Emoji Subcommittee Report Q4, 2021 📝

From: Jennifer Daniel on behalf of the Emoji Subcommittee (ESC)
To: Unicode Technical Committee (UTC)
Date: 2021-10-04
Date Modified: 2021-10-06

TL;DR 👀

This document includes

1️⃣ the ESC's recommendations for UTC approval of 21 draft emoji candidates for Unicode 15.0; and 2️⃣ a recommendation that the UTC stop accepting emoji flag proposals that formerly qualified under Category F4.

1. ESC Emoji Recommendations for Unicode 15.0 ⚖️

Our recommendations for Unicode 15.0 are derived from existing provisional emoji candidates and emoji that were previously added to larger lists. We are proposing a total of 21 draft emoji candidates, all of which require new code points. Two of them require skin tone modifier sequences. Among these 21 proposed draft emoji candidates, BLACK BIRD was a previous draft emoji candidate. The following is a breakdown of the proposed draft emoji candidates by category, from most to least:

- **Animals and Nature:** 7
- **Smileys and Emotion**: 4
- **Objects:** 2
- **Food and Drink:** 2
- **People and Hands:** 2
- **Activities:** 2
- **Symbols:** 2

KEY

Blue Cell	Emoji_Modifier_Base=Yes

Smileys & Emotion

emotion

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
1		LIGHT BLUE HEART	Cyan, teal, light blue, heart	L2/21-202	0
2		GRAY HEART	Gray, silver, slate, heart	L2/21-201	0
3		PINK HEART	Pink, like, cute, love, heart	L2/21-203	0

face-neutral-skeptical

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
4		SHAKING FACE	Shock, shaking, face, earthquake, vibrate,	L2/21-214	0

People & Body

hands

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
5		LEFTWARDS PUSHING HAND	push, refuse, decline, leftward, stop, wait, high-five	L2/21-216	5
6		RIGHTWARDS PUSHING HAND	push, refuse, decline, rightward, stop, wait, high-five	L2/21-216	5

Food & Drink

food-vegetable

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
7		GINGER	spice, root, beer,	L2/21-200	0
8		PEA POD	edamame, pod, beans, vegetable, legume, pea	L2/21-199	0

Animals & Nature

plant-flower

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
9		HYACINTH	flower, nowruz, haftsin, haftseen, purple, lavender, bluebonnet, lupine, snapdragon	L2/21-215	0

animal-marine

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
10		JELLYFISH	marine, invertebrate, jelly, stinger, burn, ouch	L2/21-217	0

animal-bird

№	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
11		WING	flying, angelic, aviation, bird, mythology	L2/21-198	0
12		BLACK BIRD	bird, crow, raven, black,	L2/19-307	0
13		GOOSE	bird, honk, fowl, silly	L2/21-219	0

animal-mammal

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
14		MOOSE FACE	antlers, mammal, animal, elk	L2/21-197	0
15		DONKEY	mule, burro, stubborn, mammal, animal	L2/21-196	0

Activities

musical-instrument

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
16		MARACAS	music, noise, celebrate, shake, instrument, rattle, rhythm, percussion	L2/21-194	0
17		FLUTE	toot, flautist, recorder, music, woodwind, bamboo, pipe, fife	L2/21-193	0

Objects

clothing

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
18		FOLDING HAND FAN	fan, cooling, hot, heat, shy, coy, spread, flutter, dance	L2/21-192	0
19		HAIR PICK	Afro, hair, pick, comb	L2/21-218	0

Symbols

av-symbol

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
20		WIRELESS	internet, computer, network	L2/21-191	0
religion					
21		KHANDA	Sikh, religion	L2/21-223	0

2. No Longer Accepting Emoji in Category F4 Submissions 🚩

The Emoji Subcommittee receives a large number of proposals to introduce identity flags into the Unicode Standard. There are significant challenges with such flag proposals, such as their transient nature (many identity flag designs have changed since their addition in 2016) and rationale (inclusion of one identity invites questions as to why other identities aren't also included and sets expectations that any identity should be supported, which cannot scale for either Unicode or vendors).

As discussed in previous reports, flags are the least frequently-used emoji, and yet consume a non-trivial portion of emoji fonts' file size. After years of consideration, the Emoji Subcommittee will no longer intake flag proposals based on Category F4. We encourage vendors to instead support inline images, such as stickers, GIFs, and so on.