

Re: ESR Report for UTC #186 (26Q1)
From: Jennifer Daniel on the behalf of the ESR
Date: 2026-01-15
Updated: 2026-01-21

1. Name Change to Unicode 18.0 Final Emoji Candidates

Nine new characters were recommended and approved as of UTC #185. We have since determined that one of these characters requires additional scrutiny before encoding and now recommend replacing it by changing the name of U+1FAEB FACE WITH SQUINTING EYES to **CRACKING FACE**.

[186-C] Consensus: Change the character approved for Unicode Version 18.0 at U+1FAEB from FACE WITH SQUINTING EYES to **CRACKING FACE**, based on Section 1 of document L2/26-008.

[186-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, RMG: Update the pipeline to change the name of U+1FAEB FACE WITH SQUINTING EYES to **CRACKING FACE**, based on Section 1 of document L2/26-008, for Unicode 18.0.

As a result, the following emoji will be included in Unicode 18.0:



U+1F6D9 LIGHTHOUSE
 U+1FA8B METEOR
 U+1FA8C ERASER
 U+1FA8D NET WITH HANDLE
 U+1FACC MONARCH BUTTERFLY
 U+1FADD PICKLE
 U+1FAEB **CRACKING FACE**
 U+1FAF9 LEFTWARDS THUMB SIGN
 U+1FAFA RIGHTWARDS THUMB SIGN

Smileys & Emotion					
face-smiling					
Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
		CRACKING FACE	reveal, resilient, transformation, tension, masking, crumbling, breaking	L2/26-048	0

2. CLDR Emoji Keyword Intake 😊

The ESR has increasingly received requests to add (and remove) keywords to emoji. This happens ad hoc throughout the year without much context creating a heavy burden on both ESR and CLDR WG volunteers.

In pursuit of creating a process that is equally durable and efficient to intaking emoji proposals, the ESR has been working with the CLDR WG to define what makes a good CLDR keyword by providing examples of what to tag and suggesting how to propose updates to keywords. We will be putting forth a proposal of best practices in our Q2 UTC Report.

3. Update on Interoperability Audit 📝

As noted in [L2/25-008](#) and [L2/25-089](#), our multi-quarter effort to improve interoperability is moving forward.

The next study will focus on 39 emoji with a focus on single outlier vendors. The current plan is to apply what we have learned from the 2025 studies to these emoji and identify candidates for either specific recommendations (e.g. a new proposal, a redesign) or undertake further research using the same methodology as the 2025 study.

Wolf u1f43a					
Apple Color	Noto Color	WhatsApp	Facebook	Samsung	Microsoft
					

4. Emoji Calendar 📅

For the past five years the Emoji Working Group has dedicated April to July to review emoji proposals. This process has resulted in our recommendations advancing in the Q4 meeting and with revisions landing in the Q1 report (as needed). With UTC assigning codepoints in Q4, our timeline could be improved to better align with this UTC milestone.

The ESR is exploring some modifications to our process to better serve our Working Group partners and Unicode releases. **Of note, we are recommending changing the emoji proposal intake from an April to July window to a February to May window. This would ensure emoji recommendations can be made in the Q3 UTC meeting and finalized in the Q4 UTC meeting.** No changes are planned for 2026. The earliest this change would happen is in 2027.