

VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 7 Number 10

October 12, 1991

TI World and Local News

(Compiled and edited by Jim Ely from various sources including MICROpendium Magazine)

New Software from Asgard

Asgard Software has released its first Geneve only program, Thumbnails.

Thumbnails will organize, catalog and convert MacPaint pictures, according to the manufacturer, and is described as of special interest to users of Page Pro 99, Y.A.P.P. and the Printer's Apprentice for providing access to MacPaint pictures available on BBSes and networks and in user group libraries.

The manufacturer says Thumbnails catalogs disks and finds all the MacPaint pictures on them, then allows the users to view and print them, singly or in batch, either at full-size or in "thumbnail" format.

Thumbnail format is nine to a page, with a box around each and the filename underneath. While being viewed in either fullsize or thumbnail format, the pictures may be clipped and saved in either Page Pro or TI-Artist format. At full size, according to the

manufacturer, the screen acts as a window on the picture, which may be moved with arrow keys. It is also possible to organize the pictures into a slideshow for rapid viewing.

Thumbnails is said to be compatible with M-DOS 1.14 and 0.97H and with the Myarc H F D C and RAMdisks. Printing requires an Epson or compatible printer, though the manufacturer says the printer can be fully customised otherwise. Suggested retail is \$12.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

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Asgard has also released a game for the TI99/4A, Starbase Raiders. Starbase Raiders is an arcade-style game based on a game popular on the Atari 2600. It was written by Joe Delekto, and requires 32K, Extended BASIC or Editor/Assembler and a disk system. Suggested retail is \$12.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

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And finally, a utility for Page Pro 99 users, called Gofer, has also been released. Gofer is a utility described as being for the "power user" who uses Page Pro 99 frequently, written by Dan Eicher. Written in compiled c99, the package features complete rewrites of almost all utilities included with Page Pro 99, plus additional utilities. It includes a columnizer 50 times faster than the Page Pro Columnizer, a program for converting art, a program for modifying page files and a PCX picture converter that will convert pictures created on a PC directly into Page Pro 99 format.

Gofer requires Page Pro 99 and is compatible with hard disks and RAMdisks. Suggested retail is \$12.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling (\$5 airmail).

To order, send a check or money order to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849.

New and Revised Software from Harrison

Harrison Software has released Smart Connect, a program with which TI owners can transfer text files to and from PC computers.

The package can take large files from the PC and automatically split them into files small enough to be used with TI-Writer or Editor/Assembler editors on the TI side. The program will auto-increment the names of these split files, so that if the first one is TEXT1, the file will be split into TEXT1, TEXT2, etc.

The package is designed so that, once the program is at the PC end, all actions are controlled from the TI keyboard and the PC therefore can be unattended while transfers are being done, Harrison says. Two GW-BASIC programs for the PC are supplied. At the end of the session, the TI program will cause the PC program to end before ending itself.

The package, which sells for \$10 including shipping and handling, requires 32K, at least one SS/SD drive, RS232 and a PC with GW-BASIC. The package can run from Extended BASIC, E/A or TI-Writer modules. Instructions and an XB program to print them are included on the disk. Numerous "error traps" are included, Harrison says, so that even errors on the PC program will be reported on the TI screen and can be recovered from it without any action at the PC itself.

Harrison notes that Harrison Software's Word Processor has been reduced in price from \$20 to \$14, including shipping and handling.

For information or to order, write Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781.

New Distributor for JP Software

Jerry Coffey has announced on several online information services that he will distribute JP Software titles under an agreement reached Aug. 15 with J. Peter Hoddie of JP Software.

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SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST Computer User Group
September 14, 1991

The monthly meeting of the VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP was held on Saturday, September 14th at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe. A total of 19 folks attended including all officers and 3 guests.

President Mike Grogan announced that the officers and committee chairpersons met prior to the general meeting. The idea was to hear committee reports and to conduct as much of the normal business of the club as possible in order to save time at the general meeting for special programs and demos. Mike stated that if this works out, it may be done on a regular basis.

These minutes are a summary of the actions taken at both meetings. The tape recorder used to record the meeting was not working. Therefore this record may not be 100% accurate.

The "Executive Committee" meeting was attended by all officers plus the chairpersons of the newsletter and publicity committees and the co-chairman of the program committee.

Jim Ely of the *Newsletter Committee* had no special report other than to mention that he had received 2 new member profiles. One was published in the September issue and the other would appear in the October issue.

Tom Pfeffer of the *Publicity Committee* had no special report. When asked what efforts were being made to promote Fest West through the publicity committee, Tom stated that other than the item being carried in MICROpendium, nothing was being done. Tom said he would make an effort to get together with the Knights to plan for some co-ordinated efforts.

Ralph Rees asked that his committee report be postponed until the general meeting to allow him to get together with the Knights. Ralph was asked if he could tell us what the "cut-off" date was for a final commitment to the hotel. He said that he wasn't sure but thought it was 60 days before the event.

At the general meeting, Wallace Knight reported for the *Library Committee* that we had added a set of video tapes of the Lima conference. Curt Mavity mentioned that he had reviewed the tapes and thought they should be "required" viewing.

Hazel Knight reported for the *Fest West Committee* that we had received our first booth reservation. Also the raffle tickets are now printed and ready for sale at \$1 each. It was generally agreed that we would offer one free raffle ticket with the purchase of 10. When asked about a "cut-off" date, Hazel said she thought that we were fully committed to the hotel. Ralph was asked to please check with DAY'S INN to find out. The concern was that if things don't pan out and we don't get enough reservations to be

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MINUTES, from page 3

able to sustain the event, we need to know the last date to be able to back out of the deal with the hotel without having to pay the room guarantee.

There was no old business to conduct.

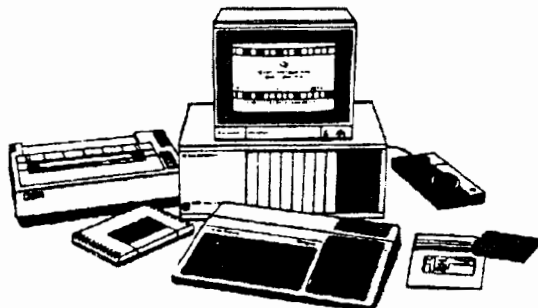
Under new business, President Mike Grogan appointed an elections committee to be headed by Bud Barnes. This committee will solicit nominees for office during 1992. The formal nominations will take place at the October meeting and the election will be held in November.

Curt Mavity announced that our program for next month will be presented by Ross Osenbau of a company called Ergonomics. He sells products designed to help users live more comfortably with computers.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:35AM.

The program for the month was the presentation of a video tape made by Mike Marfisi on using the disk manager, DM-1000. This video will be available shortly from the library for members' personal use.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Marfisi, Secretary, *VAST*



NEWS, from page 2

According to Coffey, the agreement "owes a great deal to the good offices of Wayne Stith, author of GEN-TRI."

Coffey was planning to ship GEN-TRI by mid-September and says he will announce availability of other titles later.

Coffey says he will work with buyers who have unfulfilled orders.

"If you have evidence of actual payment, e.g., a cancelled check, send me Xero copies of checks, statements (whatever) and full details so I can ship the software as soon as the masters reach me; if your check was never deposited then please send a new order and I will arrange with Peter to void any previous checks that may turn up."

Coffey asks that all correspondence be as complete as possible. Write him at 9119 Tetterton Ave., Vienna, VA 22182.

Richard Lynn Gilbertson, author of the RICH GKXB, says the Extended BASIC disk has gone into versions 2.37 and 2.54.

He says Gary Bowser of Oasis Pensive Abacutors (OPA) has sent him specifications for manufacture of the program as a cartridge.

Gilbertson says he is working on a Disk Manager to be installed on the module. He says no problems have been found with the accelerator and it will work on the TIM card.

Disks of RICH GKXB are available for

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\$24.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling from CaDD Electronics, 81 Prescott Rd., Raymond, NH 03077. Phone number is (603) 895-0119.

MEMBER PROFILE

This month our member profile is of Ray Frantz, one of the newer members of our Group



My name is Ray Frantz and I am 63 years young. I am from Pennsylvania, a Philadelphian. I graduated from Girard College in Philadelphia. I have only worked for one company in my life and that was AT&T

in Wayne, PA. From that 5 year stint, I opened my first business, a radio and TV repair business where we also sold the old 78 and 33 RPM phonograph records.

I have spent most of my earlier years in electronics including the manufacturing of picture tubes for B&W and color TVs, this being done in California where I had moved in 1960. I also went into the MASTER ANTENNA SYSTEM business there (prior to cable TV) as well as other related electronics businesses. I've had almost as many businesses as I have had wives, the difference being that the businesses WERE ALL SUCCESSFUL!!! I'm unmarried now

and will probably stay that way for a while.

I have a slight breathing problem which drastically limits my physical abilities... that's one reason I am getting myself so deeply involved in my TI-99... and enjoying every second of it!

What's my claim to fame? Actually I've had 2..... one being that I was one of the 3 innovators of the famous NYLON WALLET WITH VELCRO CLOSURES! I spent 10 years in that business, made LOTS of money, but the Japanese ran us All OUT OF BUSINESS when they cheapened the items with trashy, but CHEAP models. My other claim to fame is that I was the producer of the LARGEST CIVILIAN AIR SHOW ever produced... 8 hours long and done at the now destroyed Ontario Motor Speedway in California... in 1975. We raised 4 million dollars for the Jerry Lewis Telethon!!

rf



4/A FORAY

by Ralph Rees

What The Heck Is This? Department

Here I am sitting at my computer desk and cannot think of a thing to write about. As I look about me I think to myself "What the heck is all this stuff?". Ask Tom Pfeffer, he can tell you. It looks like nuclear detonation took place here. I have always been a "collector" of "good" electronic "stuff." DON'T ask my wife, she calls it junk. Lucky for me, I have made my little room here almost uninhabitable so she seldom enters, except to tell me how late it is and that she married a lunatic. Heck, I could have told her that all along. Please don't try to read any direction into this article because there isn't any. I thought I'd just sit down here and ramble on and on cos' nobody reads this thing anyhow.

Of late I've not done a whole lot with my computer except to call the BBS. I still don't understand why it does not get much use because to me a TI BBS and users group is the lifeline to the TI. If your system has an RS232 card or sidecar and you have a modem CALL THE BOARD! You cannot hurt it! There is a wealth of files that are waiting for you to download (and upload a few goodies too, huh?) and SOME chatter. The reason for only SOME chatter is because YOU aren't on! I usually add some form of message daily that you just CAN'T miss out on either. Am I being egotistical? Call the board and find out.

Last week I sat down to do a little 'puting

and noticed my fairly new box fan wasn't making any noise. Investigating this, I discovered that the fan was running at only about 2 RPM. "Egads! that must be why this thing has been locking up lately!" I lifted the P-box lid and felt some of the cards and darn near burned my pinkies! Disassembly followed and I re-installed my old reliable "noisy" fan, BUT I made some modifications. First, I made a cardboard "shroud" around the wire finger guard so the fan could pull more air in a specific direction, secondly, I swapped around the fan itself so it would pull air in from the fan opening towards the cards to cool them which is directly opposite of the way P-boxes came from TI. Now instead of the noisy fan blowing it's "noise pollution" outside where I can hear it, it blows inside where the noise is much lower. Seems to cool the box just as well if not better.

We haven't been getting as much response as I would have hoped on FestWest '92 thus far. If there are other TI'ers from other states that read this column, this is an open plea from the co-chairperson to PLEASE COME! Call our bbs for further info and leave a message on what special interest you may have. I am new to any TI FEST (this will be my first) and we would really like it to turn out GREAT! So help me out and COME! We're all in the same computer family, right?

Some members may have met a man at the last couple of meetings named Chris Taylor. Let me tell you, Chris knows the TI inside and out and is a programmer if ever there

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FORAY 4/A, from page 6

was one. Mike Grogan, Jim Wayne and I went to Chris' a few weeks back and were **FLABBERGASTED** with what we were shown. Chris is TI all the way and it shows when you see what he can do and hear what he knows. I would really like to have Chris give a talk on his software or on the many things he knows about our little console. Speaking of console, imagine a TI console and monitor with a tape drive on the side with software running that rivals IBM or Mac. Enough said?

Don't forget to bring sacks of bucks to buy raffle tickets for our color printer prize at the Fest. Just like the saying goes "You can't win if you don't play!"

For our newest members who have questions left unanswered that are hardware oriented, see me at the meeting and I will help all I can. I can help some with programming tricks also, but hardware and I get along better.

I guess I'll end this thing with my usual plea for articles, member profiles, product reviews, belly button lint (hey, you do read this), **ANYTHING** related to TI that you find interesting, informative, whatever.

Lastly, we have elections coming up in November and we are going to need **NEW** blood, Cos the old officers are ready to turn over their respective posts to somebody else. I'm going to run for Vice President. What are you going to run for? **NO NO NO**, don't say the door!!!

<FCTN +> —Ralph...

From the Editor's Desk

Happy Halloween. Oh, I know it's a little early but the next issue would fall in November, after Halloween, and besides, everybody knows that November is for Thanksgiving.

EDITORIALIZING A LITTLE...

As you probably are **NOT** aware, I ran a little contest in last month's newsletter, seeing it was the anniversary of *VAST News*. Well, to be perfectly honest, I was totally underwhelmed by the response. I did not receive one, single, solitary entry to the contest. What happened? I guess not as many people read the newsletter as I thought!

I do understand that there is at least one entry that got returned to the sender by the Post Office. If that entry is delivered to me at the meeting proving the postmark date and remaining un-opened, even if every answer is wrong, that person will be declared the winner just because he entered!

It is all perfectly clear to me now that I am putting too much time, effort and energy into this newsletter.

So, effective immediately, if **YOU** want it in the newsletter, **YOU** better get it to me because I am not looking any farther than my mailbox or the BBS upload section for information to include. If it isn't in my hands by the Saturday before the meetings, it

See **EDITOR'S DESK** on page 8

EDITOR'S DESK, from page 7

won't be included. I'm tired of begging, and this is the last time you will hear from me on the subject.

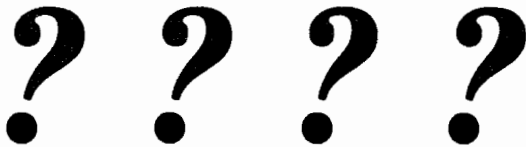
If a 4 page newsletter that YOU want, that includes only the minutes of the last meeting, an ad for *FEST WEST '92* and the information page, then that is what you will get.

I think you get the general idea of where I am coming from.

IN THIS ISSUE...

On page 5 is a *Member Profile* of one of our newer members, Ray Frantz. Some of his accomplishments may surprise you. *Foray 4/A* is on page 6, with a few miscellaneous ramblings by our own Ralph Rees. I've included a full page of clip art scanned and converted to TI formats by Virginia Davis on page 10. These have more of a holiday theme to them as we are getting closer to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

AND IN THE NEXT ISSUE...



I do have another member profile for the next issue and that's it.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The meeting this month will be in the **MAUVE ROOM** at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center (PARC). The calendar for the next 2 months with our meeting dates indicated is below.

NOVEMBER 1991							DECEMBER 1991						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	(8)	8	9	10	11	12	13	(14)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

ELECTIONS

I understand from talking to the chairperson of the Elections Committee that we do have a full slate of candidates for the elected officers of VAST for next year. **THIS IS WONDERFUL NEWS!** There are 2 persons nominated for almost every seat. Thank you very much for volunteering. The official ballots will be included with the November Newsletter and can be returned either by mail or at next month's meeting. Obviously, the deadline for returning the ballots will be the beginning of the November meeting.

FEST WEST '92 UPDATE

We have received our first reservation for a booth at *FEST WEST* from Jerry Rash representing Cat Paws Software, a relatively new Geneve 9640 software supplier. We have also had a positive response from Regina, TI-99/4A BASIC programmer and MICROpendium author. By the way, watching for the October 1991 issue of

See **EDITOR'S DESK** on page 9

EDITOR'S DESK, from page 8

MICROpendium for a special program and article by Regina relating to the *FEST*.

As was announced last month, raffle tickets are now available for one dollar each or eleven for ten dollars. Our top prize is a color printer and additional prizes are being added as we go along. You can obtain tickets from:

FEST WEST '92 Committee
c/o Hazel Knight
4316 W. Altadena
Glendale, AZ 85304

The *FEST WEST '92* Committee is about to send a second mailing to vendors detailing some of the fantastic sights to be seen in and around the Phoenix area during your stay for the *FEST*. Be watching the mail for yours!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING PROGRAM

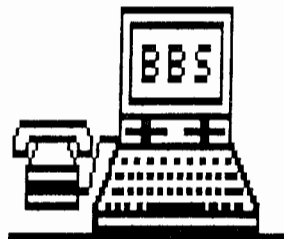
Our program this month should be an interesting one. Mr. Ross Osenbau of a company called Ergonomics will be here. His company teaches people ways to become more comfortable using computers so that the machines are not near as intimidating to us. This includes system arrangements for comfort right down to adjusting your chair for comfortable computing. You won't want to miss this one!

That's all I have for you this month. See you at the meeting on the 12th.


Just a reminder...

The **VAST BBS** has changed its telephone number. You can now reach it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **(602) 233-0790**.

This is a local call for most area residents.



Give it a call for the latest information about the VAST Computer User Group!

FOR SALE

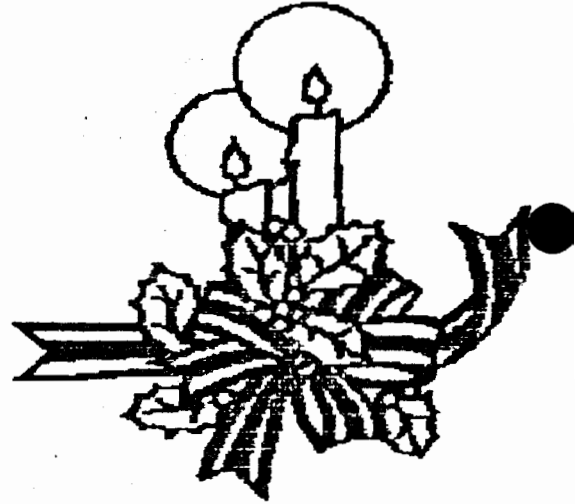
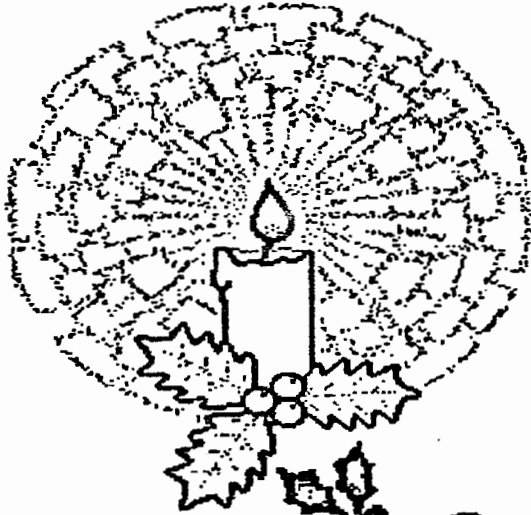
1200 baud Uniqmodem 1200HC Hayes Compatible MODEM with Manual. Asking \$50 OBO. CALL JIM 275-8018 or leave message on VAST BBS in FORSALE Conference.

All kinds of TI STUFF! Call for prices! 272-4315. P-Boxes, keyboards, programs. Lots of Software!!! Mike Grogan 272-4315 after 5pm

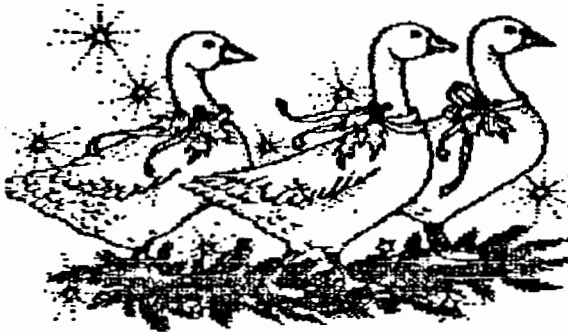
This space is available FREE for VAST members use. If you have items for sale or are looking for certain items for your TI, contact the Editor to include those items here.

Clip Art scanned and edited by

Virginia Davis, this month featuring disk CLIPART01. The clipart in this set features mostly Christmas images, which I felt would be quite appropriate for the upcoming holiday. These are available from VAST *exclusively* for \$2.00 per disk. Order from VAST at the return address on the back cover..



*Season's
Greetings*

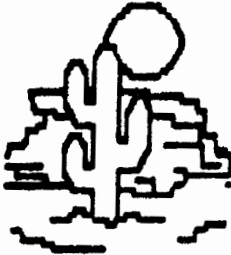


A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

MYARC GENEVE 9640



LOCATION: Days Inn-Phoenix/Camelback
502 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85013
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

DATE/TIME: Sat Feb 15, 1992-9am to 5pm
Sun Feb 16, 1992-9am to 3pm

PRIZES
COLOR PRINTER

Other prizes to be Announced
there will be some door prizes, Too!

Fest tickets are on sale now (\$5.00
for both days). Any one under 15, is free
if with an Adult.

Why not plan your **THREE DAY** weekend now!
**FESTWEST RATES \$54.00 (1 TO 4 PEOPLE per
Room per Day).**

TI FEST WEST '92
THE BEST YOU CAN GET

**Presented by: THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TI
USER GROUP (VAST)**

**For more information: Call BBS 233-0790 or
H. KNIGHT (602)-938-5446 or
R. REES (602)-869-8145**

**VENDOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD.
TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**

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**SOFTWARE
HARDWARE
&
ACCESSORIES**

VAST User Group Information

The VAST Computer User Group is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles.

The VAST Computer User Group operates a BBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The phone number is (602) 233-0790.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan 272-4315

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ely 275-8018

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi. 491-1552

LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely 275-8018

BBS SYSOP

Mike Grogan 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

ADVERTISING RATES

There is **NO CHARGE** to **MEMBERS** for **PERSONAL** advertising. Non-members will be charged \$1.50 per ad.

Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer for **COMMERCIAL** advertising rates.

DISCLAIMER: The VAST Computer User Group can assume **NO** responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for programs or construction projects tried by its members or others. **YOU** try them at your **OWN RISK!** Any material herein may be republished by other user groups so long as credit is given to the **ORIGINAL** sources.

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c/o MIKE MARFISI
1425 E. DEL RIO DRIVE
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