

Feedback on the name and disunification of Creative Commons characters

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Introduction. During UTC 154, the committee accepted 6 symbols to represent distinct aspects of the Creative Commons license. In UTC 155, two characters were relocated, so now the pipeline looks like this:

Enclosed Alphanumeric Supplement

- U+1F10D CIRCLED ZERO WITH SLASH
- U+1F10E CIRCLED COUNTERCLOCKWISE ARROW
- U+1F10F CIRCLED DOLLAR SIGN WITH OVERLAID BACKSLASH
- U+1F16D CIRCLED CC
- U+1F16E CIRCLED C WITH OVERLAID BACKSLASH
- U+1F16F CIRCLED HUMAN FIGURE

I believe that the approval of the symbols is warranted, however I object to the disunification of one of them as well as the name of another.

CIRCLED ZERO WITH SLASH. During the talks the CIRCLED EQUALS SIGN was unified with the Unicode character of similar name (2296 \ominus), even though one is meant to be used in the context of mathematics. While I disagreed at first, I now have come to the conclusion that it was the correct thing to do. However, if we want to be consistent, we must unify the CIRCLED ZERO WITH SLASH, with CIRCLED DIGIT ZERO (24EA $\textcircled{0}$), in the same way that the regular digit zero with slash was treated as a glyphic variant of the DIGIT ZERO, encoded through a SVS, the same should be done here.

Although it should be noted that even without the SVS, the unification could take place, and the glyph could be obtained by switching fonts. The disunification, while perceived as harmless here, may empower other proposals to encode other glyphic variants atomically.

Name of the arrow character. The CIRCLED COUNTERCLOCKWISE ARROW, in my opinion should be named, CIRCLED ANTICLOCKWISE OPEN CIRCLE ARROW, in order to be consistent with characters such as ANTICLOCKWISE OPEN CIRCLE ARROW (21BA \curvearrowright). The names of all symbols in Unicode with a clockwise achiral counterpart, use the term anticlockwise, never counterclockwise.

Code assignment of characters. I would reserve 1F10D for a future inclusion of the DOUBLE CIRCLED DIGIT ZERO, so all codepoints minus the alternative circled zero, would remain the same.

In synthesis. My changes would make the additions look like this:

Enclosed Alphanumeric Supplement

- U+1F10E CIRCLED ANTICLOCKWISE OPEN CIRCLE ARROW
- U+1F10F CIRCLED DOLLAR SIGN WITH OVERLAID BACKSLASH
- U+1F16D CIRCLED CC
- U+1F16E CIRCLED C WITH OVERLAID BACKSLASH
- U+1F16F CIRCLED HUMAN FIGURE

Standardized Variation Sequence

- 24EA FE00; short diagonal stroke form; # CIRCLED DIGIT ZERO

Note on the RAISED MR SIGN. While I have stated it through many times, it bears repeating here, since this symbol is related to intellectual property.

I made the original proposal to get this symbol encoded and it came with two informative notes: one about the language community it was meant to, and another to indicate a common alternative glyph. Surprisingly, the committee, ruled to keep the first annotation while discarding the second. At first, I thought that I could argue based on that to encode a CIRCLED MR SIGN, however the more I thought about it, the more I realized that such unification wasn't warranted, since it would only capture a difference in glyph and not in semantics.

In order to unify both glyphs, the annotations should mention the glyphic variance, to make sure that users are not confused if they see one font in the isolated style and another with the circled style. Usually being enclosed alone should be enough to be disunified in the consortium's eyes so this information is very relevant to all font designers.

One could also try to encode an SVS for it, however I don't see precedent for that. It would be especially useful since other options such as using the COMBINING ENCLOSING CIRCLE, are not viable since it must only enclose the superscripted (sometimes in subscript) glyph.

The new annotation should say:

- There are several glyphic variants, including one where the glyph is circled.