COMPLETE GUIDE TO TRADING COMPUTERS

BY Eddie Z.
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Hello, my name is Eddie Z, and I am a 30-year Wall Street veteran and a lifelong computer geek. As a full-time stock trader and geek, I have a developed a unique perspective on trading technology and have learned what it takes to have a super fast and reliable trading computer system. My goal in this guide is to pass that information on to you, so that YOU CAN SUCCEED AS A TRADER. If you take the time to study this guide, I believe you will learn something that will ultimately enhance your trading capabilities, lower your frustration/confusion level, and also save you a pile of cash.

There are several companies on the internet selling “Trading Computers” with literally thousands of dollars of profit built into them. I am here to tell you that despite their slick websites, they sell nothing special. In fact, many times they confuse you and try to sell you things you really don’t need. What’s worse is that these people are not traders like us. They simply do not speak our language.

As you will learn, you can acquire the same systems at a lower price, with much better components AND WAY BETTER Tech Support & Warranty. I am going to tell you how...

So, at this point, you may be asking yourself:

- What is a Trading Computer?
- Why do I need a special computer for trading?
- Can’t I just use my existing machine?

A “Trading Computer” is a very fast, superior piece of technology, designed to maximize the trader’s ability to interface with the markets and make decisions in
**real time.** The key qualities of a great Trading Computer are speed, reliability, after the sale service/support, and multiple monitors.

The most important reason traders absolutely need a Trading Computer is to avoid something called “slippage”. Slippage is when you enter an order to buy or sell, and the price you get filled at is much different from what you expected. Generally, slippage occurs because the trader is using a mass-manufactured, lower-end computer that is not displaying price information in real time. This price data may be off by just a fraction of a second, but it’s enough to throw off your entire trading methodology.

Have you ever been to a sports bar where they are showing the exact same game on both a High Definition TV and an old-school, regular TV; and the game on one TV is actually a second or so ahead of the other? Slippage is a very similar phenomenon, and it costs traders a bundle.

Most traders don’t realize that mass-manufactured computers, and the mainstream processors from just a few years ago, just can’t keep up with today’s mega levels of streaming price data. So if you have a computer that is just 2 or 3 years old that you bought at Best Buy, most likely you are going to have issues.

That brings me to an important point: forget about going down to Best Buy, Frye’s or Micro Center to buy an HP, Lenovo or Dell computer. These mass manufacturers use inferior components, inferior wiring and low-end motherboards in their systems; and their tech support outright sucks (unless you like calling call centers in the Philippines!). You will NOT save money buying one of these mass-manufactured machines. Additionally, most of the mass manufacturers only include a 1-year warranty. As for the kids who work at these retailers, they have NO IDEA what you need as a trader.

Instead, plan on having a system professionally built for you. Believe it or not, having a system built for you will NOT cost you more in price than going down to Best Buy. In actuality, it will cost you less if you consider the cost of slippage, set-up, downtime, headaches and frustration.
When it comes to the Ultimate Trading Computer, it really boils down to what is inside the machine—the individual components. You want to buy top quality components and have a configuration that perfectly meets YOUR needs.

The SOLUTION: Pick the components YOU WANT and have the system professionally built…it’s really that simple.

But how do you pick components? And who is going to build and warranty the machine? That’s what I am going to walk you through in this guide.

Don’t worry, I know you are not a computer geek! Most traders aren’t. So throughout this guide, I try to provide as much information in plain-speak as possible.

Note: This guide is dedicated to buying a desktop trading computer. While it’s possible to trade markets on a laptop, it shouldn't be considered your first option. Your screen navigation speed on a laptop will never match your ability to multi-task on a desktop computer. Additionally, mass manufactured laptops have downsized components that are optimized for miniaturization, not power and speed.

So, what do traders need?

- **SPEED**
- Top Quality Motherboard
- Tons of RAM
- **Reliability & Dependability**
- Multiple Monitors
- **Premium Tech Support & Warranty**

**SPEED:** The biggest contributor to speed in a computer comes from a component called the Processor. The Processor is the engine of the computer. Traders need the most powerful processors for analytics, chart drawing, quantitative indicator computations, trading algorithms, online trading/teaching rooms (that use GotoWebinar, Webinato and the like) and for multi-tasking.
Even more importantly, the processor needs to be able to handle the **MASSIVE** volume of real time information we take in through our internet connection as traders. Think of all the price data, tick data, time and sales data, historical chart data, as well as the myriad of other information that is streaming to our machines.

**So as a trader, you never want to skimp on processing power and speed.**

Think of the processor as the main engine of the computer. The more horsepower the processor has, the faster it can process data and streaming information, and the less chance you will have for slippage.

**The ultimate measure of computer horsepower is found by running something called a CPU Benchmark Test.** This like taking your car down to a special tuning shop and having them test EXACTLY how much horsepower is coming out of the drive train. (In the car world, this is known as a “Dyno Test” on a dynamometer.)

The minimum amount of “horsepower” a computer needs (and this is really the bare minimum) is a CPU Benchmark Score of 9000. This number may mean nothing to you without anything to compare it to. Just to give you an idea, Dell, as of this writing, is selling their new Inspiron 15.3-inch Laptop with the Intel i5-7300HQ processor which has a disappointing benchmark score of just 6847. This is NOT fast enough for trading.

**Remember, the minimum Benchmark Score required to avoid slippage as a trader is 9000.**

Your best bet is to check the EXACT amount of horsepower of your current computer by visiting this [CPU Benchmark Test Page](http://eztradingcomputers.net/). I think you may be surprised to learn that over-the-counter, store-bought computers are almost always underpowered.

As of this writing, here are my top processor picks for Traders. These are chosen for their power and speed as well as for their value.
### Top Processor Recommendations for Traders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processor:</th>
<th>Benchmark Score</th>
<th>Comment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intel Core i5-8400</td>
<td>11,800</td>
<td>Intel’s latest i5 is the first of its kind to generate this much speed. This processor sets the bar in terms a speed and value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intel Core i7-8700K</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>Intel’s Brand New 6-Core Processor. A huge jump in power from the previous version.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intel Core i9-7980XE</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>This is the Fastest Consumer Processor Intel has released to date. Massive speed for trading!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The New Intel 8th Generation Core i5-8400 is the only Core i5 to ever make our list. Any Core i3 or Core i5 with a lower number simply doesn’t make the cut.

All of the older Intel i3 and i5 series are equivalent to 4-cylinder and 6-cylinder cars. The 8-cylinder muscle car engines are the Intel high-end Core i7, the Intel Core processors. Again, the higher the benchmark score the better. Check your computer’s benchmark score here.

The following processors are obsolete and should NOT be used by traders: Pentium, Pentium 4, Pentium Dual, Core2 Duo, Core Duo, Dual Core, Celeron, Core2 Quad. Even lower-number i7’s (like the i7-2600) and any i7 with a U at the end (i.e. i7-7600U) are NOT fast enough to trade with and should be avoided.
AMD has many lower-end chips, too. DO NOT BE FOOLED. They must all have a benchmark score over 9000 or you are wasting your money. Again you can check your computer’s benchmark score here.

**Motherboards:** Bottom line on motherboards...name brand is everything when it comes to reliability, expandability and performance. Hands down, the top of the line motherboard brand is **ASUS**.

My personal pick in this category is the ASUS TUF board. Here are the reasons why:

- The Asus TUF series is tested to **Military Grade**! Its electronic components meet very specific military-grade certification for rugged performance in the most challenging conditions and environments. Specifically, heat and vibration. **Heat is the number 1 killer of electronics.**

- It comes with something called Thermal Armor. This armor protects the electronics from dirt and dust, as well as provides maximum airflow and rapid cooling.

- Asus puts a special 5-Year Warranty on this board.

- It supports USB 3.1 and the new M.2 transfer speeds. This gives much faster transfer speeds to your hard drives and smart phone.
• Asus consistently designs award-winning motherboards and backs them up with great tech support and warranty.

Another excellent pick in terms of brand name would be MSI. ASUS and MSI both make very reliable, high-quality motherboards.

**Warning:** Many manufacturers, retailers and trading system builders do not reveal the makers of their motherboards. Generally, this is because they are using lower quality components in an effort to save money.

**RAM:** When building the Ultimate Trading Computer there are 3 critical aspects to RAM. First, you want the fastest RAM available today, and that means a configuration called DDR4 RAM. Without getting too technical, DDR4 RAM is the fastest available RAM architecture with the highest bandwidth available on modern computers.

Second, consider how much RAM you will need. At the absolute bare minimum, you need 8 GB of RAM. This is the minimum to run Windows 10 - 64 bit and a few other applications. With a 4 GB configuration, you will be quite limited. I recommend going with anywhere from 16GB to 32GB just to make sure you can run as many applications as you want.

Lastly, RAM is an interesting thing. A RAM module is like a light bulb. It either works or it doesn’t. A RAM chip can burn out in a second. Therefore, only go with a quality name brand. The best are GSkill, Kingston, Crucial and Corsair. Stay
away from any generic or no-name brands, and builders who won’t give you name brand information. **Good name brands always come with a lifetime warranty.**

**Multiple Monitors:** Multi-Monitors are one of my favorite topics. My system supports 8 monitors and quite frankly, I would have more, but I think my head would explode! I love having my trading applications open over many screens with lots of charts. I also keep open dozens of browsers, email apps, and instant messenger windows, and even run a live video news stream. I like having everything open and visible at the same time. Multiple monitors allow you to multi-task *with the least amount of clicks and keystrokes.*

The main key to having multiple monitors (4 to as many 24) is having several powerful **multi-monitor graphics cards.** There is a common myth that you need super-high-end gaming cards or even 3D Workstation cards to achieve a multi-monitor array. In reality, mid-level gaming cards work very well and are more than enough for traders.

There are some quad monitor **workstation** cards that tend to be very expensive, and unless you are planning to animate the next 3D Pixar movie, they are a waste of money. Fortunately, graphics cards are constantly improving, and newer, lower-priced and powerful cards are always becoming available.

Check out my systems: [www.EZTradingComputers.net](http://www.EZTradingComputers.net)
Multiple **DUAL & TRIPLE** monitor video graphics cards by a company called Nvidia work well for 4- and 6-monitor supported systems *if configured properly*. The correct configuration is to have all the cards be the same manufacturer and model. Additionally, all video outputs need to match. In other words, don’t use a dual monitor card that has 1 DVI output and 1 VGA output; you will have issues. Stick with dual DVI output cards. Lastly, on this configuration, make sure you have enough power (500+ watts) and cooling (at least 2 case fans).

A quick note about monitor outputs: DVI and HDMI both use the same digital video signal. That means you can buy very inexpensive adapters and interchange these connections as necessary. VGA is the old style and is an analog signal. VGA will not give you same quality graphics as digital will, and should be avoided. Consider upgrading to digital monitors with your new machine.

The actual size and brand of monitor you choose is a personal preference. There are dozens of shapes, sizes and manufacturers. Obviously go with brand name flat-panel monitors. Do realize that widescreens are all the rage now, and normal (4:3 aspect) are almost impossible to find anymore. You can’t fight this trend.

Check out my systems:  [www.EZTradingComputers.net](http://www.EZTradingComputers.net)
The latest technology in monitors is something called **LED Backlighting**. This technology is a huge improvement in brightness and contrast. Additionally, it’s much easier on the eyes, uses less energy and gives off a lot less heat.

In terms of brand, the best LED backlit monitors are being made by ASUS. Samsung makes very nice monitors too, but I find their prices to be on the high side. Also, don’t get sucked into buying super-high-end monitors. The improvement in quality is nominal relative to the boost in price, and the technology changes pretty rapidly. For example, Dell makes very nice monitors, but they are incredibly high-priced and really no better than Asus.

Acer also makes very nice monitors.

Do yourself a favor and buy all the monitors at once so that they match. An acquaintance of mine has 5 monitors all of which are different brands and sizes. To me it just looks very unprofessional and cluttered. Having non-matching monitors can even overwork video cards.

Another consideration for multiple monitors is a mounting solution (monitor stands). There are many choices out there, most of which are way overpriced. Any solution over $250 is overpriced. We have some very inexpensive, high quality solutions at [www.eztradingcomputers.net](http://www.eztradingcomputers.net).

If you go with an 8-monitor system, 2 quad mounts are *much more stable* than a single 8-monitor mounting solution.

**Quality Storage:** You have several options when it comes to hard disk drive storage:
1. **Solid State Drives (SSD):** The latest technology in storage is called the Solid State Drive or SSD. Essentially, it’s a flash drive (much like a USB thumb drive, or the memory on your iPod), meaning no moving parts. Data transfer to and from an SSD is many times faster than the older version, standard magnetic drives. SSD’s are still a fairly new technology, and therefore, can be expensive. However, because it has no moving parts, the SSD’s expected life is much longer than that of a standard magnetic drive. The best SSD brands are Western Digital, Crucial, Samsung & GSkill.

![Solid State Drive](image1)

![Solid State Drive](image2)

2. **Typical Magnetic Hard Drive:** The most inexpensive storage for most computers is the plain old magnetic hard drive. Actually, you can buy a 1TB (Terabyte) hard drive for under $100.00. That is probably more storage than 99% of users need. Do realize this is 30-year old technology, and SSDs are much faster and more reliable.

![Typical Magnetic Hard Drive](image3)

Check out my systems: [www.EZTradingComputers.net](http://www.EZTradingComputers.net)
**Recommendation:** If you are purchasing a new system, then SSD technology is a MUST. A very nice way to utilize an SSD is to buy a 240GB SSD specifically to store your operating system and mission-critical trading applications. For example, I use an SSD that has Windows 10 64-bit and Tradestation installed on it (as well as a few other trading platforms). I also add a standard magnetic drive to keep my less important applications and files on.

**Warranty & Tech Support:** This section should probably be first. It’s extremely important. What I have learned from my own personal experience and research is that traders regard reliability and dependability as THE MOST important factors when considering a trading computer. That means a few things. First, it means getting the best possible components and having them configured correctly. Second, the machine needs to be professionally built *and tested*; not “assembled” in a third world country. Third, it means having a great warranty on the components *and* the build.

According to CNET, the average warranty on desktops and notebooks these days is only one year parts and labor. Generally this doesn’t cover any type of shipping charge to a repair facility and has a multitude of exclusions. Since the useful life of a computer system is at least 3 years, the ideal warranty would cover that entire 3-year period. Also, studies show the average turnaround repair time is 4-6 weeks!

**Traders are usually not all-knowing computer geeks. We know this!** We would all LOVE to think that we will never need tech support but, unfortunately, stuff happens.
The worst feeling you could have is getting to your trading desk, all psyched about the day’s action, and find the BSOD (Blue Screen of Death). Let me tell you, it’s a frustrating and infuriating feeling.

You want to pick a computer builder who knows you by name, speaks your language (trading) and is familiar with your configuration! Additionally, this person must be a patient problem-solver, and most importantly, ANSWER THE PHONE when you need him.

**My recommendation is to buy your computer at:** [www.EZTradingComputers.net](http://www.EZTradingComputers.net). We have the best 5-Year Warranty & Technical Support on earth.

**Other Important Components for Traders:** Here are a few other items that need careful consideration when it comes to trading. These items may seem unimportant, but I can tell you, they will save you a ton of money in the long run and hours of frustration! **Backup systems are a crucial part of any traders plan.**

- **Battery Backups:** I have 2 recommendations when it comes to battery backups.
  - **Line Interactive:** You want to make sure your Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) is line interactive; this means it will "clean up" the power if someone in your house turns on the dryer or vacuum cleaner creating a short-lived brown-out. These types of brown-outs can tweak your computer's power supply and (once in a while) corrupt your operating system.
  - **Equipment Protection Warranty:** These warranties will protect you in the event damage occurs due to power-related issues like a power surge or lightning strike.
Remember that most battery backups only last a few minutes. Be sure all of the following are plugged into battery backup: PC, Primary monitor, cable/DSL modems, routers and anything else that would be necessary to have internet access. Imagine the anxiety of not knowing what your positions are doing and not being able to buy or sell.

If the power goes out, your first thought should be to put very tight stop orders on your positions, or better yet, just get out of the market completely. Then shut down the machine the normal way. You don’t want to risk corrupting your hard drive or Windows by not shutting down properly.

- **Surge Protectors:** These are very important! You need to have more than just the computer and monitors protected. Get a surge protector that has inputs for cable lines and/or DSL lines. I personally have lost a cable modem and 2 DSL routers to lightning strikes. Rule: If a wire comes out of the wall, put a surge protector on it!

- **Redundant Internet Connections:** As a trader, my experience has been that I NEED at least 2 internet connections. If you have ever been trading and your internet connection goes out, you know the frustration I am talking about. I have high speed cable from Xfinity and Fiber Optic from AT&T coming into my house. Additionally, I have the ability to tether my smart phone to my mobile service provider as an emergency third option.
• **A Backup Computer:** It may sound silly, but it is very convenient to have a backup computer on hand and ready to go at a moment’s notice. Whenever I build a new system for myself, I use the old system as a backup. All I have to do is periodically update the software on the old machine to make sure it’s ready to go in an emergency. I prefer to have a backup desktop computer, but a laptop will also handle the job soon term.

• **Operating System:** My research shows that 50% of traders are still using XP, Vista or Window 8! This is a major mistake as most of those users are in a 32-bit environment. XP and Vista 32-bit can create a bottleneck and your data can lag! The slightest data lag can have a major effect on your trading.

Do yourself a favor--spend the money and upgrade! Windows 7 and 10 are better than any previous operating system Microsoft has put out. I use Windows 10 64-bit. It’s compatible with everything I have installed except for a Xerox black-and-white Laser Printer that I bought in 1999.

Do not be afraid of Windows 10 anymore. Microsoft has for the most part got it right and the bugs have been removed.

• **Anti Virus Software:** I think it goes without saying to make sure you have anti-virus software. The free ones work as well, IF NOT BETTER than, the ones you pay for. AVG and AVAST are the top-rated. You can download those at [www.download.com](http://www.download.com). Also, many service providers provide Virus protection for free. Another free one I like a lot is Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE). The best thing about MSE is that it does not constantly give you pop-ups trying to sell a paid version. Windows 10 comes with MSE already installed and ready to go.
TRADING COMPUTER WORKSHEET

Here is a worksheet for you to take to Trading Computer websites and do some comparison shopping.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>Intel Core i7-8700k</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Processor Speed</td>
<td>4.7 GHZ</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Processor Cooling</td>
<td>LIQUID</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>16 GB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Grade Motherboard</td>
<td>Asus TUF Z370 PRO – Military Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solid State Drive</td>
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<td>- Speed</td>
<td>SATA M.2 NVMe</td>
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<td>- Read/Write Speed</td>
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<td>- IOPS Read Speed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Monitor Support</td>
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<td>Discrete HD Digital Video Cards</td>
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<td>DVD Read/Write Drive</td>
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<td>Backup Software</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti Virus</td>
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<td>5 Yr Warranty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2099</td>
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7 Deadly Trading Computer Mistakes

7. Using an old or 32-bit outdated operating system like Windows XP, 8 or Vista.

6. Thinking you can trade full time on a laptop. (Okay for traveling and backup.)

5. Thinking you will save money by buying an HP or Dell at a chain or retailer like Best Buy, Costco or Sam’s, etc. Or even worse – Ebay.

4. Not having backup systems in case stuff happens: (i.e., power, internet or computer failure).

3. Not buying enough Processing Power & RAM.


1. OVERPAYING FOR A TRADING COMPUTER!

Conclusion: If you really want the Best and Most Reliable Trading Computer, call us to help ascertain YOUR needs. My superheroes are here to help you understand the technology in plain-speak (not baffle you with BS). We will then build you a perfectly matched machine with the best warranty and tech support on the planet.

Call Us

800-387-5250

And check out our systems!

www.EZTradingComputers.net

You will find that the benefits of having one built to your specifications will far outweigh the expense. In fact, you won’t pay more than you would at a retail store, and you will have much better components and much better tech support. No matter what you decide, price these computers out for yourself! You will learn that these other online “Trading Computer” companies are a total rip-off! Don’t waste your money!
Having a computer custom-built by www.EZTradingComputers.net is the way to go! We are tops in terms of trader know-how and completely familiar with the processing power required for all trading platforms. Tech Support is handled by English-speaking Americans who care about you! Our guys know these machines inside and out and are truly EXPERT-level technicians.

Your system will come with a 5-Year Warranty and **Unlimited Tech Support** as long as you own it! **I dare you to compare our service & quality to anyone!**

**Who Is Eddie Z?**

My name is Eddie Z and I am a full-time day trader and total computer geek. I think it’s important for you to know a little about my history and experiences in the markets and with computer technology, so that you can understand my passion and motivation for creating this guide.

As you may already know, the link between advances in technology and Wall Street is pretty amazing. In fact, many innovations over the last 150 years were created for the necessity of knowing price information and processing transactions. Wall Street is credited as the major driving force in the development of the telegraph, the telephone and the computer.

My interest in computers began in 1980 at age 11 when a friend of mine got an Apple II. Back then the name brand computers were Commodore, TRS-80 (by Tandy aka Radio Shack) and Apple. Shortly after that, I got my first computer--the Commodore VIC-20. I was so disappointed with its capability that I took the thing apart to see what was wrong with it. My goal was to figure out how to make my computer more powerful. What I learned was that my computer was significantly underpowered compared to my friend’s. It had only 5 kb (kilobytes) of memory. Today, our coffee makers have more memory! This was my first exploration inside a computer and the beginning of a lifelong hobby and passion (and even obsession!).

Check out my systems: [www.EZTradingComputers.net](http://www.EZTradingComputers.net)
As you will read in the paragraphs that follow, my Wall Street career began in 1987. Ever since then, I have been building my own trading computer systems in an effort to stay ahead of the crowd. In the mid 1990’s, I was the first stockbroker at my firm to connect more than 1 monitor to his machine. My colleagues were more than jealous! They would offer me insane amounts of money to build multi-monitor systems for them. So I did!

Over the last 15 years or so, I have built and tested 100’s of trading computer configurations in an effort to determine which components work the best together and which will give the stability and reliability we need as full time traders. I kept trading colleagues and peers in the latest and greatest during this time, while not even considering the business possibilities.

I built EZ Trading Computers after a friend of mine pointed me to a Google search of “Trading Computers”. I nearly fell off my chair after seeing what some computer builders are charging for trading technology. What started off as a lifelong hobby and passion for computers has now turned into a mission! My mission is this:

"Educate fellow traders on trading technology and offer them the highest quality computers, at the lowest prices possible, with the best customer service."

As a trader, it makes me queasy knowing there are technology suppliers taking advantage of traders’ lack of computer knowledge. Part of my mission is to represent us traders in the world of trading technology so that we don’t get ripped off.

So Who Is Eddie Z?

I built EZ Trading Computers & www.EZBreakouts.com as a way to share my passion for trading. Trading is an endless game of balancing a sound trading methodology with inner emotions. Discipline versus Greed & Fear, if you will.
You need to have both a system that if followed makes money, and the understanding of how your mind works. Over my 23 years of Wall Street experience, I have accumulated and developed a winning set of strategies to play both sides of this game. I share my playbook with you in the Ebook entitled “The Ultimate Guide to Trading Stocks”. In fact, I draw up the “plays” every day for the members of www.EZBreakouts.com.

My realization that trading was something REALLY exciting started in the mid-1970s. I was 7 years old, and my father would take me to work with him. My dad was a commodity futures trader on the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). I was mesmerized by all the people huddled in a circle screaming and shouting and getting very carried away. People were crying out numbers while others were writing numbers on huge chalkboards. There was an immense energy in this place that I could already feel, even at a young age.

As I got older, my dad taught me how to draw point and figure charts using a pencil and graph paper. He even explained some of the chart formations and how he could use these formations to predict what would happen next. That is how he made a living. It was so different from what my friends’ dads were doing. I thought it was so cool. I became completely fascinated with charts and graphs.

I didn’t realize until deep into my own career that my dad was one of the purest day traders and swing traders of his time. “Day trader” and “swing trader” are terms that have only been coined in the last 10 to 15 years with the introduction of online electronic trading. My dad drew charts by hand and stood in the pit and traded for his own account. Talk about old-school original!

My first full-time job on Wall Street started in 1987 on the floor of the NYMEX, the Monday after I graduated high school. One of my responsibilities was keeping charts up to date for the brokers I worked for. Within a few years, charts were generated by computerized charting services, and the art of hand charting was lost forever. I spent every summer, Christmas break and spring break, all the way through graduate school, working on the floor of the NYMEX.
The best memory I have from those times was working for a guy in the crude oil pit. The date was January 15th, 1991 and Tariq Aziz, one of Saddam Hussein’s right-hand men, came out of a meeting with US diplomats at the UN. The deadline had expired for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. When no deal was announced, I watched as crude oil went from about $27.00 a barrel to over $40.00 a barrel within 2 minutes (this type of move was unheard of at the time!). The trading pit went absolutely berserk! The guy I was working for made over $100,000 that day! A number I will never forget. By the way, oil dropped back into the $20s the next day.

In the early 1990s, I became fascinated with stocks and decided to become a stockbroker. In the 1990s, it was fairly easy to pick stocks. You really didn’t have to know too much about charts (or any fundamentals for that matter). Usually, if you held a stock long enough it worked! Especially anything related to technology. Additionally, I was fortunate enough to participate in the very early stages of the dotcom boom. Finding new investors was a breeze. People become “accustomed” to the bull market that began in 1982 and really wanted brokers’ ideas. The 1990s was truly an amazing time for stocks. It was not uncommon to see stocks double and triple over a very short period of time. I was simply in the right place at the right time.

When the bubble burst in March of 2000, I was actually on my honeymoon in Hawaii. I had gotten all of my clients out of the market just before I left, so I wouldn’t have to worry about their accounts while I was gone. The preceding 6-month period from October 1999 to March of 2000 was like nothing I had ever seen before. Stocks exploded! I was buying stocks for clients at 9:45 AM and selling them 10% to 25% higher by 3:00 PM. I was doing more commission in a day than I did in a month just 5 years earlier! I was getting referrals left and right. The phone rang off the hook. Believe it or not, people were taking cash advances on credit cards to buy stocks. It seemed too good to be true….and it was!! I was no genius for getting my people out. I just didn’t want to think about it while I was away. When I came back, I thought the correction was over and got my people right back into the market. Yikes!
Over the next 9 months to a year I battled the stock market to no avail. I lost clients’ money. In some cases, clients were down as much as 80%!!! I knew I had to do something, so I went to the library (yes, we still went to the library in those days!) and started reading every book on the stock market I could get my hands on. Even though I have an MBA, my knowledge at the time had no basis in market cycles.

I studied everything you could think of in regards to the stock market: historical market cycles, Peter Lynch, etc, but the one book that stuck out the most was “How to Make Money in Stocks” by William O’Neil. No one could explain the gyrations of the markets better over the years than O’Neil could. His book was based on facts and research, and most importantly, the main focus of his system is charts! Duh! Charts!!!! As soon as I began reading this book I knew EXACTLY what I needed do. I managed to get all of my clients out of the market in early 2001 and save my business. Additionally, my passion for charts was reinvigorated.

Over the next two years, I watched as the brokers around me dropped like flies. 90% of the guys I knew at the time are out of the business today.

As I read the book “How to Make Money In Stocks”, I realized that this simple-to-read book would become my bible--the ultimate playbook! All I needed to do was be patient, study and follow the system as O’Neil laid it out.

When the new bull market began in March 2003, I began to slowly tip-toe back into stocks to test out O’Neil’s system. After a few months, I realized that the system worked, and my clients began making money again.

As time went on, I began to apply the system to my personal account with great success. At some point in the learning curve, I realized I could make a lot more money trading for myself than worrying about other peoples’ money. At last, no more hand-holding!

Check out my systems: www.EZTradingComputers.net
The more I practiced the system, the more I began to develop my own set of rules that added further precision in terms of buy points and sell points. Using this more exact approach, I could enter at my precise buy point and sell the stock in the same day or next day after it had made its initial move. This methodology has become quite profitable for me over time. I have spent years refining and mastering this approach.

Essentially, what I have done is take the basics out of the O’Neil system and add further exactness in terms of buy points and sell points. Over time, I’ve established my own rules, adapting the method to a shorter time period. My experience has shown my method yields much higher rates of return and results in much shorter time in positions. In fact, I rarely keep a stock overnight. I no longer worry about what happens around the world when the US markets are closed. I sleep much better!

These days I am completely dedicated to trading my system and helping traders become better traders through technology. My goal is to help you obtain the highest quality, most reliable trading computer system for the lowest price possible. Then give you the best professional consultation, warranty and technical support in the business. As a full-time trader and complete computer nerd, I speak your language! I am here to help you figure out the best possible configuration that meets YOUR trading needs.

Feel free to call me at 800-387-5250, email me or click chat. I love talking about computers and trading!

I sincerely wish you success in all of your trading endeavors.

Russ "Eddie Z" Hazelcorn

(Eddie Z is how I am known in the Trading world. My real name is Russ Hazelcorn.)