

# ChessBase Cafe

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## If You've Got Questions...

I was fully prepared to revisit online publishing, but got sidetracked by all the interesting questions you submitted. I'll return to getting your games, tournaments, and analysis on the WWW next month. This gives you a chance to participate by sending in a link to any online chess content you have created with ChessBase products. We'll compare, contrast, and look at various ways to improve the results.

### The E-mailbag

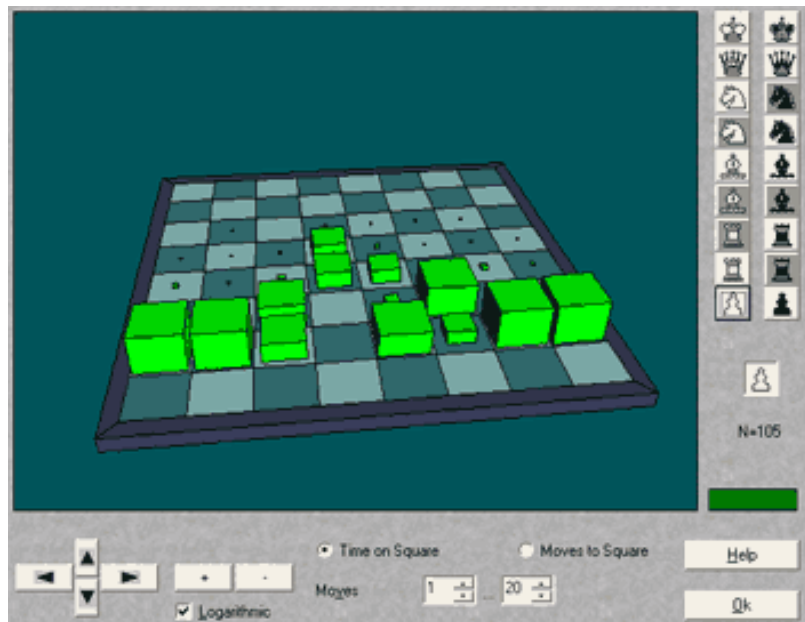
**Question** I upgraded online at Playchess.com, and now when I load Deep Fritz 8, my initial screen logo says "Shredder," and it is the gray Shredder color. What happened? – **John Potter**

**Answer** We'll take this opportunity to direct readers to the ChessBase Tech Support FAQ: <http://www.chesscafe.com/chessbasefaq/> . It covers the most common problems and questions, including this one.

At least 33% of the questions I receive can be answered in the online help files, which you can access by pressing the F1 key in your ChessBase program. (Brandon, this means you! Look up "save game" in the index.) Use the index and the search function in the help window. There is loads of useful information in there.

**Question** I wonder if it is possible to obtain the exact number instead of columns in the piece probability option in CB8? – **Merim Bilalic (England)**

**Answer** No, I'm afraid not. The hard data it uses to generate the graphic is not available. If you don't know what Merim is talking about you certainly aren't alone. The "piece probability" function is one of the most obscure in ChessBase 8. It looks cool, but is of dubious usefulness; graphically representing where pieces in selected games spend their time on the board.



The intended use of this feature is to supplement opening study by showing you the typical piece and pawn placement in an opening system. First, go to a database opening key or filter for an opening position you are interested in, then select all the games and press shift+s or right-click and choose Piece Probability. The feature is well described in the internal CB8 help file.

**Question** I have a question regarding the new streaming video capabilities of Fritz 8. Is anyone allowed to use these tools to publish lessons, or is special permission needed from ChessBase? Is there any special software needed to publish videos, or can it all be done using Fritz 8. – **Eric Hicks (USA)**

**Answer** Currently the CMS lesson creation tool is not included in any publicly available product. This very question has caused a lot of debate at ChessBase. Should the tools to make multimedia lessons be distributed to the masses, and if so, for free, as a separate product, or integrated into Fritz or ChessBase? So far the answer is that the encoding tools will remain in the hands of selected contributors, but this could easily change at any time.

Apart from simply wanting to keep things exclusive, another factor is quality control. If everyone starts making CMS lessons many of them are going to be junk and many will contain content that ChessBase would not approve of or want to be associated with. That could result in degrading the public perception of the product itself.

A few other possibilities ChessBase could consider are to license the lesson encoding technology or to let anyone make lessons, but establish themselves as a unique distributor/vendor (iTunes model).

**Question** I recently bought *Strategy and Tactics* by Peter Wells, but my Fritz 8 does not have CMS. I tried File-Open, but there's no Chess Media Files. I also tried Window-Panes, but there's no Chess Media System. I went to Playchess.com and clicked on Query Upgrade, but it responds that Fritz 8 is up-to-date. I don't have *ChessBase Magazine 96* containing the original CMS

upgrade, so I'm at a loss. – **Julio-Cesar Marin**

**Answer** It seems likely that you do not have a current Playchess.com account and/or registration number for your Fritz 8. You can't upgrade unless you have gone through the registration process and are logged in. Playchess won't tell you, unfortunately. Go to "About" under the Help menu and check the date in the window title. If it doesn't say April 7, 2004, you don't have the latest version. If you have a current account and are logged in, you should talk to an online administrator at Playchess.com to check your account status.

**Question** I have mainly used NCO and CM9000 in creating an opening repertoire for my 12 yr. old son. I would prefer a larger database, 2.6 million vs. 500,000 sounds good, but want to make sure I can set a position and have the software search the entire database for all games that reached that position regardless of initial opening.

It would be really nice not to have to count the number of wins for White vs. Black from that position. It is also important to be able to sort by date & ideally to filter by date and again have the software give me a count. Is Chessbase, MegaBase, Encyclopedia or PowerBook the answer? If Chessbase 8.0 is your recommendation, does the Starter vs. Mega package make any difference for what I'm after? Thanks in advance. – **Brett Hughes**

**Answer** This sort of search is a piece of cake for ChessBase. Position searches such as you describe can also be done in Fritz-family programs, but ChessBase 8 has many other repertoire-building functions as well. The MegaBase has the same game list as the Big Database except that thousands of the games are annotated by grandmasters. If you don't want the annotations get the Starter. The Mega is pricey, but contains a few thousands books worth of material you'll use for years. We looked at the differences between the various database products in December (see the [ChessCafe Archives](#)).

**Question** Is it possible to arrange games in a database window in another way than sorting? Eg, I have games 1.AA-AA 2.CC-CC 3.BB-BB and I want to switch games 2 and 3. – Regards, **Jan W. Balje**

**Answer** No, you can't, at least not without dragging them into a new database in the order you desire. This has long been one of my pet peeves. You cannot permanently change the order of the games in a database other than by using the sort function on the icon. If you run a sort on the game list it is temporary. A "move game up/down" function would be nice.

**Question** My question is about the Properties window for CB8 databases. The list of designations (My games, Work, etc.) has one unclear entry: BdF, with the shield icon. I can't think of a German acronym that would fit, but maybe I'm just being unimaginative. What is that entry supposed to be for? – **Philip Sells**

**Answer** Never let it be said that I'm not willing to tackle the big questions! A little Googling around led me to the page of the Deutschen Fernschachbund, aka

Bund deutscher Fernschachfreunde (<http://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/>), which is either the German Correspondence Chess Federation or something to do with cultivating ferns. Their initials are BdF and their symbol is a shield.

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All the ChessBase software described by Mig in this column, as well as many more ChessBase programs, are available in the [ChessCafe Online Catalog](#).

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***Mig wants your questions!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence. Yes, I have a question for Mig!***

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