Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Proposal to encode two heavy low quotes for German in the UCS Dingbats block
Source: Germany NB
Status: National Body Contribution
Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC
Date: 2009-01-15

Additions for German use

U+275F HEAVY LOW SINGLE COMMA QUOTATION MARK ORNAMENT
→ 201A single low-9 quotation mark

U+2760 HEAVY LOW DOUBLE COMMA QUOTATION MARK ORNAMENT
→ 201E double low-9 quotation mark

Properties:
```
275F;HEAVY LOW SINGLE COMMA QUOTATION MARK ORNAMENT;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
2760;HEAVY LOW DOUBLE COMMA QUOTATION MARK ORNAMENT;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
```

The heavy quotation marks as they are encoded in the Dingbats block at U+275B...U+275E (see fig. 1) are found in plain text to mark citations in a prominent way, especially when a free standing block of text is marked as a citation in contrast to other free standing blocks of text in its vicinity. Thus, they in fact are used like punctuation marks.

Due to the origin of the Dingbats block characters which were included into Unicode as decorative elements rather than as characters to be used in a flow of plain text, there the plain text use apparently was not considered at that time. When used as free floating decorative elements only, there is obviously no need to distinguish positional variants.

But this is necessary when plain text use is regarded. For the "normal" punctuation marks as they are encoded as U+2018...U+201A and U+201C...U+201E, therefore high and low quotes are distinguished. As several locales use high quotes only, these are named without using "HIGH" explicitly, while the low ones are explicitly named so.

The reference glyphs in the Unicode 5.1 tables show that the heavy quotes are high quotes (see fig. 1; this is relevant especially as the reference glyphs for the Dingbats block are tied to the character identity in a stronger way than usual, see p.515 of the printed Unicode 5.0 standard).

Fig. 2 and 3 show excerpts from common fonts which also provide the heavy quotes as high quotes.

As German, besides some other locales, uses low quotes at the beginning of citations, the German National Body requests that heavy forms of the low forms of the quotes are added to the Dingbats block in a consistent way, parallel to the encoding of the "normal" forms in the General Punctuation block.
Thus, the practice of marking citations in a prominent way will also be enabled for plain text according to the German punctuation rules.
Examples of such marking are shown as Fig. 4 and 5.

Fig. 1: Excerpt from the Unicode 5.1 table (PDF version) of the Dingbats block, showing all heavy quotes encoded so far as high quotes

Fig. 2: Excerpt from a FontLab Studio Font window showing glyphs of the font "ITC Zapf Dingbats Std" dated 2007-08-27, from Adobe FontFolio 11, also showing all heavy quotes encoded so far as high quotes

Fig. 3: Excerpt from a SIL VievGlyph window displaying the glyphs of a font ZapfDingbats.ttf (original file name lost) as it was found on a cheap font collection CD ("More fonts 2") bought about 1993-07, proving (in conjunction with the state-of-the-art font of fig. 2) that the use of heavy quotes as high quotes is a practice which has prevailed over a long time

Fig. 4: Excerpt from ADAC motorwelt (a German automobilist magazine), 6/2008, p.38

Fig. 5: Excerpt from a German DVD catalog, 2008

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html.
See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest** *Roadmaps.*

A. Administrative

1. **Title:** *Proposal to encode two heavy low quotes for German in the UCS Dingbats block*
2. Requester's name: *Germany NB*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Member Body*
4. Submission date: *2009-01-15*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
   This is a complete proposal: *X*
   (or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): *No*
      Proposed name of script:
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *Yes*
      Name of the existing block: *Dingbats*
2. Number of characters in proposal: *2*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
   A-Contemporary *X*   B.1-Specialized (small collection)   B.2-Specialized (large collection)
   C-Major extinct   D-Attested extinct   E-Minor extinct
   F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic   G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *Yes*
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"
      in Annex L of P&P document? *Yes*
   b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? *Yes*
5. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for
   publishing the standard? *No special font given, as the characters can be derived from any Dingbats font*
   If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools
   used:
6. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? *Yes*
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
   of proposed characters attached? *Yes*
7. Special encoding issues:
   Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input,
   presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? *No*

8. Additional Information:
Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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[1]. Form number: N3152-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? *No*
   If YES explain

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body,
   user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? *No*
   If YES, with whom? *There is no special user community, the characters are ubiquitous*
   If YES, available relevant documents:

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example:
   size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? *See 2.*
   Reference:

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) *common*
   Reference: *See text*

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? *Yes*
   If YES, where? Reference: *See text*

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
   in the BMP? *Yes*
   If YES, is a rationale provided? *Yes*
   If YES, reference: *To keep them together with similar already encoded characters*

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? *Yes*

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing
   character or character sequence? *No*
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either
   existing characters or other proposed characters? *No*
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function)
    to an existing character? *No*
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
    If YES, reference:

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? *No*
    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
    If YES, reference:
    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
    If YES, reference:

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as
    control function or similar semantics? *No*
    If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? *No*
    If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?
    If YES, reference: