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Addressing false unifications of legacy computing box drawing characters

1. Evidence of usage

HP 264x has the Large Character set mode, which includes box drawing characters that can be joined in both dimensions on the character grid to form large visual characters. In L2/21-235, the characters have been proposed to Unicode and incorporated in Unicode 16.0. However, the characters mapped to 0x12 and 0x18 ('2' ` and '8' `) are falsely unified to U+1CE2B. In the HP2645 version of the set, the character at 0x12 is symmetric to 0x09 , 0x13 , and 0x24 ' (U+1CE22, U+1CE2C, and U+1CE3B respectively), whereas 0x18 has one extra foreground pixel, and is therefore visually distinct.



The two falsely unified characters have been highlighted:

The $0x12 \ 2'$ character has been highlighted in yellow, and it is observed to connect below vertical lines $(0x10 \ 0' \ and \ 0x03 \ \#' \)$ or symmetrically below a perpendicular diagonal $(0x13 \ 3' \)$. It may connect to the left of characters that continue the diagonal to form a corner or an intersection $(0x2A \ J' \ 0x1B \ ;' \ \gamma, \ 0x1A \ :' \ x)$, which in turn continue into a symmetric diagonal on the right side $(0x24 \ D' \ or \ 0x09 \)' \)$. In particular, the character always switches direction at its upper edge, and therefore is not necessarily designed to smoothly connect to a lower left diagonal.

The 0x18 '8' character has been highlighted in cyan, and it is observed to connect below a diagonal of same direction (0x09 ')'), and to the left of the character that joins the diagonal into a vertical stem (0x42 'B'), which '2' ` is not observed to connect to). In particular, the character is designed to smoothly connect to the lower left diagonal.

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2	P P 3 <d Y Y</d 	1	- 0 E		X&, X&,	Ι	, 0 I	U	# # 0 0 G&L	۵	!. GM	М	\$ - EE	ų	G?
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Example usage of Large Character set with mappings to the Roman Uppercase [3]

The distinct types of connections formed by the two characters, the different encoding in the source platform for round trip compatibility, as well as their different visual appearance, warrant a disunification. Fonts may or may not use the same visual glyph for the two characters.

The 0x12 '2' ` character should keep its existing encoding as U+1CE2B LARGE TYPE PIECE DIAGONAL UPPER RIGHT.

The 0x18 '8' ` character should be disunified and named as LARGE TYPE PIECE DIAGONAL UPPER RIGHT EXTENDED FROM LOWER LEFT.

[1] http://www.bitsavers.org/pdf/hp/terminal/264x/HP2645_Font_ROMs.zip [2] https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2021/21235r-terminals-supplement.pdf (terminals-supplement-mappings.zip/HP264XLG.TXT) [3] http://www.bitsavers.org/pdf/hp/terminal/264x/2645A/02645-90005_2641A_2645A_2645S_N_Display_Station_Reference_Manual_Nov1978.pdf (page B-19/B-20; page 182 of 204 in pdf)

PETSCII includes various box drawing characters, which includes not only the basic 11 light box drawings, 4 rounded corner box drawings, and 2 box drawing arrows $(-|_{\Box} \cup |_{\Box} \cup |_{\uparrow} \leftarrow)$ but also horizontals and verticals at all 8 rows and columns (including the bounding box edges), as well as combinations of two perpendicular bounding box edges. However, the extra characters as implemented in L2/19-025 are falsely unified with 1÷8 blocks and therefore do not result in a coherent set of Unicode box drawings.

The light box drawings that have stable Unicode mappings are highlighted in yellow (arrows may or may not be box drawing depending on the typeface, but in PETSCII-compatible fonts they should be box drawing), whereas the characters that have defective mappings to 1÷8 or 1÷4 blocks are highlighted in cyan.



To make the issue more apparent, here are the glyphs arranged in such a way so as to form consistent unshifted example usage:



In the C64 version of PETSCII, the embedded font is bold, and therefore light box drawing characters inherit the bold weight, except for 0x63 and 0x64, which remain thin so that 0x77 and 0x6F (quarter blocks) become the consistent light box drawings.



In the L2/19-025 mapping, the light box drawing characters of PETSCII may have inconsistent thickness, because some of them are mapped to established light box drawings, and some are mapped to 1÷8 or 1÷4 blocks.

In PET/VIC-20, the box drawing horizontal and vertical line glyphs, consistent with the basic 11 light box drawings, the box drawing arrows, and the rounded corners, are rounded right and down, corresponding to the fifth row and column. There are separate glyphs for the lines rounded up and left, corresponding to the fourth row and column. Fonts intended for optimal PETSCII PET/VIC-20 usage should move the basic box drawings slightly right and down, so that they are symmetric to the rounded up and left counterparts, and all 8 positions for rows and columns are usable.

In C64, the versions of the horizontal and vertical lines rounded up and left have the same visual appearance as their rounded right and down

counterparts. Therefore, fonts intended for optimal PETSCII C64 usage should have the rounded up and left glyphs the same as the basic horizontal and vertical glyphs.

The 18 following characters are proposed for PETSCII:

```
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP EDGE
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY HIGH HORIZONTAL
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT HIGH HORIZONTAL
- BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT ROUNDED UP HORIZONTAL
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT LOW HORIZONTAL
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY LOW HORIZONTAL
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT BOTTOM EDGE
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT LEFT EDGE
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY LEFT VERTICAL
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT LEFT VERTICAL
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT ROUNDED LEFT VERTICAL
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT VERTICAL
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY RIGHT VERTICAL
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE
 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND LEFT EDGES
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND RIGHT EDGES
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT BOTTOM AND LEFT EDGES
BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT BOTTOM AND RIGHT EDGES
```

Apple II in some iterations has the MouseText characters, which similarly to PETSCII, includes not only the horizontal and arrows $(\neg \leftarrow \uparrow \rightarrow \downarrow)$ but also light box drawing characters on the edges. Once again, the extra characters as implemented in L2/19-025 are falsely unified with 1÷8 blocks and therefore do not result in a coherent set of Unicode box drawings.

										1		
ÓN, Zví Zet,			1FBB0	231B	2713	1FBB1	1FBB2	1FBB3	▶∡√√∡	▶∡√√		
<u>॑</u>	2190	2026	2193	2191	2594	21B2	2589	1FBB5				
	1FBB6	1FBB7	1FBB8	2500	1FB7C	2192	2592	1FB90				
Annle II MouseText	1FBB9	1FBBA	2595	25C6	1FB80	1FBBB	1FBBC	258F	<u>_</u>	│ <u><u><u></u><u></u> <u></u> </u></u>		
characters	The mapping table for Apple II								□ ◆ + •	Ĉ ♦ #•		
	Mous	eTex	t pr	opos	ed i	n L2	/19-	025,	Apple II MouseText	Apple II MouseText		
	inc	ludi	ng de	efect	tive	mapp	oings	s to	characters in	with proposed		
	1÷8 blocks								L2/19-025 mapping	characters		
			1FBB0	231B	2713	1FBB1	1FBB4	1FB81	► _▼ √√←	▶∡√√₭		
╡ <mark>╤┈<mark>↓</mark>╱╴<mark>┥</mark>┋┋</mark>	2190	2026	2193	2191	2594	21B2	2589	1FBB5	∠ ↑ ∠			
	1FBB6	1FBB7	1FBB8	2500	1FB7C	2192	2592	1FB90				
	1FBB9	1FBBA	2595	25C6	1FB80	1FBBB	1FBBC	258F				
MouseText	The	mapp	ing	tabl	e fo	r Ap	ple	IIGS	☐ ◆ # •	□ ♦ ♯•		
characters	MouseText proposed in L2/19-025,								Apple IIGS	Apple IIGS		
	inc	ludiı	ng de	efect	tive	mapp	oings	; to	MouseText	MouseText with		
			1	÷8 b	lock	S			characters in	proposed		
									L2/19-025 mapping	characters		

The 12 following characters are proposed for Apple II (*4 of them are also proposed for PETSCII):

BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP EDGE*
 INVERSE BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE
 ♦ BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES WITH LEFTWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES WITH RIGHTWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH DOWNWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH UPWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH UPWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH UPWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH UPWARDS ARROW
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM AND LEFT EDGES*
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP BOTTOM AND RIGHT EDGES WITH MIDDLE DOT
 > BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES AND MULTIPLE HORIZONTAL

2. Existing proposals for legacy computing

As of Unicode 16.0, the proposals L2/19-025, L2/21-234, and L2/21-235 have been already incorporated into Unicode. This resulted in adding Symbols for Legacy Computing and Symbols for Legacy Computing Supplement blocks, as well as extending Supplemental Arrows-C, Miscellaneous Mathematical and Technical Symbols, and Control Pictures blocks. This is intended to provide compatibility for various legacy platforms, such as Teletext, PETSCII, Apple II, Amstrad CPC, ZX80/ZX81, TRS-80, MSX, Minitel, Atari ST, RISC OS, Sharp MZ, Ohio Scientific, Robotron Z9001, Kaypro, Mattel Aquarius, and HP 264x.

An ongoing proposal for legacy computing is L2/23-252, which proposes disunification of some of the legacy computing characters from emoji. The characters in that proposal theoretically should not conflict with what is being proposed in this proposal, since the two proposals involve entirely different characters. However, due to limited remaining space in Symbols for Legacy Computing and Symbols for Legacy Computing Supplement blocks, using other encoding blocks may be necessary in order to incorporate multiple ongoing proposals.

3. Example encoding

This example allocation assumes that L2/23-252 will be rejected; that is, placed in the "Archive of Notices of Non-Approval". However, depending on the decisions that Unicode makes regarding this and other proposals, the glyphs may be allocated differently.

Symbols for Legacy Computing Supplement, Supplemental Arrows-C:

	1CCF		1CE1	1CE2	1CE3	1CE4	1CE5	1CE6	1CE7	1CE8	1CE9	1CEA	1CEB	1F8B
9	() 1CCF0		— 1CE10	T 1CE20	• 1CE30	L 1CE40	■ 1CE50	∎ 1CE60	∎ 1CE70	∎∎ 1CE80	∎ 1CE90	1CEA0	 1CEB0	5 1F8B0
1	1 1CCF1		T 1CE11	1CE21	1CÊ31	✔ 1CE41	∎ 1CE51	∎ 1CE61	∎ 1CE71	∎ ∎∎ 1CE81	∎ 1CE91	1CEA1	8 1CEB1	2 1F8B1
2	2 1CCF2		m 1CE12	1CE22	X 1CE32	^ 1CE42	∎ 1CE52	∎ 1CE62	∎ 1CE72	∎ 1CE82	∎ 1CE92	1CEA2	4 1CEB2	→ 1F8B2
3	3 1CCF3		- 1CE13	1CE23	Y 1CE33	J 1CE43	■ 1CE53	■ ■ 1CE63	■ ■ 1CE73	■■ 1CE83	∎ 1CE93	■ 1CEA3	1CEB3	↓ 1F8B3
4	④ 1CCF4	-] 1CE14) 1CE24	1CE34	1 CE44	∎ 1CE54	1CE64	∎ 1CE74	1CE84	∎ 1CE94	I 1CEA4	1CEB4	1F8B4
5	5 1CCF5] 1CE15	1 CE25	1CE35	X 1CE45	1CE55	1CE65	1CE75	1CE85	∎ 1CE95	1CEA5	 1CEB5	1F8B5
6	б 1CCF6		1CE16	1CE26	1CE36	1 1CE46	1CE56	1CE66	1CE76	1CE86	∎ 1CE96	1CEA6	 1CEB6	1F8B6
7	7 1CCF7	-	1CE17	1 CE27	1 CE37	1CE47	1CE57	1CE67	1CE77	1CE87	∎ 1CE97	I 1CEA7	 1CEB7	1F8B7
8	8 1CCF8		1 1CE18	1CE28	1CE38	1CE48	∎ 1CE58	∎ 1CE68	1CE78	1CE88	∎ 1CE98	■ 1CEA8	 1CEB8	5
9	9 1CCF9		1CE19	1CE29	1CE39	■ 1CE49	1CE59	1 1CE69	1CE79	∎ ∎∎ 1CE89	∎ 1CE99	■ 1CEA9	 1CEB9	7
4			10614	1(624		∎ 1CF4∆	10654	1 1000	10674	10584	∎ 1CE9∆	■ 1CEAA		S
3				10027	1000									
C				10020							1000			
5				1(E2D							1(E9D			1.00C →
E											1(505			
F	1CCFF	-	1CE1F	1CE2F	1CE3F	1CE4F	1CE5F	1CE6F	1CE7F	1CE8F	1CE9F	1CEAF	TCLDE	1F8BF

Symbols for Legacy Computing:

	1FB0	1FB1	1FB2	1FB3	1FB4	1FB5	1FB6	1FB7	1FB8	1FB9	1FBA	1FBB	1FBC	1FBD	1FBE	1FBF
0											/		ន	1	U	0
	1FB00	1FB10	1FB20	1FB30	1FB40	1FB50	1FB60	1FB70	1FB80	1FB90	1FBA0	1FBB0	1FBC0	1FBD0	1FBE0	1FBF0
1	_ 1FB01	 1FB11	 1FB21	1FB31	1FB41	1FB51	1FB61	1FB71	1FB81	1FB91	1FBA1	1FBB1	IFBC1	1FBD1	C 1FBE1	i 1FBF1
2	1FB02	■ 1FB12	1FB22	1FB32	1FB42	1FB52	\ 1FB62	1FB72	1FB82	1FB92	1FBA2	7 1FBB2	کچ بچ 1FBC2	N 1FBD2	1FBE2	ट 1FBF2
3	■ 1FB03	1FB13	1FB23	1FB33	1FB43	1FB53	1 FB63	1FB73	1FB83		/ 1FBA3	ب ۲FBB3	⊃ } 1FBC3	1FBD3) 1FBE3] 1FBF3
4	1 FB04	1FB14	1FB24	1FB34	1FB44	1FB54	1FB64	1FB74	1FB84	1FB94	لم ۱FBA4	1FBB4	P 1FBC4	1FBD4	IFBE4	L 1FBF4
5	1FB05	1FB15	1FB25	1FB35	1FB45	1FB55	1 FB65	1FB75	1FB85	1FB95) 1FBA5	← 1FBB5	ද 1FBC5	\ 1FBD5	1FBE5	S 1FBF5
6	1FB06	1FB16	1FB26	1FB36	1FB46	1FB56	1FB66	1FB76	1FB86	1FB96	V 1FBA6	→ 1FBB6	% 1FBC6	/ 1FBD6	IFBE6	5 1FBF6
7	∎ 1FB07	1FB17	1FB27	1FB37	1FB47	▼ 1FB57	1 FB67	1 FB77	1FB87	1FB97	↑ 1FBA7	J 1FBB7	ද 1FBC7	/ 1FBD7	IFBE7	1FBF7
8	1FB08	∎ 1FB18	1FB28	1FB38	1FB48	1FB58	1FB68	1FB78	1FB88	IFB98	1FBA8	1FBB8	% 1FBC8	V 1FBD8	1FBE8	8 1FBF8
9	1FB09	1FB19	1FB29	1FB39	1FB49	F 1FB59	1FB69	 1FB79	1FB89	1FB99	1FBA9	C 1FBB9	₽ 1FBC9	<pre></pre>	● 1FBE9] 1FBF9
A	1FB0A	1FB1A	1FB2A	1FB3A	1FB4A	1FB5A	1FB6A	1FB7A	1FB8A	1FB9A) 1FBAA] 1FBBA	↓ 1FBCA	A 1FBDA	1FBEA	 1FBFA
В	1FB0B	1FB1B	1FB2B	1FB3B	1FB4B	1FB5B	1FB6B	1FB7B	1FB8B	JFB9B	1FBAB	# 1FBBB	X 1FBCB) 1FBDB) 1FBEB	1FBFB
с	1FB0C	1FB1C	1FB2C	1FB3C	1FB4C	IFB5C	1FB6C	1FB7C	1FB8C	1FB9C	1FBAC	• 1FBBC	C 1FBCC	V 1FBDC	¶ 1FBEC	1FBFC
D	1FB0D	1FB1D	1FB2D	1FB3D	1FB4D	1FB5D	▼ 1FB6D	1FB7D	1FB8D	1FB9D	1FBAD	1FBBD	♠ 1FBCD	<pre></pre>	∎ 1FBED	1FBFD
E	1FB0E	∎ 1FB1E	IFB2E	1FB3E	1FB4E	1FB5E	1FB6E	1FB7E	1FB8E	1FB9E	1FBAE	1FBBE	1FBCE	A 1FBDE	1FBEE	1FBFE
F	∎ 1FB0F	IFB1F	1FB2F	1FB3F	1FB4F	1FB5F	1FB6F	1FB7F	1FB8F	1FB9F	+ 1FBAF	1FBBF	1FBCF) 1FBDF	▼ 1FBEF	1FBFF

1CCFA BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND LEFT EDGES → 1FB7D left and upper one eighth block 1CCFB BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND RIGHT EDGES → 1FB7E right and upper one eighth block 1CCFC BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT BOTTOM AND LEFT EDGES → 1FB7C left and lower one eighth block 1CCFD BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT BOTTOM AND RIGHT EDGES → 1FB7F right and lower one eighth block

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1CCFE INVERSE BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE
        • in Apple IIGS MouseText it connects above 1FBB4 <
        → 1FBB4 ← inverse downwards arrow with tip leftwards
        \rightarrow 2589 left seven eighths block
1CCFF I BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP BOTTOM AND RIGHT EDGES WITH MIDDLE DOT
        → 1FBBC ] right open squared dot
1CEB4 \ LARGE TYPE PIECE DIAGONAL UPPER RIGHT EXTENDED FROM LOWER LEFT
        • connects below 1CE22 、 and to the left of 1CE39 ♥
        → 1CE2B `large type piece diagonal upper right
→ 1CE22 `large type piece diagonal lower left
        → 1CE39 large type piece stem with left joint
1CEB5 - BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY HIGH HORIZONTAL
        → 1FB76 - horizontal one eighth block-2
1CEB6 - BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT HIGH HORIZONTAL
        → 1FB77 - horizontal one eighth block-3
1CEB7 - BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT ROUNDED UP HORIZONTAL
        • in PET/VIC-20 vertically symmetric to the rounded down 2500 -
        • in C64 visually identical to 2500 -
        → 2500 - box drawings light horizontal
        → 1FB78 - horizontal one eighth block-4
1CEB8 _ BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT LOW HORIZONTAL
        → 1FB7A _ horizontal one eighth block-6
1CEB9 _ BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY LOW HORIZONTAL
        → 1FB7B _ horizontal one eighth block-7
1CEBA | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY LEFT VERTICAL
        → 1FB70 | vertical one eighth block-2
1CEBB | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT LEFT VERTICAL
        → 1FB71 | vertical one eighth block-3
1CEBC | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT ROUNDED LEFT VERTICAL
        • in PET/VIC-20 horizontally symmetric to the rounded right 2502
        • in C64 visually identical to 2502
        → 2502 | box drawings light vertical
        → 1FB72 | vertical one eighth block-4
1CEBD | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT VERTICAL
        → 1FB74 | vertical one eighth block-6
1CEBE | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT VERY RIGHT VERTICAL
        → 1FB75 | vertical one eighth block-7
1F8BC \leftarrow BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES WITH LEFTWARDS ARROW
        \rightarrow 1FBB5 \leftarrow leftwards arrow and upper and lower one eighth block
1F8BD \rightarrow BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES WITH RIGHTWARDS ARROW
        \rightarrow 1FBB6 \rightarrow rightwards arrow and upper and lower one eighth block
1F8BE ↓ BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH DOWNWARDS ARROW

    arrow does not necessarily extend to the top edge

        → 1FBB7 \downarrow downwards arrow and right one eighth block
1F8BF ↑ BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE WITH UPWARDS ARROW
        • arrow does not necessarily extend to the bottom edge
        → 1FBB8 1 upwards arrow and right one eighth block
1FBFA BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP EDGE
        \rightarrow 2594 upper one eighth block
1FBFB _ BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT BOTTOM EDGE
        \rightarrow 2581 _ lower one eighth block
1FBFC | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT LEFT EDGE
        \rightarrow 258F | left one eighth block
1FBFD | BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT RIGHT EDGE

    in Apple II/IIGS MouseText it connects above 21B2 ↓

        \rightarrow 21B2 \leftarrow downwards arrow with tip leftwards
        \rightarrow 2595 | right one eighth block
1FBFE BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES
```

 $\begin{array}{c} \rightarrow \text{ 1FB80 } \stackrel{-}{=} \text{ upper and lower one eighth block} \\ \text{1FBFF} \end{array} \\ \stackrel{\pm}{\equiv} \begin{array}{c} \text{BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES AND MULTIPLE HORIZONTAL} \\ \rightarrow \text{ 1FB81 } \stackrel{\pm}{=} \text{ horizontal one eighth block-1358} \end{array}$

4. Proposal summary

Add 1 character in HP 264x, 18 characters in PETSCII, and 12 characters in Apple II, including 4 in both PETSCII and Apple II, for a total of **27 characters**, by disunifying a slope character in HP 264x from a similar slope, as well as light box-drawing characters in PETSCII/Apple II from the 1÷8 blocks and 1÷4 blocks.