Re: **Emoji Subcommittee Report for UTC #173 (2022Q4)**
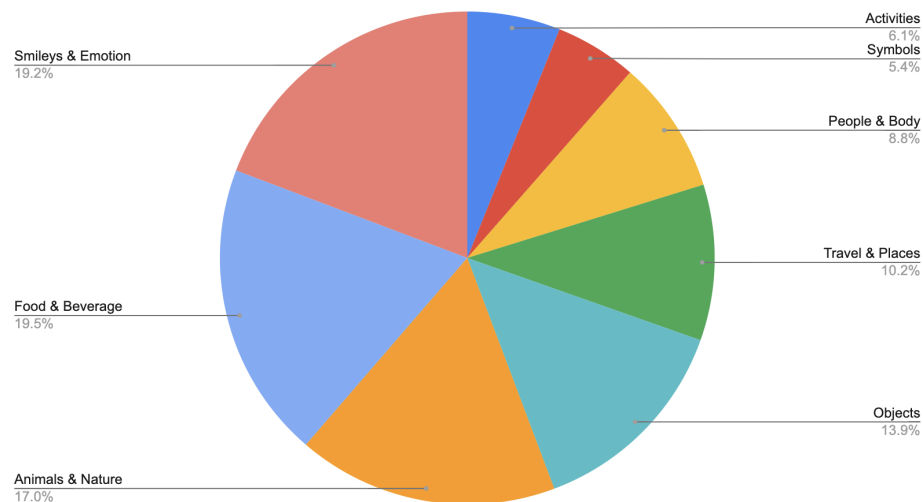
From: Jennifer Daniel on the behalf of the Emoji Subcommittee (ESC)

Date: 31 October 2022

---

1. Update on 2022 Intake 🤔

ESC has completed reviewing 2022 proposals. The authors of the proposals will be notified of their status shortly after the 2022Q4 UTC meeting. A breakdown of the proposals that were intaken:

As mentioned in our 2022Q3 report L2/22-126, this chart illustrates that many of the largest categories continue to get the most submissions. For example, now that we are no longer processing flag submissions, it is worth acknowledging that animal-mammal is the largest subcategory (53 emoji!). Given that newly-proposed emoji must demonstrate they are not overly specific and need to break new ground, this suggests some types of emoji are at or approaching saturation level. As a result, the ESC recommends we continue to encode fewer specific single-use concepts that don't have multiple uses, lack flexibility in sequences, or break new ground.

2. Emoji 15.1: Progress on stated goals ✅

a. As a result of the expected delay of 16.0, the ESC continues to focus on the 15.1 release scheduled for 2023 by prioritizing fundamental user needs as it relates to the emoji experience. At this time two areas have been identified for improvement:

   i.   **Emoji directionality for right-to-left languages**
         See section 3: Emoji Directionality

ii.   Multi-person tone resolution
See section 4: Guidelines for Family Emoji ZWJ Sequences that currently lack RGI tone support

3. Exploring Emoji Directionality ([L2/22-275](#))

Some of the world's languages—notably those belonging to or related to the Semitic language family—write their sentences from right-to-left, whereas other languages write their languages either left-to-right (e.g. English, French, Tamil, etc.) or sometimes top-to-bottom (e.g. Chinese or Japanese). Focusing on the left-to-right (LTR) and right-to-left (RTL) directionality of the world's languages, digital user interfaces often need to adapt to the writing directionality of the language in which they are localized.

Approximately 200 emoji exhibit movement-related semantics (e.g. 🏃, 🚗, etc.) and the design of these emoji may be unnatural for some right-to-left languages. When these emoji are strung together in a sequence, the problem worsens as the emoji designs remain static but the sequence of emoji become mirrored when surrounded by strong right-to-left characters on most vendor platforms.

This investigation will be broken up into two phases:
1. Assess each of the RGI-listed emoji characters and sequences in an effort to bucketize them into three groups: strongly directional (i.e. possess movement semantics), weakly directional (i.e. they possess transitivity), neutrally directional (meaning remains static no matter directionality).

2. The investigation will conclude with a preferred recommendation at the 2023Q1 UTC Meeting (January 2023).

At this time, the ESC and its vendor members are converging on solution №2 present within the investigation document ([L2/22-275](#)). The ESC seeks feedback from the higher UTC on an appropriate means of storing new properties that may be assigned to emoji characters and sequences in anticipation of this recommendation for Emoji 15.1.

4. Guidelines for Family Emoji ZWJ Sequences that currently lack RGI tone support ([L2/22-276](#))

Skin tone modifiers have many exceptions and implementation details, and many aspects of this have been discussed in past documents ([L2/19-392](#)). Efforts to add all toned emoji as RGI have not been unsuccessful; however, letting the existing 27 family emoji sit in our keyboards without resolution contradicts guidelines outlined in TR#51, Section 2.4 Diversity.

As emoji keyboards advance in creating more intuitive and personalized experiences, the Emoji Subcommittee is recommending a small set of emoji to be redesigned as part of a multi-phase effort to "complete the set" of toned variants for the remaining multi-person emoji. This follows priorities set out in document L2/20-196.

5. Inline Emotes / Stickers Support

At this time we have no update since the Q3 UTC meeting on the subject of Inline Emotes (L2/22-180). Vendors continue to investigate which of the presented directions (if any) continue to make sense in today's market. Internet communication media continue to improve support for the sharing of customized, arbitrary, emoji-like images in-line with text, and platform vendors continue to show interest in improving this functionality to be platform-independent.

6. Public Feedback 🗣

6.1 UTS #51 Comments

```
Date/Time: Thu Sep 15 11:12:15 CDT 2022
Name: Rossen Mikhov
Report Type: Error Report
Opt Subject: UTS #51: Unicode Emoji


Location:
"2.3.1 Gender-Neutral Emoji", near the end of the section


Wrong text:
Gender-neutral versions of the profession or role emoji using object
format type ZWJ sequences are promulgated by adding them to the *RGI
emoji tag sequence set*.


Possible correction:
Gender-neutral versions of the profession or role emoji using object
format type ZWJ sequences are promulgated by adding them to the *RGI
emoji ZWJ sequence set*.
```

Recommended actions for UTC:

Action Item for Mark Davis, Ned Holbrook, ESC: Review feedback from Rossen Mikhov and update UTS #51 as necessary. See feedback [Thu Sep 15 11:12:15 CDT 2022] in document L2/22-243.