ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2/IRG N2717

Universal Coded Character Set UCS

Title: Proposal to accept script-hybrid Han ideographs in IRG working set submissions

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This document proposes that script-hybrid Han ideographs, such as those proposed in UTC document L2/24-201, be accepted for future IRG working set submissions. Although such characters include non-Han components, such as Latin, kana, and hangul, they are used as Han ideographs and appear together with other Han ideographs in running text.

Background

The second bullet of Recommendation IRG M61.18 at the bottom of page 6 of document IRG N2620 stated the following:

Script-specific hybrid and abbreviated CJK Letters (IRG N2637): IRG does not consider the proposed characters belong to CJK unified ideographs. The proposer can take feedback from IRG experts for further processing at UTC/WG2.

The author of document IRG N2637 subsequently submitted documents L2/24-125 and L2/24-201 to the UTC, and the relevant working groups of the UTC have concluded that the simplest approach would be to treat such characters as ordinary Han ideographs. These characters are, for the most part, abbreviations of common Han ideographs that substitute one or more components with a Latin, kana, or hangul component that serves as—or *mimics*—the reading of the entire Han ideograph. These characters therefore behave like ordinary Han ideographs and appear together with other Han ideographs in running text.

There are, of course, some issues to work out, such as how to count the strokes of non-Han components, in particular Latin components, and the need to extend the IDS syntax to accommodate non-Han components.

Proposal

Based on the background as presented in this document, I propose that script-hybrid Han ideographs be accepted for future IRG working set submissions, and that the IRG Principles and Procedures document be updated to accommodate them.

Next Steps

If the IRG agrees with this proposal to accept script-hybrid Han ideographs in future IRG working set submissions, the IRG Convenor will produce a new draft of the IRG Principles and Procedures document for review at IRG Meeting #64.

That is all.