

The Unicode Consortium
President
Mr. Mark Davis
Mountain View, CA, U.S.A.

Erlangen, 6. März 2007

Standardisation of “Capital sharp-S”

Dear Mr. Davis,

we are in favour of supporting the assignment of a codepoint for the letter “Capital Sharp-S” (Latin Capital Letter Sharp S) to the character standard ISO 10646. From our point of view this encoding is a necessary measure to fix the issue of the missing uppercase counterpart of lowercase “ß” in German orthography, which is under consideration now for 128 years.

As a non-profit organization we support with emphasis the encoding proposal by DIN, being aware of the fact that, to avoid disapproval, the new letter would have to be technically realized first before getting adopted by official institutions.

Monitoring the behaviour of the user community reveals a remarkably increasing affinity to capitalization of “ß”, regardless of what the administrative spelling reform may have induced otherwise in the German speaking area. In this tendency the desire of unambiguous expression and an expectation of systemic coherence within the alphabet become manifest.

We regard it highly desirable that data processing matches this development of writing conventions. Otherwise a correct representation of the written language by computers will no longer be maintained.

Yours sincerely,



(Chief Editor)