



PRAVDA?

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Kevin: Who is He under that Hat?

Who is this man?



We all know Kevin: rampant pilk producer/drinker, wearer of hat-based apparel, and the unjust tyrant who perpetually keeps us in our chains. However, is the wearing of hat-based apparel really an intrinsic feature of the individual known as Kevin? What occurs if there is a separation of hat and tyrant? Our undercover reporters have just discovered the shocking truth: when Kevin takes off his hat, he in fact becomes Spiderman. This counteracts previously-believed rumors that Evin was in fact Kevin's capless alter-ego. Perhaps the fact that Evin and Kevin

have never been seen in the same room together is merely coincidental. On further examination, Kevin and Evin look nothing alike to be honest; after all, Evin clearly has hair, whereas Kevin's hair is clearly a wig attached to his numerous hats.

As to the reality that Kevin is also the individual known as spiderman, this is clearly no surprise; have you seen Kevin and Spiderman in the same room at the same time? This also explains how Kevin is so proficient at keeping us proletariat confined within our chains, Spiderman is very good at keeping criminals confined in his webs. It's also incredible that Kevin/Spiderman has the time to commute to NYC every other day to fight criminals, before coming back to CMU to deal with the stressful course load and the oppression of us humble workers. Very impressive Kevin! Also, fuck you, liberate the proletariat, freedom for the fourth Estate, solidarity forever!

(Thank you to the Freedom from Unicode Society and others for these Submissions)



The unification of Han characters in the Unicode Standard and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race. They have greatly increased the language compatibility of users of “simplified” Chinese characters, but they have destabilized text encoding, made language less

nuanced, have subjected human beings to indignities, have led to widespread linguistic suffering (in Japan suffering as well) and have on the digital world. The the situation. It will certainly and inflict greater damage on



greater social disruption and linguistic suffering, and it may lead to increased cultural suffering even in the “simplified” Chinese writing system.



and Taiwan to cultural inflicted severe damage continued adoption of Unicode will worsen subject human being to greater indignities the digital world, it will probably lead to

Unicode navigates a complex historical landscape where Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese once shared a common writing system, rooted in Chinese characters, while maintaining distinct linguistic ancestries. This distinction is essential to understanding the challenges and nuances involved in character encoding across languages. Originally, these languages adopted Chinese characters



these as a

writing system due to cultural and historical influences. However, their spoken languages, grammatical structures, and linguistic roots remained inherently different. Over centuries, each language evolved independently, introducing unique characters and variations tailored to its linguistic and cultural needs.

The fundamental problem with Unicode’s approach to covering these languages lies in the reality that these

Korean, and each language. characters to its in shape,



characters, once shared among Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, have evolved to be written differently in Each language has adapted the originally shared own linguistic and cultural needs, resulting in variations meaning, and pronunciation. However, the Unicode

Consortium has resolved to treat these divergent written forms as a single entity, mapping distinct character forms into single, uniform code points, effectively disregarding the unique adaptations made by each language.

For instance, consider the character 次, meaning *subordinate*. While it may share the same root character across these languages, the actual written forms vary significantly:

zh-tw	zh-cn	ko	vi	ja
次	次	次	次	次

While these variations in form and pronunciation underscore the linguistic differences that have naturally emerged over time, Unicode's endeavor to force these diverse character forms into a singular code point leads to confusion and loss of precision when reading or interpreting text in these languages. It effectively attempts to homogenize the visual representation of characters that have organically diverged.

The supposed reason behind Han Unification is the need for standardization and compatibility in the



digital age. As these East Asian languages share a historical connection through Chinese characters, proponents argue that a unified character set would facilitate data interchange and streamline software development. It was meant to alleviate the challenges of handling diverse character sets across these

languages, making it more efficient and practical for both developers and users. But in doing so, it treats these languages as if they were mere dialects of a single linguistic entity, ignoring the unique adaptations, meanings, and nuances that each has developed independently. The result is an encoding system that, while aiming to simplify matters, oversimplifies to the point of absurdity. It lumps together characters that may look similar but now convey distinct meanings, leading to confusion and imprecision in communication.

What adds a layer of bitter irony to this situation is that Unicode, the very standard tasked with encoding these characters, was originally designed with the noble intention of allowing people to encode their native writing systems without compromise. It was envisioned as a sanctuary where linguistic diversity could flourish, a platform that would respect and embrace the unique characteristics of each language's script. Yet, instead of nurturing this linguistic diversity, the relentless push for Han Unification now threatens to undermine that ideal. Unicode was meant to be the solution, the protector of cultural and linguistic richness, but it has unwittingly become part of the problem, perpetuating confusion, miscommunication, and a loss of cultural depth.



One of the most glaring and deeply personal consequences of Han Unification is the hindrance it poses to individuals who wish to write their names or other personal information accurately in their native languages. Many East Asian languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese, rely on specific characters and variations to represent personal names. When these

correctly



characters are unified into a single code point, it can become impossible for individuals to input or display their names in digital contexts.

This

issue not only hampers personal identity but also extends to broader problems of cultural representation and inclusivity. When people are unable to accurately represent their names, it can lead to misunderstandings, misidentifications, and a sense of exclusion in digital spaces. The inability to faithfully represent names and personal information can evoke a sense of exclusion and cultural insensitivity. Simply by using Unicode, the most common character set on the web by an enormous digital platforms prioritize uniformity over recognizing the linguistic



and cultural identities of languages, inadvertently contributing to this sense of



margin, diverse East Asian exclusion.

Addressing these issues is crucial for fostering inclusivity, respecting cultural diversity, and ensuring accurate communication in our interconnected digital world.

Han Unification's impact extends beyond technical challenges; it has real-world consequences for individuals trying to assert their identity in digital spaces. Addressing these challenges is essential for creating digital spaces that are not only technically functional but also culturally and socially equitable.

