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 the RUBLE SIGN in the UCS**
Source: **Michael Everson**
Status: **Individual Contribution**
Action: **For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**
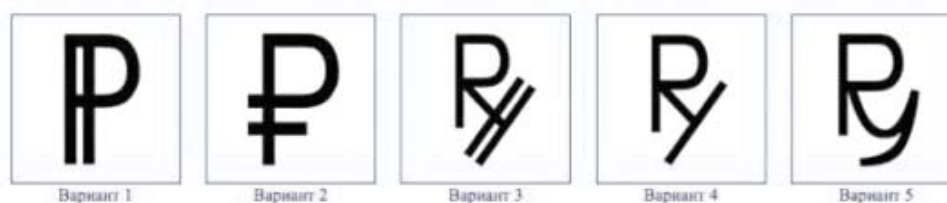**Date:** **2014-02-04**

1. The RUBLE SIGN. Following a public ballotting period which began on 5 November 2013 and ended a month later, the Board of Directors of Bank Rossii announced on 11 December 2013 the creation of a currency symbol for the Russian rouble (see **http://lenta.ru/news/2013/12/11/symbol/**).

The winning design was one which had been promulgated by the Moscow studios Design Depot, Studija Artemija Lebedeva, Designet, DirectDesign, Imadesign, Letterhead, and ParaType over six years ago (see **http://imadesign.ru/ru/news/news?id=412**).

As with the EURO SIGN, HRYVNIA SIGN, TENGE SIGN, INDIAN RUPEE SIGN, TURKISH LIRA SIGN, and MANAT SIGN, the encoding of the RUBLE SIGN would seem to be a matter of some urgency. Code position U+20BD is proposed for the encoding.

The shape of the currency sign is a P with two bars, one of which extends from the lower part of the bowl of the P itself, and the other parallel to it, a bar's width from the top bar. Since a number of Russian font vendors have been promulgating the sign for a number of years, there is no question but that the glyph for the sign should be taken from the glyph for CYRILLIC CAPITAL LETTER ER in any font.

Here are the competing designs for the RUBLE SIGN which were ballotted by the general public.

Вариант 1   Вариант 2   Вариант 3   Вариант 4   Вариант 5

An example of the RUBLE SIGN using a serifed font is given below, to the far right.

Examples of rouble signs drawn by designer and typographer Jurij Gordon. See also his comments about the design at **http://lenta.ru/articles/2013/11/08/gordon/** and an article about other candidates for the character at his blog at **http://yurigordon.livejournal.com/57095.html**

A UCS codepoint assignment for this character is urgent. Synchronization between ISO/IEC 10646 may be affected by this character; it seems likely that it will be approved by the UTC for inclusion in Unicode 7.0.

2.1. Character name. In the contribution N4529 (L2/14-039) from the Russian National Body, "Proposal to add the currency sign for the RUSSIAN RUBLE to the UCS", the name requested was "RUSSIAN RUBLE SIGN". In the past the first instance of a currency sign is to give its generic name, and disambiguation given in the case such disambiguation is required. Compare U+20A4 LIRA SIGN and U+20BA TURKISH LIRA SIGN.

2.2. Character spelling. The ISO directives recommend the use of the Shorter Oxford, the Concise Oxford, and the Collins dictionary of English, which typically use International English spelling. In order to prevent disputes over the preferred English spelling of character names, such as had arisen with *sulfur* vs. *sulphur*, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 adopted wording for its "Principles and Procedures" document identifying the Oxford English Dictionary as the primary reference for spelling character names "unless a proposal document provides credible evidence to use alternative spellings." In the case of the RUBLE SIGN, ISO 4217 "Codes for the representation of names of currencies" uses the spelling "ruble" rather than "rouble" for BYR Belarusian ruble, RUR Russian ruble, TJR Tajikistani ruble, and PRB Transnistrian ruble. For consistency with this ISO standard, the name "RUBLE SIGN" is proposed here.

3. Unicode Character Properties.

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20BD;RUBLE SIGN;Sc;0;ET;;;;;N;;;;;
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A. Administrative
1. Title
Proposal to encode the RUBLE SIGN in the UCS
2. Requester's name
Michael Everson
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)
Individual contribution.
4. Submission date
2014-02-04
5. Requester's reference (if applicable)
6. Choose one of the following:
6a. This is a complete proposal
Yes.

6b. More information will be provided later
No.

B. Technical -- General

1. Choose one of the following:
1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)
No.
Proposed name of script
1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block
Yes.
1b. Name of the existing block
Currency Symbols.
2. Number of characters in proposal
1
3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories)
Category A.
4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)
Level 1.
4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?
Yes.
4c. If YES, reference
Spacing character.
5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?
Yes.
5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?
Yes.
5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?
Yes.
6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?
Michael Everson.
6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:
Michael Everson, Fontographer.
7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?
No.
7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?
Yes.
8. 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.
9. 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 Unicode Character Database http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/ UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.
The character should have the same properties as other currency signs.

C. Technical -- Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.
No.
2a. 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.
2b. If YES, with whom?
2c. 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?
People in the Russian Federation and elsewhere.
4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)
To represent the rouble currency in monetary amounts.
4b. Reference
5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?
No.
5b. If YES, where?
6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed

characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes. Position U+20BD is proposed.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

Yes.

6c. If YES, reference

Keep with other currency signs.

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

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

No.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

12b. If YES, reference

13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?