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ChessBase logo <sup>[4]</sup>

**ChessBase GmbH** is a German chess software company located in [Hamburg](#). ChessBase is marketing chess software, maintaining a chess news site <sup>[1]</sup> and is operating [Playchess](#), a server to play chess online <sup>[2] [3]</sup>.

*For the Chess database see main article [ChessBase \(Database\)](#).*

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## History and Products

ChessBase was founded in 1986 by Physicist [Matthias Wüllenweber](#) and Journalist [Frederic Friedel](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, eponymous was the [chess game database](#) developed by Wüllenweber for [Atari ST](#) computers. End of the 80s the chess database program was ported by [Mathias Feist](#) to the [IBM PC](#) and [MS-DOS](#) operating system, released as ChessBase 3.0 for Atari and PC. ChessBase 4.0 was the last Atari release, and already included the chess playing program [Fritz](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, based on the program [Quest](#) by [Frans Morsch](#), which was also market as stand alone product.

## Fritz Family

In the early 90s ChessBase focused on [Microsoft](#) operating systems, MS-DOS and since 1994 [Windows](#), notably as *ChessBase for Windows* and *Fritz 4*, not only the engine but also a [Graphical User Interface](#) for other chess-playing programs of the "Fritz Family" by various top commercial authors, most notably [Junior](#), [Hiarcs](#), [Shredder](#), [Chess Tiger](#), the [Zappa](#) version *Zap!Chess*, since 2008 [Rybka](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, since November 2012 [Houdini 3](#) <sup>[8] [9]</sup>, since November 2013 **Deep Fritz 14** with [Gyula Horváth](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, and in November 2015 **Fritz 15** with [Vasik Rajlich](#) as engine authors, since September 2014, [Komodo 8](#) <sup>[11]</sup>.

## Young Talents

In May 2000, ChessBase released a CD with seven different amateur chess programs dubbed *Young Talents*, able to natively communicate with the proprietary [Fritz](#) or [ChessBase GUI](#) <sup>[12]</sup>:

- [AnMon 5.07](#) by [Christian Barreteau](#)
- [Goliath Light](#) aka Little Goliath by [Michael Borgstädt](#)
- [Gromit 3.1](#) by [Frank Schneider](#) and [Kai Skibbe](#)
- [Ikarus 0.18](#) by [Munjong](#) and [Muntsin Kolss](#)
- [Patzer 3.11](#) by [Roland Pfister](#)
- [Phalanx XXII](#) by [Dušan Dobeš](#)
- [SOS](#) by [Rudolf Huber](#)

## Misc

ChessBase is also publishing company of chess games, various chess multimedia products, such as the chess teaching software [Fritz & Chesster](#) <sup>[13]</sup>, chess opening monographs, and the Music composing software *Ludwig* <sup>[14] [15] [16]</sup>, developed by Matthias Wüllenweber.

## Publications

- [Frederic Friedel](#) (1990). *Chessbase*. [ICCA Journal](#), Vol. 13, No. 3

## Best-Publication Award

In 1999 ChessBase has offered to continue the [Mephisto / Novag Award](#), until 2010 the ChessBase Best-Publication Award which enables the [ICGA](#) to distinguish a researcher or a group of researchers for their excellence.

## Quote 1999

[ICCA Journal](#), Vol. 22, No. 3, *Many Changes* <sup>[17]</sup>:

Fifth, the ChessBase organisation has expressed the willingness to cooperate more closely with the [ICCA](#). In addition to their articles (see the article by [Frederic Friedel](#) and also the Correspondence section), they have contributed a CD ROM for our readership containing opinions bridging the gap between human Grandmasters and top programs.

Sixth, the ChessBase organisation has offered to continue the Mephisto/Novag Award. For 1999 we will again have an Award, of course now called the ChessBase Best-Publication Award, which enables the ICCA to distinguish a researcher or a group of researchers for their excellence.

## Quote 2010

[ICGA Journal](#), Vol. 33, No. 2, *The 2008 and 2009 ChessBase Best-Publication Awards*:

The aim of the ChessBase Best-Publication Award nominators is to identify the author(s) whose work has made the biggest contribution to computer games in the years 2008 and 2009. The selection committee consisted of [Bruno Bouzy](#), [Ivan Bratko](#), [I-Chen Wu](#), [Shun-Chin Hsu](#), [Paolo Ciancarini](#), [Reijer Grimbergen](#), [Dap Hartmann](#), [Jaap van den Herik](#), [Ulf Lorenz](#), and [Jonathan Schaeffer](#). The secretary of the committee was [Prof.dr. A. Plaat](#). After the nominations were determined for the 2008 and 2009 award, the members Bruno Bouzy and Jaap van den Herik (for 2008) and Jaap van den Herik and Shun-Chin Hsu (for 2009) withdrew from the committee, since they were included in a nomination.

## Quote 2011

[ICGA Journal, Vol. 34, No. 3, The 2010 Best-Publication Award:](#)

In 2011 the ChessBase company informed us that after twelve years of sponsorship they believed that it was time to stop with the ChessBase Best-Publication award. Although we regret their decision we would like to express the ICGA's gratitude towards the generous sponsorship of twelve consecutive years. Thank you, Matthias Wüllenweber and Frederic Friedel, you did an excellent job for our community and for its dedicated members by offering the best researchers among them a platform where their performance was recognized.

## Winners

Winners of the [ChessBase Best-Publication Award](#) 1999-2010:

- [Ernst Heinz](#) (1999). [Scalable Search in Computer Chess](#).
- [Eugene Nalimov](#) (2000). [Endgame Tablebases](#)
- [John Romein](#) (2001). *Multigame - An Environment for Distributed Game-Tree Search*. Ph.D. thesis, [Vrije Universiteit](#), supervisor [Henri Bal](#), [pdf](#)
- [Brian Sheppard](#) (2002). *Towards Perfect Play of Scrabble*. Ph.D. thesis, [Maastricht University](#), [pdf](#)
- [Jeroen Donkers](#) (2003). *Nosce Hostem - Searching with Opponent Models*. Ph.D. thesis, [Universiteit Maastricht](#), [pdf](#)
- [Mark Winands](#) (2004). *Informed Search in Complex Games*. Ph.D. thesis, [Universiteit Maastricht](#), [pdf](#)
- [Akihiro Kishimoto](#) (2005). *Correct and Efficient Search Algorithms in the Presence of Repetitions*. Ph.D. thesis, [University of Alberta](#), [pdf](#)
- [Darse Billings](#) (2006). [Algorithms and Assessment in Computer Poker](#). Ph.D. thesis, [University of Alberta](#)
- [Jonathan Schaeffer](#), [Neil Burch](#), [Yngvi Björnsson](#), [Akihiro Kishimoto](#), [Martin Müller](#), [Rob Lake](#), [Paul Lu](#), [Steve Sutphen](#) (2007). [Checkers is Solved](#). *Science*, Vol. 317, no. 5844
- [Jonathan Schaeffer](#), [Yngvi Björnsson](#), [Neil Burch](#), [Akihiro Kishimoto](#), [Martin Müller](#), [Rob Lake](#), [Paul Lu](#), [Steve Sutphen](#) (2005). *Solving Checkers*. [IJCAI 2005](#), [pdf](#)
- [Guillaume Chaslot](#), [Mark Winands](#), [Jos Uiterwijk](#), [Jaap van den Herik](#), [Bruno Bouzy](#) (2008). *Progressive Strategies for Monte-Carlo Tree Search*. [New Mathematics and Natural Computation](#), Vol. 4, No. 3
- [Olivier Teytaud](#), [Jean-Yves Audibert](#), [Guillaume Chaslot](#), [Louis Chatriot](#), [Christophe Fiter](#), [Sylvain Gelly](#), [Rémi Munos](#), [Jean-Baptiste Hoock](#), [Julien Pérez](#), [Arpad Rimmel](#), [Yizao Wang](#), [Thomas Héroult](#), [Vincent Danjean](#) (2009). [MoGo that won: one 19x19 Go game with 6-stone handicap vs a professional player, one 19x19 Go game with 7-stone handicap vs a professional player, one 9x9 Go game as Black vs a professional player](#).
- [Shih-Chieh Huang](#), [Rémi Coulom](#) (2010). [Erica](#), the [Go](#) Program that won the [Go 2010 Computer Olympiad](#).

## Forum Posts

- [Open letter to ChessBase](#) by [Ed Schröder](#), [rgcc](#), January 09, 1997
- [chessbase is selling free engines](#) by [Uri Blass](#), [CCC](#), July 25, 2004
- [Are nalimov EGTB's a copyright from chessbase?](#) by [Vincent Diepeveen](#), [CCC](#), June 07, 2004

## External Links

- [ChessBase from Wikipedia](#)
- [ChessBase news](#)
- [ChessBase Support - Wiki](#)
- [ChessBase online Database](#)
- [Christmas dinner on a train – meet the ChessBase team](#), [ChessBase News](#), December 23, 2003
- [Who is Who at ChessBase](#) from [ChessBase auf Helgoland](#), June 16, 2004
- [The ChessBase Christmas Party – part 1](#) by [Nadja Wittmann](#), [ChessBase News](#), December 28, 2010
- [The ChessBase Christmas Party – part 2](#) by [Frederic Friedel](#) and [Nadja Wittmann](#), [ChessBase News](#), January 04, 2011
- [ChessBase is 25 – everything 25% off in our shop](#) from [ChessBase News](#), May 19, 2011 <sup>[18]</sup>
- [Greetings from Pál Benkö for 25 years of ChessBase](#) from [ChessBase News](#), May 20, 2011
- [ChessBase is 25: Birthday greetings from Anand](#) from [ChessBase News](#), June 1, 2011
- [Kasparov on 25 Years of ChessBase](#) from [ChessBase News](#), June 8, 2011
- [2013 ChessBase Christmas party](#) by [Nadja Wittmann](#), [ChessBase News](#), December 24, 2013

## References

1. ^ [ChessBase news](#)
2. ^ [Playchess from Wikipedia](#)
3. ^ [Play chess online](#)
4. ^ [ChessBase News > Home](#)
5. ^ [Christmas dinner on a train – meet the ChessBase team](#), [ChessBase News](#), December 23, 2003
6. ^ [Fritz \(chess\) from Wikipedia](#)
7. ^ [ChessBase Shop - Chess Programs](#)
8. ^ [Houdini 3 Standard multiprocessor version](#), [ChessBase Shop](#)
9. ^ [Houdini 3 Pro mulitprocessor version](#), [ChessBase Shop](#)
10. ^ [New Fritz author?](#) by John Hartmann, [CCC](#), November 19, 2013
11. ^ [Komodo 8](#) - [ChessBase Shop](#), September 10, 2014
12. ^ [Young Talents](#) from [Support - ChessBase](#), May 28, 2000
13. ^ [Fritz & Chesster Part 3 – Review in USA Today](#)
14. ^ [Music Software Ludwig](#)
15. ^ [Ludwig from ChessBase](#)
16. ^ [Smudo, Vaile, Vladimir and Ludwig – when chess meets music](#)
17. ^ [ICCA Journal, Vol. 22, No. 3](#)
18. ^ [Schach-Datenbank-Marktführer Chessbase: Der Gründer programmiert selbst](#) - [taz.de](#), by

[Hartmut Metz](#), May 19, 2011 (German)

[Up one Level](#)