L2/18-022

Re: Gender Emoji Strategy
From: Mark Davis, Jeremy Burge, and the Unicode Emoji Subcommittee
To: Unicode Technical Committee
Date: Revised 2018-01-13 (original: 2017-10-12)

This is a revised version of L2/17-374. Changes are marked in yellow.

The Unicode Emoji Subcommittee (ESC) has a goal of improving support for gender-neutral emoji representation. There are many reasons for doing this: among them are that the current emoji often require a choice that need not be made or that can't be made due to lack of information. For example, when someone announces "Is there a doctor on the plane?", they are not *only* asking for man doctors or *only* asking for woman doctors.

Proposals for CHILD, ADULT, and OLDER ADULT have resulted in three new characters and we are now looking to address additional cases that have the highest anticipated usage.

Here is a table of the counts of new glyphs for the current E11.0 beta, for each category listed below. These are presented to help with the emoji "budget" discussions.

	Sets	To generate codes	Example of new glyphs	w/o skin tones	w/ skin tones	Sub-total
2a	...+♂	drop the +♂ (already listed)	person running	43	195	**238**
2b	👦 +... (but not👫)	add zwj seqs, changing 👦 to ADULT	astronaut	16	80	**96**
3a	👲 👳 👰	zwj seqs, with +♂/♀	person with skullcap	8	40	**48**
3b	👦	add ADULT + CROWN	person with crown	1	5	**6**
3c	💃	revert DANCER to neutral, add DANCER + ♀	dancer	1	5	**6**
4a		*Few ADULT+ADULT combos*		*4*		**4**
			TOTALS	***73***	***325***	**398**

If Emoji 11.0 adds skin tones for super-hero+villain (as recommended by the ESC), that would increase by 12 the cost of a neutral super-hero+villain in 2a.

The following shows the tiering in terms of anticipated usage, which we will use to guide future decisions regarding gender-neutral representation.

1. The top usage tier has already been added as of Unicode v10.0. These are emoji for basic people:
    a. □ U+1F9D2 CHILD
    b. □ U+1F9D1 ADULT
    c. □ U+1F9D3 OLDER ADULT

d. These correspond to the gendered forms:
e. U+1F466 BOY
f. U+1F467 GIRL
g. U+1F468 MAN
h. U+1F469 WOMAN
i. U+1F474 OLDER MAN
j. U+1F475 OLDER WOMAN

2. Tier 2 falls into two groups:
   a. Emoji such as RUNNER, where the single characters are gender-neutral by definition (i.e. not in the UTS#51 Section 2.1 list), and take ZWJ+SIGN for man/woman versions. Most vendors don't yet display distinct images, however.
   b. Roles such as firefighter. These would need additional ZWJ sequences with ADULT corresponding to those with MAN or WOMAN. At the October UTC meeting we should assess the degree of major vendor support for adding ZWJ sequences as RGI.
3. Tier 3 includes a set of specific cases from UTS #51 Section 2.1. We should consider these in the UTC October meeting.
   a. The ESC recommends making the following characters be gender-neutral, in the same way as was done with RUNNER. We could then consider whether there is support for RGI ZWJ sequences.
      i. U+1F472 MAN WITH GUA PI MAO
      ii. U+1F935 MAN IN TUXEDO
      iii. U+1F470 BRIDE WITH VEIL
      iv. U+1F574 MAN IN BUSINESS SUIT LEVITATING
      v. The last one is trickier, since the limited size of the face at emoji sizes make it very difficult to have 3 distinct forms. Note: Facebook supports two versions (man and woman).
   b. For the following, one possibility for a gender-neutral form might be a ZWJ sequence with ADULT ZWJ CROWN
      i. U+1F478 PRINCESS
      ii. U+1F934 PRINCE
   c. Revert DANCER to neutral, add DANCER + ♀
      i. U+1F483 DANCER (currently documented as a woman)
      ii. U+1F57A MAN DANCING
   d. The following gender-neutral forms either have low anticipated usage, or we don't have sufficient usage information to make a decision, and so should be saved for a future discussion.
      i. U+1F930 PREGNANT WOMAN
      ii. □ U+1F931 BREAST-FEEDING
      iii. □ U+1F9D5 PERSON WITH HEADSCARF
      iv. U+1F385 FATHER CHRISTMAS
      v. U+1F936 MOTHER CHRISTMAS
      vi. The last two are also a bit different. These refer to specific people, and there is the possibility of using ELF as the gender-neutral form.
4. Tier 4 includes all the people groupings such as families and couples. We're holding off on these primarily because of the combinatorics. Vendors are able to use CHILD, ADULT or OLDER ADULT in most existing family and couple sequences already. Some additional

emoji that share a single code-point (wrestlers, men and women holding hands) may require sequences to expand the range. These cases may be looked at again in future.

a. A small step would be to add just a few zwj sequences:
    i. *kiss: adult, adult*
    ii. *couple with heart: adult, adult*
    iii. *couple holding hands = adult+zwj+open hands+zwj+adult?*
    iv. *family: adult, adult, baby*
b. Add a + skin tones
c. Other combinatorics

See some related previous documents:

1. L2/17-232 Proposal for Fully Gender-Inclusive Emoji
2. L2/17-195 Add Emoji Gender Properties
3. L2/17-071 Gender-Neutral Human-form Emoji
4. L2/16-160 Expanding Emoji Professions: Reducing Gender Inequality
5. L2/15-048 Adding gender counterparts to emoji list?