

Comments received for the MEEK CWA

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Karl Pentzlin, 7.10.2009

Am Freitag, 2. Oktober 2009 um 14:16 schrieb Erkki I. Kolehmainen:

EIK> I've now updated the draft CWA as per contributions and guidance
EIK> received. Next Monday Tero will distribute the draft for public
EIK> comments. As requested, it will be on the MEEK web site in a revisable
EIK> form in addition to the customary PDF.

A typo:

On the last line of p.24, "S-áami" should obviously be "Sámi".

Best wishes

Karl

Dear CEN Workshop participants

There are two things I missed in the 2 Oct draft.

There is no note on scientific requirements. Although I would not expect multilingual keyboard layouts to support a large number of the special symbols that are in use by various scientific communities, many of which are just Greek characters and variations of the relationship symbols (=, <, >, ~) anyway, I would expect ubiquitous support for the symbols of the metric system (SI), i.e. the micro and the ohm sign, which are identical to the lowercase mu and the uppercase omega respectively.

There is no note on effects of smart font technologies either, especially regarding ligatures. Automatic composition of 'a' and 'e' into 'æ' may occur and may be undesired, therefore zero-width non-joiner (ZWNJ) may be useful. The opposite may also be true, which may make ZWJ desirable, at least mention-worthy.

Regards

Christoph Päper

I think the one comment I'd had earlier was a question as to why Hebrew was included.

Some other notes:

Although one could envisage the dead key method to be extended to entering letters with multiple diacritics, this is not generally supported by the current table-driven implementation methods used by some major players in the industry to create keyboard drivers (Microsoft, in particular). This, however, could well be the method of choice for many among the few users who need to enter characters with multiple diacritics. This method of character entry will be referred to as the "extended dead key method" in the remainder of the document.

Microsoft does handle dead-keys. I don't think their assignments are particularly good, but try for example the International keyboard. You should run this by, say, Peter Constable. Note also the approach used on the iPhone and Android, where holding a key down produces a list that one can choose from. This turns out to be much more intuitive for users for letters not in their language.

The dead key method could, and probably should, also be extended to letters with diacritic-like additions, specifically to characters with a stroke (although they are not decomposable). This would help avoid having to assign key positions to each of the various letters, such as the Polish L WITH STROKE [] or the Sámi T WITH STROKE []. In addition to keeping key positions available for other use, this would also meet the criterion that the method and the positioning of the characters should be intuitive.

The dead-key mechanisms on the Mac and I think Windows handle strokes and any other characters (they are a general purpose mechanism)

2 AltGr+shift quotation mark ["] Finnish

In the table, the right and left quotation marks are not distinguished by name. Best would be to use the Unicode/10646 character name (for spacing purposed perhaps in lowercase italic with some words elided). Also, I'd check the characters against cp1252 and Mac Roman for inclusion.

Annex 2 doesn't seem concrete enough to be useful. And I doubt in practice that the 5 Scripts keyboard in annex 3 would be useful; probably easiest to just switch in practice to a particular Greek keyboard, for example.

Mark