Chess Endgame News

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Since the last 'CEN' (Haworth, 2015) there has been some progress and the services listed for convenience in the references remain online, thanks to their authors' commendable *pro bono* spirit.

Ronald de Man's sub-7-man DTZ_{50}' EGTs are being increasingly adopted by chess engines, especially in competition, though there have been some glitches in their use in both TCEC_9 of 2016 where the arbiter unexpectedly declared a 50-move-draw as a win, and in the ICGA WSCC of 2017. Their compactness increases their popularity, at the cost of search-time and strict accuracy (as one ply is deducted from the depth of some pre-empted wins and losses). They can and should (Vlasák, 2017b) be used to advantage and with convenience by engines from, at worst, a USB 3.0 SSD source.

We still lack a complete set of s7m DTZ EGTs but DTC EGTs suffice for pawnless endgames and de Man's data gives reliable figures where there are no 50-move-pre-empted positions downstream.

Vlasák (2017a) discusses the new 'CQL5' Chess Query Language by Costeff and Stiller (2017). This has more functionality than the previous CQL but is not backwards compatible and so imposes quite a learning curve. Anyone willing to share scripts with the author is welcome to do so.

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