

Emoji RFC

Mm2PL

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1 Abstract

The Unicode character **ZERO WIDTH JOINER** (U+200D) has been banned from Twitch Chat. This document describes an alternate emoji joining scheme.

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119.

2 Emoji joining in Unicode

Unicode uses the **ZERO WIDTH JOINER** character to combine multiple emoji into a single pictogram. Many of these combined emoji are not available on Twitch Chat. For example **man farmer** consists of:

- **MAN**
- **ZERO WIDTH JOINER**
- **EAR OF RICE**

While on Twitch it renders as:

- **MAN**
- **EAR OF RICE**

3 The solution to this problem

The solution is quite simple. Encoding the **ZERO WIDTH JOINER** as another character or sequence of characters, preferably invisible ones. The character that was decided on is **U+E0002**. It has no official name, in this document it will be called **ESCAPE TAG**. Its properties are quite unique:

1. It has no glyph.
2. It is not a space.
3. It is not filtered by Twitch.

Before processing a message the **ESCAPE TAG** character MUST be replaced with **ZERO WIDTH JOINER** unless its proceeded with another **ESCAPE TAG**, in which case it MUST NOT replaced. The suggested regular expression that SHOULD be used for replacing **ESCAPE TAG** with **ZERO WIDTH JOINER** is:

`(?!\U000E0002)\U000E0002`

Where:

1. `\U000E0002` is **ESCAPE TAG**