

Unicode Transformation Format (UTF)

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The **Unicode Transformation Format (UTF)** is a character encoding format which is able to encode all of the possible character code points in Unicode. The most prolific is UTF-8, which is a variable-length encoding and uses 8-bit code units, designed for backwards compatibility with [ASCII](#) encoding.

Different kinds of UTF encodings include:

- **UTF-1** — Retired predecessor of UTF-8, no longer part of the Unicode Standard
- **UTF-7** — Uses 7 bits for encoding and was primarily used in email, but is now considered obsolete
- **UTF-8** — Uses an 8-bit variable-width encoding in order to maximize compatibility with ASCII
- **UTF-16** — [16-bit](#) variable-width encoding
- **UTF-32** — [32-bit](#) fixed-width encoding
- **UTF-EBCDIC** — Uses 8 bits and designed to be compatible with Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code (EBCDIC)

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