

Proposal to encode the MIC DROP emoji

Anshuman Pandey
pandey@umich.edu

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1 Introduction



HAND DROPPING MICROPHONE
(mic drop)

A ‘mic drop’ is a gesture employed at the end of a performance or speech in which an individual drops or tosses a microphone in order to punctuate the conclusion or to signal triumph. It is also articulated as a phrase. The term was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2015.¹ It is used in a wide range of contexts: congratulation and affirmation; satire and irony; mockery and sarcasm.



The ‘mic drop’ gesture and phrase have been used in American culture, particularly by rappers and comedians since the 1980s.² Its popularity has increased over time and it became an Internet meme in 2012 when

¹ <http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2015/08/new-words-update-manspreading-mic-drop/>

² http://www.slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2013/01/25/a_history_of_the_mic_drop_when_did_people_start_dropping_the_mic.html

President Barack Obama performed a ‘mic drop’ on the television show *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. The meme increased in popularity again after the White House Correspondents’ Dinner on 30 April 2016, where the President concluded his speech with the phrase ‘Obama out’ followed by a drop of his microphone.



President Barack Obama’s mic drop at the 2016 White House Correspondents’ Dinner.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mic_drop#/media/File:Barack_Obama_Mic_Drop_2016.jpg

As an popular expression in text messages, emails, and social media platforms, the usage of ‘mic drop’ has expanded across a variety of cultural, social, and political communities. The meme is used in discussions on a range of topics, from politics to sports. It is interesting to note that ‘mic drop’ is used across the ideological spectrum and by various age groups. Such appeal proves that ‘mic drop’ is an effective communication device, as it serves to affirm a user’s position. Its universality is evident by its spread from English into other languages. The addition of the 🗑️ will enable users to express a variety of emotions, thoughts, and statements effectively through a single emoji.

2 Identification

The proposed identifier for 🗑️ is ‘HAND DROPPING MICROPHONE’. This descriptive name is useful for purposes of encoding the character in Unicode.

2.A CLDR short name

The 🗑️ should be known using the alias ‘MIC DROP’, which is reflective of the meme and, therefore, suitable as the CLDR short name.

2.B CLDR keywords

The following terms are suggested as keywords: boom, hand, microphone

3 Images

There are several ways to represent MIC DROP graphically, but the simplest glyph consists of an open hand with a microphone below. The representative glyph has been produced using glyphs for 🖐️ RAISED HAND WITH FINGERS SPLAYED and 🎤 MICROPHONE with arc effects that depict a ‘falling’ motion:



This form resembles other images found through a Google search for ‘mic drop emoji’, all of which contain a raised hand:

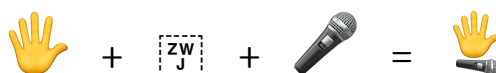


Alternate glyphs include positional variations of the hand that express the act of dropping. The hand may be displayed with fingers together or splayed, and with fingers oriented upwards or downwards. Some examples are shown below:



Other representations might include a hand with fingers in positions that are indicative of the act of dropping; or a side view of a hand above a microphone. The Unicode Technical Committee may determine the most appropriate representation. And, of course, vendors will determine the most suitable glyph for their platforms based upon their design principles and guidelines.

Another possibility is to encode ‘mic drop’ as an emoji sequence by joining 🖐️ HAND WITH FINGERS SPLAYED and 🎤 MICROPHONE together with ZWJ U+200D ZERO WIDTH JOINER:

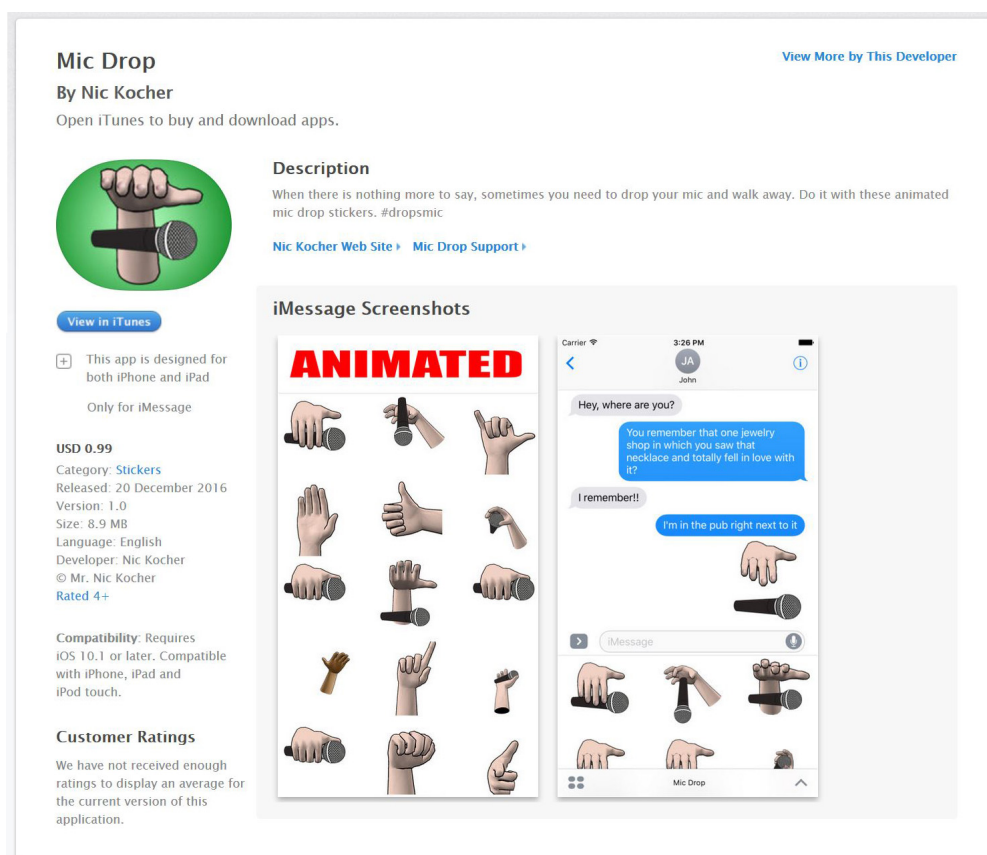


Of the options to represent 🖐️ as either a dedicated emoji or using an emoji sequence, the former is preferred because it requires the least amount of additional implementation expense.

4 Selection Factors — Inclusion

4.A Compatibility

Apps for iPhone have been developed to provide 🎤 as a sticker. One such app is ‘Mic Drop’ by Nick Docher.³

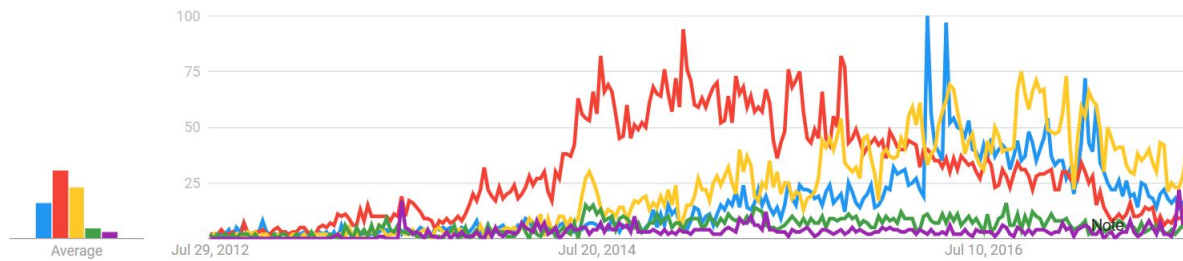


4.B Expected usage level

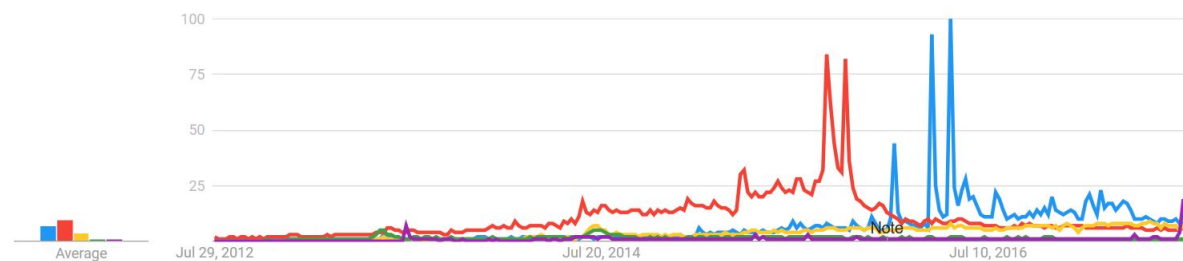
4.B.1 Frequency

The expected frequency of usage for the MIC DROP is extremely high. The frequent requests for 🎤 made on social media are reflected in the image and web search trends for ‘mic drop’ on Google Trends. Shown below are comparisons between ‘mic drop’ and other popular hand emoji:

³ <https://itunes.apple.com/mz/app/mic-drop/id1185378873>



Google Trends: image search trends for ‘mic drop’ [blue], ‘middle finger emoji’ [red], ‘thumbs up emoji’ [gold], ‘peace sign emoji’ [green], ‘high five emoji’ [purple], 2012–present.



Google Trends: web search trends for ‘mic drop’ [blue], ‘middle finger emoji’ [red], ‘thumbs up emoji’ [gold], ‘peace sign emoji’ [green], ‘high five emoji’ [purple], 2012–present.

4.B.2 Multiple usages

As shown in the tweets throughout this proposal, the 🗨️ is used for expressing ‘confidence’, ‘boldness’, ‘conclusion’, and related sentiments in a variety of contexts.

4.B.3 Use in Sequences

The 🗨️ is conclusive, definitive, and signifies the end of the conversation. It is most meaningful when used as the only emoji at the end of a statement. Usage of other emoji alongside it might dilute its emphatic symbolism. However, it is possible that emoji such as 💥 COLLISION could be used to enhance its effect:



mic drop. boom.

4.C Image distinctiveness

The 🖐️ image is distinctive and easily identifiable among other hand emoji:



4.D Completeness

The addition of 🖐️ will expand the set of commonly used hand emoji, such as 🙏 PERSON WITH FOLDED HANDS, 🖐️ VICTORY HAND, 🖐️ OK HAND, 🖐️ MIDDLE FINGER, etc.

4.E Frequently requested

Requests for a 🖐️ MIC DROP emoji have been expressed in blogs and social platforms. A blog post by Lisette Mejia titled “18 Emoji That Need to Exist” (May 2015) listed ‘mic drop’ as an essential emoji, “Because you just said something really crucial and everyone needs to shut up for a minute and soak it all in”.⁴

POPSUGAR > Tech > Texting > Emojis We Wish Existed

18 Emoji That Need to Exist

25 May, 2015 by LISETTE MEJIA

146 Shares



[VIEW IN SLIDESHOW](#)

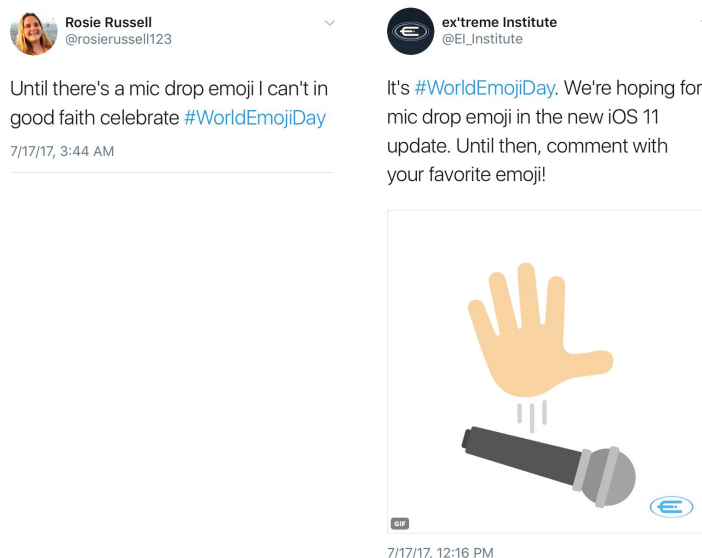


Ever stopped in the middle of your day and randomly wondered about the important things in life — like the emoji that you wish existed? While we can't add these illustrations to the list of brand new emoji, we can promise that you'll appreciate their designs. Created by Microsoft as a fun project, they're perfect for every situation. Until they're official, you can find us turning them into legit emoji all by ourselves.

Source: Microsoft

⁴ <https://www.popsugar.com.au/tech/Emojis-We-Wish-Existed-37558300>

Request for MIC DROP are common on Twitter. Most recently, users expressed their desire for a 🖐 emoji on World Emoji Day (July 17, 2017):




A sample of other requests from Twitter are shown below:



Esi Nedo @EOkenesi

@GetEmoji remember I asked 100x for a "boom" (or #micdrop) #emoji? & you asked what it would look like? Voila. See Prince Harry's hand.



7/12/17, 1:10 PM

Tony Posnanski @tonypo... · 5/13/17

My comment speaks for itself 🤔

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2m

We

Tony Posnanski @tonyposnanski

Replying to @realDonaldTrump

This is the most intelligent tweet you have

46 183 838

Lisa A. @Mijitalisa

Replying to @tonyposnanski

Shame there's no mic drop emoji, your reply earned it

5/14/17, 10:11 AM

Salted Carthage @SaltedCarthage

where's the "mic drop" emoji?

Matt Pearce @matt Pearce

Hobby Lobby's robby hobby: Hammurabi

7/6/17, 6:11 AM

Elidh Brinsley @Elidhdances

What #iPhone messenger really needs is a mic drop emoji #justsaying #FirstWorldProblems

6/15/17, 9:17 AM

Maimuna Bappa @MaimunaB

Where is the mic drop emoji when you need it?!

HashashinTag @HashashinTag

Replying to @HashashinTag

Harbouring would-be terrorists in our midst? Are you insane?! THEY KILL PEOPLE. AND WE ARE PEOPLE TOO.

5/25/17, 7:34 AM

Jarred @DTownLander

@Apple Why isn't there an official "mic drop" emoji? What are y'all waiting for? Let's make it official. Please. With a cherry on top.

5/15/17, 6:41 AM

Tom Martin @tommartin_ky

Where's the mic drop emoji?

Evan McMullin @Evan_McMullin

.@realDonaldTrump, Yes you've never heard of me because while you were harassing women at beauty pageants, I was fighting terrorists abroad. twitter.com/SopanDeb/statu...

10/30/16, 12:41 PM

anna is high quality @hapasareasian

"..prior administrations were not fledgling kleptocratic autocracies whose primary opponents are female citizens."

I need a mic drop emoji

Mollie Katzen @MollieKatzen

Must read: @sarahkendzior connects dots btw targeting of women's health/voter suppression per authoritarian playbook marieclaire.com/politics/featu...

5/8/17, 6:52 PM

J.K. Rowling @jk_rowling · 5/25/17

It accomplished the aim of expressing compassion, respect and solidarity. Do you sneer at funeral flowers, too?

Laura Ingraham @IngrahamAngle

What exactly is accomplished by making the Eiffel Tower go dark? How does that improve situation w/ homegrown & migrant jihadis? twitter.com/daily_express/...

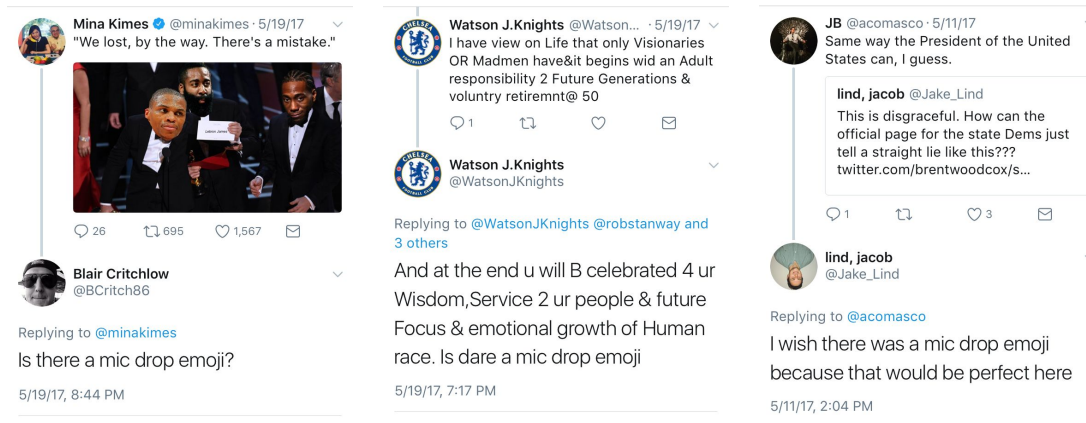
917 10.2K 48.5K

Greg Wallace @gtewallace

Replying to @jk_rowling

We need a custom mic drop emoji for your slays. U rock.

5/25/17, 7:53 AM



5 Selection Factors — Exclusion

5.F Overly specific

The 🖐️ MIC DROP represents a hand performing a specific gesture, similar to 🖋️ WRITING HAND. The graphical and linguistic power of 🖐️ lies in its specificity: it conveys a conclusive sentiment, but that sentiment embodies diverse pragmatic and semantic values. Therefore, the 🖐️ is not 'overly specific', but rather an iconic representation of a common meme.

5.G Open-ended

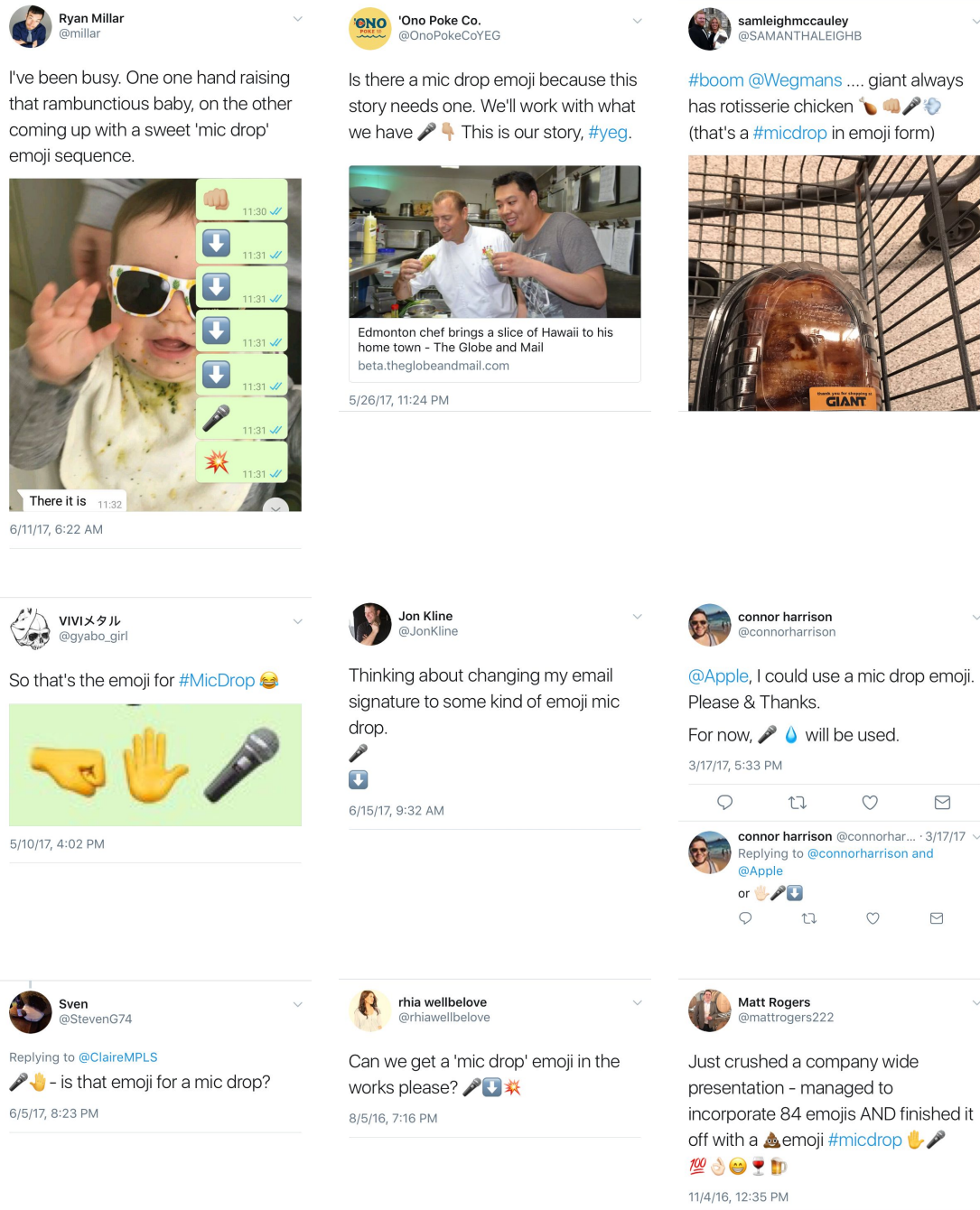
The 🖐️ MIC DROP is a unique gesture. Including it in the emoji set will not lead to requests for other emoji depicting hands interacting with objects.

5.H Already Representable

The 🖐️ symbol cannot be represented at present. There are no other emoji that convey its graphical and semantic characteristics. Due to the absence of a 🖐️ emoji, users resort to hashtags, such as #micdrop, and textual references, such as 'insert mic drop here':



In addition to textual substitutes, users rely on various other emoji and sequences of emoji to express the 🗑️:



Encoding the 🗑️ emoji will enable usage of the symbol without the need for textual or graphical substitutes.

5.1 Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The 🗑️ MIC DROP is not associated with any particular logo, brand, UI icon, signage, specific persons, or deities.

5.J Transient

The 🖐️ has been a part of American culture since the 1980s and is now mainstream. It has also become part of the popular culture of other countries and the term 'mic drop' has been borrowed into other languages:



Users will continue to affirm themselves and their opinions on social platforms, and will continue to use graphical and verbal expressions of ‘mic drop’ in order to do so. The human need for ‘having the last word’ is intransigent, and as the ‘mic drop’ is a compact and effective means for doing so, usage of the meme will also persist.

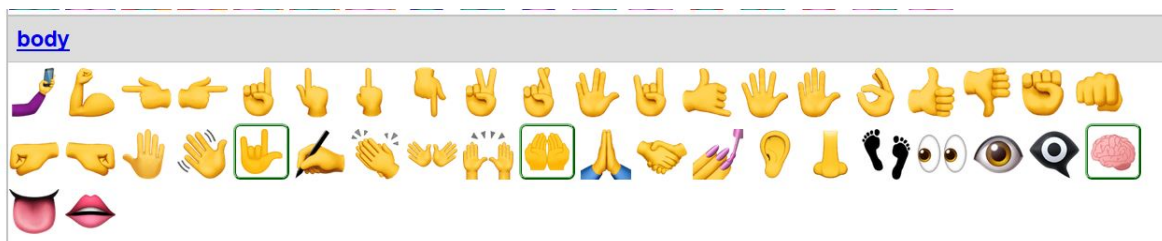
5.K Faulty Comparison

This request to encode the 🧨 MIC DROP emoji is fully supported on its own merits and is unrelated to requests for other emoji.

6 Sort location

6.A Category

Based upon the categories given in ‘Emoji Ordering, 5.0’,⁵ the natural placement for the 🗣️ MIC DROP is within ‘Smileys & People / body’:



⁵ <http://unicode.org/emoji/charts/emoji-ordering.html>

6.B Emoji after

The 🖐️ MIC DROP should be placed after 🖋️ WRITING HAND. The placement is suitable because 🖋️ is the only emoji that represents a hand interacting with an object.

Pandey out.

