TradeStation first, if you can. Then right-click TSkill.bat in Windows File Explorer and select **Run as administrator**.
- Re-verify all EasyLanguage code: Open **Windows Start Menu > TradeStation > TradeStation Development Environment** and select **Build menu > Verify All**. Let it finish, then close TradeStation Development Environment and restart TradeStation.

If you continue to experience TradeStation instability, I recommend you proceed with a full re-install of the platform using the steps below. They look extensive, but the actions themselves take less than 30 minutes (I did them recently). Reading and understanding the steps are what will take you time. Still, I recommend you DO read and DO follow them.

If you still have problems even after following these steps, I implore you to reach out to me. I spent (and continue to spend) a good deal of time on these supply/demand tools, and I want you to make the most of them!

- Thomas B.

Re-installation steps for TradeStation 10

1. Back up (Export) any EasyLanguage studies or strategies which you do not have readily available for re-install. The ELD for my latest SD Zones can always be found in the installation email where you received it. You probably have saved ELDs for other 3rd party studies or strategies you may use. For anything else, now is the time to export them to a file which you can easily import after you have re-installed TradeStation: **File menu > Import/Export EasyLanguage > Export EasyLanguage Documents File (ELD)**. Double-click any studies you want to back up then click **Next**. Click **Browse** to select a folder where to save them and enter a filename. I recommend saving them OUTSIDE your Windows Documents folder. Click **Finish** to complete the export.
2. Create a TradeStation backup with your current settings: **File menu > Backup/Restore TradeStation > Backup TradeStation > Monthly**. I suggest unchecking a few items which you don't need or want in your backup: **Data Cache** (for sure), **Studies & Strategies** (assuming you completed step 1 above), **Workspaces** (assuming you complete step 4 below). You COULD leave **Studies & Strategies** checked, which would save ALL EasyLanguage as part of your backup. But corruption in EasyLanguage files (TradeStation or 3rd party) CAN be a source of instability, so better start fresh with all TradeStation's own EasyLanguage code and leave it out of your backup. Click the **Start Backup** button to complete the backup.
3. Close TradeStation. TradeStation backups have been known to fail, so loading it again and making a 2nd backup isn't a bad idea. Either way, close TradeStation when done.
4. Copy any workspace files you want to preserve from your **Documents\TradeStation 10\Workspaces** folder to a folder OUTSIDE your Windows Documents folder. You can always download my SD Radar workspaces anew, and the same is true of most other 3rd party workspaces. Corruption CAN be in the workspaces, so only save what you cannot easily install anew. Workspaces are normally included in TradeStation backups unless specifically deselected during backup (as we did in step 2 above), but in this case we want to carry over as little as possible and install anew as much as possible. If you already use a folder outside your Documents folder for workspaces, you can skip this step entirely.
5. Copy the TradeStation backup file you created (and other backups you want to preserve) from your **Documents\TradeStation Archives** folder to a folder OUTSIDE your Windows Documents folder.
6. Uninstall TradeStation 10 using the Windows **Programs and Features** control panel: Depending on your Windows version, the easiest way is usually to search for **Add or remove programs** in the Windows search bar. Or you can use **Windows Settings > Apps > Apps & features > Programs and Features** (under **Related settings** in the top-right corner).
7. After TradeStation 10 un-installation has completed, DELETE the following folders using Windows File Explorer. You will need Administrator access, but you should have that in order to install TradeStation in the first place.
 - C:\Program Files (x86)\TradeStation 10.0
 - C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\TradeStation Technologies
 - C:\ProgramData\TradeStation Technologies
 - C:\Users\((Username))\AppData\Local\TradeStation Technologies
 - C:\Users\((Username))\AppData\Roaming\TradeStation Technologies
 - Documents\TradeStation 10.0
 - Documents\TradeStation Archives
8. Delete the Registry branches listed below: Search for **RegEdit** in the Windows search bar and open it. In the left-side panel, navigate to each of the branches, right-click each of them, and select **Delete**.

NOTE: Be very careful not to make ANY other deletions or modifications in RegEdit, as it could damage your entire Windows installation. If you are uncomfortable making these changes, better consider this an optional step.

 - HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\TradeStation
 - HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\TradeStation Technologies
 - HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Software\TradeStation Technologies
9. Restart windows. Again, NOT just **Shut down**, actual **Restart**.
10. Make sure OneDrive is NOT set to **back up your Documents folder**. This step is critical BEFORE installing (or re-installing) TradeStation 10.

Microsoft will do anything to convince you to use OneDrive, including enabling it stealthily after Windows updates. Depending on your Windows version it WILL back up your Documents folder by default. I personally use OneDrive

extensively, including for my TradeStation work files. It works great, both to keep files backed up and to make them available on multiple PCs. But I make VERY sure that it is NOT set to back up my Documents folder.

Look for the cloud icon in the **Notification area** on the right side of your Windows Taskbar. If you see that icon, it means OneDrive is running. Click the icon, and open **Settings** using the **gear icon**. Go to **Sync and backup > Back up important PC folders to OneDrive > Manage backup** and make sure **Documents** is NOT enabled. The user interface varies between Win10 and Win11, but the principles are the same.

If Documents backup is NOT enabled in your OneDrive settings you can ignore this entire step.

NOTE: If Documents backup IS enabled, it must be disabled before installing TradeStation 10. But disabling it will REMOVE all files and folders currently in your Documents folder. They will still be in your OneDrive in the cloud.

So BEFORE disabling Documents backup in OneDrive settings, I recommend copying all files and folders from your Documents folder to a folder OUTSIDE. Then copy them back AFTER you have disabled OneDrive Documents backup. In some cases OneDrive DOESN'T remove them from your Documents folder, in which case you won't need to copy them back.

11. Restart Windows again and check OneDrive settings one more time to make sure Documents backup is disabled. Sometimes Microsoft will try to re-activate it in unexpected ways when Windows restarts, so better check before re-installing TradeStation. **It really is that important!**
12. AFTER disabling OneDrive Documents backup, only NOW install TradeStation 10: Login to **Client Center** on the TradeStation website and click **Download Software** on the green command bar on top. You can save the installer file for later use or just open it directly in your browser. Let it do its thing, including downloading and installing updates. After running TradeStation the first time, go to **Help menu > Update Manager** (not all users have that menu option) and look for any other updates. I recommend avoiding beta releases if stability is your goal. When installing and updating TradeStation, I recommend leaving it to complete its tasks without trying to do other work on the computer.
13. Once TradeStation is fully up-to-date, and before doing ANYTHING else, make a "virgin backup" using **File menu > Backup/Restore TradeStation > Backup TradeStation > Monthly** like in step 2 above. This time you can leave **Studies & Strategies** enabled so you include all TradeStation's standard EasyLanguage code in the backup. You can always restore this backup if TradeStation becomes wonky again.
14. Close TradeStation.
15. Copy the backup (archive) files you saved in step 5 above back to the **Documents\TradeStation Archives** folder.
16. Copy any workspace files you saved in step 4 above back to the **Documents\TradeStation 10\Workspaces** folder.
17. Exclude all TradeStation program files and work folders from real-time Anti-Virus scanning. **This step is critical to ensure fast and stable TradeStation performance.**

The document [here](#) on my Google drive lists all the files and folders to exclude for TradeStation 9.5 and TS10, respectively. The exact steps depend on your Anti-Virus software.

If you use Windows' built-in Anti-Virus, search for **Virus & threat protection** in Windows search bar, then select **Virus & threat protection settings > Manage settings > Exclusions > Add or remove exclusions**. From there, add the following exclusions:

Folder exclusions

C:\Program Files (x86)\TradeStation 10.0
 C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\TradeStation Technologies
 C:\ProgramData\TradeStation Technologies
 C:\Users\((Username))\AppData\Local\TradeStation Technologies
 C:\Users\((Username))\Documents\TradeStation 10.0

File type exclusions

tsd
 tsw

Process exclusions

C:\Program Files (x86)\TradeStation 10.0\Program*

18. Re-install SD Zones by following the installation steps in the latest installation email from me. You can find it in your email client by searching for the subject **Supply/Demand Zones software for TradeStation**. Also download the SD Radar workspaces again using the steps in the email. Make sure to install the latest version (currently Mar/Apr 2023).

19. Load the **SD Radar Demo** workspace to see that it is working properly. If TradeStation pops up a **Download Scheduler Request** screen, select **As soon as possible** and check **Remember this setting and do not display this message again**, then click OK.

Now try loading some of the other SD Radar workspaces if they were causing you problems before. I generally recommend NOT loading more than one SD Radar workspace at a time, although I do it myself with no problems. To "poke the bear" I suggest loading **SD Radar Stocks Swing** or **SD Radar Futures XL Swing**, both of which need to download a LOT of data the first time. Loading them later is faster because the data is already in TradeStation's cache.

NOTE: ALL the SD Radar workspaces should load and run without problems, but you MUST give TradeStation time to complete downloading data. Interrupting TradeStation by trying to do other work while it downloads data is sure to invite instability.

If you see instability at this point, we must assume that either your computer hardware or your Windows installation has other problems: Could be a lot of other programs are running in the background, consuming CPU or memory resources. Or maybe your Windows installation has corruption (which is common, but often fixable). Solving such issues is beyond this guide, but do search for **Windows Memory Diagnostic** in the Windows search bar and let it run overnight: Defect memory is one of the trickiest but surest causes of instability.

20. Assuming you were able to load the SD Radar workspace files and TradeStation remained stable, re-install any other 3rd party indicators, studies and strategies you may have as well as any other EasyLanguage studies or strategies you exported in step 1 above. The easiest way is to double click the ELD file you saved using Windows File Explorer. Alternatively use **File menu > Import/Export EasyLanguage > Import EasyLanguage File (ELD, ELS, ELA)**.
21. Now it is time to restore the TradeStation backup you created in step 2 above. Before doing so, consider making ANOTHER backup of TradeStation including SD Zones and the other 3rd party indicators you have installed. Then restore your backup from step 2 using **File menu > Backup/Restore TradeStation > Restore TradeStation Archive**. Click **Browse** to find and select your original backup, then click **Start Restore**.
22. Test TradeStation thoroughly after restoring your backup. It is unfortunately quite possible for gremlins and other nasties to hide in the backup file and find their way back when you restore it. If this happens, restore the "virgin backup" you created in step 13 above (or if you created a new backup in step 21). You can then try restoring your old backup again, but uncheck **Preferences, Defaults & Toolbars**, which is often where gremlins hide. Unfortunately this is the item containing many of your TradeStation settings, but better re-doing those than having an unstable platform.
23. Once you have a stable platform (hopefully) create a FINAL backup and take note of its name so that you can always restore it if new problems arise down the road. On the **Backup** screen, you can set TradeStation to automatically schedule backups at intervals you specify. Not a bad idea!
24. If your computer has 32GB RAM or more, I recommend creating a RAM disk for TradeStation's cache, which further speeds it up. Check the topic linked below on the **TradeStation Community Forum** for details and steps. You need to login to the TradeStation website to access it. Even with just 16GB RAM, a RAM disk may be still feasible, depending on how many other programs you run and how big your TradeStation cache becomes. My cache is usually just 4-5GB for each TradeStation version (I have both TS9.5 and TS10 installed).
- [RAM drive for TS Cache \(and other stuff\)- TradeStation Community Forum](#)
25. Done! Now load your favorite SD Radar workspace, find some good trade setups, and start making some money to make up for lost time.