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Title: Synchronization between The Unicode Standard and ISO/IEC 10646-1
Source: The Unicode Consortium
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Distribution: Members of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2

The Unicode Consortium is preparing the publication of The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0. The repertoire for that version is intended to match ISO/IEC 10646 through AMD 31, i.e. to be identical to the planned second edition.

The Unicode Consortium has been cooperating with AFII in creating software and collecting a font suite, with which it is possible to prepare camera ready copy of the character charts and name tables for both the Unicode Standard and ISO/IEC 10646. The input to this process is a report from the Unicode Character Database, which thus serves as the definite electronic record of the characters in ISO/IEC 10646 second edition and The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0.

A very useful benefit of the joint production effort is the fact that there will no longer be accidental differences between the reference glyphs used in either standard.

For further synchronization, the Unicode Consortium has requested a small number of editorial adjustments to the block names so that both standards will title their tables in a synchronized manner.

The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0 will be published in book form for sale in bookstores. This has some implications for the publication schedule; the current plan is to meet the publisher's deadline for inclusion into their fall publication list.

In addition to the repertoire, the Unicode Standard contains character properties and description of character and script sources and behavior. Much of this information will also be available on-line to implementers of the Unicode Standard, as well as included as part of the CD-ROM accompanying the book.

Looking beyond the next editions and versions, the Unicode Technical Committee is engaged in an active project to prepare the repertoire of needed mathematical symbols for encoding as well as working with the scholarly community and the Irish National Body on the encoding on scripts for plane 1.

The Unicode Consortium is engaged in liaison activities with IETF, W3C and SC22/WG20 to support the use of ISO/IEC 10646 and Unicode in standards created by these bodies. As a result of that work the Unicode Technical Committee has published a number of Unicode Technical Reports. Unicode Technical Reports are a valuable resource to implementers and are available on the web under http://www.unicode.org/unicode/reports