



# I C A N N W I K I QUICKIE

## IDNs on the.... “Fast Track”?



By Chuck Kisselburg

As we gear up for another ICANN conference (February 10th – 15th) the topic of IDNs will continue to be one of the hot topics of this conference. In fact, Delhi will be a great place to showcase the progress of IDNs for several reasons.

- 1). India has 22 “official” languages.
- 2). India is part of a dynamic region, a region with MANY languages (portions of the Middle East, Southern Asia as well as Southeast Asia.). Not only does this region support a large number of varied languages, it has an even greater number of diverse cultures.

Being that IDNs will play such a major role at this conference, and IDNs will prove to have a significant impact to the whole global Internet community, most of this issue will focus around IDNs and what it means to members of the ICANN “community”. As such I have asked a couple of members of our “community” about their thoughts on the subject.

Through my previous writings you know that I am keenly in favor of IDNs since I see the value this can bring to the local “community”. In other words, I see IDNs bringing a whole new social aspect to users of the Internet, helping to increase this global community. While some feel IDNs are a way for

*JUMP to page 6 for rest of story*

## What IDNs Mean to DotAsia

### Conversation with Edmon Chung of DotAsia

With the emphasis of this issue of the ICANNWikiQuickie, I felt it best to gain input from the global Internet community. Edmon Chung, CEO of DotAsia (<http://icannwiki.org/Dotasia.org>), and his staff have been working at developing community around the new .Asia TLD. With the .Asia community encompassing a varied collection of countries and cultures, I felt Edmon’s insight towards IDNs would prove to be a valuable discussion. What follows is my discussion with Edmon.

#### What does having IDNs mean to you?

Being a pioneer of IDN technologies and having been promoting its adoption since

before the turn of the millennium, having IDN means a lot. It means the end of a long struggle and the beginning of a truly global Internet. Direct navigation is still the most consistent method for surfing the web. IDN makes the Internet accessible and associable for the rest of the world. Domain names today are no longer simply a command line on the technical infrastructure of the Internet, but also



Chung

*JUMP to page 5 for rest of story*

## ABOUT ICANNWIKI.ORG

Wiki Wiki means “quick” and “easy” in Hawaiian. A Wiki is a set of pages that are open for anyone to edit as they wish. Wiki also has “Automagical Linking” that handles all of the messy details of cross-referencing hyperlinks between the pages in the Wiki. The result is a very rich reading experience.

ICANNWiki seeks to use wiki technology to create a valuable and long term resource for ICANN-goers, domain people and anyone interested in our industry.

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#### ICANNWiki Staff

- Ray King
- Dan Mendell
- Oliver Ortiz
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# What is OpenID and How It Works



By the “Pocket-Protector-wearing, Geek” side of Chuck Kisselburg

For a while ICANNWiki.org has been supporting OpenID as a login to the wiki. What is OpenID and how does it work? Most of all, what does it mean to you?

OpenID is an emerging standard used to eliminate the need for you, the user, to have multiple usernames across different sites, thus simplifying your online experience.

OK, so that may sound good in concept, but what are the realities of this “*happening*”? We should note that organizations such as Yahoo, Google, AOL, Microsoft, Sun, Novell, Orange (France Telecom), to name a few, are working to incorporate the acceptance of OpenIDs into their platforms. Organizations are already moving to secure OpenIDs to protect their corporate trademarks. Today it is estimated that there are over 160 million OpenID enabled URIs with nearly 10,000 sites supporting OpenID logins. The list continues to grow. Ummmm..... **Wow!**

What is a URI? A URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) is a compact string of characters used to identify a name or a resource. A URL is a URI. For example, <http://icannwiki.org> is a URI that identifies ICANNWiki's home page. <http://> indicates the page can be reached via the Internet. Similarly, a Uniform Resource Number (URN) is a URI that identifies a resource. While the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) allows one to know of, or identifies a book, it does not suggest its location.

OpenID is similar in that you, the user, can have your own OpenID that identifies you. It does not say where you are physically located, but establishes your identity. While an OpenID is about you, the information specific to your OpenID resides with a single OpenID provider thus allowing you one location to manage your logon “presence”. The standard is such that you do have the option of keeping your OpenID, but having your OpenID supported by a different OpenID provider. In other words, OpenIDs allow

for portability among OpenID providers. 1id is one such OpenID provider of iNames.

iNames uses a stronger URN, or i-number creation and maintenance process so when an iName is created for you, the associated number that ties your identity to an iName remains yours. Even if the number expires or is sold, the number will **never** be reused for the creation of another iName.

i-numbers are a new type of Internet identifier designed to solve the problem of how any resource can have a persistent identity that never changes even when the resource moves or changes its human-friendly name. But one of the other key factors of an i-number is i-numbers are persistent. In other words, once they are assigned to a resource, they are never reassigned. By contrast, IP addresses are constantly reassigned, i.e., your computer may have a different IP address every time it connects to the Internet.

The structure of an iName is simple.

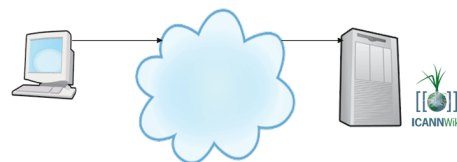
“=**yourname**” is the structure for your own specific iName.

“@**community**\***member**” is the structure used when identifying specific members of an identified community.

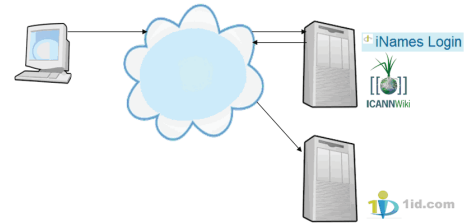
ICANNWiki, through 1id and Neustar, can provide you with an ICANNWiki community iName. My community name is, @ICANNWiki\*ChuckKisselburg indicating that Chuck Kisselburg is a member of the ICANNWiki “community”.

## How does OpenID work?

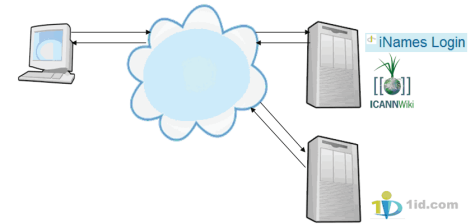
1). A user sends an initial request to access ICANNWiki.org and logs in using their iName.



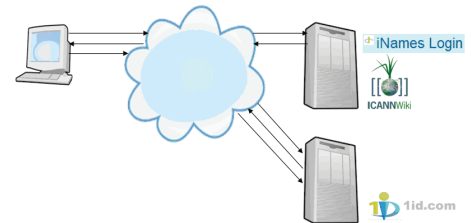
2.) Based on your iName ICANNWiki.org initiates a session with your 1id provider.



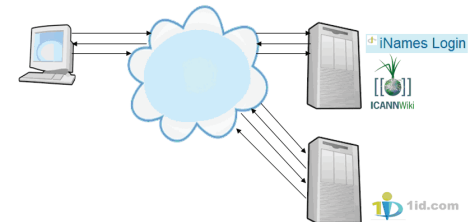
3). 1id challenges you to authenticate, or verify you are who you really are.



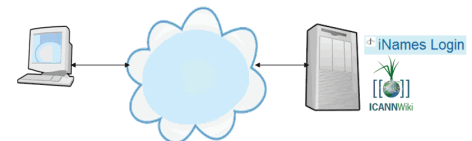
4). The user validates 1id's authentication challenge.



5). 1id verifies with ICANNWiki.org that all challenge/authentications have been validated and you are who you say you are.



6). At this point 1id drops out of the picture for you to begin your productive session with ICANNWiki.org.



While this example centers around your logged-in session with ICANNWiki, the same process occurs with any site that supports OpenID.

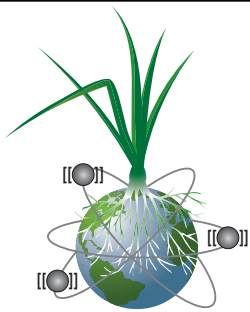
The benefit for the service providers?

They no longer have the burden of managing the individual account challenge/authentication process as it has been offloaded to an OpenID provider.

The benefit to you, the owner of your respective OpenID, or multiple OpenIDs? You now have one place to go to securely manage their login identity.

ICANNWiki has embraced applications from the Open Source community that only work with a valid OpenID. If you do not have an OpenID, secure your ICANNWiki community iName by going to <http://icannwiki.org/Iname> and join the growing OpenID community!

**Contact Chuck at [chuck@icannwiki.org](mailto:chuck@icannwiki.org) or visit [www.icannwiki.org](http://www.icannwiki.org) for more information.**



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# ICANNWiki.org – The Future is Today!



By Chuck Kisselburg

I am excited to take this opportunity to share with you the future of ICANNWiki.org. In fact much of the future is hear, Today!

In our efforts to create for an easier, more interactive involvement from our growing community, while still preserving aspects over which people have voiced appreciation, the wiki has been restructured. Not only will this allow people to navigate the wiki and find information easier, it sets the foundation for allowing greater growth and participation.

Is this "the way it is"? Not at all. In fact I look at it as "this is only the beginning"!

The wiki will now sport destinations where members of our diverse ICANNWiki.org community can communicate, debate and discuss with like- minded individuals. Such "Targeted Interest Groups" will cater to those whose interest deals with the Domainer community. Another group will cater to those whose interest is in Policy and Governance. I expect other groups to evolve as the wiki continues to evolve.

Also, in keeping with our support of the Open Source community, you will have a greater, and easier way to view AND contribute to the pulse of the community. To do so I have brought in "Pibb" and "Jyte", both technologies developed by JanRain.

Jyte allows you to make a claim for others to easily approve or disapprove, thus allowing the community to express their opinion. You will find Jyte sprinkled throughout the wiki. Also, Jyte is open to others outside of the wiki. So if you wish to get the pulse on your claims, not only will your claims be seen by those on ICANNWiki, but the entire Jyte community. You may learn more about "claims" by visiting [http://icannwiki.org/Community\\_claim](http://icannwiki.org/Community_claim).

Also sprinkled throughout the wiki are various channels of Pibb. Pibb allows for an easy way to have an ongoing conversation with the ICANNWiki community. Pibb channels have been set up to cater to specific topics.

To move forward you will need to use your OpenID to utilize Jyte and Pibb. OpenID is the next, evolutionary step for single sign-ons. In other words, the OpenID you use to log into ICANNWiki can also be used by any other site that supports OpenID. While ICANNWiki has supported OpenID for quite some time, other organizations, such as Yahoo, Google, AOL, Microsoft, among others, are working to add support for OpenID. You may learn more about OpenID by going to <http://icannwiki.org/AboutOpenID>.

iNames is the more secure aspect of the OpenID movement. Through compliments of Neustar and 1id, ICANNWiki is pleased to provide you with your own ICANNWiki Community iName. If you do not yet have an OpenID, secure either your personal iName or your complimentary ICANNWiki community iName today by going to <http://icannwiki.org/Iname>. Remember, you will be able to use your iName where ever OpenID is supported.

In the short time that I have been with ICANNWiki, I continue to hear how valuable ICANNWiki.org is for general networking. I am pleased to begin moving ICANNWiki to the next level for the ICANN "community".

This is only the beginning!

I continue welcoming your feedback and ideas as it is through your participation, use of and sponsorship that we, together as a community, bring this resource to you.

Regards,  
*Chuck*  
Director, ICANNWiki

# inames – Your OpenID that Provides Unique Protection from Online Identity Theft



By Ivor Sequeira

I am pleased to be working with ICANNWiki on facilitating their use of OpenID through 1id's provision of the ICANNWiki community iname for individuals who visit ICANNWiki.org. At the same time you may also acquire your own personal iname.

## Why inames as your OpenID?

- We as a culture are moving towards an 'always connected' and 'on-net' world
- Identity theft is becoming more and more prevalent
- A personal OpenID that can work across the web is appealing; no need for multiple user names and passwords

## Your personal OpenID needs the following capabilities:

- A Unique Identifier that is able to cross all internet properties

- Simplicity with a single sign on that is also easy to remember
- Privacy with permission based control and filtering for the complete protection of the consumer
- True Authentication to prove that the user is truly the owner of the identifier
- A Permanent ID that is a Lifetime digital identity with the control and flexibility to attach unique attributes at the user's convenience

inames is a simple, secure and permanent personal identifier that works across all networked communications devices, from computers to mobile devices. Users now control their own authenticated identifier that crosses the entire Web and protects them from online identity theft. Because it is based on the safest OpenID protocol



standard (XRI-approved), it has the capability to solve the overwhelming Internet single sign-on problem.

- Permanence. Designed as the first universal address to last for a lifetime.
- Privacy. Requires permission from the iname owner for initial contact. inames helps you to protect your privacy and to avoid spam.
- Portability. Sign on with one identifier that works across OpenID enabled websites. No need for multiple user names and passwords.

In a nut shell, inames is your Open ID that is the next step to a more secure, safer web experience. i-names protects your privacy placing you in control of your iname at all times.

# Internet Commerce Association News



First, thank you to Chuck Kisselburg and ICANNWiki for inviting me to share our story here. As this is my first article here, introductions are in order. I am Michael Collins

with Internet Commerce Association. I have been involved in ICANN and domain name issues for several years, first as co-founder of Afternic. I have been working with many great members and volunteers to serve the domain developer and investor community since June 2007.

Founded in 2006, the Internet Commerce Association (ICA) is a non-profit trade organization representing domain name investors and developers and the direct search industry. ICA is made up of responsible businesses and individuals who have joined together to improve public confidence in internet commerce. Based in Washington D.C., our mission is to promote and share best practices among participants in the domain name industry

and to educate consumers, policy makers, law makers and the media about the value and benefits of direct navigation traffic and the domain name industry.

For the most part, domainers have not been represented at ICANN and their interests have been overlooked in policy development. Internet Commerce Association has applied for membership to the Commercial and Business Users Constituency and hope to have an answer from them before we get to Delhi for the next ICANN meeting. In this way, we will be able to participate in formal policy development process at ICANN. Whether accepted before the Delhi meeting or not, ICA will be there to make sure that detrimental policies do not sneak up on us.

We are on board with efforts to stop domain tasting. Abusive tasting has created bad publicity for the whole industry. The ICANN Board recently issued a statement suggesting that they will act to end to

extend the 20 cent ICANN fee to names deleted during AGP. The fee now goes to a budget review committee which hopefully will find quickly that there is room in the budget for this fee. ICA supports this quick action by the board to discourage tasting. It should end tasting as we know it today. New excessive delete fees are still an option in within the scope of the PDP that is already in place. Internet Commerce Association supports excess deletion fees in addition to the ICANN fee. However, it doesn't make sense to do nothing while the PDP winds its way through the halls of ICANN when a completely appropriate measure is available that can be implemented quickly.

I could say more, but this is getting long for an introduction. Stay tuned for more next week in New Delhi, same time, same station.

Best Regards,

*Michael Collins*

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part of the social and identity fabric of the online world. Having IDN become a natural part of the Internet is a vision me and many of my colleagues who have worked very hard on the issue over the years have.

### Will IDNs have an impact in your area?

Yes. Asia is probably the region that will benefit the most from the full deployment of IDN. Many languages in Asia are not expressed in the Latin script (i.e. ASCII), IDN will allow for a native experience on the Internet. Imagine perhaps that the Russians invented the Internet and we all have to learn Cyrillic to navigate to different websites, how inconvenient it would be. That is the reality for the majority of the online population today.

### What impact will it have in your area?

I believe that it will open a new era of Internet usage in Asia. IDN will be a platform that will bring corporations, shops and local stores online. For the first time, these operations will find its own voice and identity online. The Internet is as much about global communications as facilitation of local communities. IDN will allow Asia's local communities to further flourish in cyberspace and to find linkage around the world through Asians overseas.

### How might IDNs help your geographic region?

As mentioned, Asia will probably be the region that will benefit the most from IDN. From the Arabic west Asia, the Sino east Asia to the Indic South Asia and other

South East Asia languages, IDN would help different language communities find their voice on the Internet. IDN is not content, but neither is it simply a command line. IDN provides a platform for development of the Internet in Asia.

### How might IDNs hinder your geographic region?

Development on the Internet will be hindered without the full deployment of IDN.

### How might IDNs help businesses in your geographic region?

IDN will give businesses, especially local and small and medium sized enterprises the opportunity to represent themselves the way they are known to their customers. The value of a name and brand is clear to understand. Being able to reflect that online means facilitation of business.

### How might IDNs affect the people in your geographic region?

IDN will allow for a native experience for navigating the Internet.

### Which group will benefit most from IDNs in your area and why?

Ultimately, end users will benefit the most from IDN.

### Do you foresee any challenges with which applications will be able to support IDNs?

As we have seen through the nearing ten years of work on IDN, there will be many challenges as applications deploy IDNs. Phishing issues, policy issues, languages issues and forward and backward compatibility issues are just a collection of a few of them. Nevertheless,

I do not believe any of these should be prohibitive for the full deployment of IDN. Another important area that requires our continued hardwork is email addresses.

### What do you foresee as the negative aspect to IDNs?

There has been talk about IDN causing problem for anglo-centric or Latin-based language users to be unable to connect to parts of the Internet. I do not think the characterization of such situation is correct. As the non-English speaking community today navigates through the Internet utilizing search or clicking on links for which mean little to them, in the future, those not speaking a particular language will still be able to search and click to IDN sites and content. Similarly, today there is already a significant amount of content on the Internet that is non-English, does that mean that content causes the fracturing of the Internet for its legacy users?

### How do you hope IDNs are NOT used?

I hope IDN will not be un-used.

### What is your biggest hope for IDNs to accomplish?

My biggest hope, then when I first started working on IDN technologies as now, is for IDN to eventually become a natural part of the Internet and a taken-for-granted part of Internet navigation. When people do not consider IDNs "IDN" is when IDN is truly successful. Perhaps then people would not believe that in the beginning domain names were only acceptable in English alphanumeric characters.

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# Milestone Agreement Reached Between ICANN, and F Root Server Operator, Internet Systems Consortium

Posted by ICANN, 4 January 2008

**Marina del Rey, CA** – ICANN and Internet Systems Consortium (ISC) are today announcing the signing of a Mutual Responsibilities Agreement for the operation of the F-root nameserver.

Effective root server operations are an essential component in providing a stable and secure, globally interoperable Internet. ISC is one of twelve global root server operators that provide a key element of the underlying domain name system infrastructure of the Internet. Essentially, root servers provide an authoritative directory ensuring Internet services that are accessed with names, for example the URL [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org) or email to [info@isc.org](mailto:info@isc.org), are translated from human readable names into network addresses that a computer can find. The root server system overall answers well over 100,000 queries per second, providing the first step in determining the requested network address.

Root server operators have participated in the ICANN community since its inception in 1998, but to date, there has not been a formal written recognition of the mutual roles ICANN and the root operators perform with respect to each other. The agreement between ICANN and ISC is the first formalization of mutual responsibilities between a root server operator and ICANN. The agreement outlines a structure and description of duties and expectations, dispute resolution, and interchange of technical information.

Paul Vixie, ISC's President said "I'm pleased that ISC could take a first step with ICANN in completing this agreement. Since the creation of F Root in 1994, ISC has always felt honored to provide this service and is responsible to the entire Internet community to ensure that the F-root nameserver is reachable 24x7. Formalized expectations between ICANN and root operators will result in a wider

understanding of the key operational and stability issues of most concern to the root operator community and the Internet community as a whole."

Paul Twomey, ICANN's CEO and President said "Congratulations to ISC for being the first root operator to formalize the mutual relationship with ICANN. ICANN's core mission is overall security and stability of the domain name system, and this agreement is another important step in coordinating the key players, and ensuring that mutual accountabilities are documented and transparent."

Both ICANN and ISC expect that this agreement may serve as a model for similar agreements with the other eleven root server operators in the coming months. Final adoption of this agreement will come with ratification by both organizations' Boards, and is expected in January.

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registrars, and ICANN, finding a way to obtain more money, and others feel IDNs dilute the very reason of the Internet, that being bringing people together, what I appreciate most about IDNs is the impact this will have in preserving cultures. Who better to be aware of the many cultures of this globe than this community of ours?

Then there are applications. Will applications be IDN "aware"? For more information on this, please visit my previous blog post on practical implications of IDNs. <http://icannblog.org/2007/08/16/practical-implications-regarding-icanns-idn-tld-evaluation-deployment-in-the-root-zone/>

I approached my first ICANN conference in LA with great enthusiasm about IDNs. I had a great time meeting members of this global community and enjoyed listening to what they had to say. When it came to IDNs, however, it is an understatement to say I received an ear full, especially when talking about IDNs being on ICANN's "fast track".

The topic of IDNs is not new. In fact, this is something people within our global community have been working towards for years. There is no doubt that much needs to be considered when moving forward with IDNs, but on the "fast track"? At the LA conference ICANN was demoing concepts of how IDNs can work. This is not a fast track?

As mentioned earlier, when I talked with people at the conference (regular attendees as well as sitting committee members) I received an earful about the topic of "IDNs" and "fast track". It seems the same word kept coming up in each conversation: "China".

What I learned was China has been working on an initiative to bring Internet connectivity to as many residents of China as possible – even down to the small towns throughout the country. When you think of China's population, our global online community will thus be expanding at an unprecedented rate. What impact would this have on the stability of the root servers? Hmmmmmm..... In fact,

as I continued to listen to those at the LA conference, China was moving forward, even if it meant they would manage and own their own root servers, with or without ICANN's involvement. So it appears that what "fast track" movement on IDNs we have seen from ICANN appears to be due to China's initiative and progress. If China moves forward on its own with its own root server(s) would it send today's root servers into a state of imbalance? What if China refuses to sign ICANN's "Mutual Responsibilities Agreement" outlining mutual responsibilities on the operation of root servers; as ICANN recently entered into with the Internet Systems Consortium? What impact would this have on ICANN if China moved forward on its own and operated a version of the Internet that was not under the authority of ICANN? What would this do to ICANN and mean for the current global online community?

**Contact Chuck at [chuck@icannwiki.org](mailto:chuck@icannwiki.org) or visit [www.icannwiki.org](http://www.icannwiki.org) for more information.**

# ICANNWiki.org Spotlight!

## IDNs and India!

Conversation with Rajesh Aggarwal of NIXI.



By Rajesh Aggarwal and Chuck Kisselburg

NIXI (National Internet eXchange of India), is the registry for “.in”. With offices throughout India NIXI is the meeting point for all ISPs in India. NIXI facilitates the exchange of Internet traffic between peering ISP members. What better way to understand the impact IDNs will have on India than through a conversation with a member of NIXI?

As Director of ICANNWiki.org, I am **VERY** pleased to have had this conversation with Rajesh Aggarwal, the Additional CEO for NIXI. Rajesh provides insight regarding the impact IDNs will have on one of earth’s most populated countries, India. With 22 “official” languages, and countless local languages and dialects, India stands to benefit greatly from the use of IDNs.



### **What does having IDNs mean to you?**

More than a billion Indians do not understand English. We are going for Indic language operating systems, applications and web content. Having URLs also in the Indian language will be a good step to include for all of these people.

### **Will IDNs have an impact in your area?**

It will generate positive vibes, or feelings, in the sense that Internet administrators are concerned about non-English speaking people.

### **How might IDNs hinder your geographic region?**

There are still issues in typing Indian characters in browsers- this however will be covered by plug-ins. We have to be careful about phishing, etc. as many Indian characters and conjuncts can be confusingly similar. There are multiple ways of writing the same word.

### **How might IDNs help businesses in your geographic region?**

Many small businesses, especially catering to rural areas, may register IDNs and create websites in Indian languages.

### **Which group will benefit most from IDNs in your area and why?**

Registrars will have a new area opening up. Bloggers, Indian language Newspapers, and small businesses will be the first ones to go for these addresses.

### **Do you foresee any challenges with which applications will be able to support IDNs?**

Yes. Operating System and browser issues are still there. In many cases characters are still not represented the way they should be.

### **How do you hope IDNs are NOT used?**

I hope they are not used for purposes of phishing and cyber squatting. We have to be very careful about this.

### **What is your biggest hope for IDNs to accomplish?**

My biggest hope for IDNs is that they generate interest in Indian languages, resulting in the creation of many more websites and blogs in local languages; more than are available today.

**Thank you, Rajesh!**



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