

System for Documenting Emoji ZWJ Sequences

To: UTC

From: Jeremy Burge <j@emojipedia.org>, Emoji Subcommittee

Date: 2017-01-17

We propose a documented process for adding new Emoji ZWJ (Zero Width Joiner) Sequences to Unicode Emoji Data Files.

This proposal builds upon L2/16-320 which was presented at UTC #149, resulting in UTC referring an action for the Emoji Subcommittee to develop this process.

Background

The Emoji 4.0 situation involved Unicode documenting a ZWJ Sequence when:

- A. there is a clear case of existing usage; and
- B. there is vendor commitment to support these in an ongoing basis

The 4.0 process did not provide a process for recommending new ZWJ Sequences, either when proposed by vendors or members of the public.

This created a situation where new ZWJ Sequences were only created by vendors, without:

- A. a public mechanism for the public to propose new ZWJ Sequences; or
- B. a process for vendors to float ideas and get consensus

Process

A process is recommended whereby new Emoji ZWJ Sequence proposals are submitted to the Emoji Subcommittee, with well-formed proposals (with or without recommendation from the ESC) to be then forwarded to the UTC.

If approved by the UTC, they would then added to the Emoji ZWJ Sequence data file and associated emoji charts.

Under this process, the same scrutiny would be given to proposals for an ZWJ Sequence as any other emoji proposal.

Actions required

The following actions would be required to enact this proposal:

1. Language to be added to selection.html regarding whether a proposal is:
 - a. For a new emoji (which requires a new code point)
 - b. For a change to the emoji properties of an existing character
 - c. For a new Emoji ZWJ Sequence
2. Update language within selection.html to note that ZWJ proposals must:
 - a. Justify why a ZWJ Sequence is the best implementation for the proposal
 - b. List the existing code points required for the ZWJ Sequence
3. Update Process and Timeline details of selection.html#timeline to:
 - a. Note that the timeframe for an Emoji ZWJ Sequence differs from a new code point