

Re: Comments on accumulated feedback on Unicode 12.0 draft candidates

From: ESC

Date: 2018-08-21

This document contains responses to feedback on Emoji 12.0 draft candidates received in [L2/18-219](#), [L2/18-234](#), and others. The feedback cited below in italics, before the responses, may paraphrase the original.

Note that the original proposals for the emoji are currently accessible through links in unicode.org/emoji/future/emoji-candidates.html. (When that document is later updated, they can be accessed in the UTC doc registry.)

Where below the ESC discusses additional proposals, see <https://unicode.org/emoji/proposals.html> for details on the format and information.

YAWNING FACE

West, Everson: No need for this; sleepiness already represented by TIRED FACE and some other faces; the only difference between TIRED FACE and YAWNING FACE is that YAWNING FACE has a tiny hand in front of the yawning mouth.

It has been suggested that YAWNING FACE is not needed because it is already representable with other smileys, such as TIRED FACE, SLEEPY FACE, etc., and that the image is not visually distinct. The YAWNING FACE, in addition to being a common physiological act, communicates more than just sleepiness; it can also be used to imply boredom, disinterest, being unamused, or a combination of these, which cannot be communicated with existing smileys. Also, the current TIRED FACE, SLEEPY FACE, and WEARY FACE are culturally specific, having come from the original Japanese set, and are not universally understood as sleepy. The proposed YAWNING FACE is visually distinct from existing emoji (see [L2/18-192](#)), especially with the hand in the image. Note that because smileys / emotions are very popular, people want and use many more distinctions than in other categories of emoji.

Recommendation to UTC: We should change the color sample image to emphasize the hand.

STANDING PERSON & KNEELING PERSON

West, Everson: Humanform emoji are costly; the standing person does not represent a concept that is recognizable as such or particularly notable, and is not necessary; the kneeling person is a more recognizable and useful concept, but if it is to indicate prayer or meditation, we already have other emoji for those, and if we are going to encode human postures that we should also add PROSTATE PERSON (also a prayer position in some religions), and perhaps a person lying face up and a person crawling.

Everson, under feedback for CHAIR: What is the usage scenario for SITTING PERSON? Really? Do we really need to distinguish KNEELING PERSON from SITTING PERSON and STANDING PERSON? Do not encode

The STANDING PERSON was made a candidate for 2 reasons. One reason is the simple depiction of standing vs running, walking, or other poses/activities. The other reason is for use in making a couple with distinct skin-tones. KNEELING PERSON represents a very visually different action or pose than PERSON IN LOTUS POSITION, and also contrasts with the existing ADULT (person)

The committee considered a PROSTRATE PERSON, but it was difficult to depict. However, emoji proposals for PROSTRATE PERSON, CRAWLING PERSON, etc. can be submitted; perhaps suitable

images can be found to show feasibility.

MECHANICAL ARM & MECHANICAL LEG

West, Everson: How will these be used? Need a stronger argument with use cases. Everson: First PROSTHETIC would be a better term; second, why these and not many other devices to overcome disabilities? CRUTCH would be better.

These were broadened from prosthetics, to have multiple usages. The precise images are up to vendors. It also allows the use of an image that doesn't require skin tones. Per L2/18-191, MECHANICAL LEG should be sorted after LEG. The ESC would welcome an emoji proposal for CRUTCH.

These images are from the original proposal [L2/18-180](#); images in that proposal were worked out in conjunction with, and endorsed by, various organizations that represent different disability communities.

Recommendation to UTC: add “also used for prosthetics” to the NamesList annotations.

PROBING CANE

West: No evidence that encoding emoji representing various physical impairments will be of any use in improving accessibility or any benefit to people with physical impairments. What are the supposed use cases for these various accessibility emoji? How will someone with impaired sight use the probing cane emoji? More useful and widely-used symbols for visual impairment already exist, in particular the symbol of a half-shaded eye with a line through it, and these should be considered instead.

Everson: Is there any evidence that visually-impaired people make much use of emojis? Do we need a probing cane? For whom? What usage scenarios are there? Public signage on buses and trains often has an image for a blind person with a cane, why not encode that? The idea that this base character is being encoded as a graphic character in order to facilitate its use in sequencing is a bad one.

Emoji are not just for use by people that are directly affected by a particular disability, but also friends, relatives, etc. Both blind and deaf individuals do use emoji (for example, via TTS for the visually impaired). Note that the U.S. FCC [Real-Time Text \(RTT\) Services for Americans with Disabilities](#) specifically includes coverage of all Unicode-approved emoji.

A “PERSON WITH CANE” was considered, but in general the UTC favors encoding objects, rather than people holding objects. That allows both the independent use of the object *and* use with ZWJ sequences to form “people with canes”, etc. There is a strong desire from users to have explicit objects as emoji, not just symbols. If there are independent reasons for a symbolic representation like the eye with a strikethrough, those can be proposed as regular Unicode symbols (non-emoji) using the [Submitting Character Proposals](#) form.

The images in the original proposal [L2/18-180](#) (such as person with probing cane) were worked out in conjunction with, and endorsed by, organizations such as the American Council of the Blind.

PINCH

Everson: The handshape as drawn does not look very PINCH-like. What is the usage scenario for this character? The glyph should be improved.

The images are samples and the ESC welcomes proposals for improvement.

Recommendation to UTC: Per L2/18-191, change name of U+1F90F to PINCHING HAND.

EAR WITH HEARING AID

West: Modern hearing aids are much smaller, but using them would not make for a recognizable emoji. This older representation may be offensive.

West, Everson: Why not instead encode the widely-used symbol showing a stylized ear with a diagonal slash through it?

There exist genuine symbols in Unicode, but the emoji is intended to be a more realistic depiction, not a symbol.

This image is from the original proposal [L2/18-180](#); images in that proposal were worked out in conjunction with, and endorsed by, organizations such as the National Association of the Deaf.

The image of an ear with one or more lines through it has a different meaning; it indicates that an “Assistive Listening Device” of some type is in the area, such as a Hearing Loop (source: <http://www.ampetronic.co/Blog/assistive-listening-logos-explained>).

SARI

West, Everson: reasonable emoji but glyph is poor.

The images are samples and we welcome suggested improved images. (People are engaged in developing different depictions to see which works the best.)

ONE-PIECE SWIMSUIT

West, Everson: Unnecessary, the existing BIKINI already represents the concepts of swimming and sun-bathing. Everson: What about other specific water clothing such as Victorian bathing costume or wetsuit?

Bikinis can have very different connotations. They are not used in swimming competitions; a one-piece is more appropriate for certain age groups, and more used in other cultures.

People can submit proposals for “Victorian bathing costume” if they want, and can make a compelling case for the frequency of use.

BRIEFS

Everson: Whose briefs; what exactly are they? Does it differ from underpants/underwear/pants? What's it for? Who needs to send this in messaging? Why no other underclothing items such as bra? Improve glyph.

Briefs are specifically generalized to cover both swimsuits and underwear.

BALLET SHOES

Everson: Other shoes in the UCS are represented by a single one, so the plural is not necessary here. Encode as a single shoe with the name BALLET SHOE.

The depiction of two objects was much clearer, and other emoji have two objects in them.

SERVICE ANIMAL VEST

West, Everson: Emoji is totally unrecognizable. No need to be able to sequence to have different kinds of service animals. If you want to encode SERVICE DOG, encode SERVICE DOG.

The image formerly in unicode.org/emoji/future/emoji-candidates.html was known to be suboptimal. The goal was to avoid specifying the animal, and thus limiting its applicability. The ESC are not sure whether the comment is in response to the image there or to the improved image in the ISO 10646 6th

ed. CD:



U+1F9BA SERVICE ANIMAL VEST

In any case, the ESC decided to recommend replacing this with SAFETY VEST per [L2/18-256](#):



U+1F9BA SAFETY VEST

and to add as RGI:



DOG + ZWJ + SAFETY VEST (to represent a service dog with vest)

GARLIC & ONION

West: Garlic and onion are quite similar in appearance, and probably difficult to distinguish at emoji sizes. They are both used for flavouring food, so are both garlic and onion needed? Encoding both would seem to go against the emoji selection factors C (image distinctiveness) and F (overly specific).

Everson: Encode.

These are significantly different in color and shape, which can be exaggerated for clarity at small sizes.

SLOTH

Everson: Yes, please. More animals. ...Also sloth is used metaphorically. ...Encode, but note that animals are not being dealt with systematically.

We welcome proposals for systematic approaches to animals, subject to our constraints: each year releasing the ones with the best selection factors (including expected popularity, distinctiveness, representative of different parts of the world, etc.)

OTTER

Everson: The depiction is of a California sea otter which isn't very universal. I like animal emojis but what is this for, metaphorically? It will certainly be used in the gay community.... Encode with a reference glyph that isn't a floating sea otter.

The images are samples and we welcome proposals for improvement.

ORANGUTAN

Everson: Fine, but if we are going to be doing the Great Apes (since we have a GORILLA) we need CHIMPANZEE. and BONOBO, don't we? Encode and add CHIMPANZEE.

The ESC has not yet received a proposal for CHIMPANZEE.

OYSTER

Everson: Why is this being added? As a food animal? Or as a source for pearls? It's not really very metaphorical. Discuss and explain.

The original proposal was for a food item. While the placement doesn't have to follow the original proposal, given the image appearance the ESC recommends reordering.

Recommendation to CLDR: Order as a food item.

FALAFEL

West: This emoji was specifically proposed as an emoji representing vegetarian food that is not just fruit or vegetable. However, the keyword meatball has been suggested for it by the ESC. It seems perverse to me to try to unify an overtly vegetarian dish with a meat dish, and risks causing serious miscommunications between users... The “meatball” keyword should be removed, and the colour of the falafels changed to be greenish brown to make it clear that these are not meatballs.

Everson: Keywords “falafel, meatball”? This is ridiculous. What is this for? Vegetarians? We have plenty of vegetables already. People who like Middle-Eastern food? Where is hummus, or dates? People who like spherical foods? Do not encode.

There are sufficient reasons to encode falafel based on expected usage.

Once emoji are encoded, the usage cannot be controlled for whether the contents are vegan or not. For example, the HAMBURGER emoji can be and is used for both meat and meatless burgers.

The keyword “meatball” is being considered for CLDR, and would simply be reflective of how people could use / search for the emoji. Keywords do not define the emoji in a prescriptive way, but rather to assist people in finding the emoji based on the images.

The ESC is not suggesting that for an annotation for the NamesList.

There is, however, no point to adding *both* meatballs and falafel, because they are not sufficiently visually distinctive. So the same image can be used for both, as well as for many similar-looking foods.

ICE CUBE

West: The proposal (L2/18-111) was for ICEBERG, which is completely different from ICE CUBE. ICEBERG seems reasonable to encode as it can represent a looming danger or something that is largely hidden from view (tip of the iceberg). On the other hand, ICE CUBE has very little possible use in isolation, and would only be useful if combined with a glass to indicate an iced drink. In any case, there is no proposal for ICE CUBE, and so it should be summarily rejected. If the ESC wants to encode an ICE CUBE emoji or an ICED DRINK emoji they should propose one using the proper procedure rather than hijacking someone else’s ICEBERG proposal.

Everson: An ice cube and an iceberg are very very different things. The latter can certainly be used metaphorically. I suppose the first one could be too. Adding one and ignoring the other is not a good idea, and no, ICE CUBE and ICEBERG are in no way synonymous. Encode both ICEBERG and ICE CUBE.

The ICE CUBE can and will be used for *ice* in general; that’s the way emoji work.

The ESC may generalize a proposal to be for a broader-use object, which is what happened in this case. In so doing, the ESC looks at the usage figures for the modified object.

MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIR & MANUAL WHEELCHAIR

*West: I don’t really see the need for two types of wheelchair emoji. Surely encoding both motorized and manual wheelchair goes against selection factor *F* (overly specific). In any case there already exists a wheelchair symbol  which is very widely used, so there is no real need for either of these two new wheelchair emoji.*

Everson: I object to encoding these promising ZWJ sequences and not saying what they are, they should be made explicit. The manual wheelchair is a duplicate, we already have this at U+267F.

The ESC encode the objects because they are more flexible, and can be used independent or in

combination with people. In any event, sequences are required for skin-tones.

Note that there is a separate emoji symbol, U+267F, which has a purely symbolic form, eg for signage. It was felt to be too disruptive to change the appearance of that to a realistic object.

As for encoding both the motorized and manual wheelchairs, here is the explanation from the original proposal [L2/18-180](#): The type of assistive technology that is used by individuals is very personal and mandated by their own disability need. For someone who cannot self-propel and therefore uses an electric wheelchair, it would not be realistic to only show a manual chair. For those who can use a manual version, it would not be realistic to insinuate that they have less mobility than they do. Therefore, these should be seen as two totally separate forms of assistive device. Generalizing these two would be akin to assuming the motor scooter and kick scooter are the same thing.

AUTO RICKSHAW

Everson: Why does it have to be petrol-driven? Where are the PULLED RICKSHAW and CYCLE RICKSHAW characters?

This was chosen because it is the most commonly used form of Rickshaw.

PARACHUTE

Everson: I'd rather see the reference glyph as an isotype. Good metaphor character. Encode, use a better glyph.

The images are samples and the ESC welcomes proposals for improvement.

RINGED PLANET

Everson: Why not have all of the planets of our solar system represented? There's plenty of room in the UCS.... Please do this properly. The three EARTH GLOBE characters do for Earth. Encode PLANET MERCURY, PLANET VENUS, PLANET MARS, PLANET JUPITER, PLANET SATURN (not RINGED PLANET), PLANET URANUS, and PLANET NEPTUNE.

The ESC received many objections to original proposals for other planets in the UTC because the images are insufficiently distinct. The ringed planet in usage can stand for any planet (as is quite common in depictions of planets in other solar systems, in movies, etc.).

Proposals can be made for additional visually distinctive celestial bodies that meet the selection criteria.

YO-YO TOY

Everson: The word TOY is redundant. There is no other YO-YO to distinguish it from. And there is no trade-mark issue. Encode with the name YO-YO.

Recommendation to UTC: change name for U+1FA80 to YO-YO.

BANJO

West: I don't think that banjo is a significant enough musical instrument to encode. We cannot possibly encode emoji for all musical instruments, and accepting banjo seems like it would be opening the floodgates for requests to encode everyone's favourite musical instrument as an emoji. I think it should be sufficient for guitar to represent all plucked stringed instruments, including banjo, but if banjo is accepted because its shape is distinct from guitar then LUTE should also be encoded as it has a distinctive pear-shaped body. CELLO and HARP are probably more significant and more widely-recognized stringed instruments than banjo, and should also be encoded if banjo is accepted. There are also well-known Asian stringed instruments such as the SITAR and QIN/KOTO which

should also be considered for encoding if banjo is accepted.

Everson: There are many instruments. Why does this one get attention? It's not used metaphorically.

The banjo or visually similar instruments are in wide use across Africa, N. America, and parts of the Caribbean. The prospective usage was sufficiently established.

Other proposals for musical instruments can be made. The ESC would have to select and prioritize the ones that would appear in any particular year.

AXE

Everson: What's the usage scenario? This can certainly be used for bullying and intimidation. Do not encode.

The usage scenario is for cutting wood (eg firefighters); also has metaphorical usage.

BLOOD DROP

Everson: The name should be DROP OF BLOOD.

Recommendation to UTC: change name of U+1FA78 to DROP OF BLOOD.

STETHOSCOPE

West: We already have STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS  to represent the medical profession, and the emoji sequences  and  (typically depicted with a stethoscope around the neck) to represent doctors, so there really is no need for a separate stethoscope emoji.

Everson: Completely useless. We already have the STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS, and we already have doctors with various attributes. Why do we need an emoji for this particular object? Will we have a BLOOD PRESSURE CUFF next? Do not encode.

We agree that in retrospect it would have been better to depict doctors using STETHOSCOPE instead of STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS. It is however, sufficiently iconic, and has sufficient prospective frequency to be encoded. The ESC has received and considered proposals for other medical instruments, and this one had the best usage statistics.

Proposals can be made for additional visually distinctive medical instruments or other objects associated with health care that meet the selection criteria.

CHAIR

Everson: We have already U+1F4BA SEAT. What is the usage scenario for SITTING PERSON? Really? Do we really need to distinguish KNEELING PERSON from SITTING PERSON and STANDING PERSON? Do not encode.

U+1F4BA  SEAT has a longstanding appearance as an airplane seat or other institutional chair (as in movies) [NamesList has “intended to denote a reserved or ticketed seat, as for an airplane, train, or theater” for this existing character], and wouldn't be appropriate to change at this point.

SITTING PERSON is not a proposed draft candidate character.

RAZOR

Everson: I have misgivings, but shaving seems a reasonable emoji concept. Encode with the name STRAIGHT RAZOR, or change the glyph to the less violent SAFETY RAZOR with a new glyph.

Vendors are looking at the best depiction of this, and the ESC doesn't have to prematurely choose the

less-favored alternative.

Colored Hearts, Circles & Squares

West: The proposal to add 14 additional coloured squares, circles and hearts to create consistent sets of nine coloured square, circle and heart emoji should be very carefully evaluated before acceptance. The proposal states that these colour emoji blobs would be used by users as spacing graphic “adjectives” to semantically modify an existing emoji. For example the sequences white emoji blob

plus 🐻 could be used to represent a polar bear; white emoji blob plus 🍷 could be used to represent a glass of white wine; and yellow emoji blob plus 🎗 could be used to represent a yellow ribbon (or equivalent sequences with emoji followed by a coloured blob if the user’s language puts adjectives after the noun). Whilst this may seem like a good solution to the problem of users requesting an open-ended number of coloured versions of existing emoji (white wine, polar bear, yellow ribbon, etc.), it seems to have been proposed because “it sounds like a good idea” without carrying out any research as to whether emoji users would actually be willing to use emoji adjectives in this way.

I have seen large numbers of requests for a polar bear emoji on social media, but I have never yet seen anyone using a sequence of bear with white square or white circle to represent a polar bear, so I have doubts whether emoji users will be willing to use coloured emoji blobs as emoji adjectives as suggested by the ESC. In fact the recent proposal for a White Wine Glass emoji sequence (L2/18-208) expressly discusses whether white wine glass could be represented by a sequence of two spacing graphic characters, white square and red wine glass, and concludes that this would not be acceptable to either emoji users or vendors... I recommend that the UTC do not accept these additional coloured emoji squares, circles and hearts without research being carried out as to whether they will be accepted by emoji users.

Everson [re hearts]: No objection to adding WHITE HEART. I don’t know why anyone would wish to use a BROWN HEART. What is the rationale for this? I don’t see a rationale for adding this except for completionism. I do not mind completionism, but if the ESC is going to insist on it here, then I think we had better look again at completing the set of dinosaurs. Also, coloured hearts should NOT be used in sequences. Encode only WHITE HEART unless there is a rationale for BROWN HEART.

Everson [re circles]: No real objection to the addition of colored circles, but what is missing is a discussion of how the existing RED CIRCLE and BLUE CIRCLE are actually used. The document has only said that they are widely used. This is inadequate documentation. Are these five circles expected to be used in the same way?

Everson [re squares]: Some of these new proposed characters are duplicates of existing characters. Those were referenced in document N4011 (L2/11-094) proposed a number of additions to augment an existing set of square boxes with a variety of hatchings useful for discussions of heraldic tinctures. The proposal for the utility of such geometric shapes for heraldicists remains open and valid. Some of these patterned boxes already exist, and the new characters proposed for emoji additions should make use of these, e.g.

<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Existing</i>
<i>1F7E5 RED SQUARE</i>	<i>25A5 SQUARE WITH HORIZONTAL FILL</i>
<i>1F7E6 BLUE SQUARE</i>	<i>25A4 SQUARE WITH VERTICAL FILL</i>
<i>1F7E9 GREEN SQUARE</i>	<i>25A7 SQUARE WITH UPPER LEFT TO LOWER RIGHT FILL</i>

<i>1F7EA PURPLE SQUARE</i>	<i>25A8 SQUARE WITH UPPER RIGHT TO LOWER LEFT FILL</i>
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... continues with discussion of unifying colored emoji squares with patterns for heraldic hatching, and adding a few more characters for the latter.

The extensions are intended to allow the colors to be used adjectivally in sequences, as outlined in the proposal. (The wine proposal for a ZWJ sequence has not been accepted, pending further investigation.)

Note: BEAR + WHITE SQUARE and WHITE SQUARE + BEAR could both be used as plain sequences; if the ESC added a ZWJ sequences it could be one of those or with BEAR + SNOWFLAKE.

Recommendation to UTC: Change these to match the current conventions for hatching if there are any discrepancies, or perhaps different hatching if there are collisions.