1 Proposal: Arabic Currency Sign Rial

This is a proposal for encoding the Iranian Rial sign in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard. This character is an Arabic compatibility character, needed for one-to-one mapping from Iranian 7-bit and 8-Bit character set standards ISIRI 2900 [1] and ISIRI 3342 [2]. In those standards, it is encoded in positions 2/4 and A/4, respectively. It is also on the Iranian keyboard standard ISIRI 2901 [3] on the Shift+4 position.

This character has been available as a key on Persian typewriters before computers were deployed in Iran. The character shape is usually a little bit narrower than normal writing of the word Rial in the Arabic script (possibly because of space restrictions on places like price tags and typewriter wheels). The origin of the characters seems to be Iranian national standard ISIRI 820 [4], where it is claimed to be invented by the standards committee:

“The Rial sign is the down-sized shape of the word Rial. It is an invention of the Standards Committee for Persian Letters in Typewriters and Computers, and its shape should be identical to the shape proposed by this committee. This letter only occupies one letter of space in typewritten text, is specially useful in banking and accounting tasks, and will be the source of many facilitations.”

This sign can be encoded as a sequence of six existing characters, namely ⟨200C 0631 06CC 0627 0644 200C⟩, but we believe that because of the need for round-trip compatibility of UCS with ISIRI 2900 and ISIRI 3342, and the character’s special meaning as a currency sign (as used in Iranian software), it is needed in ISO/IEC 10646. Also, because some popular technologies, like X11, do not support assigning a sequence of characters to a single keyboard key, and this character is present on the Iranian standard keyboard, there is a need for encoding it.

This character has been accepted by the Unicode Technical Committee, at its 22 May 2001 meeting, to be encoded in the Unicode Standard as U+FDFC, with the character properties mentioned in the next section.
2 Unicode Character Properties

Code value: FDFC
Character name: ARABIC CURRENCY SIGN RIAL
General Category: Sc (Symbol, Currency)
Canonical Combining Classes: 0 (Spacing)
Bidirectional Category: AL (Right-to-left Arabic)
Character Decomposition Mapping: <isolated> 0631 06CC 0627 0644
Mirrored: N (No)

References


A Administrative

1. Title: Arabic Currency Sign Rial
2. Requester’s name: Roozbeh Pournader
3. Requester type: Expert Contribution
4. Submission date: 20 September 2001
5. Requester’s reference:
6. (Choose one of the following:)
   This is a complete proposal: Yes
   or, More information will be provided later: No

B Technical—General

1. (Choose one of the following:)
   a. This proposal is for a new script: No
   Proposed name of script:
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: Yes
      Name of the existing block: Arabic Presentation Forms-A (proposed code point: U+FDFC)
2. Number of characters in proposal: 1 (One)
3. Proposed category: A
4. Proposed Level of Implementation: 1
   Is a rationale provided for the choice? Yes
   If Yes, reference: The proposed character is like similar compatibility characters in the Arabic Presentation Forms blocks.
5. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000? Yes
   b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes
6. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font for publishing the standard?
   Roozbeh Pournader, Sharif University of Technology (roozbeh@sharif.edu)
   If available now, identify source(s) for the font and indicate the tools used:
7. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? No
8. Special encoding issues:
   Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing,
transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? Yes, Unicode character properties are included.

C Technical—Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? No
   If YES explain:

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community? Yes
   If YES, with whom? Iranian national body (ISIRI), Persian Academy for Language and Literate, members of the technical committee for Iranian Information Technology standards
   If YES, available relevant documents:

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters is included? Yes
   Reference: All users of Iranian character set standards; some users of Iranian standard keyboards

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare): It’s a character for the Iranian currency unit Rial; Common
   Reference:

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? Yes
   If YES, where? In applications that support the Iranian character set standards
   Reference:

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document, must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? Yes
   If YES, is a rationale provided? Yes
   If YES, reference: It should be kept with other characters in the ‘Arabic Presentation Forms-A’ block.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? Yes
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? Yes

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? No
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? No
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? No
   If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
   If YES, reference:
   Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
   If YES, reference:

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? No
   If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary):

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? No
   If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?
   If YES, reference: