

Release Management Group Report to UTC #176

July 22, 2023

Peter Constable & UTC Release Management Group

The Release Management Group (“RMG”) is composed of UTC working group leaders and other volunteers working on the process for development of the Unicode 15.1 release and for evolving processes for future Unicode Standard releases.

Unicode 15.1 timeline

A timeline for the development and release of Unicode 15.1 was proposed in [L2/22-270](#) and confirmed by UTC #173 (cf. [173-C1](#)). The following is a summary of key dates:

- 2023-4-27, UTC #175: Finalize beta content
- 2023-5-23: start of beta review
- 2023-7-4: end of beta public review
- 2023-7-27: UTC #176: Finalize 15.1 content
- 2023-9-12: Unicode 15.1 release

Unicode 15.1 beta and release

The beta period began and completed as scheduled, and working groups have reviewed feedback and provided recommendations for UTC to consider in preparing for the 15.1 release. Once all feedback has been considered by UTC and technical decisions have been made, RMG recommends that UTC take the following actions:

Consensus: The UTC authorizes the release of Unicode 15.1, with a target date of September 12, 2023, including the results of consensuses and actions as recorded during UTC #176.

Action item for Ken Whistler, PAG: Prepare an updated NamesList.txt for Unicode Version 15.1, synched with the final Unicode Version 15.1 repertoire, as finalized during UTC #176.

Action item for Michel Suignard, Rick McGowan, RMG: Prepare a set of Unicode Version 15.1 final candidate code charts for posting.

Action item for Ken Whistler, PAG: Prepare final candidate data files for the UCD, and the data directories for UTS #10, UTS #39, and UTS #46, for the Unicode Version 15.1 release.

Action item for Ned Holbrook, ESC: Prepare final candidate data files for the data directory of UTS #51, and a complete set of emoji final charts for Emoji 15.1.

Action item for Peter Constable, RMG: Complete all tasks associated with the 15.1 release.

Action item for Rick McGowan, UTC: Close PRIs ## 460 – 471, 477, 478, 480, 481.

Process development

RMG, in partnership with other UTC working groups, has continued to use the version 15.1 cycle to adapt processes in preparation for development of Unicode 16.0. Some significant change include:

- Changes to UCD processes for more distributed ownership of files and more streamlined operations.
- Distributed ownership of action items across UTC working groups.

Maintenance of UAX #42, Unicode Character Database in XML

UAX #42 was originally developed and, for several years, maintained by Eric Muller. Later, maintenance was mainly taken over by Laurentiu Iancu. Their contributions in regard to UAX #42 over several years have been most valuable.

As Unicode 15.1 is being finalized, however, Laurentiu will no longer be available to continue maintenance of UAX #42, and RMG is concerned about how UAX #42 and the associated data will be maintained for version 16.0 and beyond. UTC will need to evaluate options for the future of UAX #42 and make a decision; e.g.

- Identify new people to maintain it?
- Freeze the data as of version 15.1?
- Withdraw it from future versions?

With this in mind, RMG recommends this action at this time:

Action item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Evaluate alternatives for future maintenance of UAX #42 and provide a recommendation to UTC at meeting #177.