

Proposal to Update the Uppercase Mapping of LATIN SMALL LETTER SHARP S (U+00DF) to LATIN CAPITAL LETTER SHARP S (U+1E9E)

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Abstract:

This document proposes changing the Unicode mapping rule for the German "ß" (U+00DF). Currently, "ß" is uppercased to "SS" by default. I propose mapping it to "ß" (U+1E9E) as the standard uppercase form.

Official Recognition:

Since 2017, the capital letter "ß" has been officially recognized in German orthography. Thus, "ß" is the more accurate and culturally correct uppercase variant.

Avoiding Ambiguity:

The current mapping "ß → SS" can lead to confusion, particularly with proper names or specialized terms. Example: "Maß" → "MASS" vs. "MAß" – only the latter preserves correct readability.

Cultural Consistency:

German-language texts benefit from a unified representation aligned with official orthography, improving international text and software compatibility.

Technical Feasibility:

Unicode has supported "ß" since version 5.1 (2008). Modern fonts and text software can render "ß" correctly, making the change technically straightforward.

Minimal Global Impact:

ß/ß usage is limited to German-speaking regions. Standardizing on "ß" has minimal impact worldwide while providing clear advantages for German text.

Compatibility:

Software currently converting "ß → SS" can optionally continue to do so. However, the default should follow the official standard to ensure clarity and consistency.

Proposal:

All Unicode-compliant implementations of uppercase conversion for "ß" should map it by default to "ß" (U+1E9E).