NOTE: all new material since the last update is highlighted in <mark>yellow</mark>.

Overview

This is an update to the previous Plot News indicator. Although the software is **FREE**, I've intentionally posted it in the commercial forum where I hope that its visibility will be restricted to a more 'professional' audience. As I am not selling anything, I'm not a commercial member.

The Download news v4-00 (MT4 script) calls the News Downloader.exe app (in the ..../MQL4/Files/ folder), which downloads news directly from Forex Factory calendar (see instructions in the attached Plot News v4 - operating instructions.pdf file). However, you need to run News Downloader.exe once manually first, so that the Download News v4-00 script can find it thereafter.

The downloaded news (default filename=..../MQL4/Files/news.csv) is in CSV format, and can be used for:
- plotting both past and/or upcoming news events on MT4 charts, by attaching the Plot News v4-00 indicator to the chart;
  AND/OR
- directly import the news events to another app, e.g. Microsoft Excel, for further analysis.

The CSV file in the attached News events 2007-01-01 thru 2019-01-19 timestamped New York time.zip file was built using the downloader. It takes just over 3 minutes to download each 12 months' worth of news (approx 4,500 events), on my computer. The format of each row (news event) is:
"date","time","currency","impact","event description","actual","foreacst","previous", "revised from","FF event ID#"

For detailed instructions, please read the attached Plot News v4 - operating instructions.pdf file. Beyond that, feel welcome to experiment.

Don't forget to check back periodically for any updates, as I am fixing any bugs found, and making minor enhancements, all the time.
If updating, be sure to (re)install **ALL** of the files in the ZIP, overwriting the previous versions of all the files.

If you get the generic error message "***Unable to process calendar***":

- **Try running the downloader again after a few minutes wait.** The FF calendar may be temporarily unavailable, especially if Forex Factory's servers are overloaded around the time of a major news announcement. Also, while the Plot News v4-00 indicator is (re-)plotting data on your MT4 chart, it takes exclusive access of the news.csv file, preventing the downloader from opening it.

- **Try updating to the latest version of the software**.

- **If you still can't get it to work, you could try exidez's downloader, or some other free news indicators by DerkWehler, FiatFap, euclid, mladen and FXpulse.**

If reporting a bug, please include information about your computer setup (including Windows version, MT4 br0ker and build), parameter settings, screenshots of any error messages, and a detailed description of the steps taken that led up to the error. The more information you provide, the better chance I have of being able to help you.

To those who've posted feedback, or messages of appreciation: many thanks. I'm glad you find the software useful. 😊

David

Note: as an alternative to using MS Excel to sort, filter, or otherwise manipulate a large CSV file of news events, there are CSV editors available, some free (e.g. here), some purchasable (a few listed here). I've used Bruce Martin's free CSV editor, and I also paid ~$5 for CSVeasy. Both work well enough.
Also, if you want a free alternative to MS Office, I've been using WPS (word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager). Well, it's free if you don't mind enduring a 5 second advert upon startup.

Disclaimer: Download and use <u>at your own risk</u>. All software is provided on an 'as is' basis. Source code is NOT available.

Quick start guide

1. **To install**: simply unzip/copy all of the files into the same folders** as in the Plot News v4-08.zip file (attached below).
[**It is very straightforward:
   The Download news v4-00 **script** goes in the ..../MQL4/**Scripts** folder
   The Plot News v4-00 **indicator** goes in the ..../MQL4/**Indicators** folder
   All <u>other files</u> in the ..../MQL4/**Files** folder
   The Plot News v4 - operating instructions.pdf file can go anywhere you wish
   If you want to use the Consolas font(s), download these from the Plot News v4-10.zip file, and install them]

2. Exit and restart MT4.
(Or, if you prefer, go to MT4's Navigator panel (press Ctrl-N), and then the Indicators tree. Right click and then click Refresh (see the third screenshot below)).

3. Run the News Downloader.exe app once manually first, using the default settings. (After that, you can summon it directly from MT4, whenever necessary, by running the Download News v4-00 script).

4. Attach the Plot News v4-00 indicator to your chart. Set *ParameterFile* to 2 to get the suggested settings and color scheme. (To change the settings, either edit the file Presets---Plot News.2 using a text editor like Notepad; or set *ParameterFile* to NONE, and enter your own settings).

Read the attached Plot News v4 - operating instructions.pdf file for more information.

Some notes about time zones and daylight saving

   News Downloader.exe simply allows you to add a timeshift of +/− N hours to the Forex Factory timestamp, which is New York time (EST or EDT). The app doesn't know where you live, what your local daylight saving start/end dates are, or when your region's DST rules might have changed over the years, hence you would need to make any such adjustments **manually** to its CSV output.

   Convert news to GMT.exe can be used to convert times from New York time (EST or EDT) to any time zone that you wish. Any date/time values in the file are assumed to be New York time (EST or EDT), and it further operates on the assumption that New York was employing EDT from 2am on the second Sunday in March through to 2am on the first Sunday in November, and EST for the rest of the year. **Should these rules ever change, the app will not work correctly.** Once again you must make **manual adjustments** if/where your local time is subject to daylight saving (the same reasons given in the previous paragraph apply).

   The **Plot News.ex4** indicator uses the CSV file provided by News Downloader.exe, but allows you to provide three comma-separated *TimeOffsets* entries to define how many hours ahead or behind GMT (i) New York is, (ii) your broker's MT4 is, and (iii) your local time is. This allows you to manually adjust for any daylight saving that is currently operating, to align the news event symbols underneath the correct candles on your MT4 charts, and also when to correctly sound alerts based on your computer clock's time. Notes:

1. To avoid the shift occurring twice, if you're entering the timeshifts into the Plot News.ex4 indicator, then set '+/- hours shift' in News Downloader.exe to 0.
2. To shift the plotted symbols X hours to the **right**, **add** X to the **second** *TimeOffsets* entry; to shift them X hours to the **left**, **subtract** X. The value of X may be negative or fractional, e.g. -3.5 is 3.5 hours behind GMT.
3. If you have multiple weeks' worth of news event symbols being plotted, that span a daylight saving change, then because it's not possible to have two sets

of *TimeOffsets* settings, there will be symbols plotting under the wrong candles. 🙁

Read the attached Plot News v4 - operating instructions.pdf file for more information.

Updates history

Apr 6, 2019: Version 4.15 released. Disclaimer added to NewsDownloader.exe

Jan 2, 2019: Version 4.14 released (there is no 4.13, in case anybody is superstitious, lol): Fixed bugs reported in v4.12 (many thanks to forevermaat for reporting them). Notes:
Bug #1: News Downloader.exe now skips both the sort and the archive merge if the news file (i.e. the file input in 'News filename') is either empty or doesn't exist. That's the best that I can do, if for whatever reason the merge deletes the news entries, simply re-run the download with the same settings when the FF download file becomes available.
Bug #3: autohotkey assumes that double quotes, if used, enclose your entry/ies in an INI file. To work around this, if you now include **A'** (an uppercase A followed by a single quote) as part of your 'Weeks/months to download' entry, News Downloader.exe now replaces the double quotes around your entry for 'Last_format_used' in the INI file, no matter what, if they are missing.
This should also fix Bug #2, as the archive merge step is skipped if the format has been changed; please report back if not the case.
@**anybody**: Sorry if the instruction manual is not up to date. If that seems unprofessional, you're right, I'm not being paid for any of this.
Answers to forevermaat's questions:
#1: The Currencies and Weekdays work differently to the Description. Blanking out the

Currencies or Weekdays should cause no output to occur to the news file. Try it and see. 😊
#2: The sorting is not necessarily a redundancy, it may be useful if the 'untimed events' are being output. You can always switch it off. Note: v4.14 you can include a **p** in your 'Set time for untimed events' entry to denote the previous day.

Dec 25, 2018: Version 4.12 released:
New parameter settings Currencies, Weekdays, Description allow filtering of which news events get output to news.csv:
Currencies: Only news events relating to the currencies you specify will be output. Any delimiter you wish can be used. Upper and lower case are interchangeable.
Weekdays: Only news events Occurring on the weekdays you specify will be output. Any delimiter you wish can be used. Upper and lower case are interchangeable.
Description: Only news events with characters in their description matching those you enter will be output. For example, enter **CPI** and only news events with 'CPI' somewhere in their description will be output. By default this entry is case sensitive and also supports the use of regular expressions (quick reference here, regex tester here). To make case-insensitive, prefix your entry with **i)**
The **Reset** buttons reset the fields to their factory defaults.
Have fun and Merry Xmas!

Nov 20, 2018: Version 4.11 released.
New parameter setting in News Downloader.exe: '*Sort news output file by line content*' checkbox:
    if checked **ON**, each line in the output file should ideally begin with the date and time, to cause the news events to be re-sorted chronologically
    if checked **OFF**, no sorting is performed, hence the news events will be output in the same sequence as they appear in the FF calendar

Version 4.11 now also allows proper XML-format output. Two new formats have been included at the bottom of the dropdown list, for XML output. These include the `\t` and `\n` tokens which now get replaced as **tab** and **newline** characters respectively, making proper XML output possible. Because news events occupy multiple lines, the '*Sort news output file by line content*' should be checked OFF.

Nov 19, 2018: Fixed bug where asking for a download of X weeks' news events was causing a download of the last month's events to be repeated X times.

Nov 17, 2018: Version 4.10 released. Enhancements to News Downloader.exe:
1. New button to load Forex Factory calendar into your web browser.
2. The FF calendar download is no longer performed by **curl**; it is now performed internally by using Autohotkey's **URLDownloadToFile** command. However, I've continued to include both curl and wget in the zip file for backward compatibility.
3. Minor cosmetic improvements.
4. AVG confirms that the app is virus free.

Aug 2, 2018: Version 4.09 released. Cosmetic changes to entry screen only.

June 16, 2018: Untimed events time is now saved in the News Downloader.ini file.

March 22, 2018: Fixed bug: the News Downloader.exe app now correctly handles **&** and **;** symbols in the FF calendar HTML.

March 01, 2017: Released v4.08. The News Downloader.exe app now calls **curl** instead of **wget**.

Sep 24, 2016: Recompiled the News Downloader.exe app and attached it in updated zip file.

Apr 01, 2016: Fixed errors described here.

Mar 17, 2016: v4.07 is available. Implements the request here. Actual better/worse and Revised_from better/worse can now be output as +1 (better), -1 (worse) or 0 (neither). Use a format like the one below (it is included in the NewsDownloader.fmt file), and read page 27 of the PDF for more info.
[code]
"d[Y/M/D]","t[H:I]","c[T3]","i[T1]","n[T50]","a[T10]","f[T10]","p[T10]","r[T10]","#[Z5]","b[T2]","w[T2]"
[/code]

Feb 13, 2016: Fixed bug described in point 2 here.

Jan 31, 2016: Fixed bug in date handling where month selected is not the current month, and the download period spans multiple years.

Jan 14, 2016: Fixed compatibility issue in v4.06.

Jan 6, 2016: Uploaded v4.06. Addresses all of the points here.

Dec 29, 2015: Fixed bug in year assignment process that was preventing downloader from being run from a start date greater than Dec 31, 2015. (The year for each news announcement is not displayed in the body of the FF calendar, hence the downloader must assign it manually).

Oct 30, 2015: Fixed bug in archive process when 'Number of weeks/months' is set to **0m** (current month only).

Oct 15, 2015: v4.05 is available. Allows high, medium and/or low impact events to be excluded from the output. Instructions PDF has been updated accordingly.

Sep 13, 2015: v4.04 is available. The 'auto' option in the The Plot News v4-00.ex4 indicator's *TimeOffsets* parameter should now work correctly, and thus save you the need to calculate and type the timeshift values manually (if you can't get it to work,

simply type in the three values as before). See page 10 in the operating instructions PDF for more info. There is also a new app, Convert news to GMT.exe -- see Appendix 2 of the PDF.

Sep 10, 2015: The Plot News v4-00.ex4 indicator now has a new parameter, '*LookbackDays*'. See page 10 in the operating instructions PDF for more info.

Sep 2, 2015: v4.03 is available. The News Downloader.exe app now has a parameter '*Archive file*', allowing for a historical database of news events to be maintained. See page 6 in the operating instructions PDF for more info.

Aug 27, 2015: v4.02 is available. The News Downloader.exe app now has a new parameter '*Macro for indicator refresh*'. See page 7 in the operating instructions PDF for more info.

Aug 2, 2015: v4.01 is available. The News Downloader.exe app now allows user-defined output formats. Read Appendix 1 in the operating instructions PDF for more info.

Screenshots

The **first screenshot** displays (1) the MT4 color tokens palette, and (2) a Wingdings symbol chart.

The **second screenshot** below was obtained by setting *ParameterFile* to 2. By using this parameter file, the circular wingdings symbols denote the currency (1=USD, 2=CAD, 3=EUR, 4=GBP, 5=CHF, 6=JPY, 7=AUD, 8=NZD, 9=CNY, 0=all/other); the size of the symbol denotes the impact (size 1=low, 2=medium, 3=high) and the color the news event type: Purple = interest rate events, Blue = bank governor speaks/meeting minutes, Light blue = other committee member speaks, Teal = employment related, Pink = CPI related, Green = GDP related, Brown = Trade Balance, Red = other high impact, Orange = other medium impact, Yellow = other low impact, White = bank holiday, Gray = other non-economic events. You can hover the mouse cursor near the top of a symbol to see a full description of the event, including the actual, forecast, previous, and revised-from values.

{ virus risk deleted by staff }

Response from hanover (Nov 17, 2018): I've uploaded a new zip file, which includes a new version of News Downloader.exe (v4.10) that has been confirmed by AVG to be virus free. I have also had Kapersky Labs check all of the EXE files in the zip, and all pass as virus free.