A Framework for Wireless LAN Monitoring and Its Applications

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Abstract

Passive monitoring utilizing distributed wireless sniffers is an effective technique to observe activities in wireless infrastructure networks for fault identification, resource management and important path analysis. In this paper, we have a tendency to introduce a high quality of monitoring (QoM) metric outlined by the expected range of active users monitored, and investigate the problem of increasing QoM by judiciously assigning sniffers to channels based on the knowledge of user activities during a multi-channel wireless network. Two kinds of capture models area unit thought of. The user-centric model assumes frame-level capturing capability of persons specified the activities of various users is distinguished whereas the sniffer-centric model solely utilizes the binary channel information (active or not) at a sniffer. For the user-centric model, we have a tendency to show that the implicit improvement problem is NP-hard, but a constant approximation quantitative relation is earned via polynomial complexity algorithms. For the sniffer-centric model, we have a tendency to devise random logical thinking schemes to transform the problem into the user-centric domain, wherever we have a tendency to area unit ready to apply our polynomial approximation algorithms. The effectiveness of our proposed schemes associate degreed algorithms is any evaluated victimization both artificial information likewise as real-world traces from an operational LAN.

Index

Wireless network, Mobile computing, Approximation formula, Binary freelance part analysis.

1 INTRODUCTION

Deployment and management of wireless infrastructure networks (WiFi, WiMax, wireless mesh networks) area unit often hampered by the poor visibility of PHY and mackintosh characteristics, and complicated interactions at varied layers of the protocol stacks each within a managed network and across multiple body domains. In addition, today's wireless usage spans a diverse set of QoS needs from best-effort information services, to VOIP and streaming applications. The task of managing the wireless infrastructure is made harder owing to the additional constraints posed by QoS sensitive services. observance the detailed characteristics of associate degree operational wireless network is essential to many system body tasks together with, fault diagnosis, resource management, and demanding path analysis for infrastructure upgrades. Passive observance is a technique wherever a fanatical set of hardware devices known as sniffers, or monitors, area unit wont to monitor activities in wireless networks. These devices capture transmissions of wireless devices or activities of interference sources in their neck of the woods and store the information in trace files, which may be analyzed distributively or at a central location. Wireless observance [1], [2], [3], [4], [5] has been shown to enrich wire side observance mistreatment SNMP and basestation logs since it reveals detailed PHY (e.g., signal strength, spectrum density) and mackintosh behaviors (e.g, collision, retransmissions), also as temporal order information (e.g., backoff time), that area unit usually essential for wireless diagnosis. The architecture of a canonical observance system consists of three components:

- 1) Person hardware,
- 2) Person coordination and information assortment,
- 3) Data processing and mining.

Depending on the sort of networks being monitored and hardware capability, sniffers could have access to different levels of information. as an example, spectrum analyzers can offer detailed time- and frequency domain information. However, owing to the limit of bandwidth or lack of hardware/software support, it may not be ready to rewrite the captured signal to get frame level information on the fly. Commercial-off-the-shelf network interfaces like wireless fidelity cards on the other hand, can only offer frame level information1. The volume of raw traces in each cases tends to be quite giant. for instance, in the study of the UH field WiFi, 4 million mackintosh frames have been collected per person per channel over associate degree 80-minute period leading to a total of 8 million distinct frames from four sniffers. Furthermore, owing to the propagation characteristics of wireless signals; a single person can only observe activities within its neck of the woods. Observations of sniffers within shut proximity over an equivalent waveband tend to be highly correlative. Therefore, 2 pertinent problems need to be addressed in the design of passive observance systems:

- \checkmark what to monitor,
- \checkmark The way to coordinate the sniffers to maximize the quantity of captured information.

This paper assumes a generic architecture of passive observance systems for wireless infrastructure networks, which operate over a group of contiguous or noncontiguous channels or bands2. to handle the first question, we take into account 2 classes of capturing models differed by their information capturing capability. The first category, known

as the user-centric model, assumes availableness of frame-level information such activities of different users will be distinguished. The second category is that the sniffer-centric model that only assumes binary information concerning channel activities, i.e., whether or not some user is active in a specific channel near a person. Clearly, the latter imposes minimum hardware needs, and incurs minimum price for transferring and storing traces. In some cases, owing to hardware constraints (e.g., in wide-band psychological feature radio networks) or security/privacy issues, decoding of frames to extract user level information is impracticable and so only binary person information may be offered for police work purpose. we further characterize on paper the relationship between the two models.

Ideally, a network administrator would need to perform network observance on all channels at the same time. However, multiradio sniffers area unit acknowledged to be giant and costly to deploy [6]. we thus assume sniffers in our system area unit inexpensive devices which may only observe one single wireless channel at a time. To maximize the quantity of captured information, we introduce a quality-of-monitoring (QoM) metric outlined as the total expected variety of active users detected, wherever a user is claimed to be active at time t, if it transmits over one among the wireless channels. the fundamental drawback underlying all of our models will be forged as finding associate degree assignment of sniffers to channels so on maximize the QoM. QoM is a vital metric that quantifies the efficiency of observance solutions to systems wherever it's important to capture as comprehensive information as possible (e.g.: intrusion/anomaly detection [7], [8] and diagnosis systems [9], [10]).

We note that the problem of person assignment, in a shot to maximize the QoM metric, is further difficult by the dynamics of real-life systems such as: 1) the user population changes over time (churn), 2) activities of a single user is dynamic, and 3) property between users and sniffers could vary owing to changes in channel conditions or quality. These practical issues reveal the fundamental intertwining of "learning", where the usage pattern of wireless resources is to be calculable on-line based on captured information, and "decision making", wherever person assignments area unit created based on offered data of the usage pattern. In fact, in our earlier work [11], we prove that during learning, every instance of the decision making is love finding associate degree instance of the person assignment drawback with the parameters properly chosen. Thus, effective and economical algorithms for the person assignment drawback are essential. During this paper, we target coming up with algorithms that aim at increasing the QoM metric with completely different granularities of a priori data. The usage patterns are assumed to be stationary during the decision period.

2. Our involvement:

In this paper, we create the subsequent contributions toward the planning of passive monitoring systems for multi-channel wireless infrastructure networks we offer a proper model for evaluating the quality of monitoring. we study two categories of monitoring models that take issue in the info capturing capability of passive monitoring systems. for each of these models we offer algorithms and ways that optimize the quality of monitoring. we unravel interactions between monitoring models by making two ways to convert the sniffer-centric model to the user-centric domain by exploiting the random properties of underlying user processes. More specifically, we show that in both the user- and sniffercentric models thought of, a pure strategy where a somebody is assigned to one channel suffices so as to maximise the QoM. in the user-centric model, we show that our downside can be developed as a covering

downside. The problem is evidenced to be NPhard, and constant-approximation polynomial algorithms are provided. With the sniffercentric model, we show that although the sole info retrieved by the sniffers is binary (in terms of channel activity), the "structure" of the underlying processes is retained and can be recovered. two different approaches are proposed that utilize the notion of freelance part Analysis (ICA) [12] and allow mapping the somebody assignment downside to the user-centric model. the primary approach, quantized Linear ICA (QLICA), estimates the hidden structure by applying a division method on the result of the normal ICA, whereas the second approach, Binary ICA (BICA) [13], decomposes the observation data into OR mixtures of hidden parts and recovers the underlying structure. Finally, an in depth evaluation study is dispensed exploitation both artificial data further as real-world traces from an operational wireless local area network. The paper is organized as follows. an summary of connected work is provided in Section two. In Section three, we formally introduce the QoM metric and the user-centric and sniffercentric models for a passive monitoring system. The NP-hardness and polynomial-time algorithms for the most effort coverage downside that underlies two variants of the user-centric model are mentioned in Section four. the connection between the user-centric and sniffer-centric models is established in Section 5, where we also describe two schemes for finding the QoM downside underneath the sniffer-centric model. we present the results of the evaluation study exploitation both artificial and real traces in Section 6. we discuss issues concerning practical system implementation in Section [7] and eventually conclude the paper in Section [8].

3. Associated Works

In this section, we offer an outline of connected work relating wireless network watching, and binary independent part analysis. Wireless watching: There has been abundant work done on wireless monitoring from a system-level approach, in an endeavour to style complete systems, and address the interactions among the elements of such systems. The add [14], [15] uses AP, SNMP logs, and wired facet traces to investigate local area network traffic characteristics. Passive watching mistreatment multiple sniffers was initial introduced by Yeo et al. in [1], [2], wherever the authors articulate the benefits and challenges posed by passive measuring techniques, and discuss a system for activity wireless watching with the assistance of multiple sniffers, that is predicated on synchronization and merging of the traces via broadcast beacon messages. The results obtained for these systems square measure principally experimental. Rod rig et al. in [3] used sniffers to capture wireless information, associated analyze the performance characteristics of an 802.11WiFi network. One key contribution was the introduction of a finite state machine to infer missing frames. The Jigsaw system that was projected in [4] focuses on massive scale watching mistreatment over one hundred fifty sniffers.

A number of recent works targeted on the identification of wireless networks to see causes of errors. In [16], Chandra et al. projected WiFi Profiler, a diagnostic tool that utilizes exchange of knowledge among wireless hosts about their network settings, and therefore the health of network property. Such shared info permits abstract thought of the basis causes of property issues. Building on their watching infrastructure, Jigsaw, Cheng et al. [17] developed a collection of techniques for automatic characterization of outages and repair degradation. They showed however sources of delay at multiple layers (physical through transport) is reconstructed by employing a combination of measurements, abstract thought and modeling. Qiuet al. in [18] projected a simulation based mostly approach to determine sources of faults in wireless mesh networks caused by packet dropping, link congestion, external noise, and mackintosh actus reus.

All the afore-mentioned work focuses on building watching infrastructure, and developing identification techniques for wireless networks. The question of optimally allocating watching resources to maximise captured information remains mostly untouched. In [19], Shin and Bagchi contemplate the choice of watching nodes and their associated channels for watching wireless mesh networks. The best watching is developed as most coverage downside with cluster budget constraints (denoted MC-GBC), that was antecedently studied by Chekuri and Kumar in [20]. The user-centric model ends up in a haul formulation that's kind of like (albeit completely different from) the one addressed in [19]. On one hand, we tend to assume all sniffers could also be used for watching (hence parting with our downside being akin to the classical maximum-coverage downside, whereas on the opposite hand we tend to target the weighted version of the problem, wherever components to be coated have weights. One ought to note that every one the lower bounds mentioned in [20], [19] don't apply to our downside.

Binary freelance part analysis: Binary ICA may be a special variant of the standard ICA, wherever linear mixing of continuous signals is assumed. In binary ICA, Boolean intermixture (e.g., OR, XOR etc.) of binary signals is thought of. Existing solutions to binary ICA chiefly disagree in their assumptions of previous distribution of the mixing matrix, noise model, and/or hidden causes. In [21], Yeredor considers binary ICA in XOR mixtures and investigates the identifiability downside. A deflation algorithmic rule is projected for supply separation supported entropy minimization. In [21] the quantity of freelance random sources K is assumed to be famous. what is more, the mixing matrix may be a K-by-K invertible matrix.

In [22], associate infinite range of hidden causes following an equivalent binomial distribution is assumed. Reversible jump Markov process Monte Carlo and chemist sampler techniques square measure applied. In distinction, in our model, the hidden causes might follow completely different distributions. Streith et al. [23] study the matter of multi-assignment agglomeration for Boolean information, wherever associate object is diagrammatic by a Boolean attribute vector. The key assumption created in this work is that components of the observation matrix square measure not absolutely freelance given the model parameters. This greatly reduces the machine complexness and makes the theme amenable to gradient descent optimisation solution; but, the belief is normally invalid. In [24], the matter of factorisation and denoising of binary information thanks to freelance continuous sources is taken into account. The sources square measure assumed to be following a beta distribution and not binary. Finally, [22] considers the under-represented case of less sensors than sources with continuous noise, while [24], [23] upset the over-determined case, wherever the quantity of sensors is far larger than the quantity of sources.

4. Drawback Formulations

4.1 Notation and network model

Consider a system of *m* sniffers, and *n* users, where every user *u* operates in one in every of *K* channels, c(u) a pair of $K = \{1,...,K\}$. The users can be wireless (mesh) routers, access points or mobile users. At any purpose in time, a individual can solely monitor packet transmissions over one channel. We assume the propagation characteristics of all channels square measure similar. We represent the link between users associated sniffers exploitation an planless bi-partite *graph G = (S,U,E),* where S is that the set of individual nodes and U is that the set of users. Note that G represents a general relationship between the users and sniffers, and no propagation or

coverage model is assumed. a footing *e = (s; u)* a pair of *E* exists between individual s a pair of S and user u a pair of U if s can capture the transmission from u, or equivalently, u is at intervals the monitoring range of s. If transmissions from a user can't be captured by any individual, the user is excluded from G. for every vertex v a pair of U/S , we let $N(v)$ denote vertex v's neighbors in G. For users, their neighbors square measure sniffers, and contrariwise. we will additionally talk over with G because the binary m n contiguousness matrix of graph G. We will take into account individual assignments of sniffers to channels, $a : S \rightarrow K$. Given a individual assignment a, we consider a partitioning of the set of sniffers $S = U_{k=1}^{K} S_k$, where S_k is that the set of sniffers assigned to channel k. We further take into account the corresponding partition of the set of users $U =$ $U_{k=1}^{K}$ kingdom, where kingdom is that the set of users operative in channel *k*. Let G_k = $(S_k; U_k; E_k)$ denote the bipartite subgraph of G induced by channel $_k$. Given any individual s, we let $N_k(s) = N(s) \cap U_k$, i.e., the set of neighboring users of s that use channel *k*. A monitoring strategy determines the channel(s) a individual monitors. It can be a pure strategy, i.e., the channel a individual is assigned to is fastened, or a mixed strategy where sniffers select their assigned channel in every slot per a precise distribution. Formally, let *A* = ${a|a: S \rightarrow K}$ be the set of all possible assignments. Let pi : $A \rightarrow [0; 1]$ be a chance distribution over the set of individual assignments. we talk over with such a distribution as a mixed strategy. A pure strategy that selects one channel per individual may be a special case of mixed strategies, namely, $pi(a) = 1$. It follows that the pure strategy is usually suboptimal examination to the mixed strategy. However, as shown in the next section, the best resolution can be obtained exploitation simply a pure strategy. In this paper we take into account the problem of finding the monitoring strategy that maximizes QoM, defined as the expected variety of users detected given the individual assignments. the most notations employed in this paper square measure summarized in Table.

In this section, 2 classes of constant models square measure projected to explain the observability of usage patterns. We assume time is separated into slots, wherever every slot represents a set period of your time. A user is active if there exists a transmission event from the user throughout the slot time. With in the experiments, slot time is chosen to be on constant order of most packet coordinated universal time. what is more, we tend to assume all channel and users' statistics stay stationary for the observation amount of T time slots. User-centric model: 1st, we tend to contemplate transmission events within the network from the user's viewpoint. we tend to assume that G is thought by inspecting the packet header information from every sniffer's captured traces.

In the user-centric model, the transmission chances of the users $P = {Pu/u \in U}$ square measure well-known and assumed to be freelance three. Chemical element denotes the transmission likelihood of user *u*. chemical element and G may be calculable by golf stroke all sniffers within the same channel and iterating through all doable channels for sufficiently lasting. Each user process could also be IID or non-IID over time. Contemplate a wireless network with a pair of sniffers users on channels. User u_1 and u_2 square measure active on channels one and a pair of, severally. Transmission chances of users square measure $p_1 = 0:2$ and $p_2 = 0:5$. User centrical model assumes G and $p = {p_1p_2}$ square measure accessible. Note that the utmost worth of QoM within the higher than network is zero.7 earned once s_1 and s_2 square measure appointed to channels one and a pair of, severally. Sniffercentric model: The user-centric model needs elaborated information of every user's activities. This necessitates frame-level capturing capability by the passive monitoring system. in the sniffer-centric model, only binary data (on or off) of the channel activity at each person is observed. We denote by x_k the binary vector of observations when all sniffers treat channel k and by x_k the gathering of T realizations of x_k . We assume that sniffers observations on different channels area unit independent. However, dependency exists among observations of sniffers operating in the same channel (as a result of transmissions created by identical set of users). Given Associate in Nursing assignment a, a complete characterization of the sniffers' observations is given by the joint probability distribution P*^a* (x_k) , $k = 1,..., K$. Here, $P_a(x_k)$ is implicitly hooked in to the assignment a specified if person *i* isn't assigned to the k'th channel, its binary observation $x_k(i)$ is usually zero. By independence of various channels we have $P_a(x) = \prod_{k=1}^{K} P_a(x_k)$. Consider once more the network in Figure. Over T time slots, we have two observation matrices X_1 and X_2 at identical dimension (2 X T) cherish the activities on two channels. the primary and second line in each matrix contain observations from sniffers s_1 and s_2 ,

respectively. Sniffer-centric model assumes only the availability of X_1 and X_2 , while G and p area unit unknown. Clearly, the sniffercentric model isn't as communicatory as the user-centric model. However, it has the advantage of being primarily based on aggregative statistics, that area unit possible to remain stationary in the presence of moderate user-level dynamics, such as change of integrity and going the networks, or changes in transmission activities (e.g., busy or thinking time). Furthermore, getting such binary data is a smaller amount pricey in both hardware needs and communication/ storage complexness.

Figure: Architecture for On Quality of Monitoring for Multi-channel Wireless Infrastructure Networks

- **QOM below THE USER-CENTRIC MODEL**
- **MAX-EFFORT-COVERAGE downside**
- **Hardness of MEC**
- **Algorithms for MEC**

QOM below THE SNIFFER-CENTRIC MODEL

Amount Linear ICA (QLICA)

5. SIMULATION VALIDATION

In this section we measure the performance of various algorithms under the user-centric and sniffer-centric models exploitation each artificial and real traces. artificial traces permit United States to regulate the parameter settings whereas real network traces provide insights on the performance under realistic traffic masses and user distributions. In addition to the Greedy and LP-based algorithmic rule, we conjointly think about max person Channel (Max) wherever a sniffer is appointed to its busiest channel. This theme is the most intuitive approach in practical networks wherever the user model is not on the market and sniffers have to be compelled to decide their channel assignment non-cooperatively supported local observations. Note it's straightforward to construct situations wherever max performs indiscriminately unhealthy. Thus, its worst case performance is boundless. For the reasoning theme in the QLICA model, we used the FastICA algorithmic rule [12] to calculate the linear mixing matrix Ł.

5.1 QoM under different models

5.1.1 Artificial traces

In this set of simulations, 500 wireless users ar placed indiscriminately in an exceedingly 500 centare space. The area is partitioned into hexagon cells with circum circle of radius eighty six meters. each cell is associated with a base station operating in an exceedingly channel. The channel to base station assignment ensures that no neighbouring cells use constant channel. 25 Sniffers are deployed in an exceedingly grid formation separated by distance 100 meters, with a coverage radius of one hundred twenty meters. A snap shot of the artificial readying is shown in Figure 4. The

transmission chance of users is selected uniformly in (0, 0.06], leading to an average busy chance of 0.2685 in each cell. Threshold T for QLICA is set at 0.5 and threshold "for BICA is set at 0.01. We vary the entire number of orthogonal channels from 3 to 9.5 The results shown are the average of twenty runs with different seeds.

QoM calculated by three algorithms (Max, Greedy and LP-Round) and therefore the theoretical higher bound (LP-Up) on two models exploitation artificial traces of 3, 6, 9 channels, respectively. Results of the user centric model are shown in solid lines whereas results of various reasoning algorithms (e.g., QLICA and BICA) in the sniffer-centric model ar shown in dotted and dashed lines, respectively. in the user-centric model, one can see that the performance of Greedy and therefore the LPbased algorithmic rule with random miscalculation ar comparable to LP-Up, and each shell max altogether three traces. Recall that in line with max, a person noncooperatively decides its own channel assignment and selects the most active channel. Clearly, max doesn't take into consideration the correlations among the observations of neighboring sniffers in the same channel. In contrast, in the person centric case, the planned reasoning algorithms will so extract such a correlative structure from the binary observations as shown by their superior performance over max.

Additionally, we observe that the expected number of users monitored by the algorithms exploitation BICA is higher than that of QLICA and is incredibly near that earned in the user centric model (where we assumed to own complete data of users' activities and their relationship to sniffers). this means that BICA algorithmic rule so produces inferred models that ar very near the bottom truths. Having a good estimation of ΔG vi and Δp as the input, Greedy and LP-Round will manufacture channel assignments whose performance is near LP-Up. We any note that by examination results from Figure 5(a) to work 5(c), the QoM metric reduces as the total number of channels will increase for all schemes, including LP-Up. this can be owing to the actual fact that users scatter over more channels, and a hard and fast number of sniffers is no longer decent to produce smart coverage.

5.1.2 Real traces

In this section, we have a tendency to assess our projected schemes exploitation real traces collected from the UH field wireless network exploitation twenty one wireless local area network sniffers deployed within the prince G. Hall. Over a amount of vi hours, between twelve p.m. and 6 p.m., every mortal captured about three hundred,000 macintosh frames. Altogether, 655 distinctive users area unit determined in operation over 3 channels.7 the amount of users determined on wireless local area network channels one, 6, 11 are 382, 118, and 155, severally. The bar chart of user active likelihood (calculated because the share of 20s slots that a user is active) is shown in Figure seven. Clearly, most users area unit active but a hundred and twenty fifth of the time aside from some serious hitters. the typical user active likelihood is zero.0014.

Figure vi provides the typical range of active users monitored below the user-centric model, and below the models inferred by QLICA and BICA. the amount of sniffers within the experiments varies from five to twenty one by as well as solely traces from the corresponding sniffers.

The number of channels is mounted at three. aside from the case with twenty one sniffers, all knowledge points area unit averages of five situations with completely different sets of sniffers, chosen uniformly every which way. Recall that the typical active likelihood is zero.0014. Thus, for the simplest channel assignment state of affairs, the QoM on all channels is around one. within the usercentric case (Figure 6(a)), each Greedy and LP-Round considerably vanquish easy lay (by around 50%). Moreover, their performance is comparable LP-Up. because the range of sniffers will increase, the typical range of users monitored will increase however tends to flatten since most users are monitored.

In the sniffer-centric case, similar trends is determined once G and P(y) area unit inferred exploitation QLICA and BICA (Figure 6(b)(c)). BICA outperforms QLICA generally. However, there exists some performance gap in each case because of the loss of data, when put next with the usercentric model. The \$64000 wireless local area network traces, in distinction to the artificial situations, contain an oversized range of observations and lots of "mice" users (users with terribly low active probability). Most of the time, these users are removed inflicting higher prediction errors in p.

6. DISCUSSIONS

In this section, we tend to discuss many sensible concerns in implementing the projected algorithms in real systems for wireless monitoring. the primary focus of this work is mortal-channel assignment given fastened sniffer locations. mortal placement has been self-addressed in [19], which assumes worse case loads within the network, while sniffer-channel assignment are often made based on the actual measured loads. In fact, each issues are often considered during a single optimisation framework if we tend to generalize the mortal placement problem to come to a decision online which set of sniffers ought to be turned on given budget constraints.

Implementation of sniffer-channel assignment ought to incorporate the training procedure projected in [11].The time granularity of channel assignment ought to be sufficiently long to amortize the price because of channel switching. to permit a standardized view of the channel at completely different locations, clock synchronization across multiple sniffers is needed. while clock synchronization are often performed offline exploitation the frame traces collected [5], the accuracy of clock synchronization directly affects the logical thinking accuracy of the ICA primarily based methods within the sniffer-centric model. the selection of the slot of the binary measurements shall be made that takes into consideration the persistence of user transmission activities.

The channel assignment in its current kind is computed during a centralized manner. this is reasonable since the sniffers are seemingly operated by a single administrative domain. an alternative distributed implementation has been considered in [33] for the user-centric model based on the hardened gibbs sampler. However, parameters of the distributed algorithmic program ought to be properly tuned for fast convergence (and thence less message exchanges). From our understanding, the sniffer-centric model is not at once amiable to distributed implementation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we formulated the matter of maximising QoM in multi-channel infrastructure wireless networks with completely different a priori knowledge. 2 completely different models area unit considered, which disagree by the number (and type) of information available to the sniffers. we show that once complete info of the underlying cowl graph and access possibilities of users area unit available, the matter is NP-hard, however are often approximated among a constant factor. once solely binary info regarding the channel activities is available to the sniffers, we propose 2 approaches (QLICA and BICA) in order that one will map the matter to the one where complete info is at hand victimisation the statistics of the sniffers' observations. we any conducted a detail study comparison the performance of QLICA and BICA. Finally, evaluations demonstrate the effectiveness of our proposed inference methods and optimization techniques.

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