

PDN (Portable Draughts Notation)

Introduction

Portable Draughts (Checkers) Notation is the standard computer-processable format for recording draughts games. This format is derived from Portable Game Notation (PGN), which is the standard chess format¹

A custom version of PDN was used in CheckersApp

PDN Basics

The PDN notation consist of 5 fundamental characters (“/”, “x”, “k”, “X”, “K”) and any other character to indicate space. PDN is read and interpreted from the top to bottom in a Checkers board

“/” - a new row in the Board (first row should start without “/”)

“x” - black Checker’s piece

“k” - black Checker’s king

“X” - white Checker’s piece

“K” - white Checker’s king

PDN and Board Dimension

The distribution of Pieces on the Board is correlated with the Board Dimension, thus; the structure of PDN should depend on Board Size. The number of rows indicated in the PDN by “/” symbol should equal Board height.

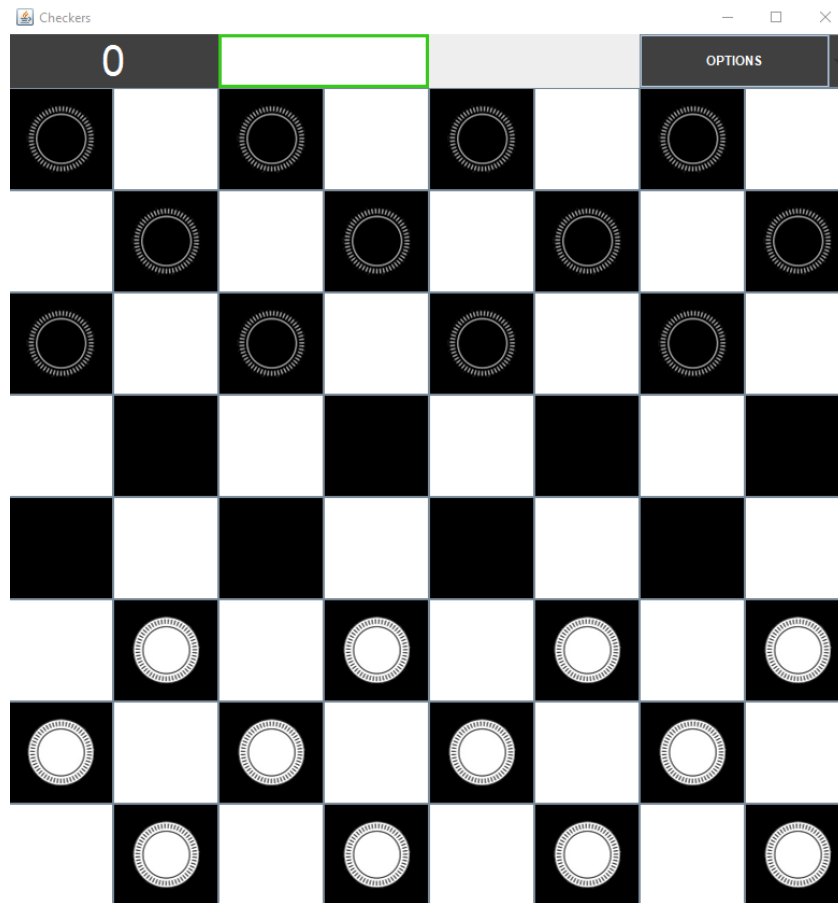
Similarly, the number of characters between two rows (“/”) should equal Board width. The rule for number of characters between two rows only apply if there is at least one piece / king placed in that row.

Examples

For example; the starting position for checkers in Board of 8x8 would look like;

xxxx/xxxx/xxxx/4/4/XXXX/XXXX/XXXX

This can be interpreted as; 3 rows of black pieces followed by 2 empty rows and 3 rows of white pieces



As another example, consider this random Checkers position PDN and corresponding GUI

x44x/x444/44x4/X44x/K444/4/xXXX/4

