

FAQ – ChessBase - How to Send a database

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I. Overview

ChessBase has several ways to send a game to another person but not a way to send multiple games as a collection other than as a database.

There are essentially two ways you can send a ChessBase Database to someone.

- **Method 1:** Find and zip all parts of the relational database parts of the desired database and send that zip file. The receiving party then unzips your zip file placing all the files where they desire.
- **Method 2:** Use the “Backup” feature built into ChessBase to have it gather and package everything that is needed into a .CBV file, send the .CBV file and then have the recipient open the .CBV from within CB.

Method 1 is more work than Method 2, is easier to make a mistake and requires both parties to be very comfortable with zipping and unzipping files and managing files.

Method 2 is much more reliable (no multiple files to carefully select and manage) and simpler.

Sending a Database got a little bit more complicated when ChessBase 17 introduced a new version of their database under-the-hood. Since older versions of ChessBase can't open the newer database format, it's now necessary for the sender to be sure they know that the receiver can open the newer version. For this reason, I recommend that everyone always send a database in the older format so that you don't think about who you are sending it to and what version they have. If you are using the older versions of ChessBase, you don't have to think about this at all since you can only send the older version.

- The older version was called: .CBH
- The newer version is called: .2CBH

By default, any new database created in versions 17 or greater are created in the new format.

ChessBase provides a method to convert back and forth between these two formats so that newer databases can be opened by the older versions of ChessBase. If you are not sure if someone you are sending a database to has CB 17 or newer, it is safest to always send the database in the older format to ensure it can be opened by the recent.

A common misunderstanding and mistake that people often make is that they think they can send or copy a database by dealing with just the .CBH or .2CBH file. These files represent the actual database which is composed of multiple files as it is actually a relational database.

- It is NOT possible to send a .CBH or .2CBH to another person and have it work.

ChessBase provides a mechanism to let you **Backup** a database so that it can be copied or moved. It can be thought of as functioning as a “zip” file does. The ChessBase backup gathers all the parts of the relational database in a single file that can then be opened from within CB to automatically “unpack” all the files. It is this **Backup** that you can send to another ChessBase user.

When you create a Backup of a database, it is given the designation of .CBV and will appear with the following Icon when viewed in Windows Explorer



When the .CBV is opened from within ChessBase, the .CBH or .2CBH and related files are extracted and placed in the folder with the .CBV. The .CBV remains and is not removed.

II. Procedure

This procedure describes how to create a single database that can be re-used to send different content to different people without having to create multiple databases.

A. Creating a new database

1. Create a new database to be reused for sending to different people.
2. Locate the database, perhaps in it's own sub-folder to make it easier to manage re-using it

B. Convert the database if necessary so it can be opened by older versions of CB

1. Select the database you created.
2. Right-Click it and select "Convert to .CBV" if that is displayed.
 - o Do NOT convert it to .2CBV if that is displayed.

C. Add games you want to send into the Database you created.

1. Drag/Drop or Copy/Paste any games you want to send into the database you created.

D. Remove any games from previous sending from the Database you created.

1. Open the database.
2. Select the games you do not want to send and press the delete key.
 - o This should show those games as greyed and crossed out.
3. Exit the database.
4. Make sure the database is selected.
5. Go to Maintenance in the main CB window and select "Remove Deleted Games"

E. Backup the database you created

1. Select the database.
2. Do CTL - Z or Right-click and select Tools, Backup (which is the same as CTL-Z)
3. Select OK to keep it Unencrypted.
4. When the Save window opens, by default, it will try to save the Backup into the same folder as your Database. Let it do this, do not change the location.
5. Use a name that clearly identifies what you are sending, then click OK.
 - o For example: 2025-1
 - o 1-27 - Joe Smith Lesson

F. Finding and sending the Backup file you created

1. Right click the database in the main window
 - o Select Show in Windows Explorer
2. Select the . CBV you just created.
3. Copy the . CBV
4. Go to your email and paste the . CBV as an attachment to an email you will send.

G. Instructions to explain how to use what you sent.

Provide the following instructions to whom you are sending the Backup file to.

1. Save the attached . CBV into a folder for this and any others you send to them.
2. Open ChessBase
3. Select Open, navigate to where the backup was saved and select the Backup and open it.