

Re: ESC Report for 2021 Q3 UTC

From: Ned Holbrook, on behalf of the Emoji Subcommittee (ESC)

Date: 20 July 2021

1. Update on 14.0

The draft emoji candidates that are part of the Unicode 14.0 beta can be found here:

<https://www.unicode.org/emoji/charts-14.0/>

UTS #51 has been opened for revisions:

<http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr51/tr51-20.html>

Besides the necessary version bumps, the new handshake sequences require updating Section 2.6.2, Multi-Person Groupings.

2. Public Feedback on 14.0

[PRI #430](#)

The only feedback received was also made to the Editorial Committee.

[PRI #433](#)

Feedback (2) from Peter Constable: Various suggestions were made to improve charts, plus others brought up in the Properties & Algorithms group.

These changes will be incorporated as time allows. For example:

<https://github.com/unicode-org/unicodetools/issues/95> and

<https://github.com/unicode-org/unicodetools/issues/96>

Feedback from Martin J. Dürst: A suggestion was made to improve the versioning of emoji data files in the UCD, ideally for 14.0.

The ESC technical sub-subcommittee will be revising the headers of emoji data files: those in the UCD will have a version number like other data files (e.g.: # emoji-data-14.0.0.txt); those in the emoji directory will add clarification of the versioning strategy described in UTS #51, namely that any minor emoji versions still correspond to the major Unicode version.

Feedback from Kent Karlsson (1): A question regarding whether emoji variation sequences should be defined for particular characters with Emoji_Presentation.

ESC would rather variation sequences be defined for all such characters and will discuss the feasibility of this.

Feedback from Kent Karlsson (2): A question regarding handedness of emoji.

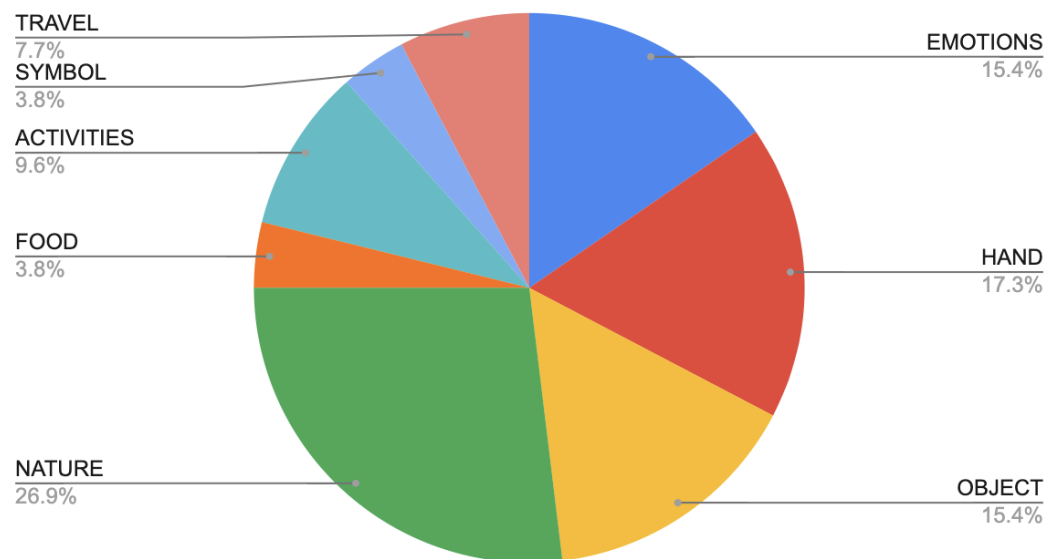
ESC will continue working with vendors to avoid confusion.

3. Update on Intake 🤔

The new protocols for intake and review (created during the break in the last year) have made the process more efficient and targeted allowing us to spend more quality time reviewing proposals and pursue other means of encoding. We will be sending acceptance and decline letters (pending Q4 UTC review) in October.

Larger Lists

- The ESC is currently reviewing submissions for Emoji 15.0. A breakdown of the proposals that are under review and pending prioritization:



4. Emoji 15.0 Progress on stated goals 🏃 [L2/20-132](#)

Identifying globally relevant emoji

- **Heart Colors**
 - Proposals for additional heart emoji described in [L2/21-075](#) have been received by the ESC and are pending prioritization. If accepted, vendors have indicated that they will adjust the colors of their heart emoji accordingly.
- **Representation [L2/20-196](#)**
 - Continue to discuss future-proofing the emoji inventory to ensure it operates at the speed of communication online with regard to identities.

5. Flags 🚩

While individual flag emoji can be popular (usage of the rainbow flag is above median), flags as a category are the least used type of emoji. It's worth noting, the most popular country flags are those from the original emoji set and the addition of others has not resulted in a broader range of expression. ESC continues to [provide solutions](#) to meet demand to use emoji more as building blocks and re-evaluate criterion F4 of <https://unicode.org/emoji/proposals.html#Flags>.

6. Future Encoding Strategies 🌐

The Emoji Subcommittee has been exploring encoding paths to ensure emoji scale properly in the future. Of the options listed in [L2/21-078](#) and discussed during UTC #168, Reserved Emoji was the most positively received. Barring any complications, this approach is likely to be adopted for Unicode 15.0.