

Usage Document for Ermine Chess Application

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What is Ermine Chess Application?

This program is a chess engine with simple complexity. The program will allow users to play chess with a timer like playing chess in real life. There are two options for players to choose when creating a new game: play with a computer or play with a friend. Ermine Chess Application has all the basic features that a chess application must have: Different ways to create a game and choose the difficulty of the game.

The application's navigational menu contains three primary labels: Game, Save, and Show. The first label – New game, will offer several options to create a new game. As I mentioned above, the players could play with a computer or a real player. There is an additional option that allows players to customize their own chess board.

In the second label – Save, players can save their current game and continue playing it at another time.

The move log will be displayed to track which piece has been moved and where it has been placed. Moreover, this program will understand special cases in chess such as castling and en passant. In the third label – Show will allow players to hide the move log if they think it may distract their attention.

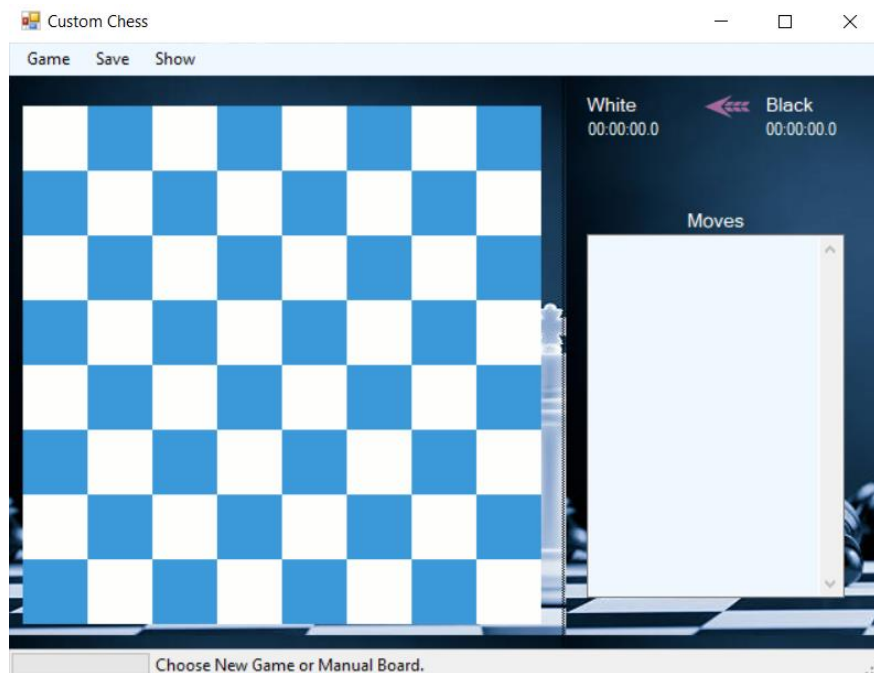


Figure 1: The final design of Ermine Chess Application

How the program works

Because this is a chess-playing program, the way of using it is not too complex. All players from children and teenagers to the elderly can easily get used to the interface of the program and remember how to control it. All the players need to do is create a new game and play! When the program is opened, you need to look at Game – the first label on the menu. Its submenu contains all options related to creating and customizing a new chess game.

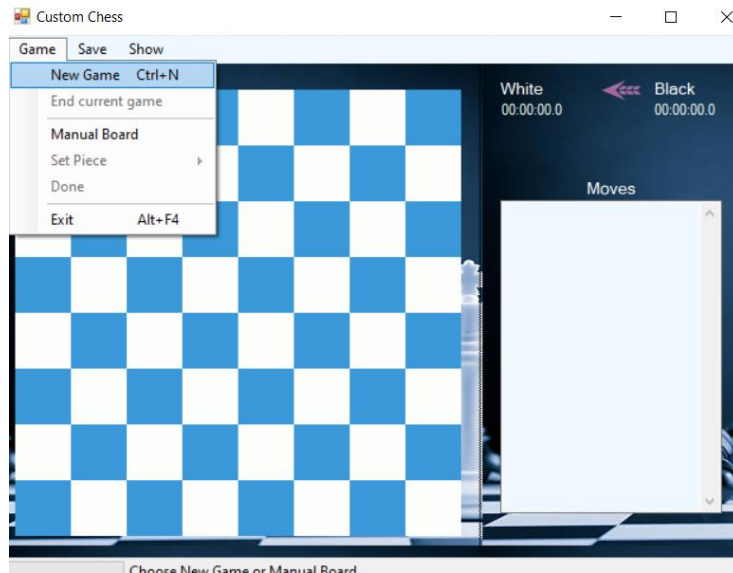


Figure 2: Game submenu

When the players click on New Game or use the shortcut key Ctrl-N, the New Game box will appear at the center of the screen. Now, the players will interact with the program by choosing the game mode and difficulty that they want to play. Currently, there are three game options: the players can play with a computer, play with their real friends, or watch two computers play with each other. The players can also enter their names in the name box. After everything is set up, click on the Start button to start the game or click on the Cancel button to close the New Game box and come back to the main screen.

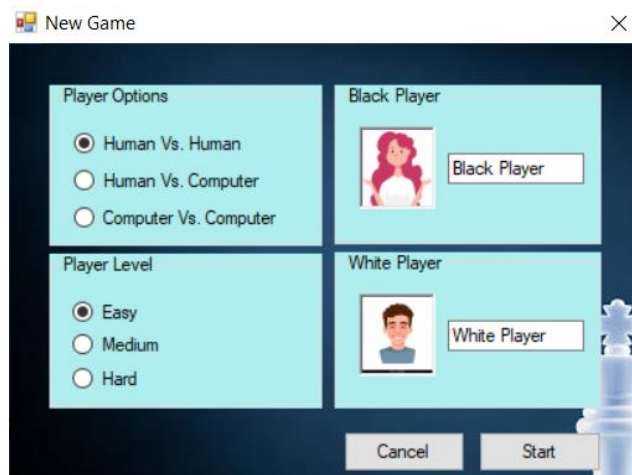


Figure 3: The New Game menu

During the chess game, some interesting options on the menu could support the players like Show/Hide Move Log function located in the Show label on the menu.

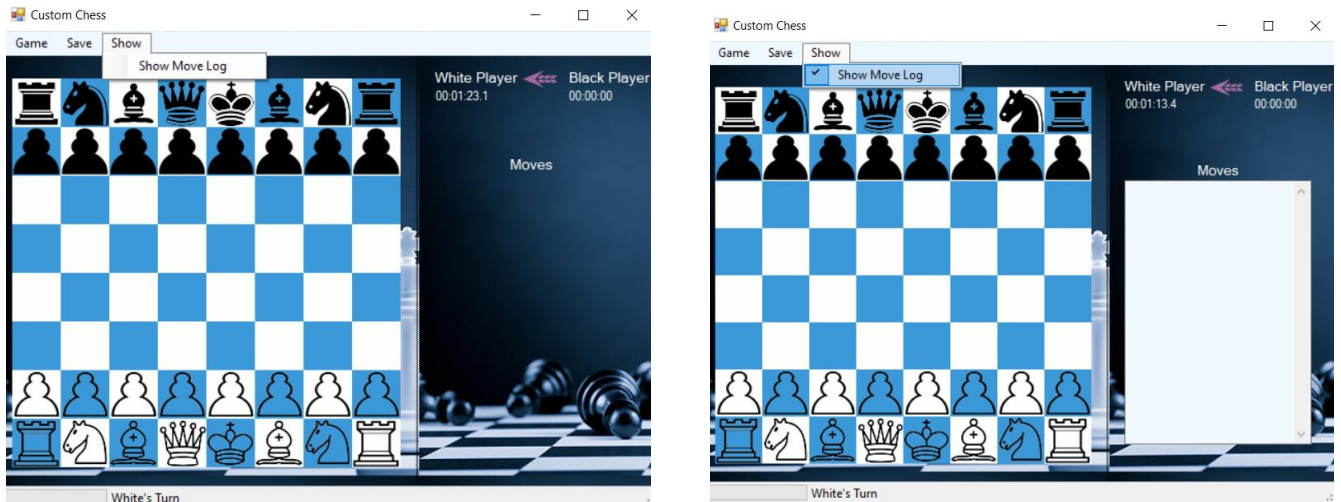


Figure 4: Show/Hide Move Log

In special cases, some issues happened while the player is playing chess, for that reason, the player must stop the game. These cases always make the players disappointed as they were enjoying the game. To solve this problem, a Save Game option (Ctrl-S) has been included in the submenu of the Save label.

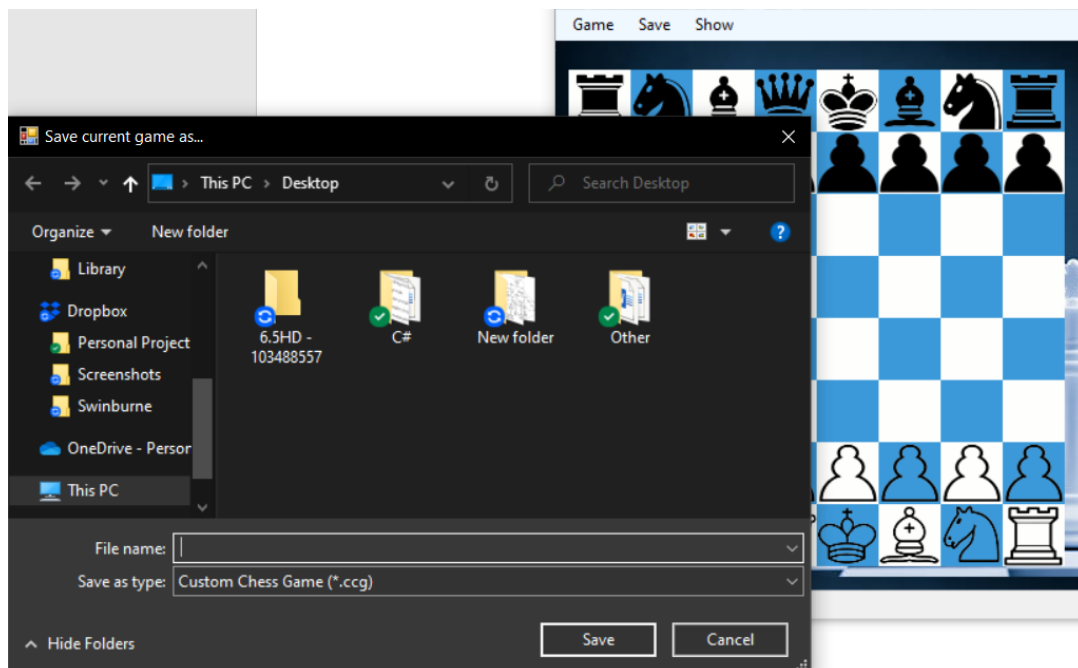


Figure 5: Save Game Dialog