Emoji and Symbol Additions - Religious Symbols and Structures (revision 4)

To: *UTC*
Date: *1 November 2014*
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Live Doc: *http://goo.gl/pz5a00*

As a follow-up to previously submitted documents to UTC, L2/14-172[1] and L2/14-174R[2], this document proposes a set of eight additional characters representing religious symbols and structures for incorporation into Unicode.

Contents

Current State

There are numerous religious symbols already incorporated into Unicode. Among those some may qualify as emoji. See the chart in Appendix 1. Symbols for church (U+26EA) and Shinto

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[1] Edberg, and Davis. "Proposed enhancements for emoji characters: background".
[2] Edberg, and Davis. "Emoji Additions".

shrine ([U+26E9](#)) already exist in Unicode and have emoji usage.

Objective and Selection Criteria

The objective has been to have symbols and structures of major belief systems worldwide represented with an emphasis on filling up existing gaps in the encoded symbol repertoire (e.g. to present Abrahamic religions, or for those major belief systems with specific, strong focus on places of worship as centers of community[3]). The other criteria have been an existing or potential common usage among the user community.

[4]
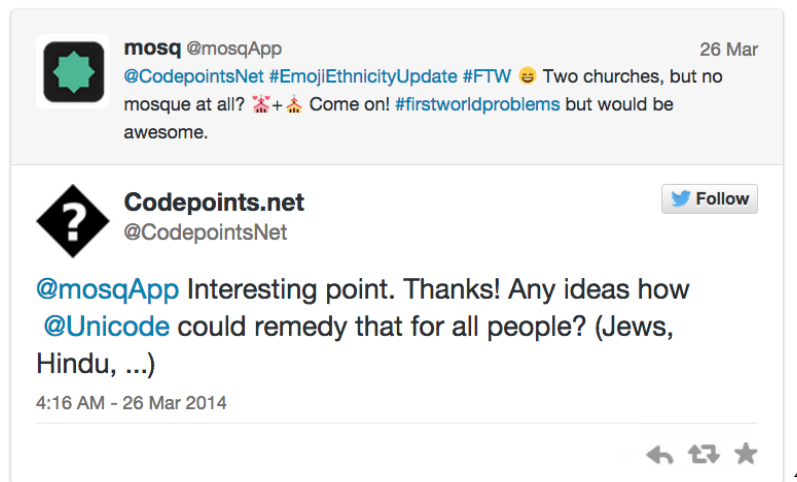
Major Belief Systems According to Statistics

Statistics reported are percentages of global population:

- Pew Research Center[5] (2012) statistics are: Christianity (31.5%), Islam (23.2%), Unaffiliated (16.3%), Hinduism (15.0%), Buddhism (7.1%), Folk religions (5.9%), Other (0.8%), Judaism (0.2%).
- CIA World Factbook[6] (2010) statistics are: Christianity (33.39%), Islam (22.74%), Hinduism (13.8%), Buddhism (6.77%), Sikhism (0.35%), Judaism (0.22%), Baha'i (0.11%), other religions (10.95%), non-religious (9.66%), atheism (2.01%)
- Adherents.com[7] (2005) statistics are: Christianity (33%), Islam (21%), non-religious (16%), Hinduism (14%), Buddhism (6%), Chinese traditional (6%), primal-indigenous (6%), Sikhism (0.36%), Judaism (0.22%).

Encoding Models for Symbols for Religious Structures

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[3] De Botton. "Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion", pp. 50-51.
[4] Codepoints.net. Twitter conversation.
[5] Pew Research Center. "The Global Religious Landscape."
[6] The World Factbook.
[7] Adherents.com. "Major Religions of the World Ranked by Number of Adherents".

The proposed religious symbols (X600, X603, X605, X606, and X607) should be encoded separately and individually. For generic religious structures symbols (X601 and X602), two distinctive models can be considered:

a. **Individual symbols:** In the style of existing emoji for buildings and other structures, an individual, distinct symbol would be assigned to each class of religious structures. Implications of using this model are:
    i. Filling the existing gaps in the current repertoire;
    ii. Although this model is consistent with existing emoji for buildings and structures, but adding individual new symbols for each structure proves to be practical only for major belief systems in practice worldwide;
    iii. Providing a unique representative visual form for each of these structures to address the existing variance of architectural style is a challenging task; e.g. a symbol for a mosque which uses Star and Crescent does not necessarily depict a mosque in a Shia country like Iran (where the symbol may remind people of the Turkish/Ottoman or Pakistani flags instead).

b. **Symbol sequences:** In the style of common emoji syntax[8] (i.e. 🏠 🙏 ☸), a generic "place of worship" symbol will be followed by the symbol representing the religion being addressed; e.g.

    🛐🕉 for a hindu temple, 🛐☸ for a buddhist temple[9], 🛐✡ for a synagogue, and 🛐☦ for an orthodox church. Implications of using this model are:
    i. This method makes use of numerous existing religious symbols therefore limits the number of symbols needed to be encoded and in the meantime extends the coverage of the solution beyond major belief systems;
    ii. New additions are simple due to nature and usage of religious symbols and is limited to encoding the symbol in question;
    iii. Some religious structures like Bodh Gaya and Mahabodhi Temple, Kaaba, Dome of the Rock, or Western Wall have specific significance and using a symbol sequence with the generic symbol for place of worship does not communicate that significance.

Proposed Symbols

This is a list of religious and religious structure symbols to be considered for incorporation in Unicode. Symbols for Chinese Folk Religion (Shenism) are proposed in a separate document[10]. X600 to X603 previously mentioned in a document[11] to the UTC.

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[8] Mendelson. "Emoji Major No. 6: A Buddhist Education."
[9] http://vesakinottawa.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/buddhist-road-sign-in-ottawa-20113.jpg?w=300
[10] Afshar, and Pournader. "Six New Symbols for Chinese Folk Religions".
[11] Edberg, and Davis. "Emoji Additions".

Code	Image (illus)	Character name/description	Notes
1F4FF		PRAYER BEADS	Used by members of various religious traditions; Rosary Beads was previously proposed by iDiversicons[12].
1F54B		KAABA	Fleshing out a set of symbols for religious structures; Also used as map, directional[13], and traffic symbol[14].
1F54C		MOSQUE	Fleshing out a set of symbols for religious structures; The number of minarets depends on the architectural school.
1F54D		SYNAGOGUE	Fleshing out a set of symbols for religious structures.
1F54E		MENORAH WITH NINE BRANCHES	Business Insider list[15]; holiday symbol, Hanukiah.
1F6D0		PLACE OF WORSHIP	Generic symbol for place of worship; original square-shaped symbol created for Open Street Maps Mapnik[16] denoting unknown place of worship; used in various related projects[17] [18]; public domain.

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[12] Ibid.

[13] Benander. "Which way is Mecca?".

[14] http://susieofarabia.files.wordpress.com/2008/05/100_1977.jpg

[15] Moss, Nudelman. "19 Emoji That Really Should Exist".

[16] SJJB. "SVG Map Icons".

[17] Cyclestreets.net. "Plan a cycle journey: Worship, Place of".

[18] Wheelmap.org. "Введенская церковь".

1F900		DHYANI BUDDHA	Generic symbol representing Five Dhyani Buddhas[19] (Akshobhya shown here); Common as a general symbol for buddhism and buddhist temples[20]; in use as map symbol denoting buddhist temples[21]; also previously proposed by iDiversicons[22].

Discussion

Although the proposed symbols can be classified as loosely notational and non-compatibility, but considering the Unicode Consortium criteria and guidelines for proposing new symbols[23] [24], the authors find these characters to have a compelling case to be incorporated into the Unicode Standard:

- These symbols complement a set of existing religious symbols and emoji for religious structures. Specifically about the latter case, the encoding model using symbol sequences mentioned in section Encoding Models for Symbols for Religious Structures provides a solution which addresses potential future needs in a scalable manner;
- Similar to all other emoji, these symbols:
  - have common usage and wide community of users across various platforms which already implemented current Unicode emoji to ensure a safe interchange;
  - have the potential to be regularly used in running text, but their specificity to messages expressing sentiments about major human belief systems makes their case of use a more compelling one "to expand the possibilities of what might be expressed"[25] and "opening a gateway to a non-discursive language of new possibility"[26];
  - have well-defined semantics which is non-ignorable in processing including searching and indexing;

Character Properties

```
1F4FF;PRAYER BEADS;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F54B;KAABA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F54C;MOSQUE;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
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[19] A View on Buddhism. "Symbolism of the five Dhyani Buddhas".
[20] http://media.jrn.com/images/b99305078z.1_20140704185948_000_gse6troi.2-0.jpg
[21] International Travel Maps. "Himalaya, the roof of the world".
[22] Afshar, and Parrott. "Report on Diversity Emoji Use in iDiversicons and Proposal to Add New Emoji from iDiversicons Collection to Unicode". p. 5.
[23] Unicode Consortium. "Submitting Character Proposals".
[24] Freytag. "Towards criteria for encoding symbols".
[25] Lebduska. "Emoji, Emoji, What for Art Thou?"
[26] Ibid.

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1F54D;SYNAGOGUE;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F54E;MENORAH WITH NINE BRANCHES;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F6D0;PLACE OF WORSHIP;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F900;DHYANI BUDDHA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
```

Other Symbols Considered

Symbols in the following table were considered by the authors, but at this point, there is not yet a compelling case for incorporating them into the Unicode standard.

Code	Image (illus)	Character name/description	Notes
X605		SYMBOL FOR ATHEISM	Generic atheist symbol, result of a 2007 Atheist Alliance International contest[27]; public domain.
X608		MENORAH WITH SEVEN BRANCHES	Biblical lamp and a symbol for Judaism. Also used as a map symbol for synagogue.
X609		WESTERN WALL	Specific significance and usage as map symbol.
X610		DOME OF THE ROCK	Specific significance and usage as map symbol.
X611		MAHABODHI TEMPLE	Specific significance.

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[27] PZMinion. "Atheism Symbol".

Code	Name	Religion
X612	SYMBOL FOR HUMANISM	Trademark by the British Humanist Association (mostly to prevent abuse).

Appendix 1: Current Religious Symbols in Unicode

Code	Name	Religion
271D	LATIN CROSS	Christianity
271E	SHADOWED LATIN CROSS	Christianity
271F	OUTLINED LATIN CROSS	Christianity
2720	MALTESE CROSS	Christianity
2626	ORTHODOX CROSS	Christianity
2627	CHI RHO	Christianity
2628	CROSS OF LORRAINE	Christianity
2629	CROSS OF JERUSALEM	Christianity
2670	WEST SYRIAC CROSS	Christianity
2671	EAST SYRIAC CROSS	Christianity
2719	OUTLINED GREEK CROSS	Christianity
271A	HEAVY GREEK CROSS	Christianity
26EA	CHURCH	Christianity
1F540	CIRCLED CROSS POMMEE	Christianity
1F541	CROSS POMMEE WITH HALF-CIRCLE BELOW	Christianity
1F542	CROSS POMMEE	Christianity
1F546	WHITE LATIN CROSS	Christianity
1F547	HEAVY LATIN CORSS	Christianity
1F548	CELTIC CROSS	Christianity
1F7A1	THIN GREEK CROSS	Christianity
1F7A2	LIGHT GREEK CROSS	Christianity
1F7A3	MEDIUM GREEK CROSS	Christianity
1F7A4	BOLD GREEK CROSS	Christianity
1F7A5	VERY BOLD GREEK CROSS	Christianity
1F7A6	VERY HEAVY GREEK CROSS	Christianity

1F7A7	EXTREMELY HEAVY GREEK CROSS	Christianity
2613	SALTIRE	Christianity
26DD	SQUARED SALTIRE	Christianity
2B59	HEAVY CIRCLED SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7A8	THIN SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7A9	LIGHT SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7AA	MEDIUM SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7AB	BOLD SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7AC	HEAVY SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7AD	VERY HEAVY SALTIRE	Christianity
1F7AE	EXTREMELY HEAVY SALTIRE	Christianity
262A	STAR AND CRESCENT	Islam
262B	FARSI SYMBOL[28]	Islam
721	STAR OF DAVID	Judaism
950	DEVANAGARI OM	Hinduism
0AD0	GUJARATI OM	Hinduism
0BD0	TAMIL OM	Hinduism
0F00	TIBETAN SYLLABLE OM	Hinduism
1F549	OM SYMBOL	Hinduism
262C	ADI SHAKTI	Sikhism
2638	WHEEL OF DHARMA	Buddhism
0FD5	RIGHT-FACING SVASTI SIGN	Buddhism
0FD6	LEFT-FACING SVASTI SIGN	Buddhism
0FD7	RIGHT-FACING SVASTI SIGN WITH DOTS	Buddhism
0FD8	LEFT-FACING SVASTI SIGN WITH DOTS	Buddhism
262F	YIN YANG	Taoism
268A	MONOGRAM FOR YANG	Taoism
268B	MONOGRAM FOR YIN	Taoism
26E9	SHINTO SHRINE	Shinto
26E4	PENTAGRAM	Wicca/Occult
26E7	INVERTED PENTAGRAM	Wicca/Occult

Appendix 2: Common Religious Map Symbols

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[28] Wikipedia contributors. "Emblem of Iran".

In order to provide some background data for defining the relationship (or lack thereof) between proposed symbols in this document and map symbols, various maps published in different countries were surveyed and the religious map symbols were extracted and annotated for reference.

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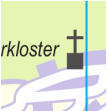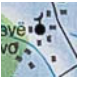
Emoji and Symbol Additions - Religious Symbols and Structures
Appendix 2: Common Religious Map Symbols

Live spreadsheet: http://goo.gl/qIEaxa

|	Description	Religon	Trace	Original	Publisher	Map of Country/Region	Notes
1	Masoleoum, tomb, shrine	Muslim			Gizi	AF, SY (Halab)	
2	Temple	Sikh?			Gizi	IN (Jammu and Kashmir)	
3	Temple	Buddhist			Gizi	IN (Jammu and Kashmir), IN (Himalayas)	
4	Temple	Buddhist			Gizi	IN (Jammu and Kashmir)	
5	Mosque	Muslim			Gizi	AF, SY	
6	Temple	Buddhist			ITM	JP (Kyoto)	Swastikas.
7	Temple	Shinto			ITM	CN (Beijing)	

8	Western Wall	Jewish			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Jerusalem)	Also, traffic sign usage.
9	Dome of the Rock	Muslim			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Jerusalem)	
10	Synagogue	Jewish			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Jerusalem)	
11	Church	Christian			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Haifa)	
12	Shrine	Bahai			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Haifa)	
13	Mosque	Muslim			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Haifa)	
14	Mikveh	Jewish			Israel Ministry of Tourism	IL (Haifa)	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikveh
15	Mosque	Muslim				LK	Crescent and star
16	Church	Christian				LK	

17	Temple	Sikh					LK	
18	Temple	Buddhist					LK	
19	Mosque	Muslim				Gitashenasi	AF (Kabul), IR (Tehran)	Allah in Kufi-Bannaiee (http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bannai)
20	Tekyeh	Muslim (Shia)				Gitashenasi	IR (Tehran)	Allah in Kufi-Bannaiee (http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bannai)
21	Wayside shrine	Christian				Gizi	GR (Kalymnos)	
22	Monestary	Christian				Gizi	GR (Kalymnos)	
23	Monastery	Christian				Gizi	GR (Kalymnos)	
24	Church	Christian				Gizi	GR (Kalymnos)	
25	Church	Christian				Gizi	GR (Kalymnos)	

26	Wayside shrine	Christian				AT (Innsbruck)	
27	Graveyard	Christian				AT (Innsbruck)	
28	Church	Christian				AT (Innsbruck)	
29	Monastery	Christian				AT (Innsbruck)	
30	Tomb	Muslim				EG	
31	Monastery	Christian (Orth?)				XK	
32	Mosque	Muslim				XK	
33	Place of Worship	Bahai			OSM		http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Map_Icons/Map_Icons_Standards
34	Place of Worship	Buddhist			OSM		

35	Place of Worship	Christian			OSM	
36	Place of Worship	Hindu			OSM	
37	Place of Worship	Muslim			OSM	
38	Place of Worship	Jain			OSM	
39	Place of Worship	Jewish			OSM	
40	Place of Worship	Shinto			OSM	
41	Place of Worship	Taoist			OSM	
42	Place of Worship	Zoroastrian			OSM	
43	Place of Worship	Generic/Unknown			OSM	https://github.com/twain47/Open-SVG-Map-Icons

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[29]

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from
http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html for guidelines and details before filling this form.
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from
http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html.
See also http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative
1. Title: Emoji and Symbol Additions - Religious Symbols and Structures
2. Requester's name: Shervin Afshar, Roozbeh Pournader
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):   Individual contribution
4. Submission date: 29 October 2014
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:

   This is a complete proposal: ■

   (or) More information will be provided later: ☐
B. Technical - General
1. Choose one of the following:

   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):   ☐
   Proposed name of script:

   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: ■
   Name of the existing block: Miscellaneous Symbols And Pictographs, Transport And Map
   Symbols, Supplemental Symbols and Pictographs
2. Number of characters in proposal: Seven
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

☐A-Contemporary   ■B.1-Specialized (small collection)   ☐B.2-Specialized (large collection)

☐C-Major extinct   ☐D-Attested extinct   ☐E-Minor extinct

☐F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic   ☐G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?   Yes
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" Yes
   b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?   Yes
5. Fonts related:
   a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the
   standard?   Michael Everson
   b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail,
   ftp-site, etc.): Michael Everson, everson@evertype.com
6. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? N/A
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
   of proposed characters attached?   N/A
7. Special encoding issue
   Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input,
   presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?
   No

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8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see UAX#44: http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/ and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?   No
    If YES explain
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?   No
    If YES, available relevant documents:
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?   Yes
    Reference: See the bibliographical information provided in the document.
4. The context of use for the proposed characters type of use; common or rare)
    Reference: See the bibliographical information provided in the document.
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?   Yes
    If YES, where? Reference: See the bibliographical information provided in the document.
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?   No
    If YES, is a rationale provided?
    If Yes, reference:
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?
    No
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?   No
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
    If Yes, reference:
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?   No
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
    If Yes, reference:
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? No
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
    If Yes, reference:
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?
    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?   No
    If Yes, reference:
    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
    If Yes, reference:
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?   No
    If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?   No
    If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?
    If Yes, reference: