

CLARA SYSTEMS

AUTOMATED FUTURES TRADING

HOW TO FREE UP STORAGE SPACE ON A WINDOWS VPS

WINDOWS SERVER · NINJATRADER

WHO THIS IS FOR

LOW DISK SPACE ALERTS

Your Windows VPS is running low on storage space, or showing full disk warnings.

BUDGET VPS PLANS

You are running NinjaTrader on a cost-effective VPS plan with limited storage capacity.

QUICK OPTIMIZATION

You need a safe way to clean unnecessary files and reclaim up to 10 GB of space.

A COMPANION TO THE SETUP GUIDE · SEPTEMBER 2026

CLARASYSTEMS.IO

CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01 Who This Is For, And Why It Exists | 05 NinjaTrader Settings |
| 02 The Small VPS & What NinjaTrader Asks For | 06 Housekeeping, Once Or Twice A Month |
| 03 Use The VPS For Trading Only | 07 Never Delete |
| 04 One-Time Windows Changes | 08 What We Saw |

01 WHO THIS IS FOR, AND WHY IT EXISTS

A VPS is a rented Windows computer that stays on when yours is off, so an automated strategy can run around the clock without depending on your own machine, your own power or your own internet. A home connection drops; a data centre connection is built not to, and that reliability is most of the reason to rent one at all.

VPS plans are priced by size, and the cheapest ones are cheap because their limits are tight: one processor core, 2 GB of memory, a 30 GB drive. This guide is written for traders who want to run a single strategy on one of those plans, and who find the disk nearly full before they have installed anything. It is not only for the cheapest plans: the same steps free space on any Windows VPS that is showing low disk warnings, and they are worth running once on a larger machine simply to keep it lean.

This is not a recommendation. NinjaTrader publishes minimum and recommended hardware specifications for its platform, and entry-level plans meet the bare minimum only. We run our own live accounts on the Hyonix HS-3, which meets the recommended specifications, and since September 2026 we have also been testing the HS-1, the smallest plan, on our own accounts. Section 02 says how it compares and how that test is going. If you run a larger VPS, the same steps free space there too; you just need them less often.

What follows: why the disk arrives full, what the small plan is and what NinjaTrader asks for, how to keep the VPS clean, the five one-time Windows changes that freed about 10 GB on ours, the NinjaTrader settings that matter for disk space, the monthly housekeeping, what never to delete, and what we saw before and after.

READ THIS FIRST

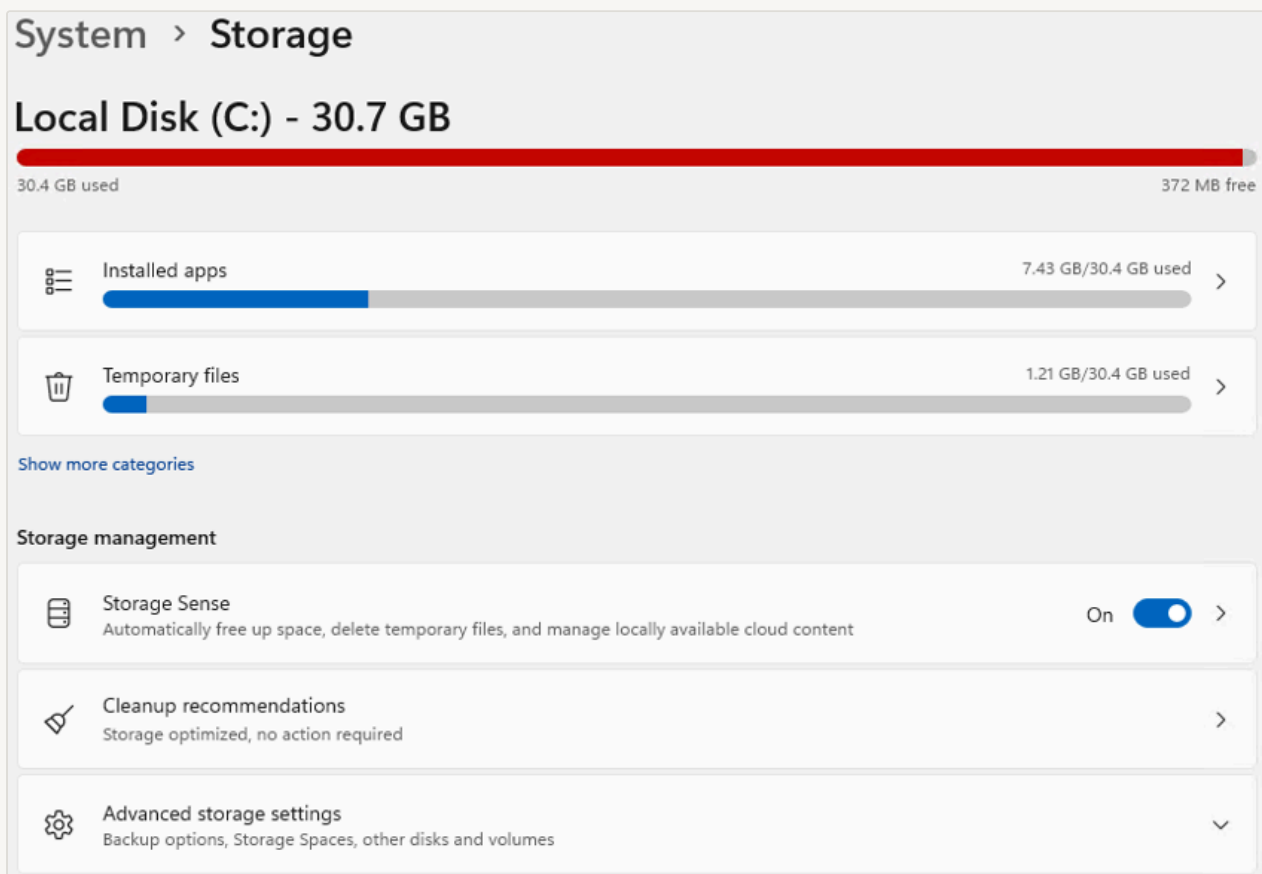
We are not IT technicians. The steps in this guide come from our own testing, and we ran them on three of our own servers, where everything worked without issue. We have not tested them on a personal computer.

Nothing here is official technical or hardware advice. It is a record of what we did and what worked on our machines. If you are unsure about any of it, check with a qualified technician before making changes to a server you rely on.

WHY A NEW VPS SHOWS THE DISK AS FULL

The smallest plans, such as the Hyonix HS-1 at \$6.50 a month, come with a 30 GB drive. Windows Server takes most of it before you install anything. On our fresh HS-1, 30.4 GB of 30.7 GB were in use, with 372 MB free.

Local Disk	30.7 GB
Used GB	30.4 GB
Free GB	372 MB



Our HS-1 as delivered: 30.4 GB used, 372 MB free.

Every account we trade runs on Hyonix. Clara Systems is an affiliated partner: if you open your account through [our link](#) we may earn a commission, at no cost to you. It is a free way to support us and we appreciate it.

That is not a fault of the VPS. Windows keeps files it does not need on a machine that only trades: a hibernation file, a large reserve for virtual memory, update leftovers and uncompressed system files. Remove those, and the same drive has room to spare. The steps in section O4 freed about 10 GB on ours.

02 THE SMALL VPS & WHAT NINJATRADER ASKS FOR

Hyonix sells nine plans. The HS-1 is the smallest. The HS-2 and HS-3 have run our accounts without an issue. Since September 16, 2026 we have also been running the HS-1 on our own accounts as a test, because readers asked whether a cheaper plan works. As of September 23, 2026, the day this was written, it has taken every trade, missed none, and has not crashed. We will say here how the first month went. Until then it is a test in progress, not a recommendation.

Plan	Hyonix HS-1, \$6.50 a month
Processor	1 core, AMD Ryzen 9
Memory	2 GB
Storage	30 GB NVMe
Windows	Server 2025 Datacenter, included

HOW ABOUT PRICING?

Our pricing is simply prepared with 9 plans!

HS-1	HS-2	HS-3	HS-4	HS-5	HS-6
12% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	51% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	9% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	6% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	11% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	2% CHOSE THIS PLAN!
\$6.5	\$12	\$24	\$36	\$48	\$72
1 vCore 2 GB RAM 30 GB NVMe	2 vCore 4 GB RAM 50 GB NVMe	4 vCore 8 GB RAM 100 GB NVMe	6 vCore 12 GB RAM 150 GB NVMe	8 vCore 16 GB RAM 200 GB NVMe	12 vCore 24 GB RAM 300 GB NVMe
Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network
1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP
Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows
Sign Up	Sign Up	Sign Up	Sign Up	Sign Up	Sign Up

HS-7	HS-8	HS-9
5% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	1% CHOSE THIS PLAN!	1% CHOSE THIS PLAN!
\$96	\$144	\$192
16 vCore 32 GB RAM 400 GB NVMe	24 vCore 48 GB RAM 600 GB NVMe	32 vCore 64 GB RAM 800 GB NVMe
Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network	Unmetered Bandwidth Dual 25 Gbps Network
1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP	1 Dedicated IP
Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows	Licensed Windows
Sign Up	Sign Up	Sign Up

Hyonix plans and prices as shown in September 2026. Prices change; check their page.

THE PROVIDER WE USE

Hyonix is the virtual private server we use to run Clara Core. Every account we trade runs on it, and it is the only provider that has not cost us a trading day or given us a connection problem.

This is a referral link: Clara Systems may earn a commission if you use it, at no extra cost to you. Clara Core stays free either way.

[SEE HYONIX PLANS](#)

referral link · my.hyonix.com

When you order, the form lets you choose the Windows version. Choose the latest one offered. Ours came with Windows Server 2025 Datacenter.

LOCATION: PICK CHICAGO IF IT IS AVAILABLE

The exchange that executes every MNQ order is in Aurora, Illinois, just outside Chicago. Choosing a Chicago location puts your VPS as close to the exchange match engine as possible, which keeps network latency to a minimum.

Sub-millisecond execution is not critical for Clara Core, since the strategy trades on 2 minute bars. Choosing the closest region simply gives you the cleanest and most reliable connection to the market.

System > About

ClaraSystems
Virtual Machine

Rename this PC

i

Device specifications

Copy

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Device name	ClaraSystems
Processor	AMD Ryzen 9 9950X 16-Core Processor (4.29 GHz)
Installed RAM	2.00 GB
Device ID	8711F8FA-858F-44B8-8753-EDE018454BC7
Product ID	00491-70000-00000-AA535
System type	64-bit operating system, x64-based processor
Pen and touch	Pen and touch support with 10 touch points

Related links

[Domain or workgroup](#)

[System protection](#)

[Advanced system settings](#)

Windows specifications

Copy

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Edition	Windows Server 2025 Datacenter
Version	24H2
Installed on	9/16/2026
OS build	26100.33438
Experience	Windows Feature Experience Pack 1000.26100.275.0

[Microsoft Services Agreement](#)
[Microsoft Software License Terms](#)

CE

Our HS-1: one core of an AMD Ryzen 9, 2 GB of memory, Windows Server 2025 Datacenter.

WHAT NINJATRADER DESKTOP ASKS FOR

NinjaTrader publishes what its Desktop platform needs. Their article was created March 3, 2023 and last updated August 20, 2026, and we read it in September 2026. We do not track it: when a new NinjaTrader version is released, check their page yourself, and if the platform crashes or misses trades on a small plan, move to a bigger one.

Minimum PC Requirements for NinjaTrader Desktop

Your PC must meet the following minimum requirements to run NinjaTrader Desktop:

- Windows 11, Windows Server 2016 or later
- 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 64-bit processor
- 2GB RAM
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.8
- Screen resolution of 1024 x 768
- A DirectX 10-compatible graphics card is highly recommended

You can view your computer's specifications by going to Windows Settings (Windows Key + I) > System > About.

Important Notes

- .NET Framework 3.5 and 4.8 are pre-installed on most computers, but can also be downloaded from Microsoft's official website: [Microsoft .NET Framework](#)
- NinjaTrader Desktop cannot be installed on mobile phones or tablets. To trade on a mobile device, download the **NinjaTrader Mobile app** from the iOS App Store or Google Play Store.

Recommended PC Specifications for NinjaTrader Desktop

NinjaTrader Desktop is designed to take full advantage of modern PC architecture for optimal performance, using all available CPU cores and additional memory resources as needed.

Your system requirements may vary depending on how you use the platform. Running strategy optimizations, for example, can benefit significantly from additional memory, and the amount required increases with the number of available CPU cores.

Recommended PC specifications:

- 2 GHz or faster quad-core 64-bit processor
- 8 GB RAM
- DirectX 10 compatible graphics card
- SSD hard drive

NinjaTrader's minimum and recommended specifications, September 2026.

Against that list, the HS-1 meets the minimum and not the recommendation: the processor is fast but there is one core, memory is exactly 2 GB, storage is NVMe, and a VPS has no dedicated graphics card, only a virtual display adapter. It runs one strategy on one chart, which is all Clara Core needs. It will not run several platforms, optimizations, or anything else at the same time. If you choose it, do every step in this guide.

What ours actually carries: three charts, two automated strategies with one on each chart, and a third chart we use for manual trades with ATM orders. The accounts behind them are one prop firm account, one Roth IRA, one cash account and two simulation accounts, with a trade copier running alongside. No crashes, and NinjaTrader has never closed on us. It is noticeably slower than the HS-2 and HS-3 when logging in, but the trades have been identical to them. On one strategy with one to four accounts, it handles it.

LET IT FINISH OPENING BEFORE YOU TOUCH IT

The HS-1 is slower to start than the larger plans. If your accounts connect automatically at login, let every one of them finish connecting before you click anything. Clicking while it is still loading can freeze the platform. It has never crashed on us and it has never closed during a trade, but it has frozen, and always for the same reason. Once everything is up it runs smoothly.

03 USE THE VPS FOR TRADING ONLY

A small VPS stays healthy when nothing else runs on it.

- 1 **Do not install a second browser.** Microsoft Edge is already there for the few pages you need, and you should hardly need a browser at all.
- 2 **No email, no video, no browsing.** The VPS is not a second computer.
- 3 **After you install Clara Core, delete the zip file you downloaded.** It has done its job.
- 4 **Do not run an AI assistant, a coding tool or any other program on the VPS.** On 2 GB of memory and one core, anything else competes with NinjaTrader for the same memory and processor time, and that is true for any strategy, not only ours. If you must run something, do it with NinjaTrader closed and outside trading hours.
- 5 **Once the chart and the strategy are running, close every other window.**
- 6 **When you step away, close the remote desktop window only.** Do not shut the VPS down; that stops the strategy with it.

04 ONE-TIME WINDOWS CHANGES

Do these once, in this order. Together they freed about 10 GB on our VPS; we did not measure each step on its own.

ON A PERSONAL COMPUTER

These steps are written for a VPS that only trades. On a personal computer, do step 1 and step 5 freely; steps 2, 3 and 4 change how Windows uses the machine, so leave them out, or ask a computer technician first.

STEP 1 · DISK CLEANUP

- 1 **Open Disk Cleanup.** Hold the **Windows** key and press **R**. A small Run box opens at the bottom left. Type the command below, or copy and paste it, then press **Enter**.

```
cleanmgr
```

- 2 **Choose the drive.** Select **C:** and click **OK**.
- 3 **Include the system files.** Click **Clean up system files** at the bottom left, and choose **C:** again if it asks.
- 4 **Tick everything offered.** Windows Update cleanup, temporary files, setup log files and the Recycle Bin. The list is not the same on every version of Windows, so tick every box that appears.
- 5 **Run it.** Click **OK**, then **Delete Files**.

STEP 2 · COMPRESS THE WINDOWS SYSTEM FILES

Windows can store its own files compressed. It runs the same afterwards.

- 1 **Open Command Prompt as administrator.** Click **Start** at the bottom left and type **cmd**. Command Prompt is the black window Windows uses for typed commands. When it appears in the list, right-click it and choose **Run as administrator**. Click **Yes** if Windows asks.
- 2 **Run the command.** Type the command below, or copy and paste it, then press **Enter**.

```
Compact.exe /CompactOS:always
```

- 3 **Wait for it to finish.** Two to five minutes. It ends with a line saying the system files were compressed, and a ratio.

STEP 3 · CAP THE VIRTUAL MEMORY

Windows sets aside part of the drive as virtual memory and lets it grow. Give it a fixed size instead.

- 1 **Open the system properties.** Hold the **Windows** key and press **R**. A small Run box opens at the bottom left. Type the command below, or copy and paste it, then press **Enter**.

```
sysdm.cpl
```

- 2 **Find the performance settings.** Open the **Advanced** tab. Under Performance, click **Settings**.
- 3 **Find the virtual memory.** Open the **Advanced** tab in the window that just opened. Under Virtual memory, click **Change**.
- 4 **Take Windows off automatic.** Untick **Automatically manage paging file size for all drives**.
- 5 **Set the two sizes.** Select **C:**, choose **Custom size**, and enter these.

Initial size (MB)	1024
Maximum size (MB)	2048

Do not set these lower to save more space. With only 2 GB of memory, if this file is too small and the memory fills, Windows closes programs rather than slowing down, and the program it closes would be NinjaTrader. A maximum of 2048 already frees most of what Windows was holding.

- 6 **Save it.** Click **Set**. Without that click nothing is saved. Then **OK**, **Apply**, and restart the VPS when it asks.

STEP 4 · TURN OFF HIBERNATION

A VPS never hibernates, but Windows keeps a file the size of part of its memory for it.

- 1 **Open Command Prompt as administrator.** Click **Start** at the bottom left and type **cmd**. Command Prompt is the black window Windows uses for typed commands. When it appears in the list, right-click it and choose **Run as administrator**. Click **Yes** if Windows asks.

- 2 **Run the command.** Type the command below, or copy and paste it, then press **Enter**.

```
powercfg -h off
```

- 3 **Check it worked.** The prompt returns to a blank line with no message. That means it worked and the file is gone. If it was already off, nothing changes.

STEP 5 · PAUSE WINDOWS UPDATES

Updates download in the background and can land during market hours.

```
Windows + I > Settings
```

- 1 Open **Windows Update** (on older versions, Update & Security, then Windows Update).
- 2 Under **Pause updates**, choose the longest period offered, five weeks on current versions. The pause ends on its own, so renew it; let the updates install on a weekend, when you restart the VPS anyway.
- 3 In Settings, open **System**, then **Storage**.
So Windows does not run its own disk cleanups during a session.

Storage Sense

Off

05 NINJATRADER SETTINGS

NinjaTrader fills a drive quietly through recorded market data and chart history. The Setup Guide sets the settings that matter; check they are in place.

```
Control Center > Tools > Options > Market data
```

Record live data as historical

Off

That is the one that fills a small drive over time.

The chart > Data Series > Time Frame

Days to load

3

The Setup Guide sets 5. On a small VPS, set it to 3. Clara Core needs 20 bars of the current day before it can trade, about 40 minutes, and nothing from earlier days, so 3 days leaves a wide margin. Do not open charts you do not need; each one keeps its own history.

BACKTESTS

Run them on your own computer if you can. The full MNQ history is the largest thing NinjaTrader stores, and the VPS does not need it in order to trade.

If the VPS is your only option, it will do the job: run the cleanup in section O4 first so there is room, then run your backtests. When you are finished and ready to go back to trading, delete the data again so the machine stays lean. Close NinjaTrader, open **Documents**, then **NinjaTrader 8**, then **db**, and delete the five folders named in section O6: **cache**, **day**, **minute**, **replay** and **tick**. Delete the folders themselves, not only what is inside them, and touch nothing else in db.

06 HOUSEKEEPING, ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH

Close NinjaTrader first.

Documents > NinjaTrader 8

- 1 Delete the five data folders.** Inside **db**, delete these five folders: **cache**, **day**, **minute**, **replay** and **tick**. Delete the folders themselves, not only what is inside them. NinjaTrader rebuilds them and downloads the few days your chart needs the next time it connects. Never delete the db folder itself: it also holds your accounts and your order records.
- 2 Thin out the logs.** Inside **log** and **trace**, keep today and the last two closed days, and delete the rest. If today is the 25th, keep the 25th, the 24th and the 23rd.

- 3 Right-click the Recycle Bin on the desktop and choose **Empty Recycle Bin**. Until you do, the space is not free.

07 NEVER DELETE

LEAVE THESE ALONE

Inside the NinjaTrader 8 folder, leave **bin**, **templates** and **workspaces** alone. They hold the strategy, the indicators and your saved chart layouts. Leave the db folder itself in place, for the reason above.

08 WHAT WE SAW

The same HS-1, before and after, read line by line.

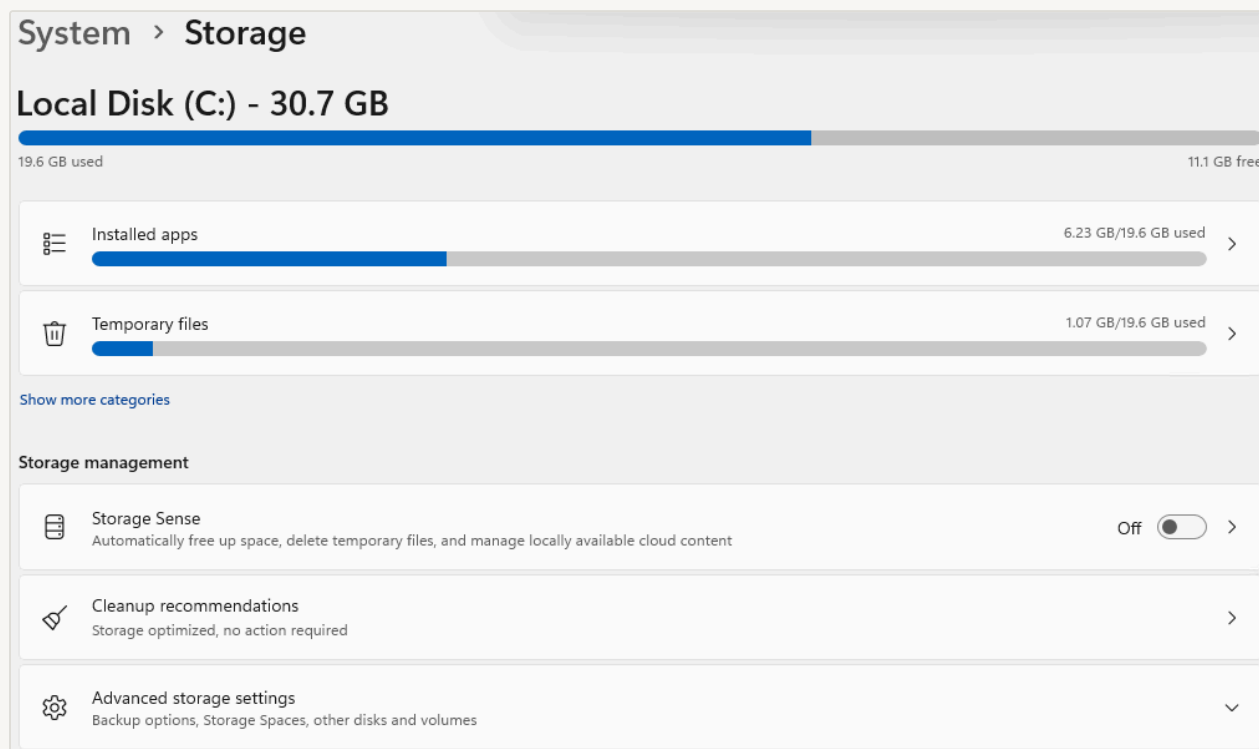
AS DELIVERED, WITH NINJATRADER 8 INSTALLED

Local Disk	30.7 GB
Used GB	30.4 GB
Free GB	372 MB

AFTER THE STEPS

Local Disk	30.7 GB
Used GB	19.6 GB
Free GB	11.1 GB

Same VPS, same Windows, same NinjaTrader, and the strategy kept trading on the days in between, including the days it ran with only 300 MB free and Windows warning about storage constantly. That is what made us do this in the first place, before paying for a bigger plan. A small VPS is enough for one strategy on one to three charts; what it needs is a clean machine. Just remember that the more you keep open, the slower it tends to get.



The same HS-1 after the steps: 19.6 GB used, 11.1 GB free.

WHAT THIS DID ON OURS

September 2026, one Hyonix HS-1 with a 30 GB drive: 372 MB free before, 11.1 GB free after. Those are our figures on our machine, not a promise about yours. Prices, plans and Windows versions change, so check before you buy.

Hyonix is the virtual private server we use to run Clara Core. We have run the HS-3 and the HS-2, and since September 2026 the HS-1 as well.

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Not investment advice. Trading futures involves substantial risk of loss.

Full disclosure: clarasystems.io/disclaimer