



COLUMNISTS

ChessBase Cafe

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Achtung Baby

I've recently received quite a few e-mails that all ask the same question: "My *Fritz9* is in German! How do I correct this?"

Before we get to the solution, let's examine the cause, which will partially be conjecture on my part. ChessBase markets *Fritz* in a variety of countries and thus produces multiple versions of its software in different languages. Apparently a number of German versions were shipped to the United States, which resulted in some users seeing the menu items and engine's analysis in German. It is likely that the reason I am suddenly inundated with these queries now is that many people are probably taking advantage of vendor discounts on *Fritz9*, since the release of *Fritz10* is right around the corner.

So for what will likely be our last look at *Fritz9*, I'm going to explain how to correct this problem (and ultimately save myself some typing, because when I receive another "*Fritz* in German" query, I can just send the user a link to this article). This may seem like it's the proverbial "day late," but I'm sure that vendors will continue to sell *Fritz9* at a reduced price until the stock is exhausted.

To fix the problem, you will need to install a free upgrade (also known as a "service pack" or a "patch") via an Internet connection. There are two ways to get the upgrade. The first is the easiest and assumes that you've activated your account on the Playchess server. (If you have not yet done this, you can find information about it on pages 21 and 22 of your *Fritz9* manual – and you'll need the serial number located on the manual's cover anyway. It's your "passport" onto the Playchess server.)

After you've successfully logged onto the Playchess server, you can go to the Help menu and select the command "Query upgrade." This causes the *Fritz9* program to look for an updated version from ChessBase. If one is available (and if you're seeing your *Fritz* analysis in German, I guarantee that there will be one available), you'll be prompted to upgrade your program, at which point you click the "OK" button and just follow the prompts.

Be aware that this can be a somewhat lengthy process if you're using a dialup Internet connection. At 56.6kps it's likely to take about twenty-five

or thirty minutes for the download to complete, as *Fritz9* upgrades are usually about nine to ten megabytes in size. After the download has finished, you'll be prompted as to whether or not you want to close your Internet connection. I recommend that you do, in case you have to restart your computer. Next a dialogue will ask if you want to "Upgrade now?" Click in the affirmative and the program will update in just a few moments. You may then be prompted to restart your computer, and you should do so if prompted.

That's the easy way to upgrade your program: just select the command, follow the prompts, and you're all set. However, some users have opted not to activate their Playchess accounts and have no desire to do so. (I don't understand why, but that's not the point.) These users can still update their *Fritz9* program, but it takes some extra work.

Here are the steps for upgrading your *Fritz9* without logging onto the Playchess server. Note that you do *not* need to launch *Fritz9* in order to follow this process:

- Go online.
- Click on this [link](#) to access the upgrade file.

If, for some reason, clicking on that link does not work for you, cut and paste the URL into your browser's address bar:

- You'll see a dialogue asking if you want to save the file or open it from its present location. Select **save** and click "OK."
- Next you'll see the standard *Windows* file select dialogue that lets you designate the folder into which to save the file. This file **must** be saved into your **..\ChessProgram9** folder, otherwise you can't get the *Fritz9* program to update. The file you're saving isn't an executable file that can be run from any location, it's a data file that needs to be read by a separate executable file located in the same folder (as you'll see in a moment).

If you originally installed *Fritz9* to the folder recommended by the Setup Wizard, this is the folder you'll need to save the gui9.iup file into:

C:\Program Files\ChessBase\ChessProgram9

If you opted to change the default location, you're on your own – obviously I have no way of knowing what you changed it to. However, if you right-click on *Fritz9*'s desktop icon and select "Properties" from the popup menu, the text in the "Target" field will provide you with that information.

- After you've selected the proper **..\ChessProgram9** folder, click "OK" to start the download. Note (as above) that the download file

is quite large and can take twenty-five to thirty minutes to download on a dialup connection.

- After the file has finished downloading, launch *My Computer* or *Windows Explorer* and go to your **..\ChessProgram9** folder. You'll see a file called **IUPgrade.exe**; double-click on this file to launch it. If you see a dialogue asking "Upgrade now?" click "OK," and restart your computer if you're prompted to do so.

After you've successfully updated your *Fritz9* program, you'll see all the menu items and verbal analysis in English instead of German.

Until next month, have fun!

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

Steve 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 Steve!](#)

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