

Release Management Group Report to UTC #182

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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 17.0 release and for evolving processes for future Unicode Standard releases.

1. Unicode 17.0 timeline

A timeline for the development and release of Unicode 17.0 was proposed in [L2/24-258](#) and confirmed by UTC #181 (cf. [181-C59](#)). The following is a summary of key dates:

- 2025-1-24, UTC #182: Finalize alpha content
- 2025-2-4: Start of alpha
- 2025-4-1: End of alpha
- 2025-4-24, UTC #183: Finalize beta content
- 2025-5-20: start of beta review
- 2025-7-1: end of beta
- 2025-7-24, UTC #184: Finalize 17.0 content
- 2025-9-9: Unicode 17.0 release

2. Unicode 17.0 alpha review

The 17.0 alpha review period will begin soon after UTC #182, on February 4. The RMG together with the Charts Group and PAG have begun preparing for this milestone. As agreed by UTC #181, the expected deliverables will consist of:

- code charts;
- data files;
- In-progress UAX/UTS updates;
- a PRI cover page; and
- a Unicode blog post.

As in the past, we assume that data files will minimally include those needed to establish the character and emoji repertoire, and that charts will include draft delta charts for new repertoire, glyph changes to existing repertoire, and changes to variation sequences that are reflected in charts.

In the past, for an alpha review PRI, we have had a separate PRI background document (e.g., [PRI #497: Unicode 16.0 Alpha Review Background Document](#)). For the Unicode 17.0 alpha review, we will instead make use of a preliminary draft of the [Unicode 17.0 landing page](#).

RMG recommends the following UTC actions:

[182-C] Consensus: The UTC authorizes starting the alpha review for Unicode 17.0.

[182-A] Action Item for Peter Constable, RMG: Coordinate the publication of the Unicode 17.0 alpha review.

[182-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, RMG: Prepare the Unicode 17.0 landing page for a PRI on the Unicode 17.0 alpha review.

[182-A] Action Item for Michelle Perham, UTC: Post the PRI for the Unicode 17.0 alpha review, to close April 1, 2025.

3. Process development

3.1 “BRS” tasks previously assigned to Rick McGowan

RMG uses a task list—the “big red switch”—to track tasks for preparation of each Unicode release. In the past, many of these tasks were assigned to Rick McGowan. Given Rick’s retirement, all Unicode 17.0 tasks in the task list that were previously assigned to Rick have been reassigned to others. Many of these have been assigned to Gregg Lechner or Michelle Perham, and RMG appreciates their support.

3.2 UCD build and deployment

Now pre-alpha (“dev”) UCD snapshots are also published to the [/Public/draft/](#) directory, in addition to alpha and beta. This is being done to streamline work in other WGs to prepare for the alpha, in particular Charts and Editorial WGs. The criteria, scope, and process of the pre-alpha snapshot publication are documented in [data-workflow.md](#).

In order to simplify the publication process at various release phases (dev, alpha, beta, and the final release), a manually triggered GitHub workflow has been proposed in the pull request [#980](#). Currently the focus is to unify the [shell scripts](#) that bundle the data files for publication. In the future we will investigate the possibility of directly deploying the data files to the server.

3.3 Reorganization of /Public/ data files for UCD and synchronized UTSeS

For past releases, data files for a given release of The Unicode Standard (TUS) have been published in a <version> folder under <https://www.unicode.org/Public/> (e.g., <https://www.unicode.org/Public/16.0.0/>), while data files for synchronized UTSeS have lived in other folders emoji/<version>, idna/<version>, etc. (e.g., <https://www.unicode.org/Public/emoji/16.0/>). While this organization mirrors the structure of UTC's specifications, it can be less convenient for consumers of the data that look for all data associated with a given release.

For alpha and beta reviews, data files for both TUS and synchronized UTSeS are published together under <https://www.unicode.org/Public/draft/>, which has simplified deployment of data files from the [unicodetools GitHub repo](#) and presented for reviewers all data associated with the next release together.

To simplify deployment and present data associated with each release more clearly, RMG recommends that, starting with Unicode 17.0, data files for synchronized specifications be published under /Public/<version> folders, together with files for TUS, similar to how files are already published in the /Public/draft folder for alpha and beta reviews.

A small change to the structure under the /Public/draft folder is that the confusing “UCD” folder layer would be removed (this folder also includes code charts, which are not part of UCD).

The following illustrate the organizational changes:

Old	New	Comment
<version>/ucd/	<version>/ucd/	No change
<version>/ucdxml/	<version>/ucdxml/	No change
<version>/charts/	<version>/charts/	No change
UCA/<version>/	<version>/uca/	
emoji/<version>/	<version>/emoji/	
idna/<version>/	<version>/idna/	
security/<version>/	<version>/security/	
draft/UCD/charts/	draft/charts/	
draft/UCD/ucd/	draft/ucd/	
draft/UCD/ucdxml/	draft/ucdxml/	

In addition, currently the [/Public/zipped](#) folder contains <version> subfolders with .zip files that duplicate files in the /Public/<version>/ucd folders. This is redundant, and we recommend that we no longer add separate files under /Public/zipped.

To provide clarity around changes, README files would be added into existing folders or existing README files would be updated to make clear the new locations of files. Also, URL aliasing or other implementation details would be handled to ensure minimal impact on consumers, including tools that could look for data files assuming past URL patterns.

With this in mind, RMG recommends the following UTC decisions and action items:

[182-C] Consensus: Starting with Unicode 17.0, publish the data files for the synchronized standards (UTS #10, UTS #39, UTS #46, UTS #51) under the same versioned directory in the /Public folder on the website as the UCD data files and document this change of location in all the relevant ReadMe.txt files in the various directories. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Adjust the deployment of data files for the synchronized standards (UTS #10, UTS #39, UTS #46, UTS #51), so that they are published in the same versioned directory in the /Public folder on the website as the UCD data files. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Add top-level ReadMe.txt files in the legacy data directories for UTS #10, UTS #39, UTS #46, and UTS #51 to document the new location of the data under the versioned directory for each release, and update the ReadMe.txt that goes with each 17.0 set of versioned data. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Add top-level ReadMe.txt file in the /Public/zipped directory explaining that the zipped directory no longer contains copies of the zipped files starting with 17.0. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, PAG: Update the language in UAX #44, Section 4.1, "Directory Structure" to reflect the changes to include the data files for the synchronized standards in the same versioned directory as the UCD. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, EDC: Update the references in UAX #41 to reflect the changes to include the data files for the synchronized standards in the same versioned directory as the UCD. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, PAG: Update the references in UTS #10 to reflect the changes to include the data files for the synchronized standards in the same versioned directory as the UCD. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Mark Davis, PAG: Update Section 7, “Data Files” and the references in UTS #39 to reflect the changes to include the data files for the synchronized standards in the same versioned directory as the UCD. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Markus Scherer, PAG: Update the references in UTS #46 to reflect the changes to include the data files for the synchronized standards in the same versioned directory as the UCD. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]

[182-A] Action Item for Ned Holbrook, ESR: Update the references in UTS #51 to reflect the changes to include the data files for the synchronized standards in the same versioned directory as the UCD. For Unicode 17.0. [Ref. Section 3.3 of L2/25-012]