Release Management Group Report to UTC #188

July 15, 2026
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 18.0 release and for evolving processes for future Unicode Standard releases.

Unicode 18.0 timeline

A timeline for the development and release of Unicode 18.0 was proposed in L2/25-234 and confirmed by UTC #185 (cf. 185-C38). Note that it has been historical practice for publication dates of alpha, beta and final releases to be on a Tuesday. However, RMG has found this is often challenging due to many national holidays being on Mondays. For that reason, going forward RMG will schedule publication of all releases on Wednesdays, including the up-coming Unicode 18.0 release.

The following is a summary of key dates for Unicode 18.0:

- 2026-4-23, UTC #187: Finalize beta content
- 2026-5-26: start of beta review
- 2026-7-7: end of beta
- 2026-7-30, UTC #188: Finalize 18.0 content
- 2026-9-16: Unicode 17.0 release

Unicode 18.0 beta and release

The 18.0 beta review period began and completed as scheduled, and working groups have reviewed feedback and provided recommendations for UTC to consider in preparing for the 18.0 release.

Once all feedback has been considered by UTC and technical decisions have been made, RMG recommends that UTC take the following actions:

[188-C] Consensus: The UTC authorizes the release of Unicode 18.0 and synchronized standards UTS #10, UTS #39, UTS #46, UTS #51 and UTS #58, incorporating the results of decisions and actions as recorded during UTC #188, with a target release date of September 16, 2026.

[188-A] Action item for Ken Whistler, PAG: Prepare an updated NamesList.txt for Unicode Version 18.0, synched with the final Unicode Version 18.0 repertoire, as finalized during UTC #188.

[188-A] Action item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Prepare final candidate data files for the UCD, and the data directories for UTS #10, UTS #39, UTS #46, and UTS #58, for the Unicode Version 18.0 release.

[188-A] 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 18.0.

[188-A] Action item for Peter Constable, RMG: Complete all tasks associated with the 18.0 release.

[188-A] Action item for Michelle Perham, UTC: Close PRIs ## 520, 523, 533 – 535, 538 – 539, 542 – 545, 547 – 554.

Synchronization with ISO/IEC DIS 10646 7th Edn.

ISO/IEC 10646 7th Edn. has been in development with the intent of synchronizing repertoire with Unicode 18.0. ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 met last month and disposed of comments on CD.4, finalizing content for a forthcoming DIS ballot. (See the final disposition of comments in WG 2 document N 5369.)

In disposing of the CD.4 comments, there were repertoire changes made. Specifically:

- The Chisoi script was removed to allow more time for national body review.
- Algorithmic names for Seal script characters were changed from the pattern “SEAL CHARACTER-XXXXX” to “SMALL SEAL CHARACTER-XXXXX”

UTC should adjust the new additions to Unicode 18.0 accordingly.

(Chisoi was provisionally assigned in 174-C21, accepted for encoding in Unicode 17.0 in 181-C61, and re-targeted to Unicode 18.0 in 184-C2.)

Accordingly, RMG recommends that UTC record the following action:

[188-C] Consensus: Revert approval of Chisoi script for Unicode Version 18.0 (ref. 184-C2) and set the status of the 40 code points, 16D80..16DA9, to provisionally assigned.

[188-C] Consensus: Change the algorithmic names of 11328 Small Seal characters from “SEAL CHARACTER-XXXXX” to “SMALL SEAL CHARACTER-XXXXX”, for Unicode 18.0.

[188-A] Action item for Ken Whistler, UTC: Update the pipeline to reflect the name change for Seal characters in Unicode 18.0, and postponement of Chisoi characters from Unicode 18.0 to Unicode 19.0 [ref. consensus 188-C?, 188-C?].

[188-A] Action item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Update data files for Unicode 18.0, UTS #10, UTS #39, UTS #46, and UTS #58, reflecting the name for Small Seal characters, and removing 40 Chisoi characters postponed to Unicode 19.0 [ref. consensus 188-C?, 188-C?].

[188-A] Action item for Michel Suignard, CHARTS: Update charts for Unicode 18.0, removing Chisoi script (postponed to Unicode 19.0) [ref. consensus 188-C?].

[188-A] Action item for Ken Whistler, EDC: Update the core spec for Unicode 18.0 as appropriate to remove references to Chisoi script (postponed to Unicode 19.0) [ref. consensus 188-C?].

[188-A] Action item for Ken Whistler, EDC: Update Table 4-8 in the core spec to reflect the change of algorithmic names for Small Seal characters, for Unicode 18.0 [ref. Consensus 188-C?].

Preliminary repertoire for Unicode 19.0

By the end of the Q4 UTC meeting (UTC #189), UTC should have made preliminary decisions on the repertoire for Unicode 19.0. Note that a draft repertoire for the Unicode 19.0 alpha will be required no later than UTC #190.

In the meantime, JTC 1/SC 2 has initiated work on Amendment 1 of ISO/IEC 10646 7th edn., and the first drafts with proposed new repertoire will be circulated for comments soon after UTC #188.

With these considerations in mind, RMG has reviewed the pipeline and mature proposals that have been reviewed by SEW or CJK working groups, or by IRG, and have prepared a preliminary proposal for character and script additions for Unicode 19.0. Key decision criteria include urgent need for characters and, especially, confidence of UTC working group leaders in ability to deliver content in the 19.0 timeframe.

Note: RMG is not requesting any UTC action at this time, but invites review and comments. Formal approvals for Unicode 19.0 may be proposed at UTC #189 or UTC #190.

New scripts / blocks:

Characters / scripts	Provisional code points	Count	Prior UTC actions
Sirmauri	11850..1188F	55	185-C4
Proto-Cuneiform	12690..12BFF	1392	185-C2
Chisoi	16D80..16DA9	40	174-C21, 181-C61, 184-C2
CJK Unified Ideographs Components-A	2FA20..2FA96	119	
CJK Unified Ideographs Components-B	2FAA0..2FC16	375	

Additions to existing scripts / blocks:[1]

Characters / scripts	Provisional code points	Count	Prior UTC actions
Telugu mark	0C70	1	185-C5
Kannada mark	0CF4	1	
Cyrillic letter	1C8B	1	183-C8
Currency symbol	20C5	1	187-C11
Arabic letters	10EC0..10EC1	2	184-C8
Devanagari signs	11B0B..11B0C	2	186-C22
Dogra sign, mark	1183C..1183D	2	185-C6
Tulu-Tigalari letter, mark	113CB, 113DB	2	183-C5, 185-C7
Tulu-Tigalari signs	113D9, 113DA	2	
Alchemical symbols	1CED1, 1CED5	2	186-C25, 187-C12
Leibniz symbols	20F1..20F2, 1DB1D..1DB21, 1DB22..1DB2B 1DC00..1DC35	72	
Phonetic letters & symbols	AB6E, 1DF82, 1DFC5..1DFCC	10	183-C9, 184-C13, 184-C15 184-C16

[1] The Tulu-Tigalari signs are not yet provisionally assigned, but SEW will recommend provisional assignment at UTC #188. In that recommendation, they will also recommend a change in code point for TULU-TIGALARI LETTER ARCHAIC II: it has been provisionally assigned at 113DA; SEW will recommend that it be moved to 113DB to allow the two new signs to be kept contiguous.

Latin letters	1DF83..1DF8A	8	183-C11, 184-C10, 184-C11, 184-C12, 184-C14

Acknowledgements

RMG reminds leaders of other working groups to record acknowledgements for significant contributions to Unicode 18.0, and requests that this be done by August 19.