Bits of Junk No. 1

If you like the idea of backing up your entire installation of MT4 onto some other media or cloud drive or something – and you <u>should</u> like the idea, read on.

Backing up the whole thing means in the event of your computer having a 'disappointing experience' you won't have to spend hours re-doing all your favourite profiles and templates etc.

With a backup you can be back up and running in a few minutes, possibly before your account goes bust if your pc went down before you got a stop loss on the trade you just this minute posted.

If you have a backup you can run it on pretty well any internet connected Windows PC within a couple of minutes without the need to install anything or mess with the new PC.
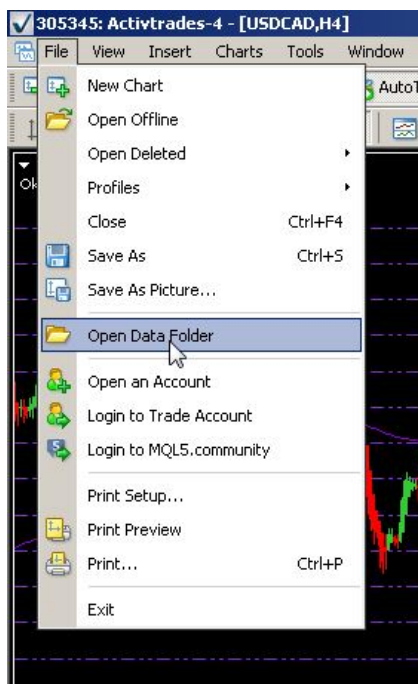
So, here we go,

Win 7 and later versions copy chunks of your MT4 install to another 'safer' location,
eg; **C:\Users\User01\AppData\Roaming\MetaQuotes {your broker name or something} (**followed by an unhelpful string of apparently random digits). This folder is usually hidden but that's not a problem the way we're going to do this,
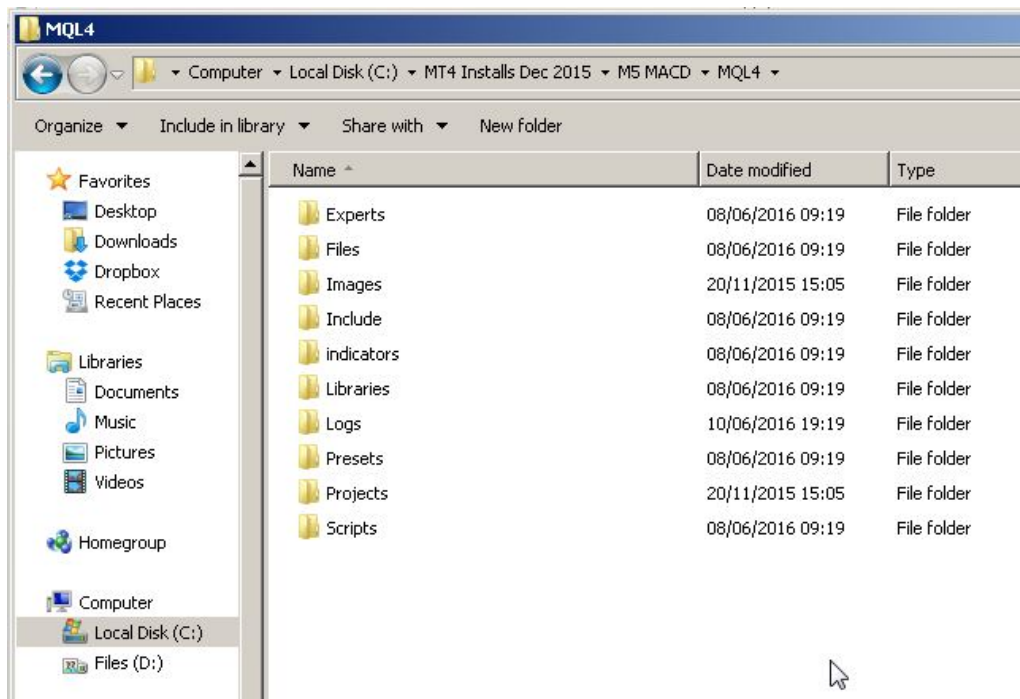
Note;
> *The objective behind this is to put stuff which might be able to deliver malware or other damage into a folder which is designed to try and prevent this happening,*
> *MT4 should pose no threat to your computer and so it doesn't need to have it's stuff kept there.*
> *For our purposes this location is neither safer nor convenient, we want all our MT4 stuff in one place so we can back it up conveniently.*

So lets get on with it,,,,,
You can find exactly where Windows has moved your stuff to if you go; **File – Open Data Folder** on your MT4 install
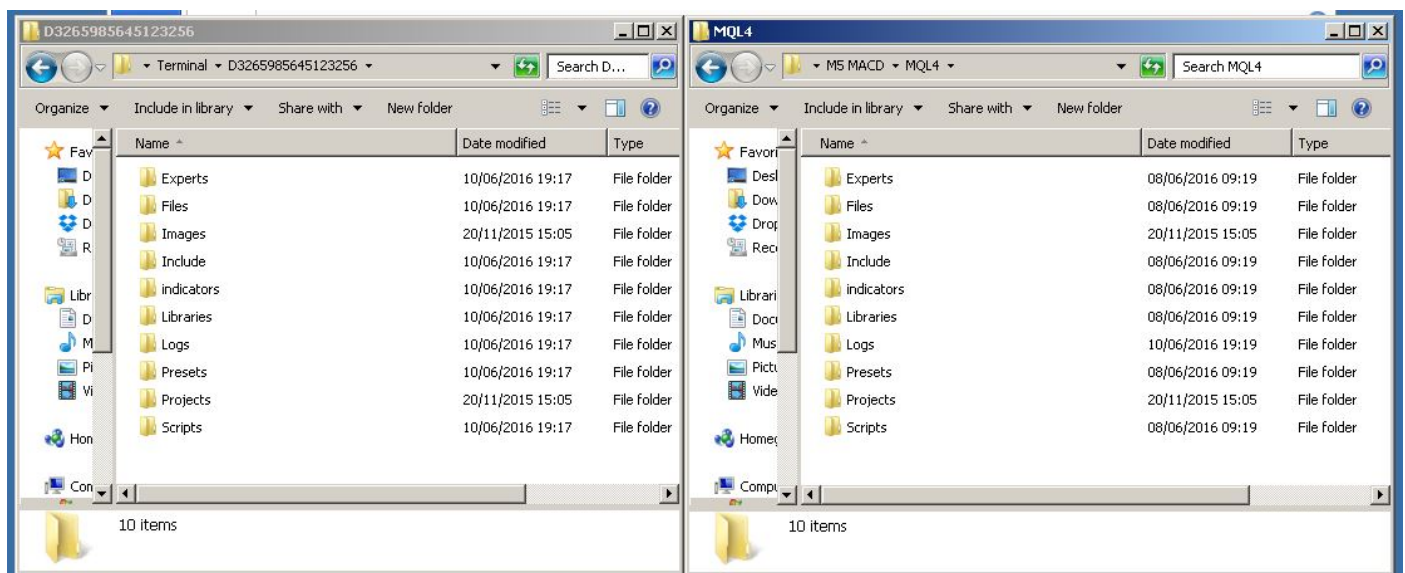
Then open the MQL4 folder, the contents will look something like;

Open a new Windows Explorer window (**hit Windows key +E**)

You now have two windows explorer windows open, one showing your MT4 Data folder contents and another one. With the *other* one, navigate to the original install location of your MT4 Which will be something like:-
C:\Program Files (x86)\MetaTrader 4 (possibly followed by your broker name perhaps) and open the MQL4 folder, you should now have two windows with similar looking contents.

Next is to copy the contents **FROM** the data folder (with long string or numbers/digits) **TO** the MQL4 folder in the **original** install location.
You can do this one folder at a time if you like or if you're feeling bold you can delete the contents in the original MQL4 and copy/paste the contents from the data folder.
Either way the object is to make both the same with the *newer* data from the Data File Location.
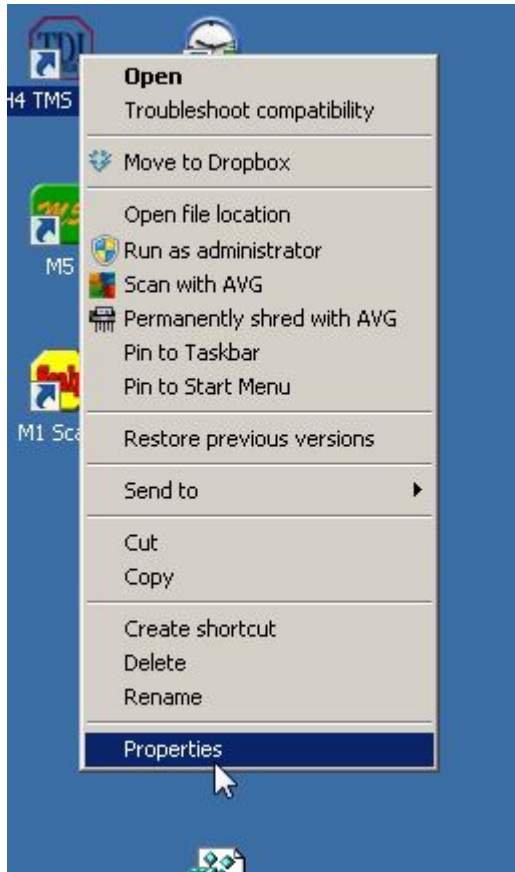**the stuff in the Data File Location will remain undamaged.**

Done that?
Ok, you can stop sweating now,

The last thing in this section is to prevent Windows continuing to mess with the folder we don't need any longer.

This is simple,
RIGHT click on the desktop icon for your MT4 and click '**Properties'**

You can prevent Windows moving chunks of your MT4 by adding **/portable** to the 'Target' bit of the properties dialog of the desktop shortcut.it will then look like this:

(By the way there's a space before **/portable** and after **terminal.exe"** in the dialog box)

You can now copy the entire MT4 folder from where it is installed and paste it elsewhere as a method of backing up your install with all it's templates and carefully drawn SR levels and notes and stuff which take *sooooo* long to re-do if your computer goes poopies on you.

Your normal install will work exactly as ever, however in the background everything will be done from the one location.

To restore the backup

All you have to do is **copy** it from it's location on Dropbox, stick or external drive or whatever, and put it somewhere convenient, you might for example create a new folder in the Program Files X86 folder called 'MT4 installs' and paste the entire install there.
You can run the program by double clicking the **terminal.exe** file in the root folder of MT4
Or you can right click on the **terminal.exe** file and use the '**create shortcut'** option to create a shortcut which you can then drag onto your desktop.

Tip;
You can get any number of free little backup programmes that will copy the lot into a Dropbox or Googledrive folder or onto an external drive or anything you like.

Tippet;
Googledrive and Dropbox are great for this as they keep a local folder on your PC with everything in it – another copy of the backup effectively, whereas some 'Cloud drives' do not and you need access to the online drive to get your stuff back – (this is disappointing if you're in a desperate rush to get that stop loss on because the more you think about it the more you're sure that trade idea really was extremely 'optimistic' to say the least.)

Next Tip;

Interesting ly you can even run MT4 directly from the backup location by double clicking the **terminal.exe** file in the root MT4 folder.
It will run perfectly but you'll have to put the password in.