

More variation sequences for text/emoji presentation

To: UTC
From: UTC Emoji Subcommittee
Date: 2015-10-29

Note: This is a followup to proposal [L2/15-198](#) discussed in at the July 2015 UTC meeting.

Proposal

This document proposes adding standardized variation sequences in Unicode 9.0 to enable control of text-style or emoji-style presentation (using VARIATION SELECTOR-15 and VARIATION SELECTOR-16 respectively) for 29 default-text-presentation emoji characters that do not already have such sequences. The default-text-presentation emoji are those with a Default_Emoji_Style of “text” listed in Field 1 of the [emoji-data](#) file.

Note: The original proposal requested variation sequences for all 138 default-text-presentation emoji characters that do not have such sequences. In response, the UTC first requested an analysis of whether some default-text-presentation characters should be removed from emoji-data. That analysis is rather moot at this point because major implementations now exist in which every character in emoji-data has an emoji presentation¹—that is, practice has bypassed theory.

The need for such variation sequences is most acute when characters which have been available with text presentation in several fonts then become available with emoji presentations as well; the default presentation depends on the order of font fallback in a particular rendering environment, and may vary across applications and between system versions. Thus the need is most acute for characters which have been in Unicode for some time. Hence this proposal focuses on just the higher-priority subsets of the 138 characters in the original proposal, as follows (all characters have default text presentation and are level L2) - see list on next page.

¹ With the minor exception in Apple systems of 23CF EJECT SYMBOL, an evident oversight since other similar characters do have an emoji presentation.

high priority: 18 characters from Unicode 1.1
002A ASTERISK (used in combining sequence for emoji presentation)
2328 KEYBOARD
2602 UMBRELLA
2603 SNOWMAN
2604 COMET
2620 SKULL AND CROSSBONES
2622 RADIOACTIVE SIGN
2623 BIOHAZARD SIGN
2626 ORTHODOX CROSS
262A STAR AND CRESCENT
262E PEACE SYMBOL
262F YIN YANG
2638 WHEEL OF DHARMA
2639 WHITE FROWNING FACE
270D WRITING HAND
271D LATIN CROSS
2721 STAR OF DAVID
2763 HEAVY HEART EXCLAMATION MARK ORNAMENT

medium priority: 11 characters from Unicode 4.0, 4.1
23CF EJECT SYMBOL
2618 SHAMROCK
2692 HAMMER AND PICK
2694 CROSSED SWORDS
2696 SCALES
2697 ALEMBIC
2699 GEAR
269B ATOM SYMBOL
269C FLEUR-DE-LIS
26B0 COFFIN
26B1 FUNERAL URN

Discussion

- Although the above are the highest priority, there is still a need to control text vs emoji presentation for the other 109 characters from [L2/15-198](#) not included above.
- Consider proposing an addition to the CSS specification for a mechanism to indicate preference for text vs emoji presentation.