

## Customized Emoji Tag Registration

To: UTC  
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Document [L2/16-009](#) (“Unicode Customized Emoji Framework”) describes an overall framework for customized emoji. The initial implementation as described in [L2/16-008](#) Unicode-Specified Emoji Customizations will only support a specific set of Unicode-defined tag sequences, as well as private-use tag sequences.

However, the overall framework considers the future possibility of registering other tag sequences. This document present initial ideas about future handling of additional registrations should Unicode decide to support them. ***This is only a preliminary discussion and is not intended to suggest any agreement about these procedures.***

1. Tag sequences that might be shared across many base characters should be defined by Unicode itself. Examples include the tag sequences already discussed for specifying right-left display direction, gender, etc.
2. A registration request for a specific variant should include
  - a. a description to be made publicly available (not a formal name; the tag sequences do not have formal names)
  - b. a sample image
  - c. the proposed tag sequence, including the base character
3. Initially, all Unicode customized emoji would be processed by the emoji subcommittee (ESC), and candidates are posted for public review on a new page. Based on the results of public review, a recommendation is then presented to the UTC for approval (or the UTC could delegate that approval to the ESC).
  - a. A major difference from the current process for regular emoji is that once those are approved by the UTC, they can be published after the meeting and are immediately usable by vendors. So the process could be as short as a quarter, rather than a delay of 1.5+ years.
  - b. It would, however, have the same core restriction; the customized emoji would have to be reasonable variants of an existing base emoji character.
  - c. The ESC would need to check for collisions with existing tag sequences and otherwise validate the proposed registration. This would not attempt to prevent similar images from being encoded by tag sequences in different registries, though sharing of tag sequences would be encouraged.
  - d. The model could be similar to that used for IVD

4. The UTC can also define a sequence by reference to another authority
  - a. We need to move slowly and carefully on this, to make sure that we have the proper processes in place for accessibility to the defining mechanism, and for stability and interoperability.
5. To be valid, the registration would need to be published by Unicode.
6. If at some point Unicode starts designating other registrars for specific namespaces, one consideration should probably be that these registrars actually have a deployment capability to ensure that the registration is likely to be implemented.
7. As we gain more experience, we can tune these processes.
8. Some further questions from previous discussion:
  - a. Who are the vendors and stakeholders?
  - b. How does this coordinate with strategy for alternative mechanisms? How does this work in a world where people sell interchangeable sticker collections.