The text/nfo Media Type for Release iNFOrmation

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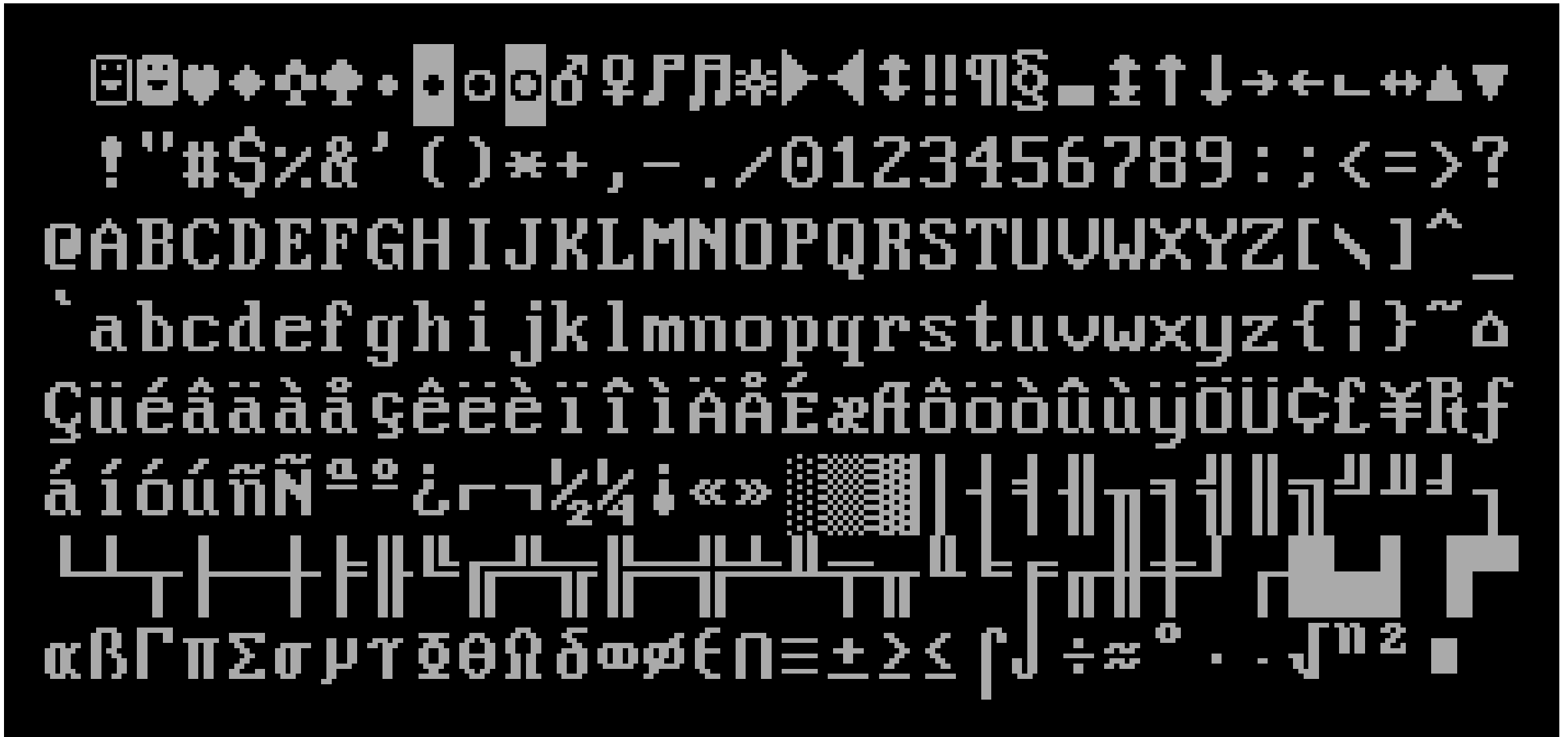
Penango, Inc.

Overview

- draft-seantek-text-nfo-00
- New Media Type Registration
- Informational RFC
- Seeking comments and discussion

About NFO

- Text files with release information
- Been around since 1990, BBS era
- Found in many ZIP archives and distributions
- Nice ASCII/ANSI artwork
- Widely used by disparate groups and communities
- `image/x-nfo` in wide use
  - e.g., Apache
- Interoperability issues with different character sets
- Defaults to "OEM Code Page 437" (or others, e.g., 850)

OEM Code Page 437 Character Repertoire

Example

Why not "ASCII Art"?

- It's not ASCII
- It's not art—it's textual information
  - Fallback to `text/plain`, not libpr0n (`image/*`)
  - Is HTML (text/html) "art" or textual information?
- Bare minimum control codes have plain text semantics (*e.g.*, CRLF)
  - Maybe `image/ansi` or `image/ascii` in the future for "graphics memory dumps" (where 0x0A = ◉, not LF; 0x1A = →, not terminator)
- Let's be realistic

Why now?

- `text/plain` treatment looks gross
- NFO viewers in existence: [PabloDraw](), [ACiD View](), [Ascension]()/[Escapes]()
- Registration of reasonable length (11 pages)
- Interoperability issues (e.g., character set) well-understood
- Historical interest and preservation
- Community of interest
- Felt like it

Comments and discussion welcome!