Unicode and its 🕳️🍁s: programmer essentials and more

Updated 2023

https://github.com/gyng/book/tree/master/slides/unicode

Changelog

2023: Graphemes and `Intl.Segmenter`

2020: Add more examples

2018: Add searching, Unihan examples, Unicode filenames

2017: Initial slides

Unicode and its 𝌆 糞 𝌆 香 s: programmer essentials and m ∧⌈ore

Shift-JIS edition

https://github.com/gyng/book/tree/master/slides/unicode

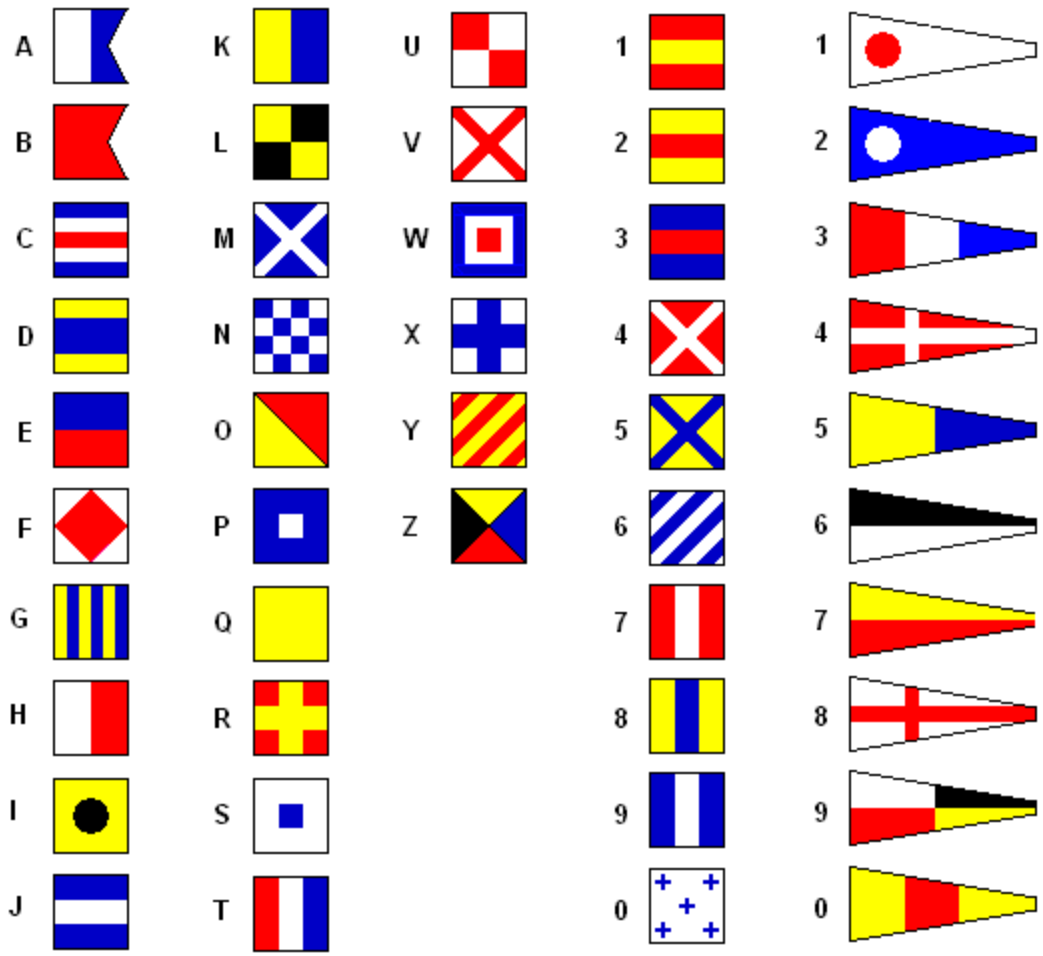
1. History
2. Unicode and UTF-x
3. Programmer pitfalls

```
> 1 + 1;
← 2

> 1 + 1;
← 🚨 SyntaxError: illegal character 🚨
```

Part 1: Encodings

not encryption



Maritime Signal Flags

Penants

```
M   O   R   S  E           C    O   D  E
-- --- .-. ... . (space) -.-. --- -.. .
```

- Three letters: $\{\_, ., EOW\}$
- Variable-width letters

佶	佳	伙	仔	仆	交	事	乏	丰	丈
〇一八五 俏	〇一六五 佐	〇一四五 伯	〇一二五 伶	〇一〇五 仇	〇〇八五 亥	〇〇六五	〇〇四五 乖	〇〇二五 串	〇〇〇五 三
〇一八六 使	〇一六六 佑	〇一四六 估	〇一二六 伸	〇一〇六 今	〇〇八六 亦	〇〇六六	〇〇四六 乘	〇〇二六	〇〇〇六 上
〇一八七 侃	〇一六七 佔	〇一四七 佚	〇一二七 伙	〇一〇七 介	〇〇八七 享	〇〇六七 二	〇〇四七	〇〇二七	〇〇〇七 下
〇一八八 來	〇一六八 何	〇一四八 你	〇一二八 佌	〇一〇八 仍	〇〇八八 亢	〇〇六八 于	〇〇四八	〇〇二八 丶	〇〇〇八 不
〇一八九 侈	〇一六九 佗	〇一四九 佴	〇一二九 仵	〇一〇九 仔	〇〇八九 亨	〇〇六九 云	〇〇四九	〇〇二九 丸	〇〇〇九 丐
〇一九〇 例	〇一七〇 佘	〇一五〇 伴	〇一三〇 件	〇一一〇 仕	〇〇九〇 京	〇〇七〇 互	〇〇五〇 乙	〇〇三〇 凡	〇〇一〇 丑
〇一九一 侍	〇一七一 余	〇一五一 伶	〇一三一 攸	〇一一一 他	〇〇九一 亭	〇〇七一 五	〇〇五一 九	〇〇三一 丹	〇〇一一 且
〇一九二 侏	〇一七二 佛	〇一五二 伸	〇一三二 价	〇一一二 伎	〇〇九二 亮	〇〇七二 井	〇〇五二 乞	〇〇三二 主	〇〇一二 丞
〇一九三 侐	〇一七三 作	〇一五三 伺	〇一三三 任	〇一一三 付	〇〇九三 亳	〇〇七三 亘	〇〇五三 也	〇〇三三	〇〇一三 世
〇一九四 侑	〇一七四 佞	〇一五四 伴	〇一三四 仿	〇一一四 仙	〇〇九四 亶	〇〇七四 亙	〇〇五四 乩	〇〇三四	〇〇一四 丘
〇一九五 侔	〇一七五 佟	〇一五五 似	〇一三五 企	〇一一五 仝	〇〇九五 亹	〇〇七五 兇	〇〇五五 乳	〇〇三五 亅	〇〇一五 丙
〇一九六 侖	〇一七六 佩	〇一五六 伽	〇一三六 伉	〇一一六 仞	〇〇九六	〇〇七六 些	〇〇五六 乾	〇〇三六 乂	〇〇一六 丞
〇一九七 侗	〇一七七 佪	〇一五七 佃	〇一三七 伊	〇一一七 仟	〇〇九七	〇〇七七 亞	〇〇五七 亂	〇〇三七 乃	〇〇一七 丟

```
電   碼

7193 4316
--... .---- ----. ...-- / ....- ...-- .---- -....

EGL  EWS
. --. .-.. / . .-- ...
```

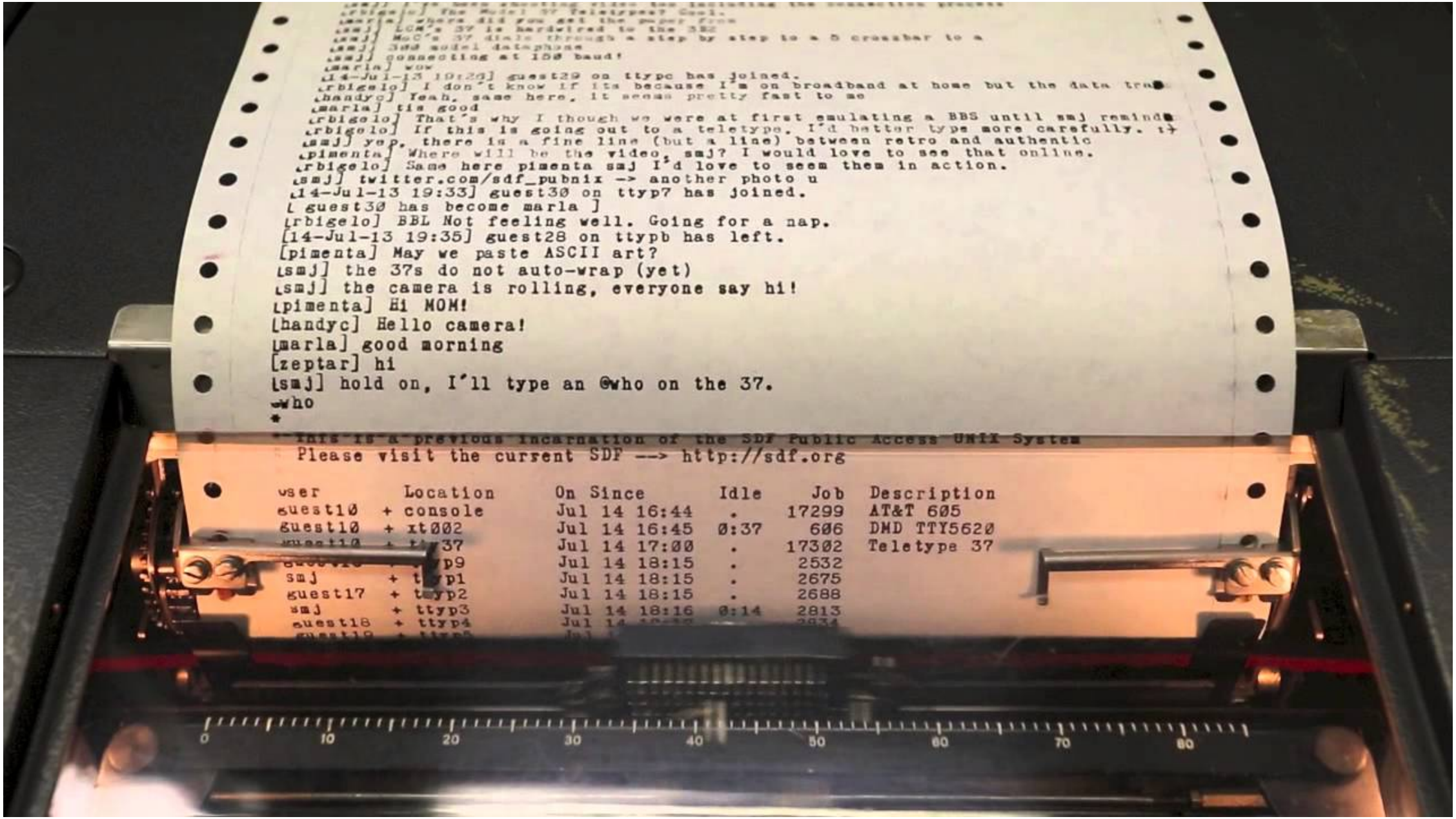
Don't use `character` when discussing Unicode

- ~~Character: `a`, `e`, `1`, `電`, etc.~~
- Grapheme: a horizontally segmentable unit of text
- Codepoint: mapping of a character to some value
- Encoding: a collection of codepoints
- Glyph: visual representation

ASCII

```
00 NUL    20        40 @    60 `
01 SOH    21 !      41 A    61 a
02 STX    22 "      42 B    62 b
03 ETX    23 #      43 C    63 c
04 EOT    24 $      44 D    64 d
05 ENQ    25 %      45 E    65 e
06 ACK    26 &      46 F    66 f
07 BEL    27 '      47 G    67 g
08 BS     28 (      48 H    68 h
09 HT     29 )      49 I    69 i
0A LF     2A *      4A J    6A j
0B VT     2B +      4B K    6B k
0C FF     2C ,      4C L    6C l
0D CR     2D -      4D M    6D m
0E SO     2E .      4E N    6E n
0F SI     2F /      4F O    6F o
⋮         ⋮         ⋮       ⋮
```

http://www.catb.org/esr/faqs/things-every-hacker-once-knew/



https://youtu.be/MikoF6KZjm0?t=289

ASCII

- 0–31 are control characters `NUL` `CR` `LF` `DEL`
- 32–126 are punctuation, numerals and letters
- `␣` in binary: `0100000` $= 32 = 0x20$
- `A` in binary: `1000001` $= 65 = 0x41$
- `a` in binary: `1100001` $= 97 = 0x61$
  - $= 65 + 32$

    $\_ = 0x41 + 0x20$

    $\_ =$ `1000001 | 0100000`

Modified ASCII

- Extended ASCII (8-bit, has more characters `Ç` `ü` `▒` `¶` `æ`)
- Modified 7-bit ASCII exist
  - `#` → `£` on UK teletypes
  - `\` → `¥` in Japan (Shift-JIS)
  - `\` → `₩` in Korea (EUC-KR)

Control characters

- `CR` Moves the print head to the left margin
- `LF` Scrolls down one line
- `DEL` Backspace and delete
- `ETX` `^C` (SIGINT)
- `EOT` `^D`
- `BEL` Rings the (physical) bell

```
sleep 3 && echo $'\a'
```

ASCII ⇔ Unix/Linux *control* codes

```
   Hex   Char                            Hex   Char
──────────────────────────────────────────────────────
   00    NUL '\0' (null character) 40    @
   01    SOH (start of heading)    41    A
   02    STX (start of text)       42    B
   03    ETX (end of text)         43    C 👈
   04    EOT (end of transmission) 44    D 👈
   05    ENQ (enquiry)             45    E
   06    ACK (acknowledge)         46    F
   07    BEL '\a' (bell)           47    G
   08    BS  '\b' (backspace)      48    H 👈
   09    HT  '\t' (horizontal tab) 49    I
   ⋮
```

`man ascii`

So, what's the problem with ASCII?

```
ASCII
^
```

Problems with ASCII

- Latin-centric
- Everybody else came up with their own encodings
- Alternative ASCII sets cause problems with interchange
- Mojibake (文字化け (moji bake)): JIS, Shift-JIS, EUC, and Unicode
- No emoji, only emoticons :-(

Dark ages

- ???
- ???
- ???
- ???
- ???
- ???

	KPS 9566 · KS X 1001 · PASCII · SI 960 · TIS-620 · TSCII · VISCII · YUSCII
EUC	CN · JP · KR · TW
ISO/IEC 2022	CN · JP · KR · CCCII
MacOS code pages ("scripts")	Arabic · Celtic · CentEuro · ChineseSimp / EUC-CN · ChineseTrad / Big5 · Croatian · Cyrillic · Devanagari · Dingbats · Esperanto · Farsi · Gaelic · Greek · Gujarati · Gurmukhi · Hebrew · Iceland · Japanese / ShiftJIS · Korean / EUC-KR · Latin-1 · Roman · Romanian · Sámi · Symbol · Thai / TIS-620 · Turkish · Ukrainian
DOS code pages	100 · 111 · 112 · 113 · 151 · 152 · 161 · 162 · 163 · 164 · 165 · 166 · 210 · 220 · 301 · 437 · 449 · 489 · 620 · 667 · 668 · 707 · 708 · 709 · 710 · 711 · 714 · 715 · 720 · 721 · 737 · 768 · 770 · 771 · 772 · 773 · 774 · 775 · 776 · 777 · 778 · 790 · 850 · 851 · 852 · 853 · 854 · 855/872 · 856 · 857 · 858 · 859 · 860 · 861 · 862 · 863 · 864/17248 · 865 · 866/808 · 867 · 868 · 869 · 874/1161/1162 · 876 · 877 · 878 · 881 · 882 · 883 · 884 · 885 · 891 · 895 · 896 · 897 · 898 · 899 · 900 · 903 · 904 · 906 · 907 · 909 · 910 · 911 · 926 · 927 · 928 · 929 · 932 · 934 · 936 · 938 · 941 · 942 · 943 · 944 · 946 · 947 · 948 · 949 · 950/1370 · 951 · 966 · 991 · 1034 · 1039 · 1040 · 1041 · 1042 · 1043 · 1044 · 1046 · 1086 · 1088 · 1092 · 1093 · 1098 · 1108 · 1109 · 1114 · 1115 · 1116 · 1117 · 1118 · 1119 · 1125/848 · 1126 · 1127 · 1131/849 · 1139 · 1167 · 1168 · 1300 · 1351 · 1361 · 1362 · 1363 · 1372 · 1373 · 1374 · 1375 · 1380 · 1381 · 1385 · 1386 · 1391 · 1392 · 1393 · 1394 · Kamenický · Mazovia · CWI-2 · KOI8 · MIK · Iran System
IBM AIX code pages	367 · 371 · 806 · 813 · 819 · 895 · 896 · 912 · 913 · 914 · 915 · 916 · 919 · 920 · 921/901 · 922/902 · 923 · 952 · 953 · 954 · 955 · 956 · 957 · 958 · 959 · 960 · 961 · 963 · 964 · 965 · 970 · 971 · 1004 · 1006 · 1008 · 1009 · 1010 · 1011 · 1012 · 1013 · 1014 · 1015 · 1016 · 1017 · 1018 · 1019 · 1029 · 1036 · 1089 · 1111 · 1124 · 1129/1163 · 1133 · 1350 · 1382 · 1383
IBM Apple Macintosh Emulations	1275 · 1280 · 1281 · 1282 · 1283 · 1284 · 1285 · 1286
IBM Adobe Emulations	1038 · 1276 · 1277
IBM DEC Emulations	1020 · 1021 · 1023 · 1090 · 1100 · 1101 · 1102 · 1103 · 1104 · 1105 · 1106 · 1107 · 1287 · 1288
IBM HP Emulations	1050 · 1051 · 1052 · 1053 · 1054 · 1055 · 1056 · 1057 · 1058
Windows code pages	CER-GS · 874/1162 (TIS-620) · 932/943 (Shift JIS) · 936/1386 (GBK) · 950/1370 (Big5) · 949/1363 (EUC-KR) · 1169 · 1174 · Extended Latin-8 · 1200 (UTF-16LE) · 1201 (UTF-16BE) · 1250 · 1251 · 1252 · 1253 · 1254 · 1255 · 1256 · 1257 · 1258 · 1259 · 1261 · 1270 · 54936 (GB18030)
EBCDIC code pages	1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10 · 11 · 12 · 13 · 14 · 15 · 16 · 17 · 18 · 19 · 20 · 21 · 22 · 23 · 24 · 25 · 26 · 27 · 28 · 29 · 30 · 31 · 32 · 33 · 34 · 35 · 36 · 37/1140 · 38 · 39 · 40 · 251 · 252 · 254 · 256 · 257 · 258 · 259 · 260 · 264 · 273/1141 · 274 · 275 · 276 · 277/1142 · 278/1143 · 279 · 280/1144 · 281 · 282 · 283 · 284/1145 · 285/1146 · 286 · 287 · 288 · 289 · 290 · 293 · 297/1147 · 298 · 300 · 310 · 320 · 321 · 322 · 330 · 351 · 352 · 353 · 355 · 357 · 358 · 359 · 360 · 361 · 363 · 382 · 383 · 384 · 385 · 386 · 387 · 388 · 389 · 390 · 391 · 392 · 393 · 394 · 395 · 410 · 420/16804 · 421 · 423 · 424/8616/12712 · 425 · 435 · 500/1148 · 803 · 829 · 833 · 834 · 835 · 836 · 837 · 838/838 · 839 · 870/1110/1153 · 871/1149 · 875/4971/9067 · 880 · 881 · 882 · 883 · 884 · 885 · 886 · 887 · 888 · 889 · 890 · 892 · 893 · 905 · 918 · 924 · 930/1390 · 931 · 933/1364 · 935/1388 · 937/1371 · 939/1399 · 1001 · 1002 · 1003 · 1005 · 1007 · 1024 · 1025/1154 · 1026/1155 · 1027 · 1028 · 1030 · 1031 · 1032 · 1033 · 1037 · 1047 · 1068 · 1069 · 1070 · 1071 · 1073 · 1074 · 1075 · 1076 · 1077 · 1078 · 1079 · 1080 · 1081 · 1082 · 1083 · 1084 · 1085 · 1087 · 1091 · 1097 · 1112/1156 · 1113 · 1122/1157 · 1123/1158 · 1130/1164 · 1132 · 1136 · 1137 · 1150 · 1151 · 1152 · 1159 · 1165 · 1166 · 1278 · 1279 · 1303 · 1364 · 1376 · 1377 · JEF · KEIS
Platform specific	Acorn · Adobe Standard · ATASCII · Atari ST · BICS · Casio calculators · CDC · CPC · DEC Radix-50 · DEC MCS/NRCS · DG International · ELWRO-Junior · FIELDATA · GEM · GEOS · GSM 03.38 · HP Roman Extension · HP Roman-8 · HP Roman-9 · HP calculators · LICS · LMBCS · NEC APC · NeXT · PETSCII · Sharp calculators · TI calculators · Ventura International · Ventura Symbol · WISCII · XCCS · ZX80 · ZX81 · ZX Spectrum

Part 2: Unicode

Timeline of Unicode

- 1985, Sapporo, 🗾
- KanjiTalk, localised 🍎
- Shift-JIS is a 💩
- Bunch of 👷 start working on Unicode specs
- 1988, submitted to ISO 📑
- 1991, Han Unification accepted 🤔
- 1992, 👋 *Kiss Your ASCII Goodbye* in *PC Magazine*
- 1995, ☕ Java 1.0 launches with Unicode support

http://www.unicode.org/history/earlyyears.html

The first Unicode TV interview (1991)

http://www.unicode.org/history/unicodeMOV.mov

In that video, the VP of Unicode made:

- three statements
- three inaccuracies (in 2017)

Unicode: the Movie (2000)

http://www.unicode.org/history/movie/UniMovie-large.mov

Unicode features*

- A common representation for all characters
- $\simeq$ Compatible with ASCII for English (`A` $= 65$)
- Efficient encoding
- ~~Uniform width encoding~~
- Han unification (CJK languages share glyphs)

Unicode 13.0 (2020 March 10)

> Unicode 13.0 adds 5,930 characters, for a total of 143,859 characters.

https://unicode.org/versions/Unicode13.0.0/

> 55 new emoji characters

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr51/tr51-12.html#Emoji_Counts

...and more

Unicode terminology

- Scalar value `€ U+20AC EURO SIGN`
- Range `U+0000..U+FFFF`
- Sequence `É <U+0045 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E, U+0301 COMBINING ACUTE ACCENT>`

Unicode planes

- `U+0000..U+FFFF` is Plane 0, Basic Multilingual Plane (BMP)
- Each plane encodes up to $2^{16} = 65536$ code points
- Commonly used characters

Standard

Unicode

Encoding

UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-32, UCS-2, UCS-4

(UTF = Unicode Transformation Format)

UTF-16

- Early UTF-16 was fixed-width (UCS-2)
- 2 or 4 bytes per character
- 2 bytes for characters in BMP
    - Can be more efficient than UTF-8 for CJK (2B vs 3B)
- Surrogate pairs have to be handled for code points outside BMP
    - Byte-order matters

UTF-32

- 32 bits ought to be enough for anybody

UTF-32

- `A` now takes up 4 bytes

SCSU

But wait! There's more!

🗜 Standard Compression Scheme for Unicode 🗜

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr6/

SCSU

♪リンゴ可愛いや可愛いやリンゴ。半世紀も前に流行した「リンゴの歌」がぴったりするかもしれない。米アップルコンピュータ社のパソコン「マック（マッキントッシュ）」を、こよなく愛する人たちのことだ。「アップル信者」なんて言い方まである。

= not compressible	18/12 = 1.5
= 3000 - 307F static window 7	12/11 = 1.1
= 3040 - 309F dynamic window 5	45/14 = 4.2
= 30A0 - 30FF dynamic window 6	38/8 = 4.75
= FF00 - FF7F dynamic window 7	2/2 = 1.00
= 2600-267F	1/1 = 1.00

- Do not use it*

UTF-8

- Variable width
- Single-byte (Same as ASCII, 7-bits)

```
00100100
└ Is single-byte
```

= 36 = 0x24 = `$ U+0024 DOLLAR SIGN`

UTF-8

(The good one)

UTF-8

- Multi-byte

```
1110aaaa 10bbbbbb 10cccccc
││└┘       ├┘        ├┘
││         └ Is continuation byte
││
│└ 2 continuation bytes
└ Is multi-byte
```

- First byte specifies number of continuation bytes
- Encoded character is `aaaabbbb` `bbcccccc`

Unicode features

Combining characters

- Modify other characters

  `e` + `´` = `é`

  `<e U+0065 LATIN SMALL LETTER E,`
  `U+0301 COMBINING ACUTE ACCENT>`

- Modifiers come after base character

Combining characters

- Precomposed `é`

  `é U+00E9 LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH ACUTE`

`é` ≠ `é`?

`é` = `é`?

Unicode normalisation

- Some combined characters are the same, sometimes

```
()"e" + ́"") === "é"
// => false

("e" + ́"").normalize() === "é"
// => true
```

Unicode normalisation mumbo jumbo

- Equivalence criteria
  - canonical (NF)
  - compatibility (NFK)
- ffi `U+FB03 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE FFI` vs `f` `f` `i`
  - not equivalent under canonical (NF)
  - equivalent under NFK compatiability (NFK)

Unicode normalisation

- NFD *Normalization Form Canonical Decomposition*
- NFC *Normalization Form Canonical Composition*
- NFKD *Normalization Form Compatibility Decomposition*
- NFKC *Normalization Form Compatibility Composition*

NF is used to canonicalise combining characters

Unicode normalisation is not the complete solution

Emoji

- e絵 (≅ picture) ＋ moji文字(≅ written character)
- Early emoji were created by Japanese telcos
- 2008: Gmail, iPhone
- 2010: Unicode 6
- 

http://unicode.org/reports/tr51/

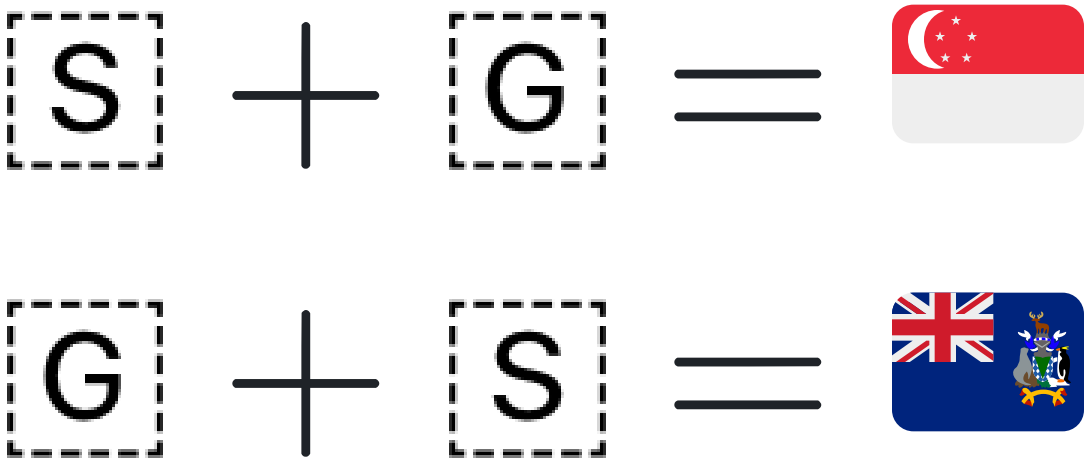
Can be represented differently

iOS Android Windows Samsung LG HTC Facebook Twitter

	Apple	Google	Microsoft	Samsung	Facebook	Twitter
2013						
2014						
2015						
2016						
2017						
2018						

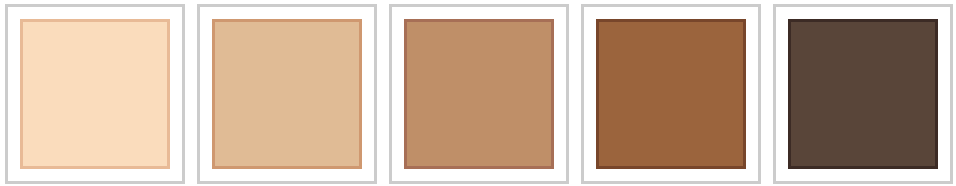
Combining emoji

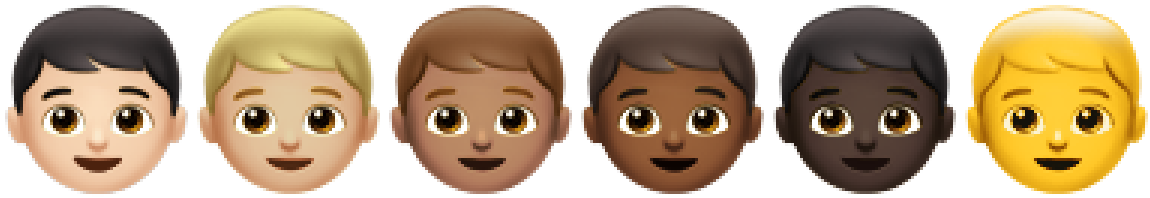
`U+1F46A FAMILY` vs combined character



```
🇸 < U+1F1F8 REGIONAL INDICATOR SYMBOL LETTER S >
🇬 < U+1F1EC REGIONAL INDICATOR SYMBOL LETTER G >
```

Variation selectors

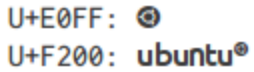




http://unicode.org/faq/vs.html

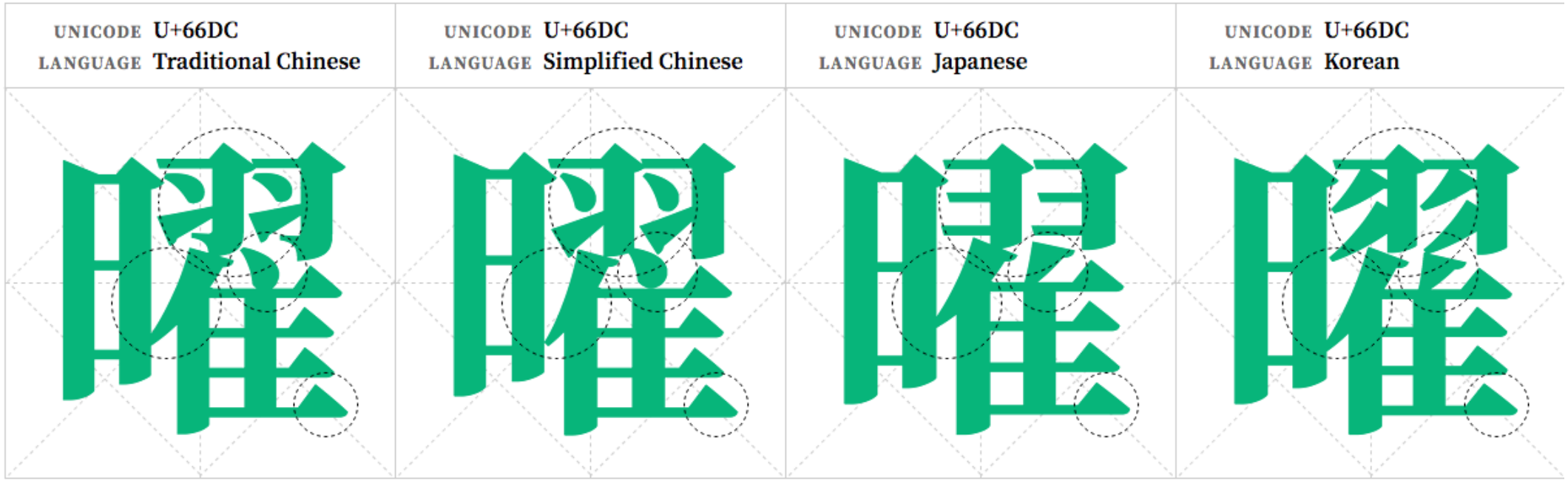
Private use areas

- `U+E000..U+F8FF`, `U+F0000..U+FFFFD`, `U+100000..U+10FFFD`
- Suggested for internal use
  - data processing
  - artificial scripts
  - ancient scripts
- `U+F8FF` (`⇧` - `⌥` - `k`)
- Ubuntu has `U+E0FF` and `U+F200`



Han unification

- aka. Unihan 數據庫, Unihan
- Maps common Chinese, Japanese, Korean (CJK) characters into unified set



- Different countries have different standards

Han unification

- Variants can be significant (names)
  芦(あし) Ashi·da, given name vs Ashi·ya, old place name

Han unification

> CJK Extension F contains mostly rare characters, but also includes a number of personal and placename characters important for government specifications in Japan, in particular.

CJK Extension F was added in Unicode 10.0 (2017)

Han unification

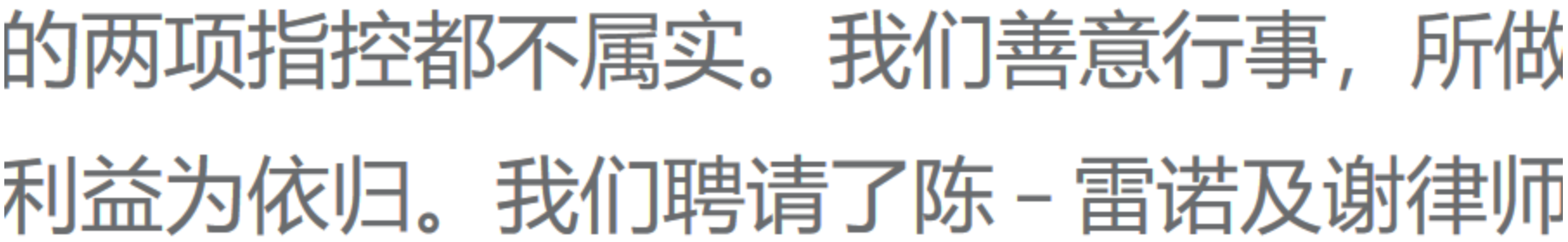
- Lose round-trip conversion compatibility with character sets which have variants

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/170559/prb-conversion-problem-between-shift-jis-and-unicode

Rendering issues

What could possibly go wrong?

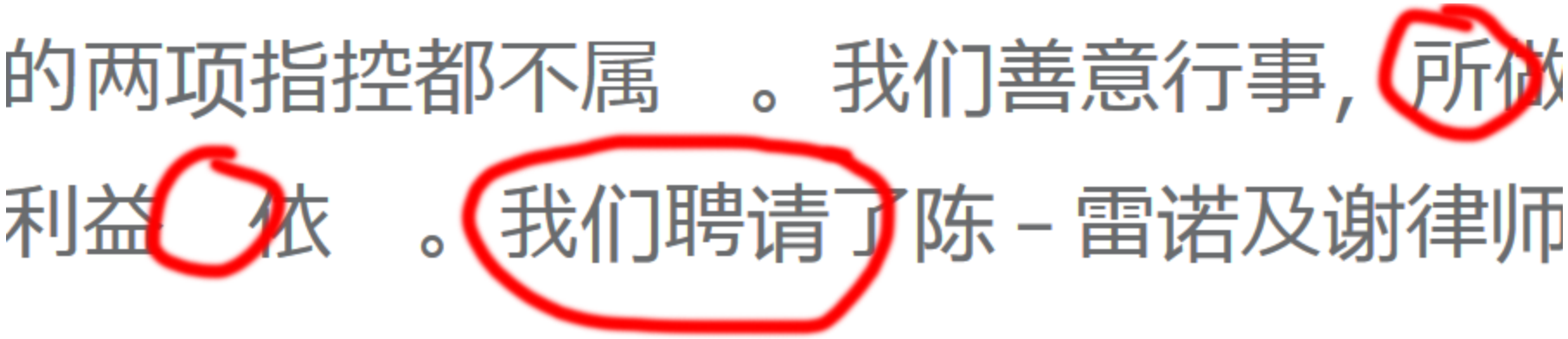
`lang="zh"`



Rendering issues

Blank characters, mixed fonts, wrong glyphs

`lang="en"`



Variation selectors

- Can use Unicode variation selectors

`U+E0101 VARIATION-SELECTOR-18`

```
» "刃\ufe04"
← "刃"
» "刃\uDB40\uDD01"
← "刃"
```

http://www.unicode.org/ivd/
http://unicode.org/reports/tr37/

Ligatures

> Unicode maintains that ligaturing is a presentation issue rather than a character definition issue

- But! There are some predefined ligatures

  `ﬄ U+FB04 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE FFL`

  `Ꜹ U+A738 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER AV`

  `æ U+00E6 LATIN SMALL LETTER AE`

- Similar issue with subscript and superscript

Control sequences and vertical text

- Vertical text
- RTL mark

Unicode Bidirectional Algorithm @ http://unicode.org/reports/tr9/

Unicode Vertical Text Layout @ http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr50/

EarthWeb commercial, 2001

http://www.unicode.org/history/EarthwebCommercial.avi

Part 3: Necessary

but not necessarily sufficient

programmer knowledge

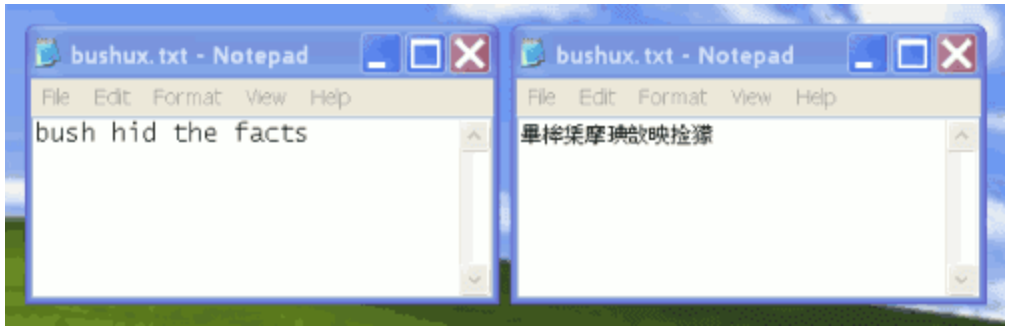








“Bush hid the facts”



1. Type "Bush hid the facts"
2. Save the file
3. Open the file

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bush_hid_the_facts

`IsTextUnicode`

> Determines if a buffer is likely to contain a form of Unicode text.

Recognise garbled text as mojibake

- Maybe able to recover content by swapping character sets
- UTF-8 seen using KOI8-R, a Cyrillic character set

```
п  я─п╟п╨п╬п╥я ▌п╟я─я■
```

UTF-8

```
Библиотека
```

Use UTF-8 for all source code if possible

- Configure your text editor

Magic comments for some older languages

💎 Ruby $\leq$ 1.9.x

```
# encoding: UTF-8
```

🐍² Python 2

```
# -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
```

💾 C ≤ C99

```
/* Dear future programmer: Good luck 👍 */
```

(Use a library, utf8proc seems to be popular)

Text processing

- Treat input as bytes (if possible)

Text processing

- Treat output as strings (and not byte arrays)

Text processing

- Use UTF-8 wherever possible

Text processing

- Decide what to do with invalid bytes
  - discard or substitute?
- Do not self-roll your own text encoding library

Log streaming

```
with open("mobydick-emoji-edition-🐳.utf8.txt", "rb") as input:
    while True:
        output_chunk = input.read(4096)
        if not output_chunk:
            #  EOF
            break
        #  Yield each chunk
        yield output_chunk
```

Where's the bug?

Log streaming

```
with open("mobydick-emoji-edition-🐳.utf8.txt", "rb") as input:  # 🐞
    while True:
        output_chunk = input.read(4096)  # 🐞
        if not output_chunk:
            #  EOF
            break
        #  yield each chunk
        yield output_chunk
```

Read in text with the right encoding

Especially when parsing HTML or XML

```
# Nokogiri
doc = Nokogiri.XML(html, nil, 'EUC-JP')
```

```
# Beautiful Soup
soup = BeautifulSoup(html, fromEncoding='Shift_JIS')
```

Set HTML `charset`

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
  </head>
</html>
```

Use `lang` in HTML as needed

```
<html lang="en">
  <body>
    <span lang="zh-Hans">刃</span>
    <span lang="zh-Hant">刃</span>
    <span lang="ja">刃</span>
    <span lang="ko">刃</span>
    <span lang="vi">刃</span>
  </body>
</html>
```

U+5203	刃	刃	刃	刃	刃	knife edge

Use `accept-charset` in forms as needed

```
<form action="myform" accept-charset="UTF-8"></form>
```

Uses document charset by default

Case conversion

- What is the uppercase form of `i`?

Case conversion

- What is the uppercase form of `i`? `I`
- In Turkish?

Case conversion

- What is the uppercase form of `i`?
- In Turkish?

  `ı` → `I`

  `i` → `İ`

Case conversion

- What is the uppercase form of `i`?
- In Turkish?

  `ı` → `I`

  `i` → `İ`
- In Turkish/English mixed text?

Case conversion

- Harder than you think
- What is the uppercase form of `ß U+00DF LATIN SMALL LETTER SHARP S`?

Case conversion

- 🇩🇪 German
- `ß` upcases to `SS`

Case conversion

- 🇩🇪 German
- `ß` upcases to `SS`
- …or `U+1E9E ẞ LATIN CAPITAL LETTER SHARP S`

http://unicode.org/faq/casemap_charprop.html

Case conversion

> In 2016, the Council for German Orthography proposed the introduction of optional use of ß in its ruleset (i.e. variants STRASSE vs. STRAßE would be accepted as equally valid).[9] The rule was officially adopted in 2017.[10]

Does your favourite programming language work?

🔥 JavaScript (Firefox 53)

```
>> 'ß'.toLocaleUpperCase('de-DE');
'ß' // (unchanged)
```

🔥 JavaScript (Firefox 73)

```
>> 'ß'.toLocaleUpperCase('de-DE');
'SS'
```

🔮 JavaScript (Chrome 59)

```
>> 'ß'.toLocaleUpperCase('de-DE');
'SS'
```

Python 2

```
>>> u'ß'.upper()
u'\xdf'  # ß (unchanged)
```

Python 3

```
>>> 'ß'.upper()
'SS'
```

💎 Ruby 2.3

```
> "\u{00df}".upcase
=> "ß" # (unchanged)
```

💎 Ruby 2.4

```
> "\u{00df}".upcase
=> "SS"
```

🐻 Go

```
package main

import (
        "fmt"
        "golang.org/x/text/cases"
        "golang.org/x/text/language"
)

func main() {
        c := cases.Upper(language.German)
        fmt.Println(c.String("ß"))
}

SS
```

☕ Java

```java
public class UppercaseThis {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("\u00df".toUpperCase());
    }
}

SS
```

⚙ Rust

```
fn main() {
    println!("{}", "ß".to_uppercase());
}

SS
```

Use variation selectors as needed

`U+E0101 VARIATION-SELECTOR-18`

```
>>  "刃\ufe04"
<-  "刃"
>>  "刃\uDB40\uDD01"
<-  "刃"
```

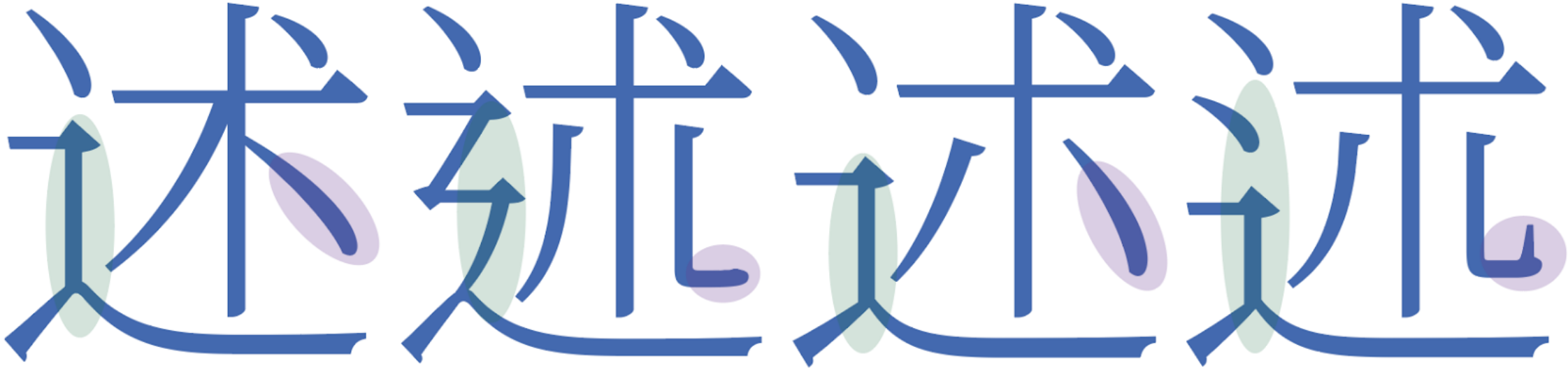
Use a correct font for the language outside HTML

- Google's Noto/Noto CJK has great support
- Similarly, Adobe's Source Han

https://www.google.com/get/noto/help/cjk/
https://source.typekit.com/source-han-serif

Use a correct font for the language outside HTML

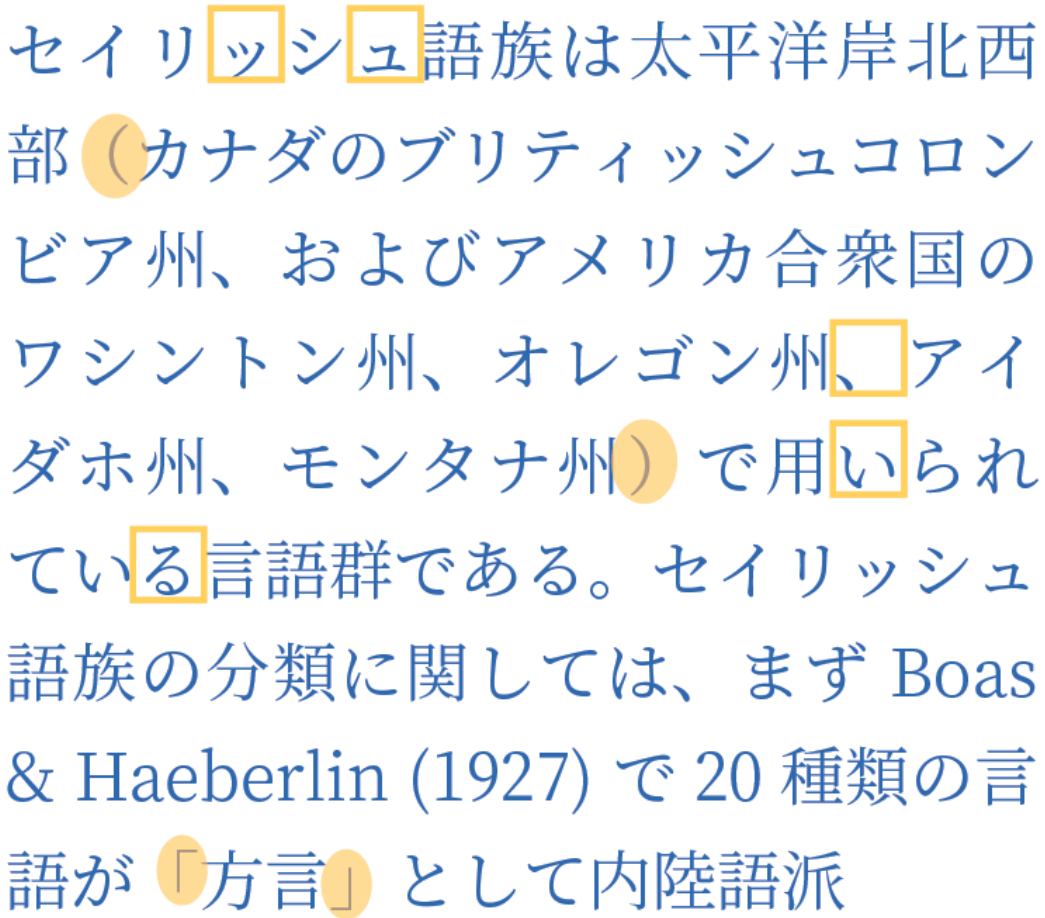
Glyph variations

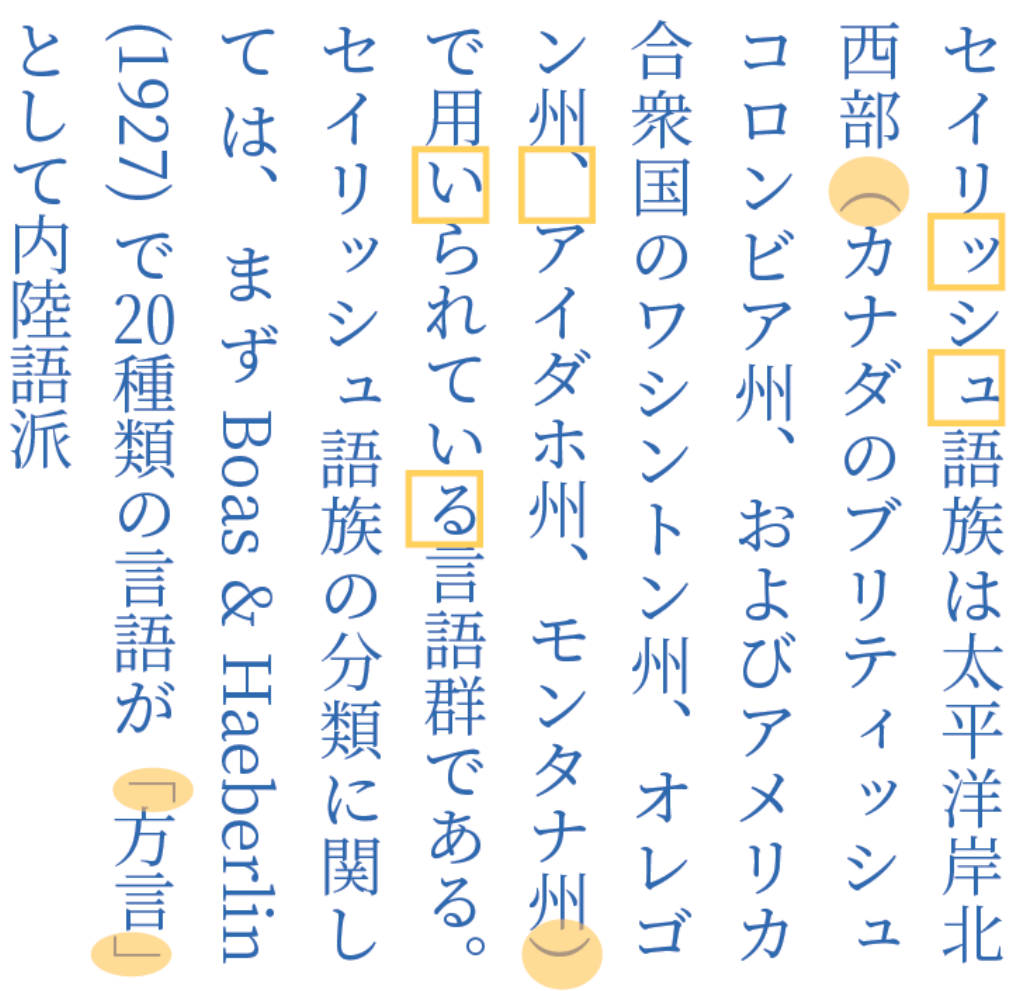


`述 U+8FF0` in S. Chinese, T. Chinese, Japanese and Korean

Noto Serif CJK

Vertical text support





Noto Serif CJK

https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/user-guide.html?

Unencoded characters

How can I display (CJK/my own) characters not encoded in Unicode?

UTC-00791

UTC-01312

biáng, from *biángbiáng 面*, a noodle dish from Shaanxi, China

Coming to a Unicode version soon?

Unencoded characters

- Use an image
- Use Ideographic Description Sequences

  `U+2FF0..U+2FFF`

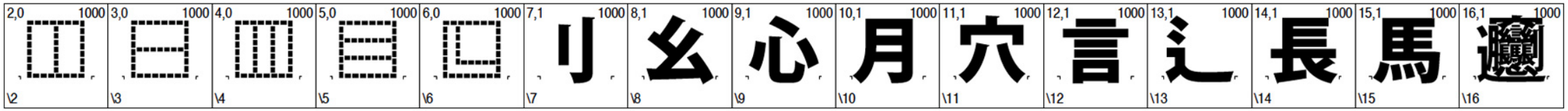
  `書史` for 𣥂, a character of a dialect in China
- Use fonts which have the unencoded glyph either
  - as an existing character (Wingdings 🕴👽👓☮)
  - in Private Use Area
  - as a combined sequence

Unencoded characters

- Source Han and Noto have glyphs for *biáng*!
- Uses Unicode and font features to combine existing glyphs
  _ Ideographic Description Characters
  _ OpenType's `ccmp` (Glyph Composition/Decomposition) * Ligatures `liga`

https://blogs.adobe.com/CCJKType/2014/03/ids-opentype.html

Unencoded characters




```
□辶□穴□月□□□幺長□言馬□幺長 忄心 (traditional)
□辶□穴□月□□□幺长□言马□幺长 忄心 (simplified)
```

https://blogs.adobe.com/CCJKType/2017/04/designing-implementing-biang.html

What 口 辶 目 穴 皿 月 日皿 幺言幺 皿 長馬長 忄心 口 辶 目 穴 皿 月 日皿 幺言幺 皿 長馬長 忄心面 looks like

String sorting

```
>> 'e' > 'f'
false

>> 'f' > 'e'
true
```

String comparison done in lexicographical order in JavaScript

String sorting

- Sorting strings is hard!

```
>> 'é' > 'f'
true
```

String sorting

- The solution: normalisation

```
>> 'café'.normalize('NFKD')
'cafe´'
```

String sorting

- Sometimes

```
>> '한국어'.normalize('NFKD')
"ㅎ ㅏ ㄴ ㄱ ㅜ ㄱ ㅇ ㅓ"
```

MDN: String.prototype.normalize()

https://unicode.org/reports/tr10/#Hangul_Collation

String sorting and equality

- Use a locale-aware comparison

```
>> ['Aa', 'Äa', 'Äb', 'Ab'].sort();
   ['Aa', 'Ab', 'Äa', 'Äb']
```

```
>> ['Aa', 'Äa', 'Äb', 'Ab']
>>   .sort(a, b => a.localeCompare(b, 'de'));
   ['Aa', 'Äa', 'Ab', 'Äb']
```

MDN: String.prototype.localeCompare()

String searching

- How do I search for `café` by typing `cafe`, or `cafe´`?

String searching

- Not easy!
- Locale-aware comparisons
- Unicode-aware regex

String searching (proper)

- Read *Unicode Demystified: A Practical Programmer's Guide to the Encoding Standard* by *Richard Gillam*
- Read http://unicode.org/reports/tr10/#Searching

Concise bedtime reading

> The essential problem results from the fact that Hangul syllables can also be represented with a sequence of conjoining jamo characters and because syllables represented that way may be of different lengths, with or without a trailing consonant jamo.

Asymmetric searching

query	matches
resume	resume, Resume, RESUME, résumé, rèsumè, Résumé, …
résumé	résumé, Résumé, RÉSUMÉ, …
けんこ	けんこ, ケンコ, げんこ, けんご, ゲンコ, ケンゴ, …

String length

What's the length of `café`?

String length

Problems arise when your string contains

- combining marks
- surrogate pairs (UTF-16)

String length — combined characters

```
>> 'café'.length
5

>> 'café'.normalize().length
4
```

```
>> 'ユニコード'.length
5

>> 'ユニコート\u3099'.normalize().length
5
```

String length — surrogate pairs

What's the length of `💩 U+1F4A9 PILE OF POO`?

- UTF-8

  `F0 9F 92 A9`
- Surrogate pairs (UTF-16)

  `D83D DCA9`

🔥 JavaScript

```
>> '💩'.length
2
>> [...'💩'].length
1
```

🐍² Python 2

```
>>> len(u'💩')
2
```

🐍³ Python 3

```
>>> len('💩')
1
```

🐻 Go

```
fmt.Println(len("💩")) // 4

fmt.Println(len([]rune("💩"))) // 1
```

💎 Ruby

```
>> '💩'.length
1
```

⚙️ Rust

```rust
println!("{}", "💩".len());
// 4

println!("{}", "💩".chars().count());
// 1
```

☕ Java

```
System.out.println("💩".length());
// 2

String s = "💩";
System.out.print(s.codePointCount(0, s.length()));
// 1
```

String lengths

- What is the definition of the length of a string?
- What is a character?

String lengths

- Bytes
- Codepoints
- Normalised codepoints
- ~~Characters~~

```
fmt.Println(len([]rune("🏴")))  // => 4
```

String length: graphemes

```
// rich text formatting
{
  value: "a👍🏽c",
  annotations: [
    {
      index: 1,
      length: 1,
      name: "strikethrough"
    }
  ]
}
```

Expected output: a👍🏽c

What does `length: 1` even mean?

String length: graphemes

"a 囃 👍🏽c".length

```
// => 8
```

[..."a 囃 👍🏽c"].length

```
// => 5
```

Wait, what?

Remember: combining characters

String length: graphemes

Don't use "character" length!

Use *grapheme clusters*

grapheme cluster: a user-perceived character

https://unicode.org/reports/tr29/

🔥 JavaScript

```
const segmenter = new Intl.Segmenter("en", { granularity: "grapheme" });
const str = "a囅👍c";
[...segmenter.segment(str)].length;
// 4
```

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/Intl/Segmenter

String length: graphemes

⚙️ Rust

```rust
use unicode_segmentation::UnicodeSegmentation;

fn main() {
    let graphemes = "a👍🏽c".graphemes(true).collect::<Vec<&str>>();
    assert_eq!(g.count(), 4);
}
```

https://github.com/unicode-rs/unicode-segmentation

Characters

- Do not think about strings in terms of characters
- Characters are not your friends
- Use byte, grapheme cluster, codepoint...

Regex

- What if you want to match `e` and `é`?
- What about all the different whitespace characters?
- What if I want to match one character `/^.$/` but my character is combined? `é` $\neq$ `e` $+$ `´`
- What about matching non-Latin characters?

Regex

- Use Regex right
- Make sure `\w` `\d` `\s` are Unicode-aware
- Make sure your Regex engine does case-folding
- Match by Unicode (Perl)
    - `\N{}` Named or numbered (Unicode) char or sequence
    - `\o{}` Octal escape sequence.

Regex

- In Perl, you can use `\X`

  > `\X` Unicode "extended grapheme cluster". Not in [].

- You can use Regex ranges with code points
- You might be able to match by Regex classes (Perl, Rust)

```
let re = Regex::new(r"[\p{Greek}]+").unwrap();
```

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr18/

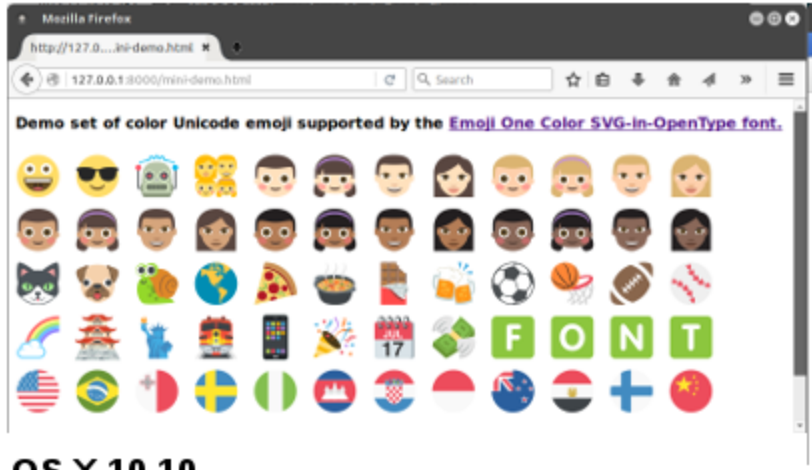
Emoji

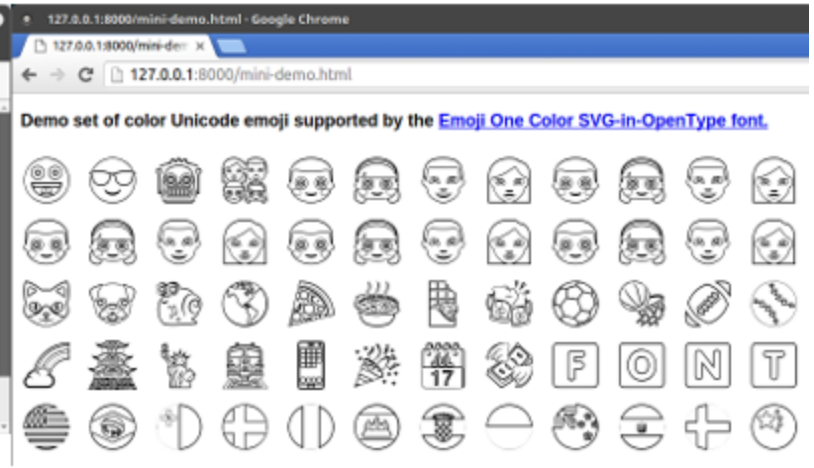
- Combinations or new emoji might not be supported
  - 🤮 `U+1F92E FACE VOMITTING` (Emoji 5.0, 2017)
  - 🤷‍♂️ `<U+1F937 SHRUG, U+2642 MALE>` (Emoji 4.0, 2016)
  - 🐱🐉 `Ninja Cat riding T-Rex` (Windows 10 only)

Emoji

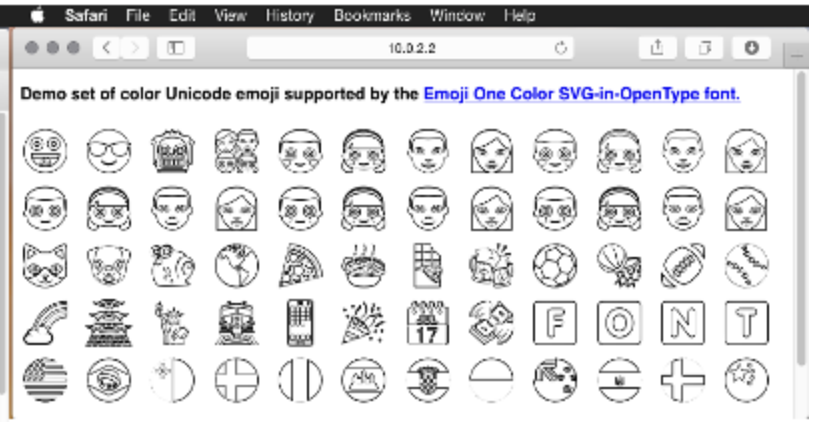
- Replace emoji with images (GitHub, Twitter)
  - https://github.com/twitter/twemoji
- Use (coloured) emoji fonts
  - https://github.com/eosrei/emojione-color-font
  - https://github.com/googlei18n/noto-emoji
- Let it be

Apple	
Google	
Microsoft	

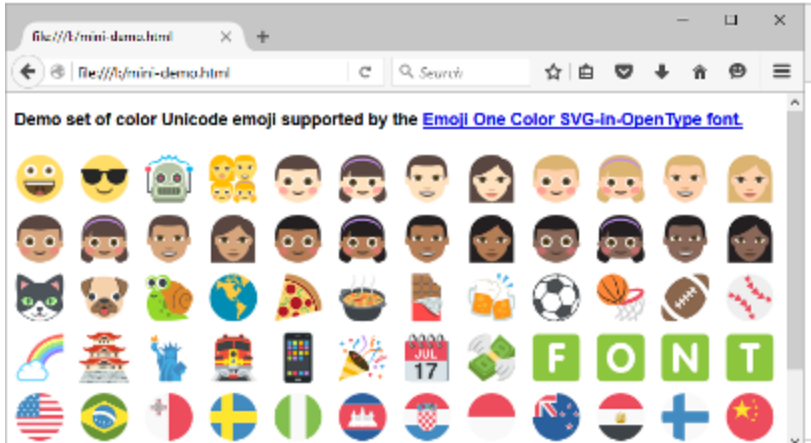


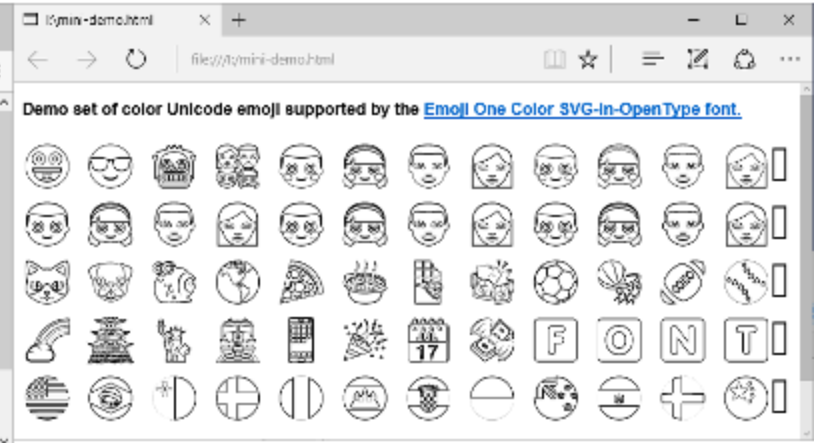


OS X 10.10

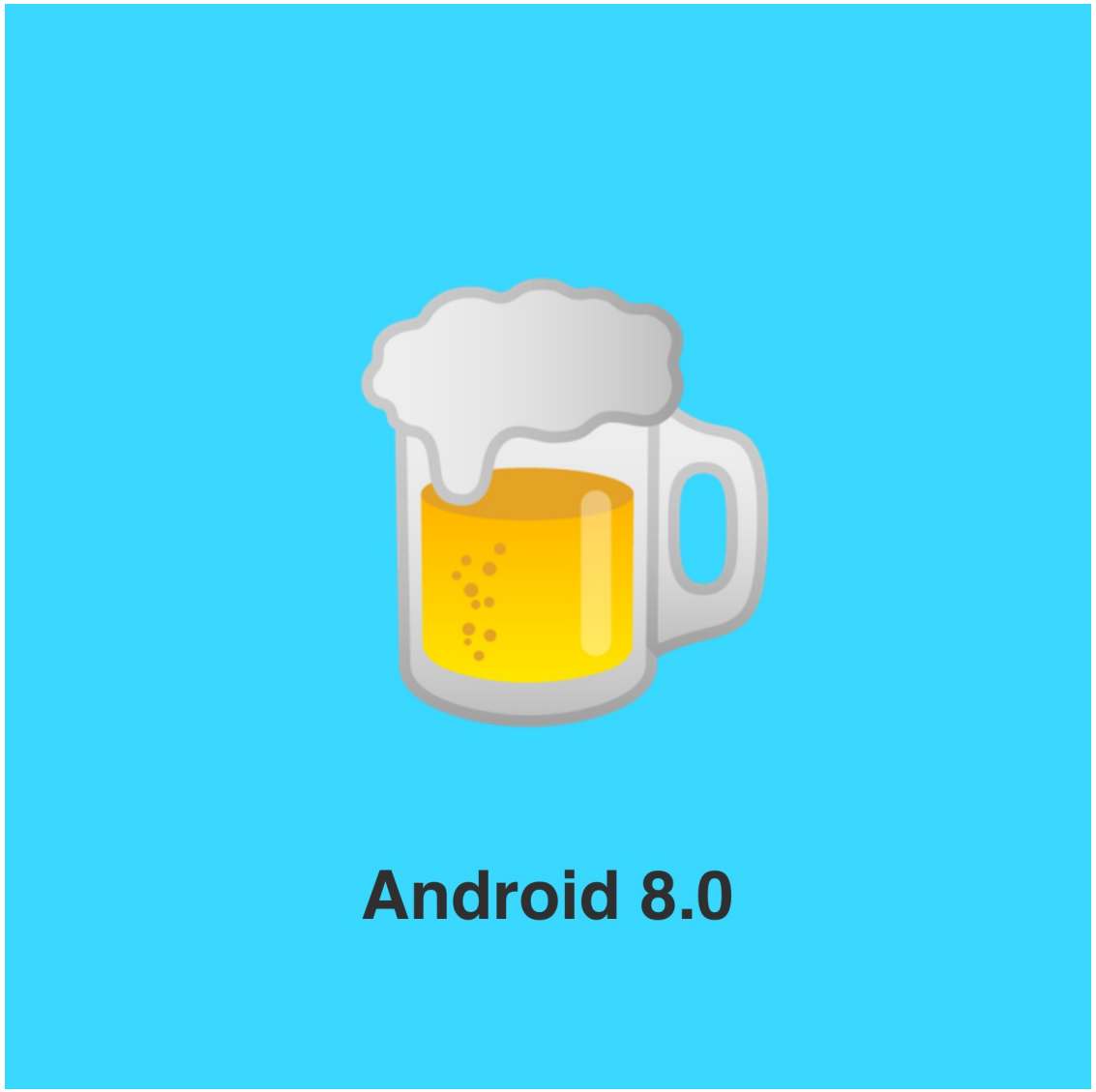


Windows 10





Emoji bugs



https://blog.emojipedia.org/google-fixes-burger-emoji/

Developing for Unicode

If you ever need to develop Unicode parsing and processing, use the CLDR database, and read the reports

http://cldr.unicode.org/

Email

Set the MIME needed for Unicode if your library doesn't handle it for you

```
msg = MIMEText('€10'.encode('utf-8'), _charset='utf-8')
```

https://docs.python.org/3.1/library/email.mime.html#email.mime.text.MIMEText

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode_and_email

🚨 Security 🚨

Read *Unicode Security Considerations*

@ http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr36/

Restrict passwords and user names to ASCII

- For logistical reasons (customer support)
- Unicode normalisation of passwords can cause problems
- Equivalent characters
  `e` + `` ` `` ≠ `é`
- Basic authentication can fail in different browsers
- Keyboard issues

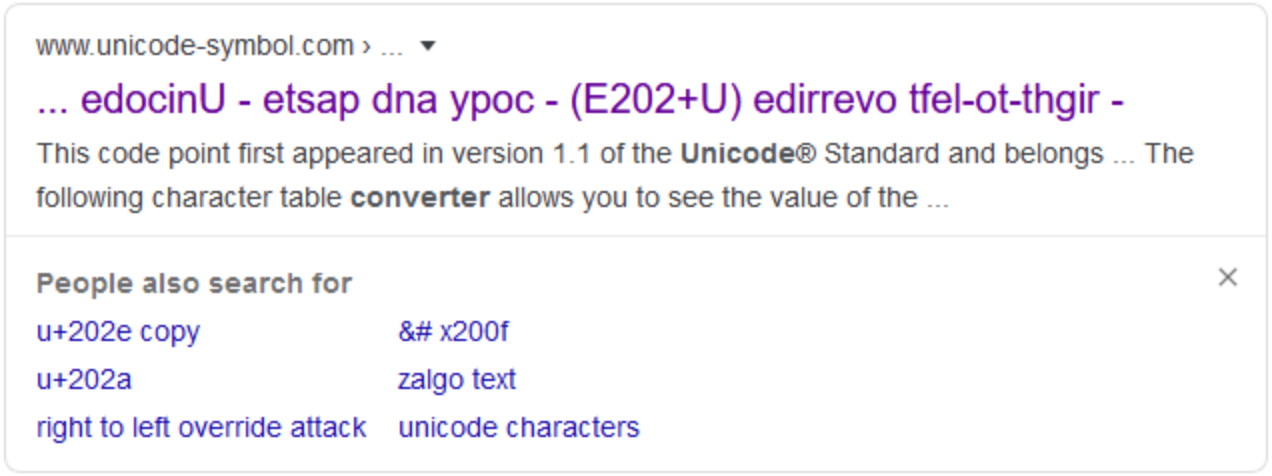
Sanitise text input

- How would you do it?

Sanitise text input

- 𝔇𝔦𝔣𝔣𝔦𝔠𝔲𝔩𝔱 𝔭𝔯𝔬𝔟𝔩𝔢𝔪.

Difficult problem.

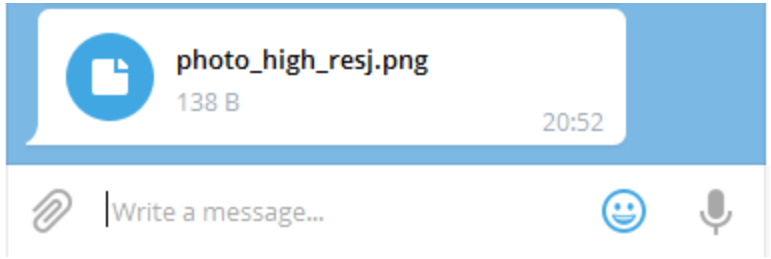


Sanitise text input

- “Unicode injection”: RTL, combining characters, wide characters
- ﷽ is one (1!) character
  `U+FDFD ARABIC LIGATURE BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM`
- Z̈ÄL̈G̈Ö!
- 25 different whitespace characters
- Non-printing characters

https://github.com/minimaxir/big-list-of-naughty-strings

Unicode control characters

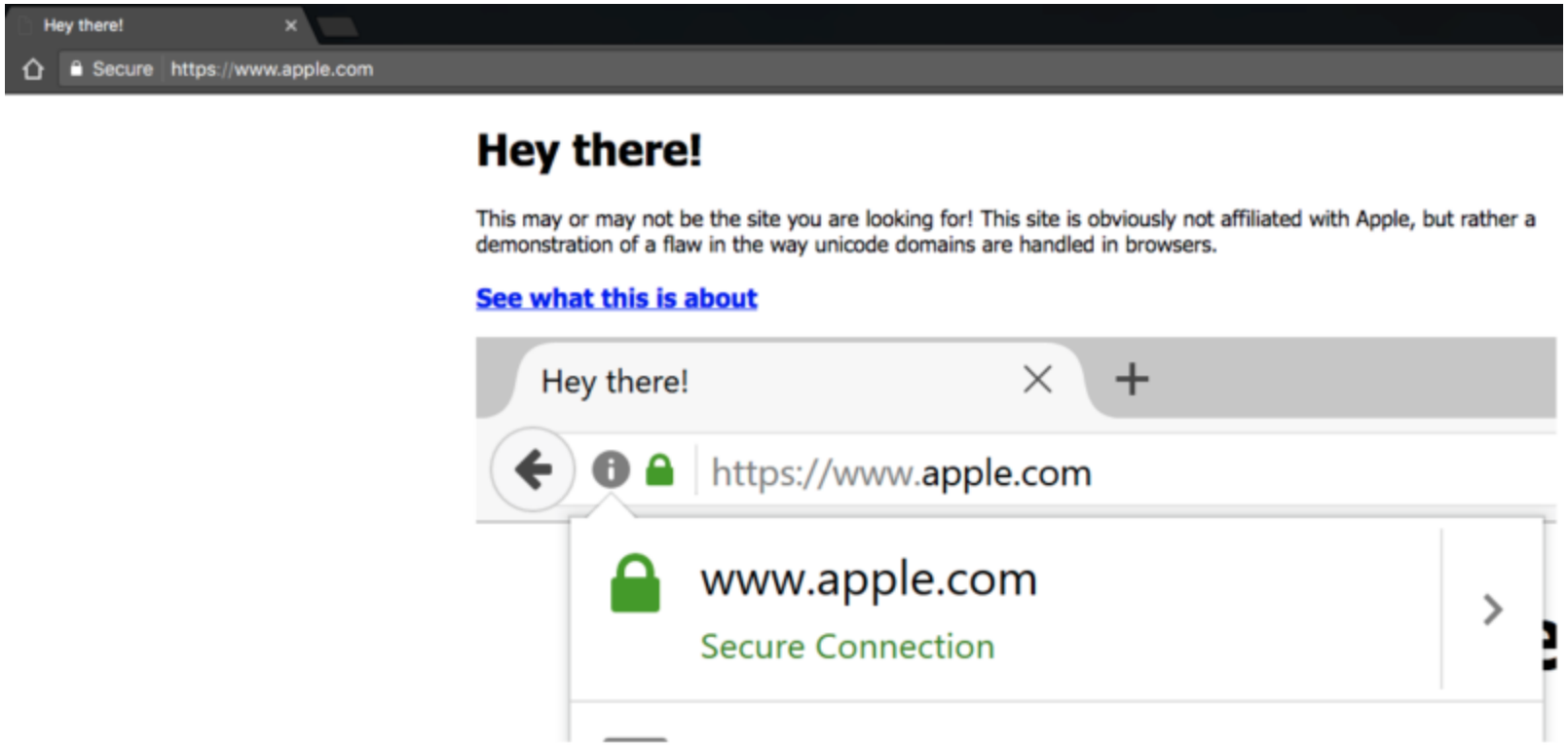


`photo_high_re` + `U+202E 'RIGHT-TO-LEFT OVERRIDE'` + `gnp.js`

Unicode in URLs

Visit `https://www.xn--80ak6aa92e.com/` in your browser

Unicode in URLs



Unicode in URLs

`https://www.apple.com/`

`a`	`U+0430 CYRILLIC SMALL LETTER A`
`p`	`U+0440 CYRILLIC SMALL LETTER ER`
`l`	`U+04CF CYRILLIC SMALL LETTER PALOCHKA`
`e`	`U+0435 CYRILLIC SMALL LETTER IE`

https://www.xudongz.com/blog/2017/idn-phishing/

Unicode in URLs

- Handing legit Unicode in URLs

```
http://Bücher.de
→ http://xn--bcher-kva.de
→ http://bücher.de
```

- Punycode, ASCII representation for Unicode domain names (IDN)

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr46/

Free pizza!

```
Title: Free Pizza Fridays!
From: HR
To: You

Happy Friday!

Visit https://mom.gov.sg/free.pizza to claim a FREE 🍕!

FYNAP
- HR
```

This message could be a scam. [Report] [Ignore]

Unicode in URLs

`⁄ U+2044 FRACTION SLASH`

```
Visit https://mom.gov.sg⁄free.pizza to claim a FREE 🍕!
                        👆
```

🍕 `sg⁄free.pizza` 🍕

Unicode in URLs

Solution: Use Punycode where/when it makes sense to

```
Visit https://mom.gov.xn--sgfree-qq0c.pizza to claim a
FREE 🍕!
```

> Company: GitHub
>
> Vulnerability: Password reset emails delıvered to the wrong address.
>
> Cause: Forgot password emails validated against lowercase value on file, but sent the provided email.

https://dev.to/jagracey/hacking-github-s-auth-with-unicode-s-turkish-dotless-i-460n

```
// Note the Turkish dotless i
"John@Gıthub.com".toUpperCase() === "John@Github.com".toUpperCase();
```

https://bounty.github.com/researchers/jagracey.html

> GitHub's forgot password feature could be compromised because the system lowercased the provided email address and compared it to the email address stored in the user database.

But they sent emails to the un-normalisedtransformed email!

Be careful when normalising or transforming unique identifiers!

Python 3

```
>>> "John@G1thub.com".upper() == 'JOHN@GITHUB.COM'
True
```

```
1 U+0131 LATIN SMALL LETTER DOTLESS I
```

Click here for one neat trick to ruin bad software!

- MySQL UTF-8

  What happens when the *valid* UTF-8 string

  ```
  👽 U+1F47D EXTRATERRESTRIAL ALIEN
  ```

  is inserted into a column of

  ```
  VARCHAR CHARACTER SET utf8
  ```

Ill-formed sequences and encoding mismatches

- MySQL $<$ 5.5.3 (2010) UTF-8

  ```
  Incorrect string value: '\xF0\x9F\x91\xBD…' for
  column 'data' at row 1
  ```

  In MySQL, use `utfmb4` ($\geq$ 5.5.3, 2010)

https://mathiasbynens.be/notes/mysql-utf8mb4

4 bytes long! `0xF0 0x9F 0x91 0xBD`

Ill-formed sequences and encoding mismatches

- 🐍² Python 2

```
>>> '\x81'.decode('utf-8')
# UnicodeDecodeError: 'utf8' codec can't decode byte
# 0x81 in position 0: unexpected code byte
```

- 💎 Ruby 1.9

```
'ü'.encode('ISO-8859-1') + 'ü'
# incompatible character encodings: ISO-8859-1 and
# UTF-8 (Encoding::CompatibilityError)

# or sometimes: invalid multibyte char (US-ASCII)
```

Solution: use languages/libraries which handle Unicode right

Buffer overflows

- Do not assume Unicode strings are of fixed-length

```
Fluß → FLUSS → fluss
```

```
>> 'ﷺ'.length
1

>> 'ﷺ'.normalize('NFKC').length
18
```

Solution: use languages/libraries which handle Unicode right

OS/locale filenames

- Beware simple filename sanitisation, especially on Windows
- Normalization of paths
  `c： \ｗｉｎｄｏｗｓ` becomes `c:\windows`
- Character mappings
  `¥` is mapped to `\` on a Japanese-language Windows system

https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd374047(v=vs.85).aspx

```
> 1 + 1;
← 2

> 1 + 1&#894;
        👆
← 🚨 SyntaxError: illegal character 🚨
```

```
; U+037E GREEK QUESTION MARK
```

Rust

```
error: unknown start of token: \u{37e}
 --> src/lib.rs:1:14
  |
1 | let x = 1 + 1;
  |              ^
  |
help: Unicode character ';' (Greek Question Mark) looks like ';' (Semicolon), but it is not
  |
1 | let x = 1 + 1;
  |              ^                ^
```

A list of similar characters

Resources

- The Unicode Standard (latest)
- Unicode publications
- Unicode technical reports
- Unicode data files
- Unicode public files
- Emoji charts
- Emoji slides
- Unicode character inspector
- UTF-8 decoder
- Big List of Naughty Strings
- Personal names around the world
- Falsehoods Programmers Believe About Phone Numbers
- *Unicode Demystified: A Practical Programmer's Guide to the Encoding Standard* by Richard Gillam