

WELCOME!



The Psychology of Persuasive Content for "Boring" Industries

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Banking

- Banking
- Insurance

- Banking
- Insurance
- Plumbing

TODAY'S TALK

1 Persuasive copy

TODAY'S TALK

- 1 Persuasive copy
- 2 Engaging images

TODAY'S TALK

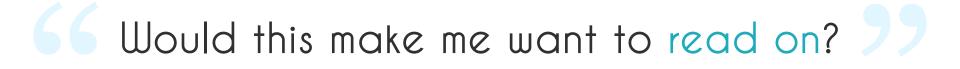
- 1 Persuasive copy
- 2 Engaging images
- 3 Viral videos



PERSUASIVE COPY

A GOLDEN RATIO?

ASK YOURSELF



SEDUCTIVE HEADLINES

Whatever industry you're in, to get people to read your copy, you need a hook...

9 STEPS

to

PERSUASIVE HEADLINES

Understand your target audience

PERSONALITY MATTERS

66

Adapting persuasive messages to the personality traits... can be an effective way of increasing the messages' impact

77

J. Hirsh, S. Kang and G. Bodenhausen (2012). Personalized Persuasion: Tailoring Persuasive Appeals to Recipients' Personality Traits. Psychological Science published online 30 April 2012

EXTRAVERSION

Strong
Outgoing
Active
Excitement
Attention

J. Hirsh, S. Kang and G. Bodenhausen (2012). Personalized Persuasion: Tailoring Persuasive Appeals to Recipients' Personality Traits. Psychological Science published online 30 April 2012

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OPENNESS

Innovation
Intelligence
Sophistication
Imagination
Creative

J. Hirsh, S. Kang and G. Bodenhausen (2012). Personalized Persuasion: Tailoring Persuasive Appeals to Recipients' Personality Traits. Psychological Science published online 30 April 2012

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NEUROTICISM

Safe
Reduce the anxiety
Uncertainty
Security
Protection

J. Hirsh, S. Kang and G. Bodenhausen (2012). Personalized Persuasion: Tailoring Persuasive Appeals to Recipients' Personality Traits. Psychological Science published online 30 April 2012

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TOOLS

- Big 5 (IPIP-NEO) <u>personal.psu.edu/j5j/IPIP/</u>
- Visual DNA <u>visualdna.com/</u>
- MyPersonality <u>mypersonality.org/</u>

2

Write to one person

PERSONA(S)

Give each segment a psychologically representative persona

PERSONA(S)

- Age
- Gender
- Personality traits (Big 5)
- Culture (country / peer group)
- Motivation (intrinsic / extrinsic)

3____

Write outline of copy first, then the headline

CONSISTENCY

This will ensure you distill the content into a headline that can deliver

4

Use psychological trigger words

TRIGGER WORDS

Weird Painstaking Absolute

Bizarre Fun Essential

Strange Free Incredible

Mystery Secret (It's not what

Effortless Amazing you think)

5

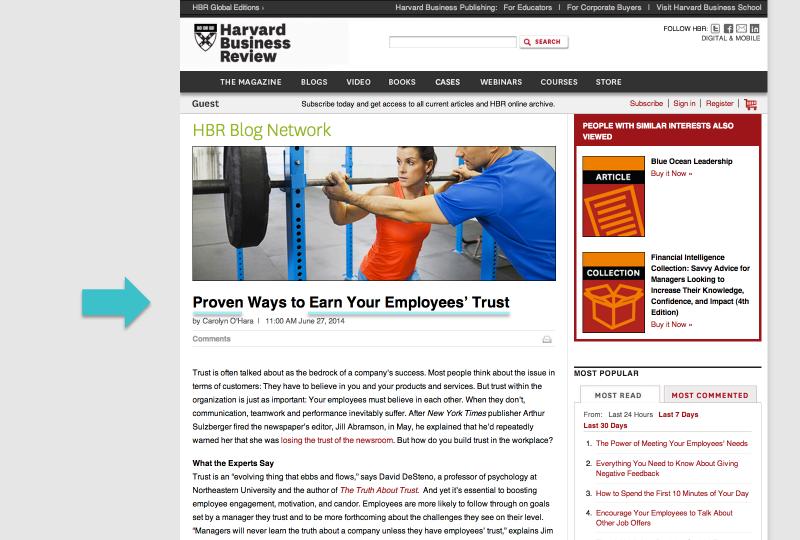
Write several different headlines - read them aloud

READING vs SPEAKING

We write differently than we speak - reading headlines aloud will give you a fresh, new perspective

6_

Pick no. 1 benefit & include it in the headlines



Include the product or problem in the headlines

Sign Up Log In



Product

Pricing

Optiverse

Resources

Jobs

A/B testing you'll actually use.

Type in a URL to try it out

Test it Out »



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Plans and Pricing Benefits iOS Beta

Product Features & Benefits

Customers Customer List Customer Stories

What is A/B Testing? What is Split Testing?

Resources

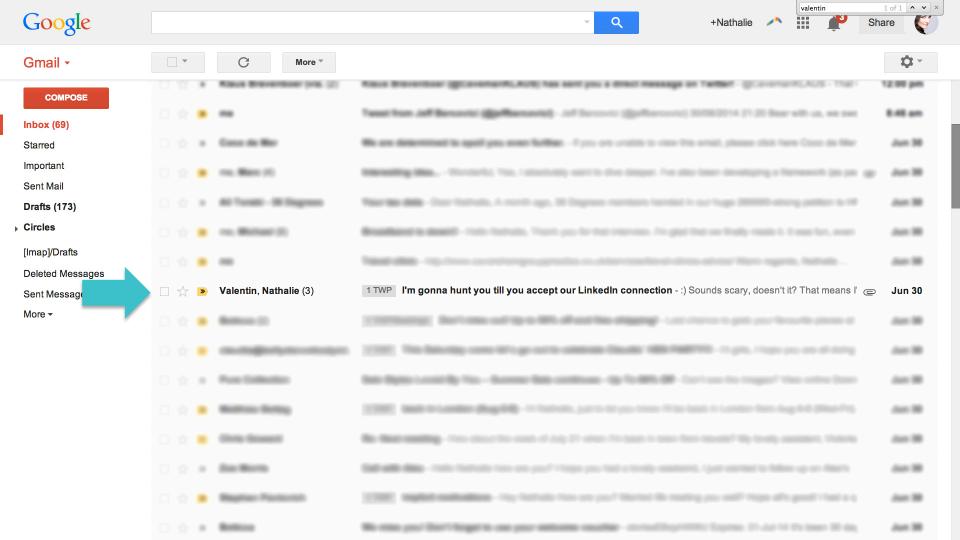
About

Other

Request a Demo

8

Write a totally left-field headline – yes, seriously



9

Split test your headlines, use the most effective

TEST IT!

Even if you have a small readership, you can test what customers will respond to by split-testing emails, articles, web pages

THE FORMULA

Number / Trigger word



Number / Trigger word Adjective



Number / Trigger word Adjective Keyword Number / Trigger word Adjective + Keyword Promise Number / Trigger word Adjective + Keyword Promise

KILLER HEADLINE

Subject:

Subject: Frying eggs

Subject: Frying eggs

You could write an article entitled:

Subject: Frying eggs

You could write an article entitled:

- "How to fry an egg"

Subject: Frying eggs

You could write an article entitled:

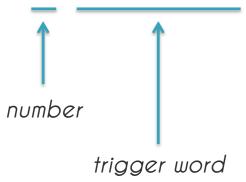
- "How to fry an egg"
- "Why I love frying eggs"

"13 unbelievable ways you can fry a small egg with a sock"

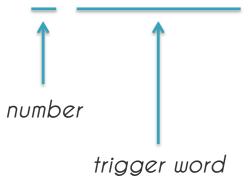
"13 unbelievable ways you can fry a small egg with a sock"



"13 unbelievable ways you can fry a small egg with a sock"

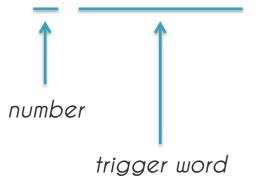


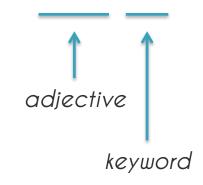
"13 unbelievable ways you can fry a small egg with a sock"



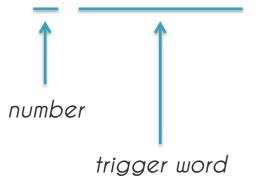


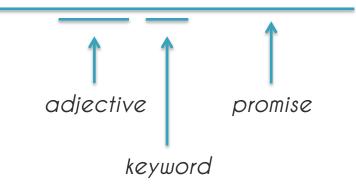
"13 unbelievable ways you can fry a small egg with a sock"





"13 unbelievable ways you can fry a small egg with a sock"





Subject:

Subject: Home Insurance

Subject: Home Insurance

You could write an article entitled:

Subject: Home Insurance

You could write an article entitled:

- "Why you should insure your home"

Subject: Home Insurance

You could write an article entitled:

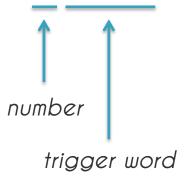
- "Why you should insure your home"
- "Home insurance for the whole family"

"3 bizarre ways our bespoke insurance could save your life"

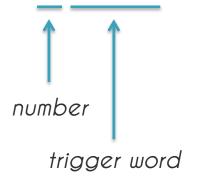
"3 bizarre ways our bespoke insurance could save your life"



"3 bizarre ways our bespoke insurance could save your life"

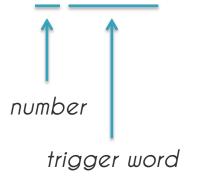


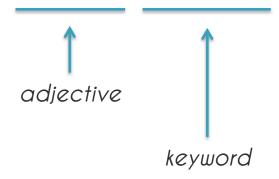
"3 bizarre ways our bespoke insurance could save your life"

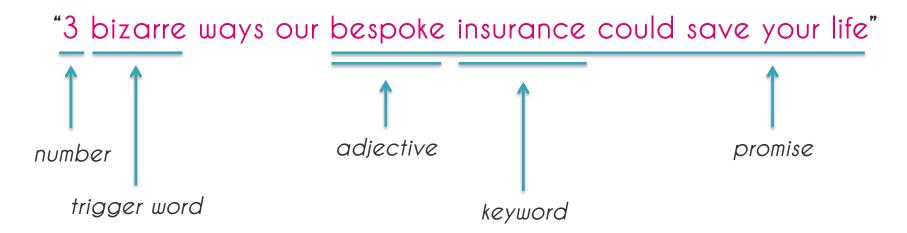




"3 bizarre ways our bespoke insurance could save your life"







...ISN'T THIS JUST CLICKBAIT?

ONLY IF...



You're not offering value, or if you're promising more than you can deliver





The Dalai Lama Has Some Very Uplifting And Wise Words About Farting



What Does It Take For A Black Person To Live In Chris Rock's Neighborhood?



The Simple, Beautiful Gesture That Can Turn A Crowd To Love Instead Of Hate



Watch 2 Dudes Bring A Trolley Full Of People To Rousing Applause



Some States Have Decided That People Living On The Edge Might Not Be Such A Great Idea



See A TV Host's Perfect Message To A Young Girl Whose School Called Her 'Unacceptable'

Explore Categories

✓ Load More Stories

Search Stories

Search

I want more stuff like this!

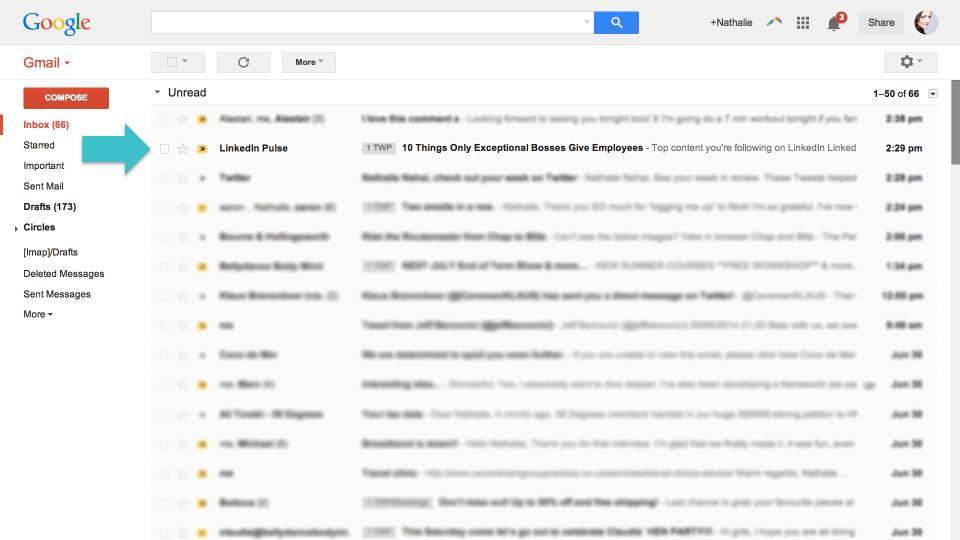
ASK YOURSELF

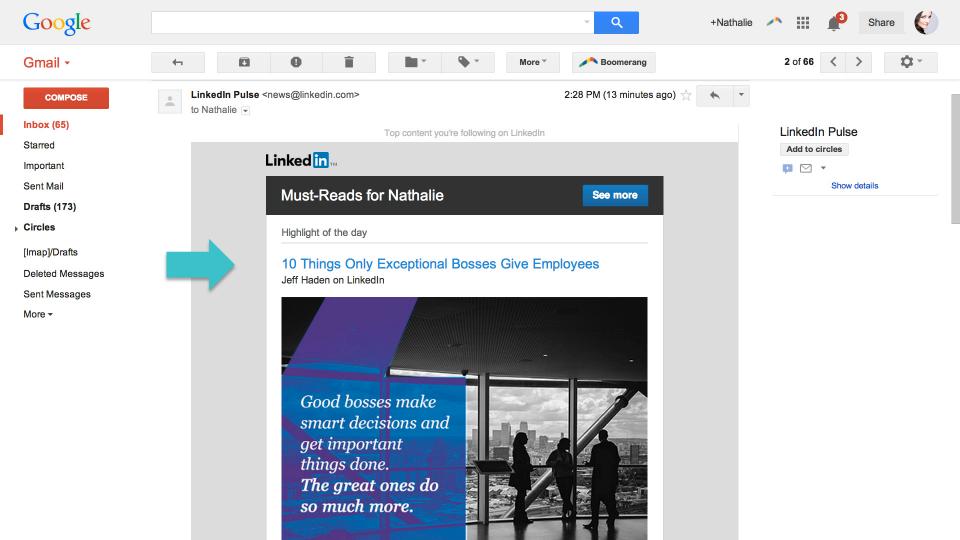


What are the tangible benefits my customers will get from this content?



WHICH IS WHY THIS WORKS...





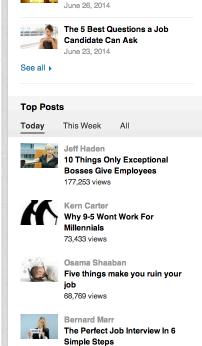




Good bosses have strong organizational skills. Good bosses have solid decision-making skills. Good bosses get important things done.

Exceptional bosses do all of the above -- and more. (And we remember them forever.)

Sure, they care about their company and customers, their vendors and suppliers. But
most importantly, they care to an exceptional degree about the people who work for



67,949 views

2

ENGAGING IMAGES

IMAGES SEDUCE

They're instant, data-rich, and visually compelling

YOUR IMAGES SHOULD

- 1 Elicit emotion
 - anger, fear, happiness, disgust, surprise, sadness

EMOTIONS



Where thought conflicts with emotion, the latter is designed by the neural circuitry in our brains to win



R. Carter (1999) Mapping the Mind. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.



 $\underline{\text{http://www.boredpanda.com/first-world-problems-twitter/}}$



http://www.boredpanda.com/first-world-problems-twitter/





http://global3.memecdn.com/one-does-not-simply_o_204186.jpg http://wackymania.com/image/2013/03/the-best-baby-memes-of-all-time/the-best-baby-memes-of-all-time-01.jpg

YOUR IMAGES SHOULD

- 1 Elicit emotion
 - anger, fear, happiness, disgust, surprise, sadness
- 2 Tell a story
 - contrast & concrete

× No more

This meeting between the Pope and a badly disfigured man will warm your heart.



Those amazing photos are the result of a meeting between Pope Francis and a man whose face has been badly disfigured by neurofibromatosis*, as part of the Pope's General Audience in St. Peter's Square. Hat-tip to Justin Green. See more photos like this here.

* Thanks to readers for pointing out it wasn't boils, which are caused by an infection.

Dylan Matthews | November 6 at 3:53 pm

⑤ Facebook

☑ Twitter



Cosa Nostra, 'More power than ever': http://www.cosanostracreative.com/48048/240987/advertising/more-power-than-ever



Mohawk for Standard Life - 'Potential, Delivered.'

YOUR IMAGES SHOULD

- 1 Elicit emotion
 - anger, fear, happiness, disgust, surprise, sadness
- 2 Tell a story
 - contrast & concrete
- 3 Create a curiosity gap
 - Gestalt desire to 'close the loop'





















LIFE

VIDEOS MORE





NEWS

















24 Things Londoners Can't Stop Talking About

There's nowhere else like London. Thankfully.

posted on June 26, 2014, at 6:12 p.m.



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1. The bizarre fact that there actually is a Zone 9.



Universal Studios / Via lisa-se.tumbir.com

Especially when they meet someone who is actually from Zone 9.

BUZZFEED IN-DEPTH



Meet DJ Vlad, Hip-Hop's Reigning Beef Maker

Connect with BuzzFeed UK









Everything You Need To Know About Glastonbury 2014

Now Buzzing



"Sexy Felon" Jeremy Meeks Just Got Offered A Modeling Contract

BuzzFeed VIDEO





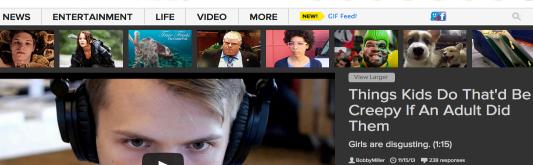
















0:00 / 1:15

BuzzFeed Video on YouTube



Things You Do Online That Would Be Creepy In Real Life

■ BobbyMiller ■ 633 responses



7 Of The Most Random Breast-Related Inventions Of All Time

L Caitlin Cowie 969 responses



O You TITE []

The Troubled Life Of A Tall Girl

🔀 Email

WTF LOL CUTE WIN FAIL



Simple College Snack Hacks You Should Know

tiffanylo 🐙 254 responses

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- Awesome Science
- Quizzes
- Animals
- BuzzFacts
- Greatest Hits

Animals



10 Surprising Facts About The **Hunger Games**

Laitlin Cowie 44 responses



Things You Can Do To Be Happier (According To Science) Abe Forman-Greenwald 🔎 0 responses



Facts That Will Make You Skip



Dog Breeds You Probably Don't Know Exist

Andrew Ilnyckyj 🐙 1 responses



Horrifying Facts About Your Hygiene



How Much Is Your Life Worth?

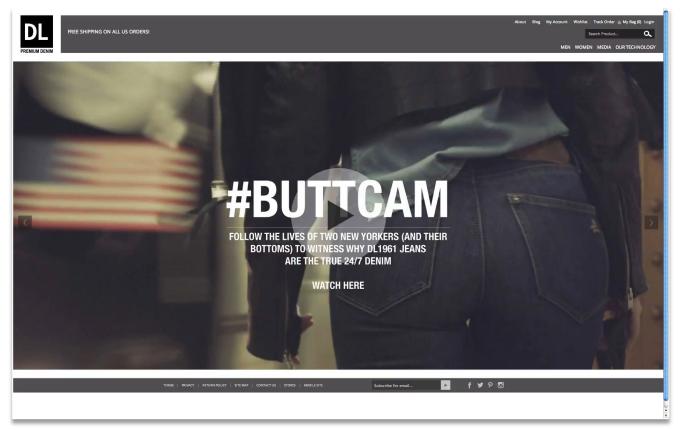
VIRAL VIDEOS

1 Use nostalgia



Internet Explorer - 'Child Of The 90s' (2013) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkM6RJf15cg

- 1 Use nostalgia
- 2 Mirror your audience



DL Jeans - '#BUTTCAM' (2014) http://www.dl1961.com/

- 1 Use nostalgia
- 2 Mirror your audience
- 3 Make it funny



Newcastle Brown Ale - 'If We Won' (2014) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1YvJBwC4xQ

- 1 Use nostalgia
- 2 Mirror your audience
- 3 Make it funny
- 4 Surprise them



Bathstore - 'Just a wee' (2014) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beROUHV5jPc

- 1 Use nostalgia
- 2 Mirror your audience
- 3 Make it funny
- 4 Surprise them
- 5 Move them



Samsung Life Insurance - 'The Bridge Of Life' (2013) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDsVOXTQAls

To create persuasive content you have to:

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1 Understand your audience(s)

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- 1 Understand your audience(s)
- 2 Engage them emotionally

To create persuasive content you have to:

- 1 Understand your audience(s)
- 2 Engage them emotionally
- 3 Use psychological triggers

REFERENCES

- 1 HBR (1st July 2014) http://blogs.hbr.org/2014/06/proven-ways-to-earn-your-employees-trust/
- 2 J. Hirsh, S. Kang and G. Bodenhausen (2012). Personalized Persuasion: Tailoring Persuasive Appeals to Recipients' Personality Traits. Psychological Science published online 30 April 2012.
- 3 Big 5 (IPIP-NEO) personal.psu.edu/i5i/IPIP/
- 4 Visual DNA visualdna.com/
- 5 MyPersonality mypersonality.org/
- 6 HBR (27th June 2014) http://blogs.hbr.org/2014/06/proven-ways-to-earn-your-employees-trust/
- 7 Optimizely (2014) https://www.optimizely.com/
- 8 Upworthy (21st November 2013) http://www.upworthy.com/the-dalai-lama-has-some-very-uplifting-and-wise-words-about-farting
- 9 LinkedIn (June 30th 2014) https://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20140630120036-20017018-10-things-only-exceptional-bosses-give-employees
- 10 Buzzfeed (June 26th 2014) http://www.buzzfeed.com/lukebailey/london-prices
- 11 First World Problems: http://www.boredpanda.com/first-world-problems-twitter/
- 12 http://alobal3.memecdn.com/one-does-not-simply_o_204186.ipa
- 13 http://wackymania.com/image/2013/03/the-best-baby-memes-of-all-time/the-best-baby-memes-of-all-time-01.jpg
- 14 Know More (Washington Post): http://knowmore.washingtonpost.com/
- 15 Cosa Nostra, 'More power than ever': http://www.cosanostracreative.com/48048/240987/advertisina/more-power-than-ever
- 16 Mohawk for Standard Life 'Potential, Delivered.'
- 17 Buzzfeed (26th June 2014) http://www.buzzfeed.com/lukebailey/london-prices
- 18 Buzzfeed (15th Nov 2013) http://www.buzzfeed.com/bobbymiller/things-kids-do-thatd-be-creepy-if-an-adult-did-them
- 19 Internet Explorer 'Child Of The 90s' (2013) https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=akM6RJf15ca
- 20 DL Jeans '#BUTTCAM' (2014) http://www.dl1961.com/
- 21 Newcastle Brown Ale 'If We Won' (2014) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1YvJBwC4xQ
- 22 Bathstore 'Just a wee' (2014) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beROUHV5iPc
- 23 Samsung Life Insurance 'The Bridge Of Life' (2013) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDsVOXTOAls

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THANK YOU! SESSION Q&A



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