

Re: ESR Report for UTC #187 (26Q2)
From: Jennifer Daniel on the behalf of the ESR
Date: 2026-02-17
Updated: 2026-04-14

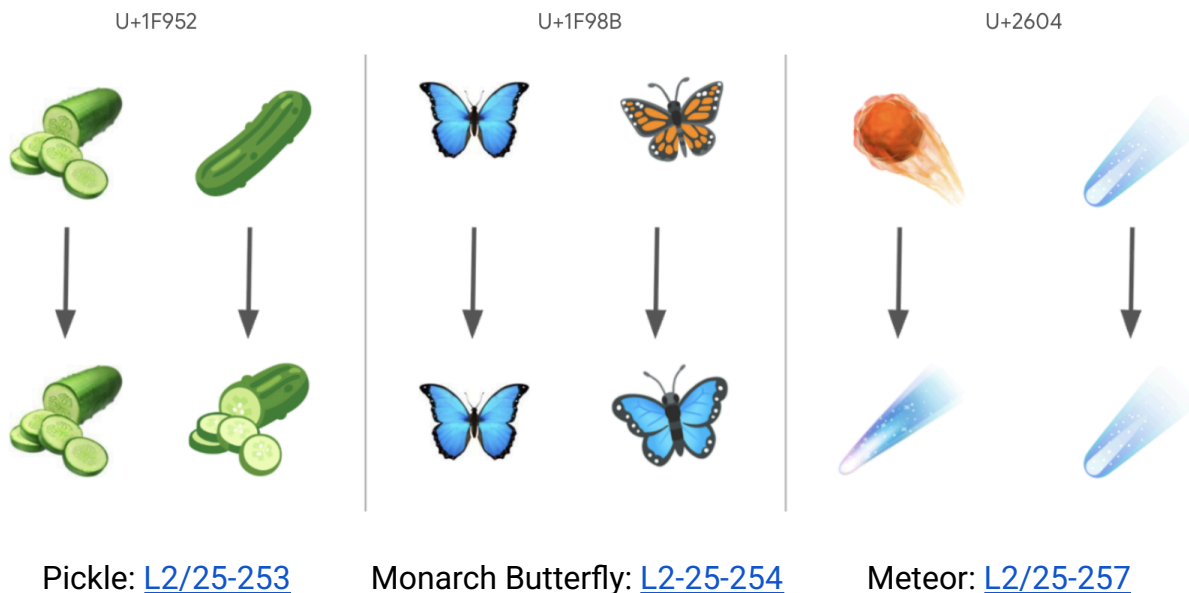
1. PRI Feedback

ReportID: [ID20260303034829](#)

Name: Philippe Verdy

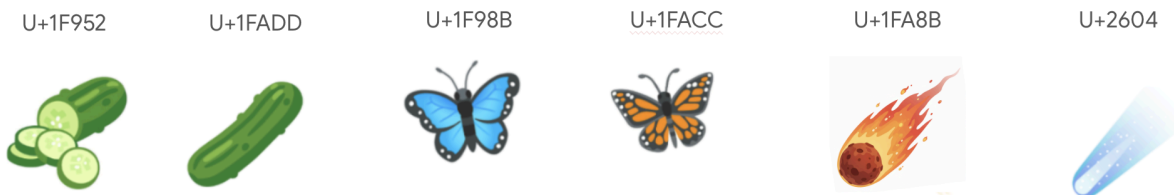
The reporter raises the issue that the new monarch butterfly emoji is too similar to the existing butterfly designs.

The addition of this new emoji is to address a longstanding issue with regard to incompatibility between emoji fonts: Some display a morpho butterfly and others display a monarch butterfly. This update requires vendors with a monarch butterfly design assigned to U+1F98B to be redesigned as a morpho butterfly. Notably, the 18.0 update includes multiple additions to address other interoperability issues that require updates to existing designs in order to make room for these new emoji. See chart below for examples:



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With these design changes in place, the Unicode Standard will include the following emoji:



As for charts, the appropriate annotations are being added to both butterfly characters.

No UTC Action is needed.

ReportID: [ID20260328102651](#)

Name: Charlotte Buff

The reporter is also concerned about the addition of monarch butterfly and furthermore believes its selection contradicts the selection process by being subject to multiple factors for exclusion.

As noted in [Guidelines for Submitting Unicode® Emoji Proposals](#): “Inclusion factors weigh in favor of encoding the emoji, and exclusion factors weigh against.” Being subject to one or more exclusion factors does not automatically prevent a proposal from being accepted should there be sufficient inclusion factors in the proposal’s favor. This emoji is being added to resolve an interoperability issue that was identified by ESR (see *response to feedback above*). Although there were some concerns raised around this particular proposal in a previous UTC plenary session, ESR presented evidence that the two butterflies have sufficiently different meanings to convince the UTC to accept the proposal.

No UTC Action is needed.

2. ESR Priorities

The working group’s priorities remain consistent with last year’s ([L2/25-128](#)) with a focus on existing customer problems centered on interoperability and improving criteria for inclusion.

3. 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. The CLDR and ESR WGs are working to define best practices, which will be published in a future document.

4. Update on Interoperability Audit

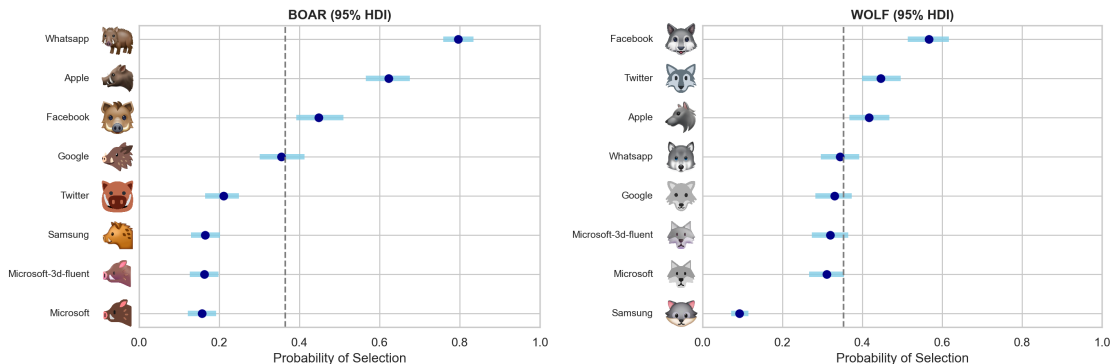
As noted in [L2/25-008](#) and [L2/25-089](#), our multi-quarter effort to improve interoperability is moving forward.

The study conducted in Q1 focused on 51 emoji, most of which have a single outlier for key interoperability factors such as Microexpression, Colour, Body vs Face.



We have preliminary results confirming Q1's finding that animal emoji are seen as better representations when they are a full body. The plots below show how a full-body design (BOAR) is highly selected, but where no full-body design is available (WOLF) then overall selection rates are low.

A full report is in preparation, with detailed analysis of all individual emoji results.



5. Emoji 19.0 Reviews have Begun!

On April 2nd, the WG kicked off the review of emoji submissions for our next release. We will be reviewing documents submitted through July 31, 2026.