

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
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Title: Recommendation to earmark Plane 3 in the Roadmap

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Implementations sometimes need to anticipate dealing with code positions that are unassigned at the time the program is written, when receiving data from a source that uses character assignments from a later version.

Normally, implementations use “default” property values for unassigned code points. These are chosen to lead to reasonable default behaviour when a program encounters data that is conformant to a later version of a the standard.

The detailed properties of not-yet-assigned characters can never be predicted accurately, but there are some properties where it is useful to provide something other than a single default value. For example, knowing which areas of Unicode and ISO/IEC 10646 are earmarked for right-to-left scripts or for ideographs allows some of these “default” properties to be much more meaningful.

Since we know that in Extension C there will be many more ideographs than can fit on the remainder of the Supplemental Ideographic Plane (SIP), it would be helpful to designate an additional plane that would become the intended container for whatever collection of ideographs cannot fit on the SIP. This would allow the Unicode Technical Committee to assign meaningful default property values that will make surviving older implementations handle future data more gracefully.

It should not be construed as a decision to begin work on Plane 3, nor as anticipating anything about the size and final location of Extension C, other than that the eventual location of Extension C will be somewhere in the space designated for ideographs.

We propose the name “Auxiliary Ideographic Plane” or “AIP”.