

Edith and John are in the common room.

“You may remember that you asked me to keep the choice of base character under review.”
says John.

“Yes.”

“Well, some of us were discussing the issue the other day and Henry made a suggestion.”

“Yes.”

“Well, I had been thinking for some time of possibly proposing hexadecimal FBOF, and wondering about it. I mentioned that in our discussion. After a while, Henry suggested hexadecimal FFF7. We discussed that for a while and it seems like it might be a good idea”

“Yet?”

“Well, it is in a block labelled Specials and well the base character that we want would be a displayable character in some circumstances, with a glyph of whatever design it were decided to be, yet also able to be used to indicate automated localization of the localizable sentence expressed in star space using circled digit characters following it. So it would be a special character in function though it also needs to be a displayable character if automated localization is not available or is turned off by the end user or maybe never switched on by the end user in the first place.”

“So neither totally one thing nor the other?” asks Edith.

“Well I suppose that that is a good way of looking at it. Yet if it is to become encoded in the Universal Character Set, it needs to be located somewhere in the character map.”

“Yes. Have you decided what the glyph design would look like?”

“Not totally, we considered some sort of design that is like the open bracket symbol with an overlaid square at upper left that was once considered as part of an earlier suggested encoding format, this one



“ merged with an integral sign such that the vertical of the bracket symbol, which is at the left, is the same as the middle part of the vertical of an integral sign. It will need some thinning of the lines of the open bracket and some scaling, but that is just part of the preparing of the artwork. Yet we do not want to suggest that design absolutely until we have got a finished design to view.”

“That sounds quite a distinctive design.”

“Thank you.”