Unicode System

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| **Unicode is a universal international standard character encoding that is capable of representing most of the world's written languages.** |

**Why java uses Unicode System?**

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| **Before Unicode, there were many language standards:** |
| * **ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) for the United States.** * **ISO 8859-1 for Western European Language.** * **KOI-8 for Russian.** * **GB18030 and BIG-5 for chinese, and so on.** |

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| **This caused two problems:**   1. **A particular code value corresponds to different letters in the various language standards.** 2. **The encodings for languages with large character sets have variable length.Some common characters are encoded as single bytes, other require two or more byte.** |
| **To solve these problems, a new language standard was developed i.e. Unicode System.** |
| **In unicode, character holds 2 byte, so java also uses 2 byte for characters.** |
| **lowest value:\u0000** |
| **highest value:\uFFFF** |