North Texas PC NEWS

November, 1984

Vol 3 North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group No. 11

Special Interest Programs

Programmers 12 noon Room 106
Dr. Neil Bennett

The discussions begun with Larry Griffin of COM Systems during the main session, continued in the Programmers' meeting. Nearly half of the allotted time was spent in discussion of networking. Eventually, Neil called a halt to this topic in order to allow some time to our 'usual unstructured gossip session.' Topics in this second half included the Dynaframe expansion chassis and IBM's new graphics cards. The IBM graphics had been on display at the PC World Exposition, those who had seen it felt that it has been worth waiting for. Also discussed was the rumor that IBM is developing an 80186-based replacement for the original PC and the XT.

The November meeting should be in our standard, open topic, round table format.

Carrington Dixon

Beginners 9:00 am Room 105
John Hall

BASIC 9:00 am Room 107
Mike Durbin

Assembler 9:00 am Room 106
Charles shultz

Business 12 noon Room 105
Burke/Talbott/Fries

This month, Frank Roberts of Eclipse Computer Support will give a presentation entitled "Managing the Computer to Serve the Business". Frank was the Director of Data Processing at St. Regis in Tacoma, Washington, before moving to Texas. Eclipse Computer Support offers a wide variety of services from initial system definition to installation and technical support. A unique offering is Eclipse CustomWare (trademark), which provides custom software at a guaranteed price. Frank was nice enough to supply the following synopsis of the presentation.

> This presentation will be of value to inexperienced and seasoned computer users, to owners and managers of businesses of all sizes. It is intended to aid the business person who wants to focus the enormous potential of the computer on the objectives of the business without being overwhelmed by the complexity of the technology. Discussion will concentrate on the management and control of computers as a business resource, with particular emphasis on how the computer function, regardless of its size, should properly relate to the rest of the business.
>
> The relative importance of computers in every business is increasing dramatically. An experienced data processing manager will provide some insight into the problems that older, established businesses have commonly encountered in managing the growth of their data processing organizations, and the valuable lessons their experience holds for today's manager. This information will be particularly important for the business person anticipating a period of sustained growth in their data processing function.

There will be a general question and answer session from 12:00 until 12:30, with the main presentation from 12:30 until 1:30.

Ricky Burke

(For a complete listing of room assignments and meeting times, see page 4. Ed.)

A G E N D A for the main session was not determined at press time.

Next Meeting November 10, 1984

Jesuit College Preparatory School
12345 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas

(Schedule on page 4 - Map on page 9)

Room Assignments

Room #	9	10	11	Noon	1	2	3	4
AUD.			IBM Main Meeting		Apple MAC/LISA		Apple Main Meeting	
105	IBM Beginners		Apple Geneology		IBM Business Application			
106	IBM Ambly. Lan.		Apple Education		IBM Advanced Prog.			
107	IBM BASIC		Apple Education		Apple Pascal			
108	IBM C.A.I.		Apple Adv. Topics		IBM Engineering/Sci.			
109	Apple Beginners		Apple Business					
111	Apple BASIC		Apple Apple III		Apple Communications			
113	Apple CP/M		Apple 6502		Apple Graphics			
114	Apple Stock Market/In.		Apple Games		Apple Spreadsheets			
116			Apple Hardware		Apple Beginning Apple Corp.			

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SOFTWARE REPORT

by Dick Gall

RAYHAWK AUTOMATION CLUBWARE

CLUBware is a variation on the FREEWARE concept. Rayhawk calls it an enhancement. For $5.00, a user's group receives a license to distribute CLUBware program diskettes. Only a club is authorized to make unlimited copies. Individual users are invited to submit a donation ($5.00 suggested).

Software Diskette #1 from CLUBware contains a long list of performance-maximizing routines, including assembly-language source code and functional documentation. The included video I/O demo program shows nearly instantaneous screen writing. Our test of applying the resident video routine to a compiled basic program showed dramatic speed improvement (about 6x).

The first group of programs is called the WHIZZARD I/O subroutines, which are callable from basic. These speed up screen writing, clearing, and scrolling. The second group presents a rational approach to calling assembly routines in BASIC code. Other sections include installable, resident routines for accelerating PRINT statements in interpreted and compiled BASIC programs and a series of demonstrations, a DEBUGFIX to prevent interrupt collisions with the DEBUG 2.0 TRACE command, and a tab expansion and printer tab setting program. The documentation explains the techniques used in most programs.

Rayhawk Automation, N.W. Inc., P.O. Box 1427, Portland, Oregon 97075. Phone (503) 626-3131.

POWER WORKSHEETS FOR 1-2-3

Wildfire Technology Inc. provides the first half of Volume 1 of their 1-2-3 worksheets as an evaluation and demonstration disk. The demo includes six worksheets and a 70-page documentation file. The worksheets provide basic statistical analysis and grapic comparisons, depreciation ACRS calculations, net present value, profitability and breakeven analysis, rate of return of a cash flow using 3 different methods, and a simple linear regression routine.

The remainder of volume 1, six additional worksheets, costs $49 and includes user registration and qualification for ongoing support.

Wildfire's address is 712 Kearns Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.

FREECOPY UTILITY from SQUIRE BURESCH

FREECOPY is a disk utility that performs essentially the same functions as the PC-DOS diskcopy program. The main value of this version is that the assembly language source code is provided. The approximately 35 pages of liberally-commented source code are a bonanza of information for budding assembly programmers.

Users may distribute copies of FREECOPY under terms of the stated license, and are asked to contribute $25.00 if the program is found helpful. Squire says, "I am releasing this software into the public domain because I believe the time has come for users to see and criticize professional quality source code."

Provided by Donald L. Buresh, C.D.P., Squire Buresh Associates Inc., Box 112, Millbury, MA 01527, phone (617) 865-3435.

Dick

Crystal Ball

(The following speculations about AT&T's next entry into the PC arena are taken from an article by Rick Alber in the October 1984 issue of ***Blue Notes****, the newsletter of the San Francisco PC Users Group. Ed.)*

[] [] []

Moving on, let's talk about IBM's potential nemesis, AT&T. My spies have laid eyes on the two new machines Convergent Technologies is busy building for Ma Bell.

Each is a highly-styled white computer/phone with extremely small footprint not much bigger than the keyboard (better for squeezing onto the busy executive's desktop or credenza). Displays are green phosphor in either 9" or 12" size and look to be moderately high-res. The larger of the two machines will have a touch screen.

The keyboard is fancier than that of Hewlett Packard's portable and it slides under the cabinet's front ledge ala Lisa. A slick-styled phone handset is hung on the side of the cabinet with its own 12-key pad (why not on the keyboard? one asks).

The smaller of the two machines has a built-in floppy drive (size unknown); the larger has a floppy plus a hard disk. What's inside you ask? Well, how about a Motorola MC68000 CPU and Unix-like operating system that allows you to cluster these little goodies together using ordinary phone lines. That's right, you already have the hardware in place to put together your own little computer network in your home or office. Hmmmm.

Price is under $2000 for the little job, about $3000 for the bigger one. The machines will be announced in October. Delivery date is not known to my spies.

[] [] []

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All material for publication in PC NEWS (articles and ads) must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the fourth Friday of the month prior to publication.
Articles:
Column width is 56 characters. Article submission is preferred by modem or disk (ASCII format). Double-spaced, typewritten written copy is acceptable.

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group

A non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM Corporation. The Group meets on the second Saturday of each month. See page 1 for meeting time and place.

Officials:		
President	Chris Morgan	(214)739-5895
President Elect	open	
Program Chairman	Charles Kroboth	(214)739-5895
Treasurer	Bill Hood	(214)739-5895
Secretary	Charles Kroboth	(214)739-5895
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	& Ricky Burke	(214)276-5003
	& Ed Fries	(214)783-8543
Disk of the Month	Doug Windham	(214)278-5321
Programmers	Dr. Neil Bennett	(214)238-7650
Assembler	Charles Shultz	(817)566-3919
Telephone (during business hours)		(214)361-0304
Bulletin Board SYSOP: Mark Collard		(214)223-0983
(24 hrs, download & upload, messages, 300/1200)		

Dues: Regular Membership - $24.00 year
Student membership - $12.00 year
Dues are payable for full-year increments only. PCN mailing label shows your membership expiration date. Renewal must be received at least six weeks before that date for uninterrupted mailing of PC NEWS. Mail payment to: Treasurer, NT IBM PC UG,
10400 N. Central Expwy #210
Dallas, TX 75231

Time, Gentlemen, Please

About this time last year, one of our members suggested that it would be interesting to collect newsletters from around the country and make them available to the NTPCUG members. I volunteered for this effort because I thought the information in these newsletters could be at least as valuable as what is contained in ours. I wasn't wrong. The newsletter collection began filling my mailbox each month with valuable tidbits, some have been reprinted in our own newsletter. I have been binding each months collection, and offering back issues for checkout to our membership. The demand for recent issues has always exceeded supply.

However, there is a problem. This information ages very rapidly, i.e. not too many people are interested in newsletter volumes over 6 months old. To minimize this problem, I have always requested that the newsletter collection be returned for recirculation at the next meeting. If you fail to do this, and keep the volume for two months, please realize that this is a large part of the useful life of the volume. Last month was the worst case example when eight volumes were checked out, and only three came back for recirculation. I had very little supply and a lot of demand.

Of course, there are other ways of distributing the information to the membership. We could make them available only during club meetings. We could find a public library or some sort of facility that would let you come in and read them. The problem with each of these is they do not give you time to read them whenever and wherever you wish. Therefore, I would like to continue distributing these at each club meeting provided you will return them at the next meeting for re-circulation to other members.

Tom Prickett

(If you cannot return the volume at the next meeting, please have someone else bring it in for you. If that's impractical, return it by mail before the meeting to Tom at 122 Spanish Village Ctr. #603, Dallas, TX 75248. The postage you pay will be small compensation for all the great nuggets of information you'll get out of the newsletters. Ed.)

Check the mailing label on this issue of PC NEWS.

The label shows the date for renewal of your membership. No special renewal notice will be sent out. If your label shows 8412, mail a $24 check to the Group Treasurer. The address is shown elsewhere on this page. Renew NOW!

DISK OF THE MONTH

by Doug Windham

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

I got a copy (as I'am sure many of you did) of an order form from PD Software, of Sugarland, Texas. I do not know anything but what I read on the sheet distributed at the October meeting. I did notice that the price at first glance seemed low. But after reading the order form closely, it seemed many programs were sold one program per diskette (FREECALC,NEWKEY,etc.). I try to get as many programs as possible on each diskette. BE CAREFUL.

November 1984 (Double sided)

Games, games, games, and more games. Over 20 games on this diskette. Some of the games are:

ARCHIE	FALKEN	DADCARD	SMASHOUT	SATELITE
TELLTIME	TEACHKID	FOOTBALL	GOLF	SURVIVAL
FIREFIRE	DOMINOES	KANGAROO	METRIC	SYNONYM
WORDPUZL	DRIVER	RACECAR	SEAWOLF	XWING

PD0018 (Double sided)

U-ZAP	EXE	This diskette is packed full of the Ultra-Utilities. These programs are the public domain version of the Norton Utilities.
U-FILE	EXE	
U-FORMAT	EXE	
U-MIND	DQC	
U-OPT	EQE	
U-OPT	DQC	

PD0019 (Double sided)

FEDTAX84	WKS	LOTUS 1-2-3 spreadsheet for 1984 federal income tax preparation.
STOKTRAK	BAS	Stock tracking system written in BASIC
TREND123	WKS	LOTUS 1-2-3 trend analysis with documentation.

PD0020 (Double sided)

ASCII	WKS	UTILITY 1-2-3 (for use with LOTUS) has macros for entering ASCII characters in worksheets, printer control characters, and PRO-KEY macros for use with LOTUS.
LOTUS	PRO	
MACROTUT	WKS	
PRINTER	WKS	
PRINTTUT	WKS	
PROKYTUT	WKS	

EX0009 (Double sided)

This is the IBM EXCHANGE diskette #9, dated October, 1984. This double-sided diskette has -

From the Editor's Desk
1. Editorial

Views and Reviews
2. PC Training : Private Tutor
3. LOGO -- Just For Fun
4. TopView: Windows and Multitasking
5. Colorpaint Review

Tips and Techniques
6. Selectively Disabling Cntrl-Break
7. Helpful DOS Utilities
8. Diagnosing Memory Problems

Focus on Software
9. CHKDSK - Checking up on DOS

Bytes From Boca Raton
10. PCjr Hotline Available
11. Software Support Center

Computing Theory
12. Artificial Intelligence
13. Data Compression Techniques
14. Computer Ciphering

New Product Announcements
15. Additional Announcement Exchange
16. Electric Poet
17. Comma Cat
18. Dictionary Dog
19. PC Writer Version 1.0 Upgrade Kit
20. Interactive System Productivity
21. EZ-VU Development Facility
22. Interactive Executive Information

EX0010 (Double sided)

This is the IBM EXCHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT diskette #10, dated October, 1984. This diskette has announcements of the following:

From the Editor's Desk
1. Editorial

IBM PC Engineering/Scientific Series
2. Introduction
3. IBM PC Professional Graphics Controller
4. IBM PC Professional Display
5. IBM PC Graphical File System
6. IBM PC Graphical Kernel System
7. IBM PC Plotting System
8. IBM PC Graphics Terminal Emulator
9. IBM PC Professional Fortran
10. Data Acquisition and Control Adapter
11. Data Acquisition Distributor Panel
12. Data Acquisition Programming Support
13. General Purpose Interface Bus Adapter
14. GPIB Adapter Programming Support
15. Graphics Development ToolKit
16. 256KB Short Memory Expansion Option
17. IBM PC Enhanced Graphics Adapter
18. IBM 5154 PC Enhanced Color Display

IBM Business Management Series
Fifteen new programs

IBM Personal Decision Series
Ten new programs

All members of the club are encouraged to contribute copies of public domain programs to the club library. For each new diskette of software contributed, you may select any diskette in the club library in exchange.

(Disk ordering details are on page 6.) ►

DISK OF THE MONTH (continued)

DISK DETAILS

Price: $6.00 ($5.65 + .35 sales tax) Catalogs: $2.00

Available at the meeting, in the cafeteria at the specially marked table, before and after the general meetings. Media: DSDD 5 1/4" diskettes formatted without DOS (320k). Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers. Call disk of the month chairman Doug Windham at 278-5321 any time (have answering machine) to contribute new programs for future Disk of the Month issues. All back issues are be available at the meeting and by mail order (see note above).

MAIL ORDERS

As long as the members use it, I will fill mail orders on the following basis. All orders must have payment enclosed and addressed to: Doug Windham, DOM Chairman, PO Box 475205, Garland, Tx, 75047. Postage and handling must be enclosed per the following: $ .50 per diskette ordered with a $2.00 MINIMUM charge, and $1.00 postage for each catalog.

(An order blank showing all available disks will be included in next month's PC NEWS. Ed.)

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

(The following article is a reprint from the Oct. 1984 edition of the Capitol PC Monitor. Ed.)

PC-Write

by Kay Keating

Today as I worked my way through a WordStar document, I began to think something was wrong with my computer. The cursor was acting arthritic.

It was a few minutes before I realized my only problem was that I had become accustomed to working with a peppy word processor called PC-Write and had not worked with WordStar in several months. The contrast is striking. PC-Write has joined the public domain ranks of quality shareware programs such as PC Talk and PC File for the IBM PC. As many software publishers worry and stew about ways to discourage copying of their products by users, a small group of authors is developing the shareware concept of encouraging the computing public to copy and distribute their software programs, and only pay for the program after the user is satisfied the program is worthwhile and useful for them.

I was a satisfied WordStar owner with no desire to learn another word processor, until I needed a word processor to use as a demonstrator. I also wanted one I could give away. As a member of Rick Schinnell's Software Library committee, I had a copy of PC-Write in my CPCUG software library box, and decided to give it a try. After printing out the disk documentation, I fired up PC-Write. With almost two years of using WordStar behind me, my fingers, eyes, and brain are conditioned to using the Control + Letters to move the cursor around the screen. With just a few lines typed on the PC-Write screen, I found myself inadvertently using WordStar's cursor movement keys. Amazingly, they worked; I felt right at home. The PC-Write documentation makes no mention of the Control + Letter system except in the appendix. In the appendix, you learn that you can customize the keyboard to match any other word processor, and that the default system is based on MicroPro's WordStar. PC-Write officially uses the IBM PC arrow keys plus the shift and control keys for cursor movement around the screen.

As I explored PC-Write, I found other similarities to WordStar. For instance, the PC-Write printer program uses dot commands reminiscent of WordStar's. You work on a full screen with only one line at the top used by the program for a status line. PC-Write makes use of all the IBM PC function keys, both unshifted and shifted. F1 brings up a full screen summary menu with eight additional help menus quickly accessible from the summary menu. The full screen of help has been called bewildering, but it only takes a short time to become acquainted with it. I found printing out the nine help menus with shift/print-screen a useful way to get up to speed with the program.

The speed with which PC-Write operates is startling compared to WordStar. The program and data run in memory with no pauses, blinking red lights or grinding drives. The screen changes so fast that if you blink you can miss the action and think nothing has happened.

PC-Write has many features that WordStar lacks. The first one I tried was "split/windows." Never having used a split screen, I didn't know what I was missing. It's fantastic. With the cursor anywhere on the screen, you tap F2 and a ruler line divides the screen horizontally. If you move the cursor into the lower section of the screen, the upper section is frozen, or the lower section is frozen if the cursor is in the upper section allowing you to browse or edit different sections of the same file. While the cursor is in one window, if you hit F1 then F6, PC-Write asks you for the name of a file; you can call in another file to run in that window so that you are editing two files at the same time. On an RGB monitor, I can play with on-screen visual effects by editing the "ruler.def" file and creating a multi-color screen for ten different screen attributes: border, background, text, cursor, messages, marked text, help text, help keys, status, off-screen text indicator.

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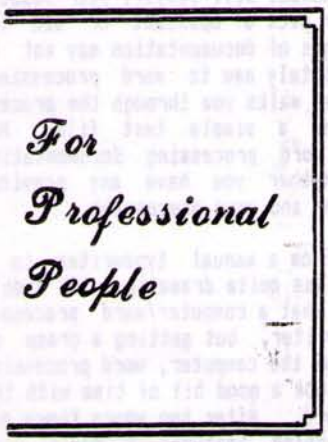

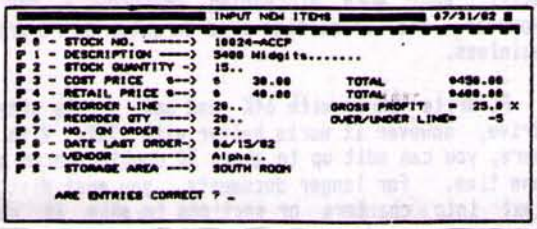

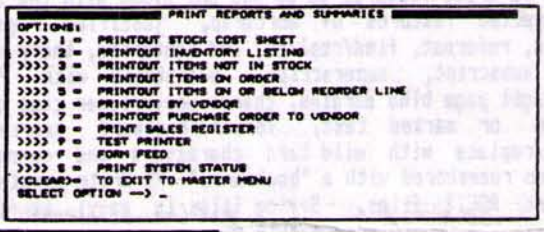

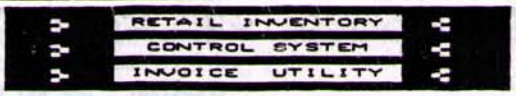

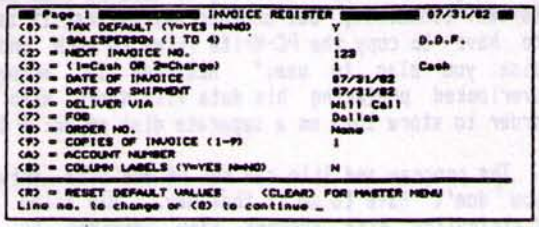

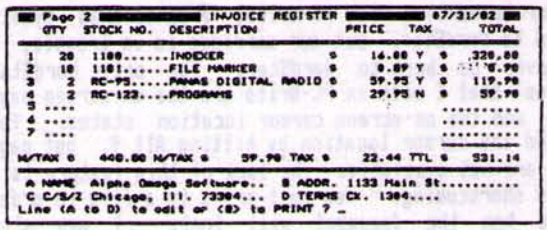

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS:

For IBM & MS-DOS compatable computers.
Requires 128K memory.
Requires 80 column printer.
For monochrome or color monitors.
Uses text mode-No graphics card needed.
Requires 2 disk drives or hard disk.

FIELD SIZES:

Stock no.s	12 characters
Description	19 characters
Quantities	99,999
Stock items	$999,999.99
Recap totals	$99,999,999.99

INVOICING FEATURES:

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NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

I have unsuccessfully spent many hours trying to get WordStar to use the proportional spacing feature for my NEC printer. With a PC-Write dot command (.R:V) in the ruler file or in the data file and the proper NEC PS thimble, PC-Write proportionally prints a nice document. Headers and footers can each have up to six lines. Although footnotes are not automatic, they are possible by inserting the footnote as a separate paragraph below the paragraph with the footnote reference, then printing the file to an output file for proper page placement and editing.

The last deletion can be restored. Two methods allow you to assign a series of keystrokes to one key. A "sticky shift" permits one finger typing. The cursor can travel forward or backwards on character, word, line, sentence, paragraph, or page at a time and the beginning or end of the file. Although it won't jump to a specific page number, it can jump to a specified line number. When moving the cursor up or down on the page, the cursor stays in the same column.

The PC-Write features go on and on: along with the to be expected features of wordwrap, justified right margins, reformat, find/replace, and centering, there is also subscript, superscript, overstrike with /, left/right page bind margins, change upper/lower case of letters or marked text, forward/backward search, search/replace with wild card characters and cursor position remembered with a "bookmark." PC-Write creates standard ASCII files. Saving files is easy; it is unlikely you could lose a file except during a power failure or by turning your computer off without properly exiting the program.

Prior to working with PC-Write, I considered myself married to WordStar, but our marriage is in trouble, I may never go back to WordStar. The only WordStar features that I miss in PC-Write are the on-screen page breaks and the on-screen cursor location status. You can find the cursor location by hitting Alt 9, but page breaks are not available. The lack of this feature is a serious shortcoming. You must print to a file in order to see how the document will look. I was also disappointed to find that my automatic screen program (Colblnk.com) doesn't work with PC-Write.

I found the documentation adequate and the index complete, but two other CPCUG members told me they think it is too brief. Writing in PC Products (Aug. '84), Dan L. Swearingen said, "The documentation is thorough, almost too thorough. If you like detailed explanations about everything, this manual will satisfy your needs." So, you can take your pick of opinions or see for yourself. The 105 pages of documentation may not be enough for anyone completely new to word processing. But an eight page tutorial walks you through the process of creating and editing a simple text file. How difficult you find any word processing documentation probably depends on whether you have any previous experience with a computer and word processing.

My own transition from a manual typewriter to a computer/word processor was quite dramatic. It didn't take long to appreciate that a computer/word processor is not just a fancy typewriter, but getting a grasp on the jargon and features of the computer, word processing and WordStar altogether took a good bit of time with the manuals and at the keyboard. After two years there are still many word processing features I don't use. However, the transition from WordStar to PC-Write was painless.

PC-Write works with 64K and one single sided disk drive, however it works better with 128K. With 128K or more, you can edit up to about 30 double spaced pages at one time. For longer documents, you must divide your text into chapters or sections to make it workable. Jack McGarvey writing in PC Magazine (Sept '84) said, "It is noteworthy that this program uses only one disk drive, which contains the program and the data you are creating. One way of looking at this is that each disk is self-contained, but another way is that it is a pain to have to copy the PC-Write files to each and every disk you plan to use." McGarvey is wrong. He overlooked prefacing his data file names with B: in order to store them on a separate disk on drive B.

The program and file can run on one disk drive, but you don't have to do it that way. Six files on the distribution disk support many versions of Diablo, Epson, Prowrite, Nec, Tally, and the Okidata printers. ►

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