

Emoji: Review of PDAM8

L2/09-272

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Summary

We have reviewed PDAM8 (N3658) and see no problems with Emoji character code points, names and glyphs, except for the small set of exceptions noted below.

We recommend that the US position be to avoid further substantive name and glyph changes, except to address the issues below.

Glyphs for Emoji Compatibility Symbols

PDAM8 includes five Emoji compatibility symbols at U+1F560..U+1F564 (e-4C3..e-4C4, e-4C6..e-4C8). Their glyphs in PDAM8 are the landmark glyphs from the US proposal (L2/09-026R=N3583). Their names are EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-N (where N is a number).

We see no problem with the glyphs, but we could also accept changing the glyphs to dashed boxes with text, similar to U+FFFC and U+1680. We believe that the names should remain the same, to signal to users that these are only for compatibility, and set no precedent for adding further landmark symbols.

Glyph for U+1F526 BOOKMARK

The proposed symbol U+1F526 (e-B8F) BOOKMARK has a PDAM8 glyph that looks like a luggage tag or merchandise tag, especially with the tapered end, the horizontal orientation, and (more ambiguously) the string. KDDI Emoji #512 (which U+1F526 represents) has an image that is much more recognizable as a bookmark rather than a luggage tag. In user interfaces, for example in Eclipse and a number of other programs, one of the common designs is a bookmark icon with a square top and a swallow tail.

We recommend a US ballot comment to change the glyph of U+1F526 BOOKMARK to show a bookmark with a square top, a swallow tail, and no string.

That is, it should look like KDDI #512 but without the string and without a hole for the string. Either diagonal or vertical orientation is acceptable.

KDDI #512:  Eclipse bookmark: 

Mistakes

While reviewing PDAM8, we discovered mistakes originating in our own proposal that should be corrected in AMD 8.

Mistake in U+1F3A5 MOVIES

The proposed symbol U+1F3A5 (e-801) MOVIES has an alias annotation of "film, movie projector". However, it represents camera symbols (KDDI #110 "video camera" and Softbank #260 "movie (camera)") not projector symbols. The cross-mapped docomo symbol #58 is simply called "movie" and its image could represent either a camera or a projector.

We recommend a US ballot comment to

- Change the glyph to show a movie camera, not a movie projector
 - This needs to be distinct from the hand-held U+1F418 (e-4F9) VIDEO CAMERA (handycam/camcorder).
- Change the alias annotation to "film, movie camera"
- Leave the name as MOVIES. (However, we should not oppose changing the name to MOVIE CAMERA or MOVIE.)

Mistake in U+1F420 CAMEL

The glyph for proposed symbol U+1F420 (e-1D6) CAMEL shows a one-hump camel (that is, a dromedary camel). However, it represents KDDI #723 "two-hump camel" and Softbank #119 "camel" which both have images of a two-hump camel (that is, a bactrian camel).

We recommend a US ballot comment to change the glyph to show a two-hump (bactrian) camel.

Mistake in U+1F3C7 HORSE RACING

The proposed symbol U+1F3C7 (e-7DC) HORSE RACING represents Softbank #121 "horse (entire)" which is not used exclusively for "horse racing" and where the image does not show a jockey. That was proposed because there was no HORSE symbol at the time. However, there is now a U+1F438 HORSE symbol in the PDAM8, which shows a horse in full side view without a jockey. There is thus no reason to have a separate U+1F3C7 HORSE RACING for emoji; e-7DC should just be mapped to U+1F438 HORSE.

We recommend a US ballot comment to remove U+1F3C7 HORSE RACING from AMD 8.

Mistake in U+1F4AA FLEXED BICEP

The name of the proposed symbol U+1F4AA (e-B5E) FLEXED BICEP is misspelled. According to [Wikipedia](#): "...*biceps* is used in both singular and plural (i.e., when referring to both arms). The form *bicep* [sic], although common even in professional contexts, is considered incorrect."

We recommend a US ballot comment to change the name of U+1F4AA to FLEXED BICEPS

Unification of U+1F69A TRUCK with U+26DF BLACK TRUCK

In the PDAM8 review, we noticed that U+1F69A (e-7F1) TRUCK is almost the same as the Unicode 5.2 character U+26DF BLACK TRUCK (which is from the ARIB set, from AMD 6). Their glyphs are nearly mirror images of each other and their names are sufficiently similar. e-7F1 should just be mapped to U+26DF BLACK TRUCK. We appear to have missed this unification opportunity before.

We recommend a US ballot comment to remove U+1F69A TRUCK from AMD 8.

Eleven Additional Compatibility Symbols

The US proposal (L2/09-026R=N3583) included 76 UCS characters that are not in PDAM8. Eleven of these characters are in very common use, are interchanged with many other systems, and are required in Unicode to avoid loss of data in interoperating with extended versions of Shift-JIS or ISO-2022-JP used by the Japanese cell phone carriers. However, these are only compatibility characters and do not have to have a particular glyph or name in the standard, to avoid setting a precedent. For more information, see L2/09-025R2=N3582.

Of these eleven symbols in common use, ten were proposed in N3583 as regional indicator symbols. They are used by KDDI and Softbank. At the WG2 meeting in April 2009, there was no consensus to include these 10 symbols in PDAM8.

The remaining symbol in common use is among a set of 66 symbols that were proposed as compatibility symbols in N3583. At the WG2 meeting in April 2009, the US withdrew its request to encode these characters at that time. However, one of these 66 symbols, from docomo, is in fact in very common use.

We recommend a US ballot comment to add eleven characters to AMD 8, with the following code points and character names:

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1F565  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-6
        * represents KDDI Emoji #703
        * represents Softbank Emoji #430
        = e-4ED
1F566  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-7
        * represents KDDI Emoji #700
        * represents Softbank Emoji #425
        = e-4E8
1F567  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-8
        * represents KDDI Emoji #366
        * represents Softbank Emoji #428
        = e-4EB
1F568  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-9
        * represents KDDI Emoji #499
        * represents Softbank Emoji #424
        = e-4E7
1F569  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-10
        * represents KDDI Emoji #702
        * represents Softbank Emoji #427
        = e-4EA
1F56A  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-11
        * represents KDDI Emoji #701
        * represents Softbank Emoji #426
        = e-4E9
1F56B  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-12
        * represents KDDI Emoji #237
        * represents Softbank Emoji #422
        = e-4E5
1F56C  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-13
        * represents KDDI Emoji #704
        * represents Softbank Emoji #431
        = e-4EE
1F56D  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-14
        * represents KDDI Emoji #367
        * represents Softbank Emoji #429
        = e-4EC
1F56E  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-15
        * represents KDDI Emoji #90
        * represents Softbank Emoji #423
        = e-4E6

1F56F  EMOJI COMPATIBILITY SYMBOL-16
        * represents docomo Emoji #122
        = e-82B

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Proposed glyphs: Dashed boxes with text, similar to U+FFFC and U+1680. In each dashed box, the text should be on two lines, "EC" on top and the number 6..16 on the bottom.

Sources File

Note: The emoji_sources.txt file (L2/09-078=N3585) was not accepted as part of ISO/IEC 10646. Once the code assignments are final, we will propose the addition of emoji_sources.txt to the Unicode site, with updated contents. (No US ballot comment necessary.)