

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
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Analysis of the details of the proposal in N2747 (Revision of the N1846 Proposal to add Extended Ethiopic to the BMP of the UCS) has turned up some anomalies which affect the character set as proposed for balloting. We propose the following changes:

1. Change four character names. The names proposed for four of the characters, U+xx60 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE MWA, U+xx64 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE BWA, U+xx68 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE FWA, U+xx6C ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE PWA, are duplicates of existing names (U+121F, U+1267, U+124F, U+1257 respectively). In fact the existing names are incorrect, and should have been MWAA, BWAA, FWAA, and PWAA respectively, and as these cannot be changed, the names of the new characters should be changed to add the name of the language for which the series are used; we also suggest that annotations in -AA be added to the already encoded characters.

U+xx60 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE SEBATBEIT MWA
U+xx64 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE SEBATBEIT BWA
U+xx68 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE SEBATBEIT FWA
U+xx6C ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE SEBATBEIT PWA

2. Change 27 character names. The names proposed for 27 of the characters uses a confusing naming convention with respect to the other character names in the Ethiopic block. While the vowel in what has been called ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE OPEN LO is in fact an IPA [ɔ] “open o”, the real syllable is LAWI with OPEN O rather than an “open” LO. Indeed, the proposed name GLOTTAL OPEN O goes against the logic of the other character names, and would have to be changed to OPEN GLOTTAL O otherwise since the syllables are proposed to be named consonant + 7th form vowel -O. Instead, we propose the following names where OA is used to indicate the [ɔ] sound, more or less intermediate between [o] and [a]. We believe the double-vowel option is the more immediately intuitive:

U+xx00 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE HOA
U+xx01 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE LOA
U+xx02 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE MOA
U+xx03 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE ROA
U+xx04 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE SOA
U+xx05 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE SHOA
U+xx06 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE QOA
U+xx07 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE BOA
U+xx08 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE TOA
U+xx09 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE COA

U+xx0A ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE XOA
U+xx0B ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE NOA
U+xx0C ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE NYOA
U+xx0D ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE GLOTTAL OA
U+xx0E ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE KOA
U+xx0F ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE WOA
U+xx10 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE ZOA
U+xx11 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE YOA
U+xx12 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE DOA
U+xx13 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE DDOA
U+xx14 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE JOA
U+xx15 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE GOA
U+xx16 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE THOA
U+xx17 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE CHOA
U+xx18 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE PHOA
U+xx19 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE TZOA
U+xx1A ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE POA

3. Move 2 characters to the Ethiopic block and change their names. Of the Ethiopic non-letter characters proposed, two of them are not tone marks. We suggest the following positions for them, and propose to change their names as below for precision:

U+135F ETHIOPIC COMBINING GEMINATION MARK
U+1360 ETHIOPIC SECTION MARK

4. Move 1 character to the Ethiopic block. The following character can be moved to a position to fill a blank filled by similar characters:

U+131F ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE GGWAA

5. Move 8 characters to the Ethiopic block. The following characters for Me'en/Mursi/Suri syllables in [ɔ] can be rationally be moved into the following locations; this is in keeping with the collation orders:

U+1207 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE HOA
U+1247 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE QOA
U+1287 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE XOA
U+12AF ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE KOA
U+12CF ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE WOA
U+12EF ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE YOA
U+130F ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE GOA
U+1347 ETHIOPIC SYLLABLE TZOA

The remaining characters in U+xx00-xx1F should be moved up to fill the holes; nine positions have been saved by moving other characters to the Ethiopic block.