

**UTC Document Submission: FIRECRACKER EMOJI**

**To:** UTC  
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**Abstract:**



We are proposing the addition of a FIRECRACKER emoji. The tradition of lighting FIRECRACKERS is popular during Chinese New Year and other special celebrations in China and in festivals around the world. In addition, it also represents one of the four most famous inventions that originated in China.

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The invention and use of FIRECRACKER is one of China’s oldest legacies. It was accidentally discovered when dating back 2000 years, when heat would cause the bamboos to explode with a bang in the forest. Thus FIRECRACKER was originally called “Bao Zhu 爆竹” which means “Exploding Bamboos”. These loud bangs have become an integral component of many Chinese holidays and celebrations. (source)



*Picture 1: Villagers heating bamboos, causing them to explode*

What are FIRECRACKERS made of? The FIRECRACKER is a small explosive that composes of fuses and heavy wrapping paper to contain the explosives. It was first

invented as it was believed in China that loud noises from FIRECRACKERS would scare off evil spirits. The spirits are afraid of loud sounds, fire and the color red. (source) As the designs became modernized, a string of tiny FIRECRACKERS linked by a powder train was invented so it would continuous make loud noises, which is used today.



*Picture 2: The string of tiny FIRECRACKERS used in China today*

The tradition of ringing away evil spirits is most widely used during Chinese New Year, but also used during special occasions such as births and weddings. (source) During Chinese New Year, FIRECRACKERS are set off to say goodbye to the old and welcome the lunar new year. At Chinese wedding ceremonies, the FIRECRACKER brings blessing and happiness to newlyweds. (source) It is also used to celebrate bigger events such as opening of an international festival to express their excitement.

Outside of Chinese New Year, FIRECRACKERS are used to celebrate Fourth of July in the US, Bastille Day in France (source) and more festivals around the world.

It is also important to note the significance of the invention of FIRECRACKER. Marco Polo brought it to Europe during the 13th century, and was later used for military purposes in the form of gunpowder. It was also later used to create fireworks, another popular celebration custom. (source)



Picture 4: Urban Dictionary.com explanation of the popular slang “FIRECRACKER”

Today FIRECRACKER has become a popular way to address people who are filled with energy, unpredictable, tough and exciting. It can be used in conversations such as “She really convinced those people about our business proposal, Jane is such a FIRECRACKER!” (source)

Factors for Inclusion:

**A. Compatibility:**

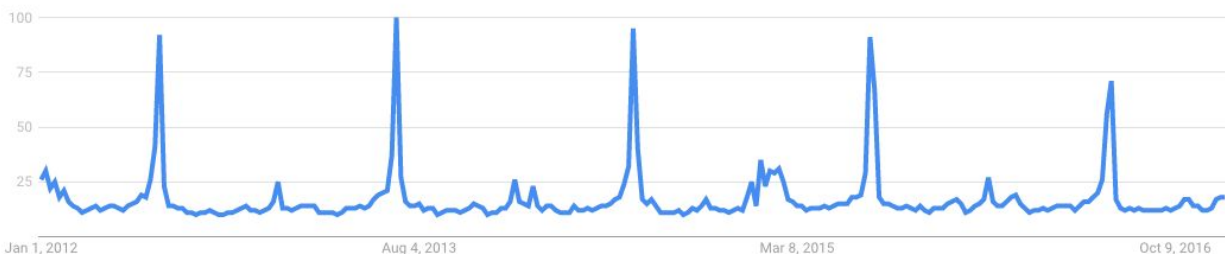
There are currently no existing FIRECRACKER emojis in any major vendor platforms.

**B. Expected Usage Level:**

i) Frequency:

We expect high frequency level of this emoji as shown below:

- FIRECRACKER are used in a number of holidays around the world.
- Google trends show that FIRECRACKER peaked every year during July 4 weekend



Picture 5: Google Trend on “FIRECRACKER”

ii) Multiple Usages:

A FIRECRACKER emoji can be interpreted in a number of ways

- The emoji can be used for FIRECRACKER and festivities that uses FIRECRACKERS
- This emoji can represent Chinese New Year and other Chinese celebrations
- This emoji can convey other meanings for “FIRECRACKER”, a popular slang (source)
- This emoji can be used to also represent DYNAMITE or other explosives

### C. Image Distinctiveness:

The FIRECRACKER has a distinctive design that shows a single individual traditional Chinese FIRECRACKER as a symbol of the string of FIRECRACKER used in Chinese holidays. It is a completely separate design from other emojis that may communicate “explosive” or “bang”. It is designed to be used for different FIRECRACKER related holidays around the world.

### D. Completeness:

There is no FIRECRACKER or Chinese holiday related emoji.

### E. Frequently Requested:



Picture 6: Tweets about requests for FIRECRACKER emoji

There has been requests from Twitter as users want a FIRECRACKER when talking about their celebrations, and have been using word (FIRECRACKER emoji) in replacement of an actual emoji.

emojiRequest

Requested 10,157 times

Request Emoji!

Dynamite Emoji [Share](#)



[Sponsor this Emoji?](#)

Picture 7: DYNAMITE emoji requested

A similar FIRECRACKER-like emoji has been requested on emojirequest.com as well.

Factors for Exclusion:

**F. Overly Specific:**

The FIRECRACKER emoji can be used to for the celebrative purposes in Chinese New Year and other holidays, but it can also be used as an expression of celebration that do not tie into any specific holidays. It is a universal image and design of what a FIRECRACKER would look like.

**G. Open-Ended:**

The addition of the FIRECRACKER emoji will firstly represent the celebration of Chinese New Year holiday, bringing diversity in the number of holiday related emojis existing today.

**H. Already Representable**

Currently, there is no emoji for FIRECRACKER. The closest would be using a collision emoji which can communicate the loud explosion. The bomb emoji has a fuse similar to FIRECRACKER, but it does not have the celebratory connotation.

### **I. Unsuitability?**

Our proposal of a FIRECRACKER emoji is suitable for encoding as character. It does not contain any references to deities, logos, and specific people, historical or living.

### **J. Transient:**

FIRECRACKER is a common way to celebrate festivities in many different countries, and a symbol that represents celebration that can be shared between many cultures.

### **Note**

In addition to the mooncake emoji, we have recommended the addition of two other chinese-related emojis (the red envelope and mooncake emoji)

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About the submitters:

Facemoji Keyboard ([linjiahong@baidu.com](mailto:linjiahong@baidu.com)) is a global keyboard mobile app under Baidu's Global Business Unit, together with it's international Simeji Keyboard has over 20 million download from around the world. Baidu is the largest Chinese Search Engine in China and the first Chinese company included in the NASDAQ 100 Index.

Jennifer 8. Lee ([jenny@jennifer8lee.com](mailto:jenny@jennifer8lee.com)) is a founder of Emojination, whose motto is "emoji by the people, for the people." She is also an organizer of Emojicon, a conference that celebrates emoji that will take place in November 4-6 in San Francisco.