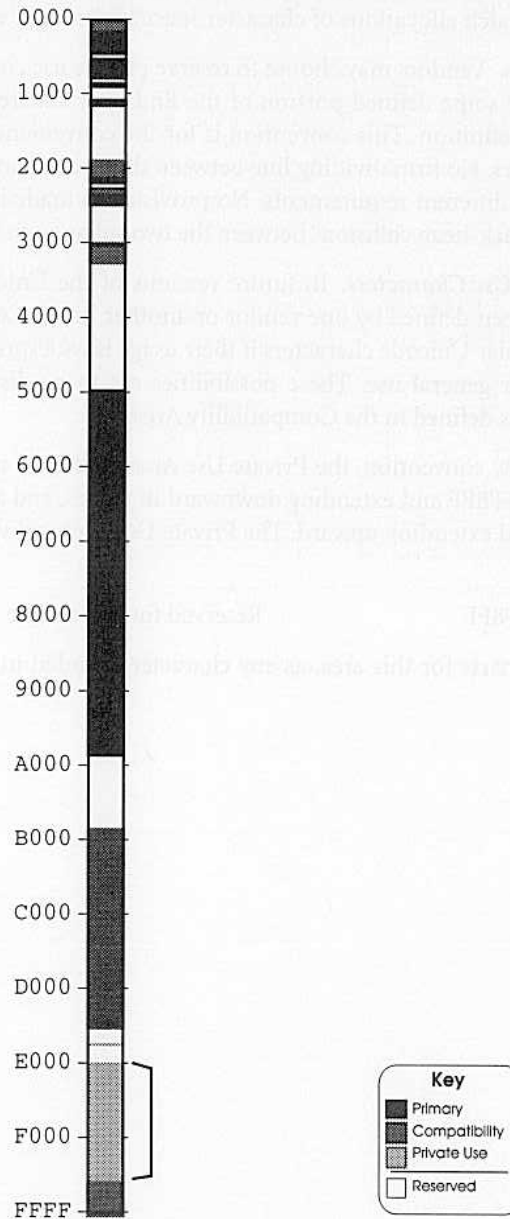


## 6.7 Private Use Area

The Private Use Area is reserved for use by software developers and end users who need a special set of characters for their application programs. The code points in this area are reserved for private use and do not have defined, interpretable semantics except by private agreement. (See Figure 6-32).

There are also private use characters defined by means of surrogate-pairs. (See the Surrogate Area description for a specification of how those private use characters are encoded.)

**Figure 6-32. Private Use**



## Private Use Area: U+E000—U+F8FF

**Corporate Use Subarea.** Systems vendors and/or software developers may need to reserve some private use characters for internal use by their software. The Corporate Use subarea is the preferred area for such reservations. Assignments of character semantics in this subarea could be completely internal, hidden from the end users, and used only for vendor-specific application support, or could be published as vendor-specific character assignments available to applications and end users. An example of the former case would be assignment of a character code to a system support operation such as <MOVE> or <COPY>; an example of the latter case would be assignment of a character code to a vendor-specific logo character such as Apple’s *apple* character.

**End User Subarea.** The End User subarea is intended for private use character definition by end users, or for scratch allocations of character space by end user applications.

**Allocation of Subareas.** Vendors may choose to reserve private use codes in the Corporate Use subarea and make some defined portion of the End User subarea available for completely free end user definition. This convention is for the convenience of system vendors and software developers. No firm dividing line between the two subareas is defined, as different users may have different requirements. No provision is made in the Unicode Standard for avoiding a “stack-heap collision” between the two subareas in the Private Use Area.

**Promotion of Private Use Characters.** In future versions of the Unicode Standard, some characters that have been defined by one vendor or another in the Corporate Use subarea may be defined as regular Unicode characters if their usage is widespread enough that they become candidates for general use. These possibilities are to be distinguished from the treatment of characters defined in the Compatibility Area.

**Encoding Structure.** By convention, the Private Use Area is divided into a Corporate Use subarea, starting at U+F8FF and extending downward in values, and an End User subarea, starting at U+E000 and extending upward. The Private Use Area is divided into the following ranges:

U+E000    →    U+F8FF                      Reserved for private use

- ➔ There are no charts for this area, as any character encoded in this area is privately defined.