The Unicode Standard
Worldwide Character Encoding
Version 1.0, Volume 2

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The Unicode Standard, Volumes 1 and 2, is the authoritative source of information on the Unicode character encoding standard. The Unicode standard was designed to encode written characters for storage in computer files or transmission over communication lines. By using a 16-bit coding architecture, the Unicode standard contains sufficient code space for all of the world’s written characters thus surpassing the limitations of ASCII.

The Unicode Standard is the authorized description and guide to this new standard. It documents every aspect of the standard, including basic principles, code charts, and a discussion of implementation issues. Volume 1 covers the Latin, Cyrillic, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic alphabets, and other alphabets used in countries across Europe, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent. Volume 2 of The Unicode Standard contains principally the East Asian (Han) character set, covering logographic characters for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. It consists of code charts, a radical-stroke index, a multi-glyph table, and a character cross-reference chart providing mapping information to major national, bibliographic, and industrial standards. It also provides a discussion of changes that were made to the original design as a result of the efforts to merge the Unicode standard and ISO 10646.

The Unicode Standard, Volumes 1 and 2, is an essential reference for computer programmers and software developers who deal with multilingual text.

The Unicode Consortium is a nonprofit organization founded to promote the use of the Unicode standard. Originating from an informal collaboration between engineering teams at Apple and Xerox, the consortium includes and has the support of other companies such as Adobe, Borland, Digital Equipment Corporation, Ecological Linguistics, GO, IBM, Microsoft, NeXT, Novell, the Research Libraries Group, Sun Microsystems, Taligent, and Unisys.

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