

TITLE: Availability of fonts for CJK ideographs
SOURCE: Eric Muller, Unicode
STATUS: Liaison contribution
ACTION: For consideration by WG2
DISTRIBUTION: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2
DATE: 6 October 2008

The Unicode Consortium is now planning for the publication of the next version of The Unicode Standard. This version will include the CJK Unified Ideographs Extension C block. At this point, the Consortium does not have access to any font for this block. The Unicode Technical Committee reached the following consensus at its May 2008 meeting:

Whereas the continued synchronization of Unicode and 10646 is vital to the success of both, and the publication of a version of the Unicode Standard containing Extension C requires fonts sufficient to print in multi-column format for all sources, the UTC urgently requests that the IRG provide fonts for the publication of Extension C in the Unicode Standard. The same considerations will apply to all future CJK additions.

This was discussed by the IRG at its June 2008 meeting (meeting #30, document IRG N1469).

First, there seems to be some confusion about the responsibility of the IRG to provide fonts for the printing of the code charts, either in the context of 10646 or in the context of Unicode. We would appreciate if WG2 could clarify those responsibilities.

Second, the PRC delegates managing the consolidated font data are still working on our request. We would really appreciate if WG2 could stress the importance of the synchronization between Unicode and 10646, and the need to make fonts available to the editors of the two standards in a timely fashion.

Furthermore, the Consortium is also investigating the possibility of including a multi-column code chart for all the CJK unified ideographs. Up to the current version, only one set of representative glyphs is used in the Unicode charts, and the Consortium does not have access to fonts with glyphs for the other sources. This applies to the URO, Extension A and Extension B. Our understanding is that the IRG is still working on the development of a set of fonts for Extension B, and that this project is to be expected to be completed sometime in 2012. We would really appreciate if WG2 could encourage the IRG to deliver fonts for multi-column charts for the URO, Extension A and Extension B much sooner.