

Provisional value for Emoji property

(View live working draft [here](#))

To: UTC
From: Emoji Subcommittee
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Currently the Emoji property in [emoji-data.txt](#) can have two values: Yes (characters listed in the first section, to mark them as emoji) and No (all other characters), as described in [UTR 51 Annex A](#). The other properties in emoji-data.txt are also limited to values Yes or No (Yes is only allowed if the Emoji property value is also Yes).

However, vendors such as LG and Samsung support additional characters with emoji presentation (beyond those that currently have Emoji=Yes), typically pictographs that are similar to the current characters for which Emoji = Yes.

Proposal

To support such implementations (and interoperation with them), we propose to allow the Emoji property and certain other emoji data properties to have a third value Provisional (in addition to Yes or No). Implementations can choose to support the Provisional emoji, though this is not normally recommended.

Emoji that currently have Emoji=Yes would not be affected; only (some) characters with Emoji=No would change to Emoji=Provisional. In the future, if certain characters with Emoji=Provisional become popular and widely implemented as emoji, then those characters may be moved to Emoji=Yes.

Discussion issues:

- *Should we ever allow the Emoji property to be changed from Yes to Provisional (effectively deprecating a character as emoji), or should we require that once the value is Yes, it remains so?*
- *Should we prevent deprecation for characters in [EmojiSources.txt](#) regardless?*

The list proposed for characters with Emoji=Provisional is given in [L2/16-088 Characters Proposed for Emoji=Provisional](#) (live working draft [here](#); updated from the proposal in document [L2/16-021](#)).

Besides the Emoji property, other properties in emoji-data.txt for which the Provisional value can be used (only if the Emoji property value is Provisional for the character) are:

- Emoji_Presentation (for all of the proposed characters)
- Emoji_Modifier_Base (for some of the proposed characters, see spreadsheet)

And for the properties proposed in [emoji-tags.txt](#) (if approved), the Provisional value can also be used for the following:

- Emoji_Gender_Base (not relevant for any of the currently-proposed characters)

- Emoji_Hair_Base (not relevant for any of the currently-proposed characters)
- Emoji_Direction_Base (for some of the proposed characters, see spreadsheet)

There are derived property values for GCB/WB/LB/. We propose adding a note to the two specs (because these values are customizable) that implementations may want to add EMB=Provisional to E_Base, and so on.

- GCB/WB: Glue_After_Zwj, E_Base_GAZ
- GCB/WB/LB: E_Base