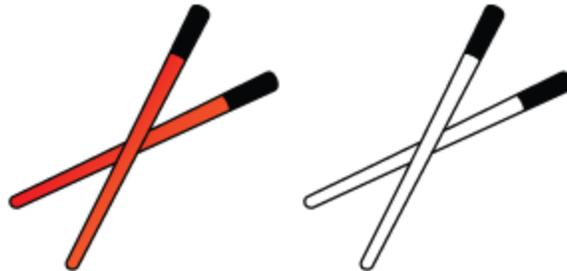


Chopsticks Emoji Proposal Submission

To: Unicode Consortium

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Abstract

We are requesting the addition of a chopsticks emoji to add to the current lineup of eating utensils emoji, specifically under emoji selection criterion “D. Completeness.” Currently, there are two utensils emoji: the fork and knife emoji; and the fork, knife, and plate emoji. A chopsticks emoji would also complete the lineup of Asian food emoji that includes those for noodles, rice, and sushi.

Introduction

Chopsticks have been used for thousands of years in countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. As these countries’ cuisines have spread across the world, chopsticks have become more prevalent.

Support

A. Compatibility

We are not aware of a chopstick emoji among the major platforms: Apple, Google, Yahoo, MSN. But chopstick stickers are available in the Line App:

<https://store.line.me/stickershop/search/creators/en?q=chopsticks>

B. Expected Usage

1. Frequency

Because the primary reason for adding the chopsticks emoji is completeness, we are not supplying supporting data. However, we believe that usage frequency would be quite high given the fit chopsticks have with popular East Asian food emoji. They are prevalent worldwide, not only in Asia, but in Western countries as well.

2. Multiple use

Designed correctly, a chopsticks emoji could also represent other activities that involve two sticks, such as a musician's drumsticks, or the "dandiya" sticks used in Indian dance.

3. Emotional content

For East Asians and lovers of East Asian food across the world, chopsticks are immediately associated with food. Given how much people universally love meal time, chopsticks' emotional connotation is generally positive.

4. Persistence

We believe a chopsticks emoji will be persistent in large part because chopsticks themselves have persisted so long—predating all members of the Unicode Consortium, as well as most governments on the planet. The use of chopsticks for eating food began with the Eastern Han Dynasty. According to Q. Edward Wang, author of *Chopsticks: A Cultural and Culinary History*, the first evidence of chopstick use dates back to the Neolithic age, around 7,000 years ago. But they ascended in East Asian cuisine with the growing popularity of wheat starting in first century B.C.

C. Image Distinctiveness

There are no other emoji offerings that look similar to two sticks crossing one another. The closest emoji are the hammer & wrench and the hammer & pick. However, both look distinctly like tools. The STEAMING BOWL emoji is often depicted with chopsticks, but does not explicitly have chopsticks in the description.

D. Completeness

As mentioned, chopsticks would complete the current lineup of eating utensils emoji, providing an Eastern counterpart to the Western silverware emoji. In addition, chopsticks emoji would complement the relatively extensive selection of Japanese food emoji, including “sushi,” “fried shrimp,” “curry and rice,” “bento box,” “fish cake with swirl design,” “rice ball,” “rice cracker,” “oden,” “dango,” and “cooked rice.”

E. Frequency request

A cursory search on the Internet turns up users lamenting the lack of a chopsticks emoji, with some even reading racial and cultural undertones into the omission: “Why is there no chopsticks emoji!”¹; “I’m flabbergasted that there isn’t a chopstick emoji. Lol”²; “But....why can't we have a chopsticks emoji... #offended”³; “no chopsticks emoji fuckin colonizers.”⁴

Factors for Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

A chopsticks emoji would not be overly specific, as it is a very general item, and would be used in conjunction with the many popular food emoji already offered.

G. Open-Ended

Chopsticks are not “one among many,” as they are one of only a handful of widely used eating utensils, the other being silverware, which are already represented in emoji.

H. Already Representable

One cannot easily create a chopsticks emoji using existing emoji. No emoji is graphically similar. Forks and knives are rarely used with East Asian foods and could not be replaced in any way by chopsticks.

¹ <https://twitter.com/ryanfromohio/status/670642329452208128> (retrieved December 15, 2015)

² https://twitter.com/BeniTheGod_/status/666802587044155392 (retrieved December 15, 2015)

³ <https://twitter.com/konichiwandii/status/665617416941133824> (retrieved December 15, 2015)

⁴ <https://twitter.com/vidalwuu/status/657061224828542976> (retrieved December 15, 2015)

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities.

The image we are submitting does not have any significance that would make it unsuitable for encoding as a character. There are no copyright, religious, or issues that reference anyone historic or living.

Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N

Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

Simple Lowercase Mapping:

Simple Titlecase Mapping: