

Ad hoc report on Khitan Small Script

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The ad hoc group discussed N3918 “Proposal of Encode the Khitan Characters to UCS plane” from China, which had a response document, N3925 “Comments on Khitan proposal N3918” from SEI at UC Berkeley.

Basic information on the script was provided by the author of the proposal, who said Khitan Small Script is more analogous to Katakana or Hangul than to CJK Ideographs: its shapes reflect phonetic values. As a result, the group agreed that Khitan Small Script be separated from CJK Unified Ideographs as the functions are different. The total number of characters in the current proposal is 463.

A request was made to provide information describing the various positions of the components. Other suggestions to improve the proposal included:

- provide a higher resolution of the images (and/or links to the images) to allow for easier review;
- adjust the table so the headings are attached to the columns;
- provide specific background and source materials (including the original names and publishers of reference materials) to help with the analysis of how the script works and to help others look for related information

The group working on the Khitan proposal under Dr. Sun Bojun will continue to gather information on the script and incorporate feedback in their next version of the proposal.

At present, Khitan Large Script may possibly be unified with CJK. A description of how the Khitan Large Script could be handled would be helpful (but is not necessary at this time - such information is needed to assist in Roadmap allocation).