



One Jump Ahead: Computer Perfection at Checkers

By Jonathan Schaeffer



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It's hard to believe that it's been over a decade since One Jump Ahead: Challenging Human Supremacy at Checkers was published. I'm delighted to have the oppor- nity to update and expand the book. The ?rst edition ended on a sad note and that was re?ected in the writing. It is now eleven years later and the project has come to a satisfying conclusion. Since its inception, the checkers project has consumed eighteen years of my life? twenty if you count the pre-CHINOOK and post-solving work. It's hard for me to believe that I actually stuck with it for that long. My wife, Steph, would probably have something witty to say about my obsessive behavior. Rereading the book after a decade was dif?cult for me. When I originally wrote One Jump Ahead, I vowed to be candid in my telling of the story. That meant being honest about what went right and what went wrong. I have been criticized for being hard on some of the characters. That may be so, but I hope everyone will agree that the person receiving the most criticism was, justi?ably, me. I tried to be balanced in the storytelling, re?ecting things as they really happened and not as some sanitized everyone-lived-happilyever-after tale.

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One Jump Ahead: Computer Perfection at Checkers By Jonathan Schaeffer Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

The new edition of this extraordinary book depicts the creation of the world champion checkers computer program, Chinook. In only two years, Chinook had become a worthy opponent to the world champion, and within four years had defeated all the world's top human players. Jonathan Schaeffer, the originator and leader of the Chinook team, details the mistakes and technical problems made and the lessons learned in the continuous effort to improve Chinook's performance, revealing the human factor behind the program's design. The development of Chinook begins in 1988 as an innocent question asked over lunch and is followed to the final match against then world champion, Marion Tinsley, and ultimately to its recent triumph, solving checkers. Schaeffer's unwaveringly honest narrative features new anecdotes, updated material and technology descriptions, and additional photos and figures, providing an engrossing account of an obsessive quest to achieve perfection in computer checkers.

Jonathan Schaeffer is a professor of Computing Science at the University of Alberta. His research interests are in artificial intelligence, and he is well known for using games to demonstrate his ideas. He has achieved success building high-performance programs for chess, checkers and poker. Today, most of his research effort is devoted to addressing the challenging problems of the commercial games industry.

"In his unique voice, Jonathan Schaeffer describes the ups and downs of a research project where the ultimate goal is perfection. And Schaeffer is brutally honest about his failures to live up to this standard. When he finally succeeds at his eighteen-year quest, the reader can't help but share the emotions of the moment."

-- Murray S. Campbell, member of IBM's Deep Blue Supercomputer development team

About the Author

The scientists who developed Chinook rigorously proved that Chinook can never lose, i.e. computer checkers has been solved. Author Schaeffer detailed the process on the web site of the journal *Science* in July 2007, and the story has since been reported in the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Discover Magazine*, as well as on MSNBC and CNN, among others.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lula Estes:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to

reading a publication. The book One Jump Ahead: Computer Perfection at Checkers it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

Virginia Benoit:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love One Jump Ahead: Computer Perfection at Checkers, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Dolores Crook:

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually One Jump Ahead: Computer Perfection at Checkers. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Mamie Contreras:

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