

Net With Handle Emoji Proposal

Submitted by: Malik Adan, Theo Schear, and Jennifer 8. Lee of Emojination.

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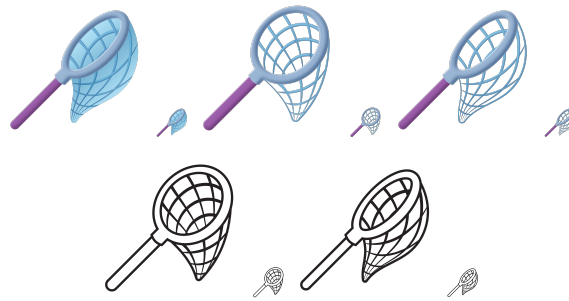
Emoji Name: NET WITH HANDLE

CLDR Keywords: CAPTURE, SPARKLER, WIND CHIME, BUTTERFLY

Reference Emoji: ELEPHANT

Sort location: Category: Tools

We suggest that the NET WITH HANDLE emoji appear after CARP STREAMER 🐟
U+1F38F



*Three proposals for a NET WITH HANDLE emoji. Image Credit: Aphee Messer/Emojination.
Free for use in conjunction with this proposal.*

Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of the NET WITH HANDLE emoji to the Unicode emoji library. This emoji will be styled after the butterfly net, due to its cultural relevance and ubiquity. This also helps distinguish it from the GOAL NET emoji, which doesn't currently serve to capture the essence of the NET WITH HANDLE. Handheld nets are an important part of not just entomology and childhood playtimes, but also crucial scientific studies on climate change. They invoke the ideas of play, pursuit, curiosity and study that can be clearly communicated just by bringing them into conversation.

Introduction

While it's not the phenomenon it once was, butterfly catching—and the litany of other uses for the butterfly net—are still critical to many communities across the globe. Chief among them are amateur and professional scientists who are focused on our changing ecosystems.

In his 2006 essay, Robert Michael Pyle—who is considered the “Godfather of American Butterflying,”¹—wrote “The great contribution of the net-wielders is in building and updating the database of invertebrate distribution. This is why, as counterintuitive as it may seem to some, butterfly nets have been among our most important instruments for insect conservation.”²

In a time where our insect populations are quickly becoming the canary in the coal mine of climate change, more and more people are actively assessing their local ecologies—and butterfly nets are a powerful tool. This isn’t to say it’s all dire news either: the net evokes imagery of children in fields being active and curious, and they are a clear visual metaphor for catching things. This is important because phrases like “catch a cold,” “catch feelings,” “catch a case,” and “getting caught” are all popular idioms that can be even more easily communicated with this emoji.



*A young girl plays with a butterfly net, evoking the feelings of carefree fun and play.
Image from Ebay.*

¹ <https://baynature.org/2019/01/09/give-your-kids-a-butterfly-net/>

² <https://www.lepsoc.org/sites/all/themes/nevia/lepsoc/Conservation%20Matters%20-%20Butterfly%20nets.pdf>



The Spongebob Squarepants cartoon made butterfly catching even more famous than it already was. Image from “Planet of The Jellyfish,” Nickelodeon, 2012.

Moreover, the popular Nickelodeon networkshow, *Spongebob Squarepants*, has definitely helped make butterfly nets/nets with handles a universally understood symbol and item in the modern era. It’s time then that we introduce it into our digital lexicon, as a fully fledged emoji.

Reference Emoji:

We compared NET WITH HANDLE to ELEPHANT, as stated in the Unicode emoji guidelines.

Selection Factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility:

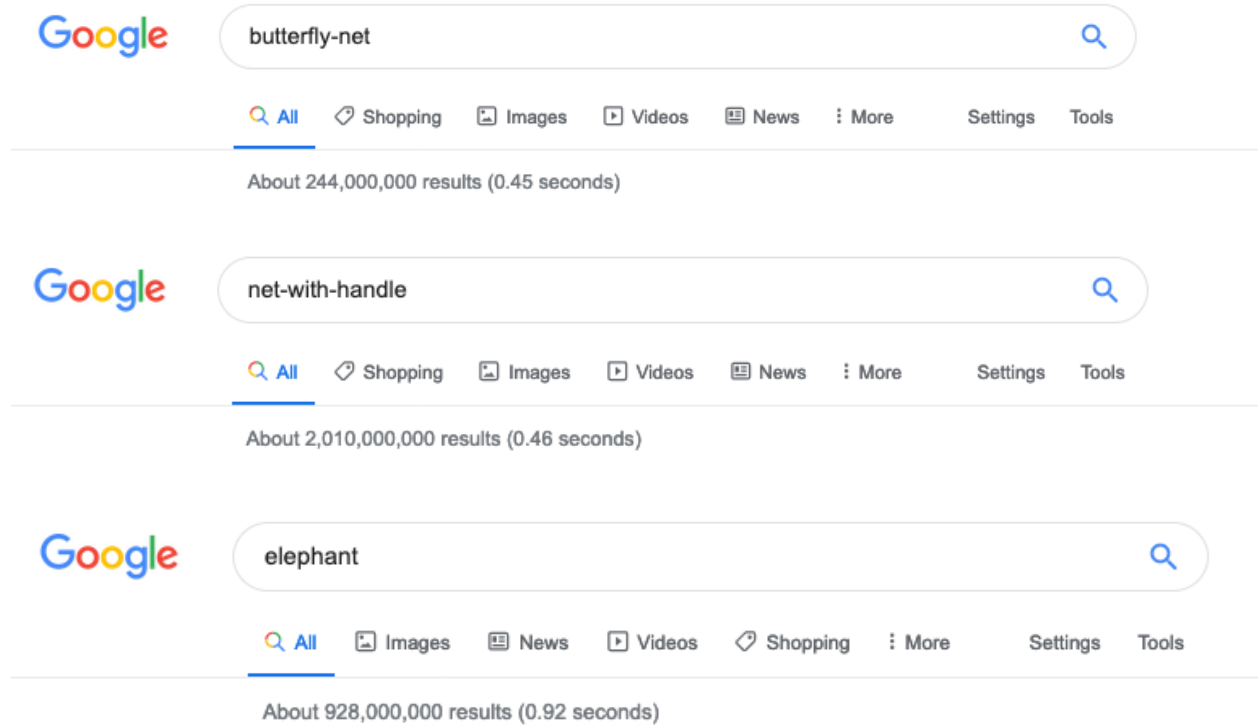
There is currently no representation of a butterfly-style net on major digital platforms.

B. Expected Usage Level

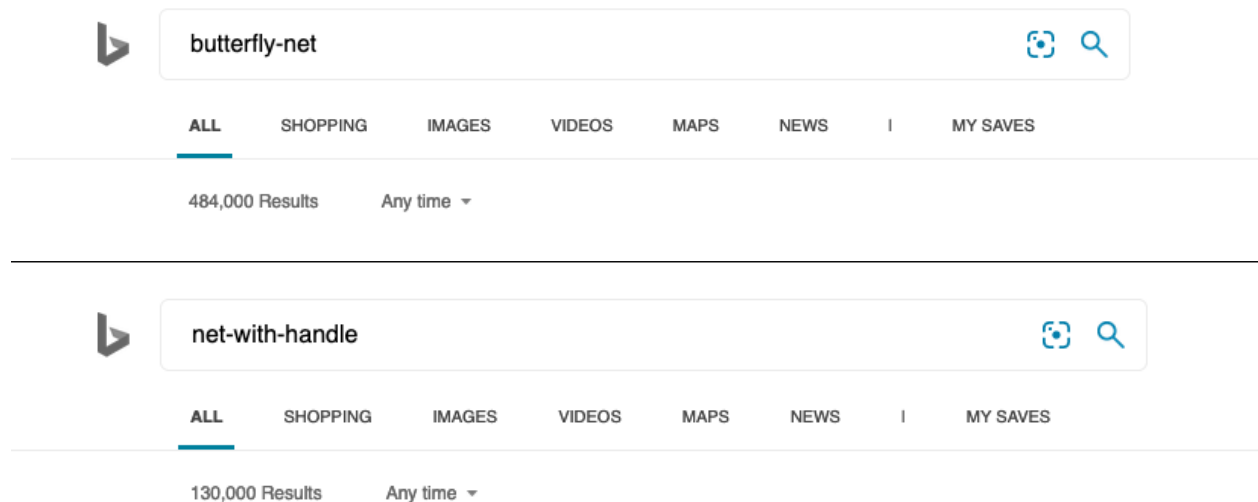
B1. Frequency

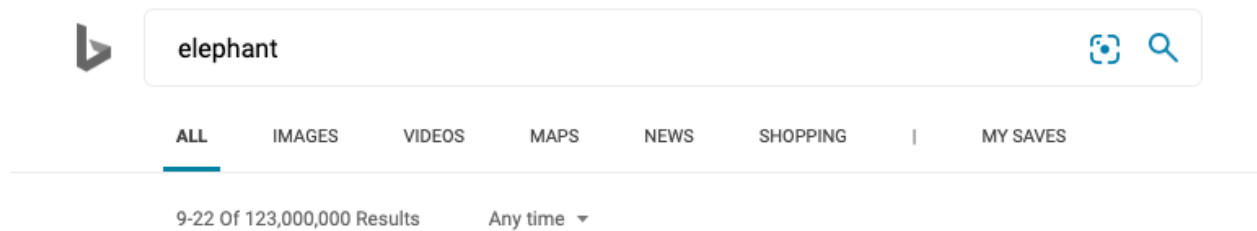
Here we included searches for "net with handle" as well as "butterfly net" to preclude irrelevant results (such as "net" in the sense of "Internet." However, we believe "net" is

the keyword users will use for this emoji.

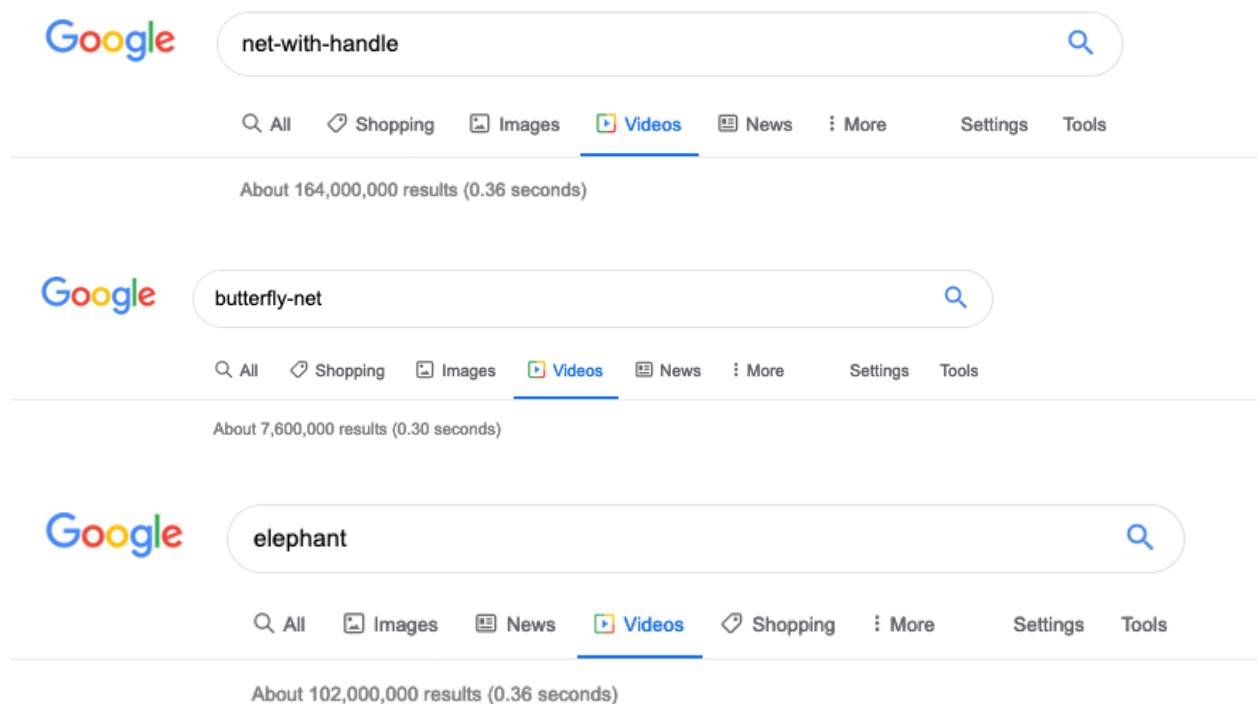


On Bing, both “butterfly net” and “net” exceed the median bing results, 25M:





On Google Video search, “butterfly net” gets a fraction of the results as the median (75M), but “net with handle” alone gets over twenty times more:

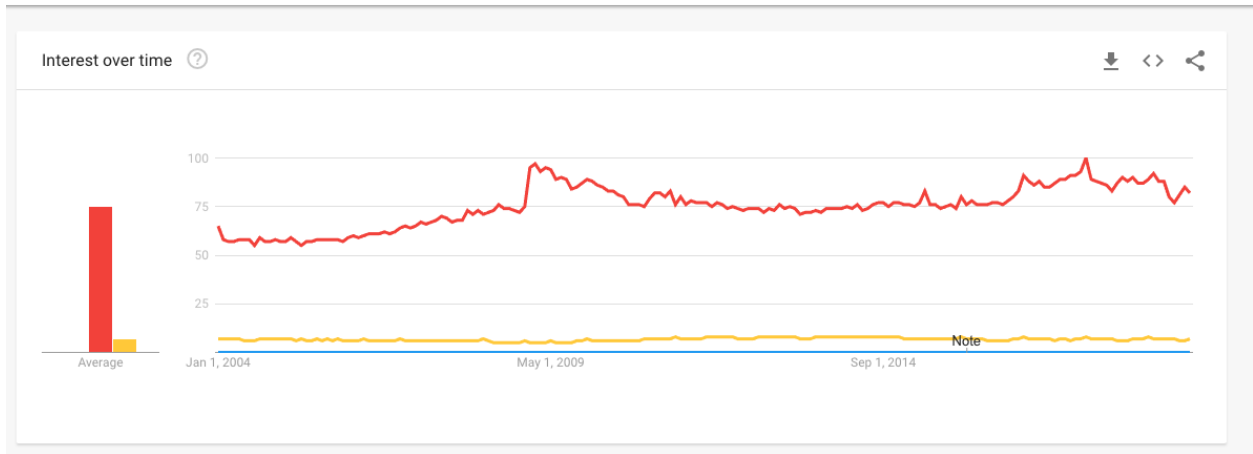


In Google Trends, we must follow logic that “net” is the anchor word—“net with handle” is too specific a search term for comparable results. Despite this, when we look at the data,

“net” alone beats “elephant” in Google Trends web search results, but has only recently surpassed elephant in image search results. “Butterfly net” is far below both of them:

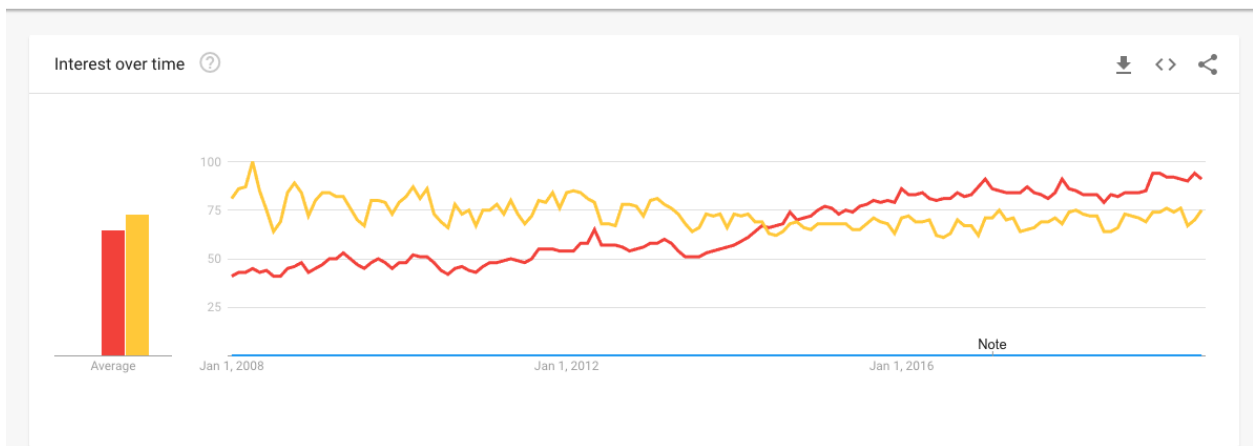
● butterfly net Search term	● net Search term	● elephant Search term	+ Add comparison
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Worldwide ▾ 2004 - present ▾ All categories ▾ Web Search ▾



● butterfly net Search term	● net Search term	● elephant Search term	+ Add comparison
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Worldwide ▾ 2008 - present ▾ All categories ▾ Image Search ▾



B2. Multiple Usages

In English, idioms like “catching X” are very common—“catch a cold,” “catch feelings” (about developing romantic notions towards someone) “catch a case,” (about getting convicted of a crime or having a criminal case pending), “catch hands” (to engage in a fight or provoke a fight), etc. often come up in our daily conversations.

B3. Use in Sequences

Some common sequences including the NET emoji would be:

[Net With Handle Emoji]: Catching

[Net With Handle Emoji] 🦋: Butterfly catching

[Net With Handle Emoji] 🦋🧽: Spongebob butterfly catching

[Net With Handle Emoji] 🤧: Catch a cold

[Net With Handle Emoji] 💕: Catch feelings

[Net With Handle Emoji] 🚓: Catch a case

[Net With Handle Emoji] 😡🔪: Catch a killer

[Net With Handle Emoji] 🦊: Catch hands

B4. Breaking New Ground

N/A

C. Image Distinctiveness

While GOAL NET currently exists, it’s almost exclusively sports related, and would not connote the usage of “catch” or “play” as a butterfly net would.

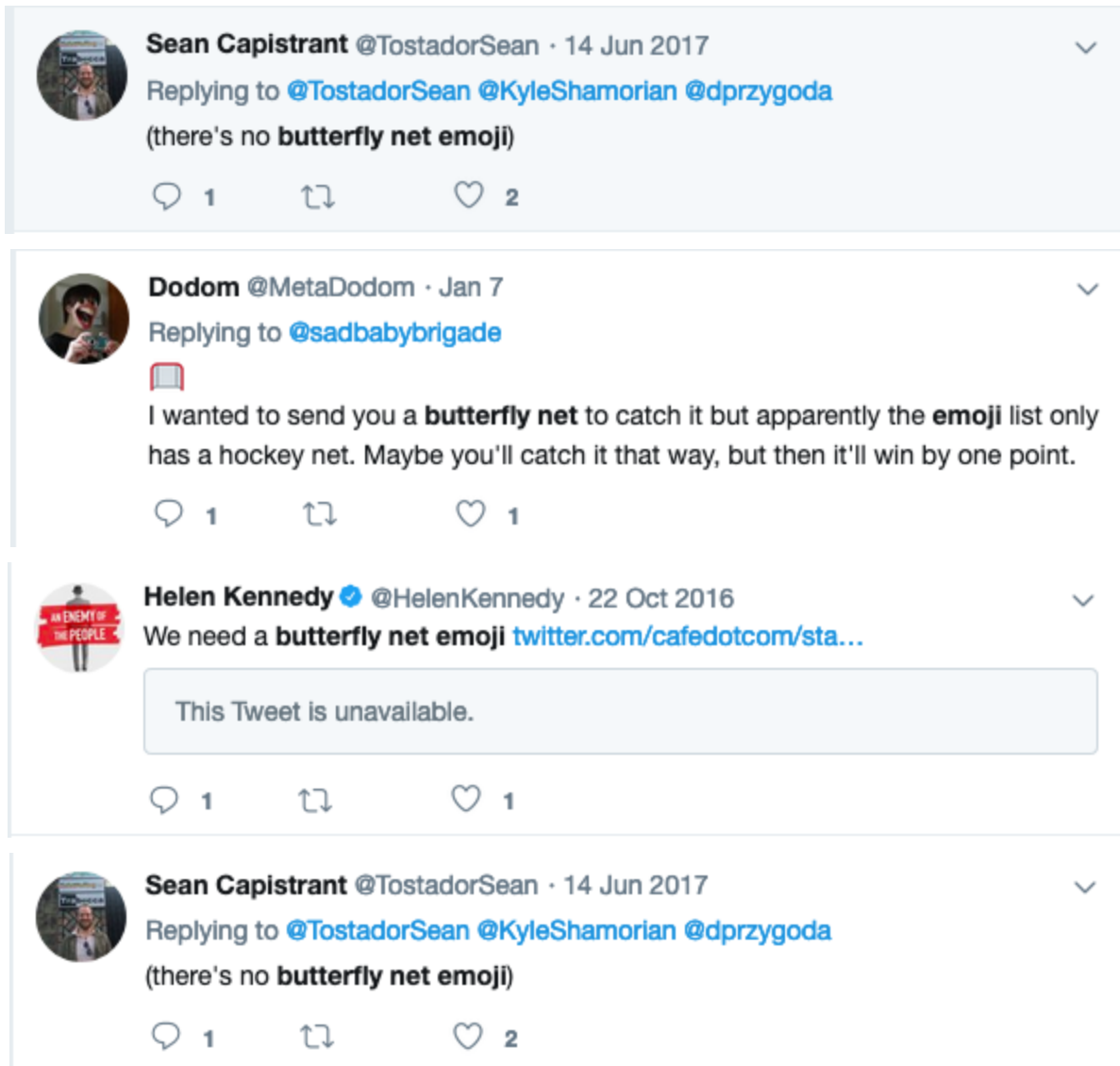
D. Completeness

The NET emoji would add to the family of containers and tools.

E. Frequently Requested

Below is a sample of requests for a NET emoji on Twitter:





4. Selection Factors — Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

The overall design and distinctive shape of a butterfly net remains consistent around the world and is unmistakable.

G. Open Ended

A net with handle emoji would be a unique addition to the Unicode Standard. There would be no obvious vacancies in the object category with the addition of this emoji.

H. Already Representable

Although the GOAL NET emoji is also a net, it is almost exclusively related to sports and not as widely used outside of that realm.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The net with handle can't be trademarked because it is a universal and common tool.

J. Transient

The net with handle/butterfly net is unmistakable and easily identifiable, regardless of culture or region.

K. Faulty Comparison

A net with handle is a unique addition to the Unicode Standard.

L. Exact Images

The proposed emoji does not require an exact image to be distinguishable. It allows for many variations in position and style will still be identifiable given the basic form.

Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Author Bios

Malik Adán (malik@malikadan.com) is a writer, producer and critic living in Oakland, CA. He misses seeing butterflies on the regular, but isn't athletic enough to chase after them these days with a butterfly net.

Theo Schear's (tschear@gmail.com) net worth is approximately US\$10,000 (est.) as of 2018.³

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theo_Schear

Jennifer 8. Lee (jenny@emojicon.co) is also an emoji enthusiast. She thinks this is a great emoji for many reasons.