

Title: Unicode Liaison Report

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Action: For review by WG2 experts

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The Unicode Consortium is pleased to report on-going progress in development of the Universal Character Set resulting from collaboration with SC2, as well as progress on the Unicode Standard and related standards and technologies.

Synchronization

At Unicode Technical Committee (UTC) meetings since WG2 meeting 53, UTC experts have reviewed progress in on-going SC2 work to incorporate appropriate changes into the Unicode Standard. UTC experts also continue to work on processing new US contributions for submission to WG2 as well as contributions coming from other countries with a view to maintaining close synchronization between Unicode and ISO/IEC 10646.

Preparation of Unicode 5.2

The Unicode Consortium is actively working on preparation of Unicode 5.2, with content synchronized with ISO/IEC 10646:2003 plus amendments 1 through 6. The target date for publication is fall of 2009.

Planning for Unicode 6.0

The Unicode Consortium has been tentatively planning on a major-version release, Unicode 6.0, with content synchronized with amendments of ISO/IEC 10646 that are in preparation as of the end of WG2 Meeting 54 in Dublin. As plans for preparation of a new edition of ISO/IEC 10646 are firmed up, the Unicode Consortium will incorporate those plans into their planning for Unicode 6.0.

Korean Issues

The Unicode Consortium is continuing to evaluate Korean concerns with representation of Korean text. We re-iterate concerns expressed previously regarding incompatibilities between Korean standard KS X 1026-1: 2007 and normative definition of normalization in ISO/IEC 10646 and Unicode. At the same time, we perceive the intent of that Korean standard to focus primarily on preferred representation of Korean text in information interchange. The Unicode Consortium will be evaluating changes that may be possible in the Unicode Standard to mitigate Korean concerns while preserving synchronization in the definition of normalization between Unicode and ISO/IEC 10646.

CJK Ideograph Variations and Compatibility Characters

The Unicode Consortium continues to encourage SC2 and its member national bodies, particularly those in East Asia, to consider the use of variation-selector sequences and the Ideographic Variation Database (IVD) as mechanisms for handling encoded representation of ideograph variants and as an alternative to encoding of additional compatibility characters in the UCS.

In relation to this, we would like SC2 member bodies to note two recent document contributions to WG2:

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| N3591 | Information on the Unicode Ideographic Variation Database — Letter to SC2 |
| N3590 | Handling Glyph Shapes for Government Use in WG2/N3530 via Variation Sequences |

The Unicode Consortium maintains the IVD as a registry and reserves the right to collect fees for use in maintaining the registry. To accommodate usage of SC2 member bodies, the Unicode Consortium will waive any fees for registrations sponsored by SC2. Document N3591 expresses this commitment formally.

To facilitate SC2 member bodies that may be evaluating the possibility of submitting IVD registrations, document N3590 provides clarification on IVD and on the process of registration. Examples are provided showing how a registration could be prepared. These examples make reference to cases currently being considered by Japan.