

Navigating You Through Media and Technology in Education

The Cyber Nautica

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EDITOR'S NOTE

What do you collect during your childhood days? Stamps, letter pads or flag erasers? We would report to schools early and start exchanging our collectibles with our peers in the school halls. It was satisfying to view our own collection there and then.

Before the frequent hits of inflation, 10 cents could satisfy a child's craving for snacks. Watching a movie was only S\$3.50, a flat rate for all screenings.

Snail mail was a common communication tool then. It was not instant but the intimacy it had provided would not be surpassed by the current digital mailing system. Transportation was slower but it made us appreciate the scenery while travelling. The pace of lifestyle was relatively slower back then.

Computers were not pervasively noticeable in everywhere in the earlier days. Unlike today, you would see computers in restaurants, cinemas, libraries, and your home. We used to have huge 5¼ inch floppy disks which could only store up to 1.2 megabytes of data. Today, we use thumbdrives which are small in size and yet can store gigabytes of data.

In this issue, we will walk with you the memory trail of the Singapore lifestyle in the early days. We would also like to share with you our ACP's growth and involvement in the education landscape.

Do remember to glance at your back once in a while and the memories can be gratifying.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Erwin

Email the editor!

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YOUR THOUGHT MATTERS



We'd love to hear your opinions and feedback about our publication and services.

Scan this QR to send your message.

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ACP NEWS

We Launched Websites for Schools



ACP has helped to enhance the web presence of 4 more schools using the state of the art Joomla! Platform.

Yishun Secondary School, <http://www.yishunsec.moe.edu.sg/>

Fuhua Secondary School, <http://www.fuhuasec.moe.edu.sg/>

Millennia Institute, <http://www.millennia institute.moe.edu.sg/>

Raffles Girls School PerL, <http://www.rgsperl.edu.sg/>

We Won New LMS Project from Keppel Offshore and Marine



ACP recently bagged a contract with Keppel Offshore and Marine to provide Learning Management System (LMS) development.

ACP continues to innovate and improve her Learning Management System solution, so as to service a clientele that is diverse in terms of scale and industry.

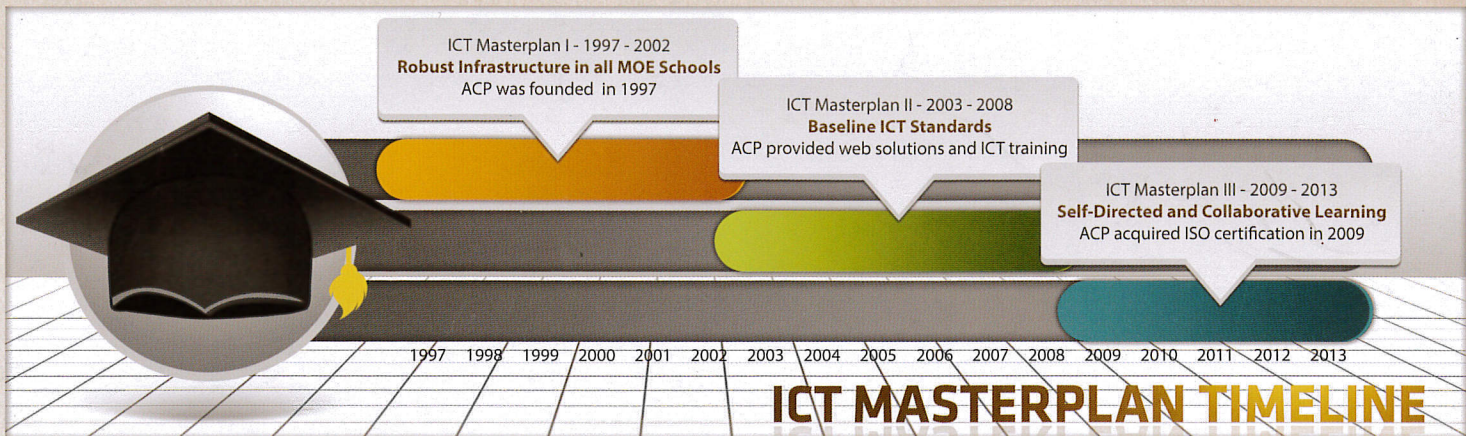
We Have New Products and Services



As part of our ongoing efforts in revolutionizing the learning industry, we have launched three products and services: Ergotron – ergonomic tablet and desktop management tools, VADO – on the job bite sized learning content, and SNAC – web-to-mobile communication solution.

Call us at 6227 7996 or e-mail us at info@acpcomputer.edu.sg for more information.

WALKING THROUGH ICT MASTERPLAN WITH ACP



The education system was much simpler in the past. There were at least 40 students in a class. Students would write on green boards with chalk, which would screech and soil their hands with chalk powder. They read widely about Ahmad, Bala, Sumei and John, whom appeared in many of the textbooks. Also, Ms Lala and her "catty" glasses!

The students would usually bring every single book to school, even though there was one thing called the timetable, written on the inside cover of their little blue notebooks. One might freak out when he/she couldn't answer the teacher's question.

In the last year in primary school, the children had autographs books loaded with "Best Wishes", "Forget Me Not", and little poems like "Birds fly high, hard to catch. Friends like you, hard to forget".

MOE subsequently take things further and translate this available ICT infrastructure into further development of ICT skills. There was the launch of ICT Masterplan II. Baseline ICT standards were established, whereby a minimum skill was required of every student to possess. Moreover, innovative use of ICT was encouraged. Infrastructural initiatives were also taken forward with increasing wireless network adoption.

After ICT Masterplan II gained maturity, the focus shifted to more qualitative aspects of ICT such as self-directed and collaborative learning which is the hallmark of current ICT Masterplan III. Students are given greater freedom by being responsible for designing their own curriculum, with teachers being facilitators. Independent learning ideas are also fuelled by learning at anywhere.

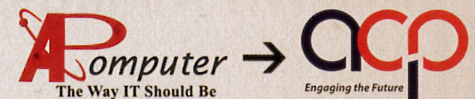
The Beginning of ACP

The Edu-IT Amalgamation

In the 1990s, education landscape started to involve the application of technology. Envisioning the importance of developing 21st century capabilities, Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the first Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Masterplan in 1997. ICT Masterplan I focused primarily on providing a robust ICT infrastructure in all MOE schools. The plan had not only achieved the physical presence of the infrastructure but also the integration of ICT into the school curriculum. The new initiative was heartily accepted by teachers and students alike. By the end of the ICT Masterplan I, majority of the students admitted to have the minimum skills to complete ICT based projects / assignments.

Ac P. Computer In the same year, 1997, when ICT Masterplan I was launched; ACP was founded. She entered the education sector as a provider of ICT trainings. In addition to the provision for trainings, ACP was also into retailing of computers. With the education industry shaping the ICT infrastructure, many individuals were convinced of the need to have computers too.

When ICT Masterplan II was rolled out, ACP has already been recognized by many schools in her provision for ICT services. Thus, ACP was engaged by many schools to provide Baseline ICT trainings to the students during the phase of ICT Masterplan II. Gradually, ACP has also begun to provide web solutions to the schools, creating websites for schools.



Come 2008, the company recognized the need to change her corporate identity in order to better reflect her new position and brand status as a multifaceted solution provider in the industry. This move entailed a change in logo and motto. The previous motto, "The Way IT Should Be", was replaced with "Engaging the Future". This motto is realized everyday via helping our clients create their future with our ICT education and solutions.



In 2009, ACP acquired ISO certification. It is a testament that ACP enforces quality in our deliveries of services. We pride ourselves to consistently innovate and improve our services to our customers. With the emphasis in self-directed and collaborative learning in the ICT Masterplan III, we are glad to be one of the few authorized providers of learning management systems for schools.

From having a humble beginning in 1997, ACP has grown to be one of the leading providers for e-learning and other web solutions. Running in parallel with many MOE's initiatives, ACP continues to participate in diverse projects; with the most recent being our participation in the project on the development of our Mother Tongue Oracy Portal.

The next ICT Masterplan will be launched in 2014. The entire Singapore education fraternity is anxiously waiting for what's in store next.

As always, the future has not always been easy to envision and is even more difficult to accurately predict. But if the years gone by are of any indicator, we can say one thing with assurance - "It will make our lives more interesting and will equip us to compete with greater gusto on a global platform."

SYWEB

PROTECTION PLANS

HAVE YOU SCANNED YOUR WEBSITE?

Secure your website now with ACP's SyWeb Protection Plans

SINGLE SCAN PLAN

\$149

SAFE FOR A YEAR PLAN

\$1399



IT'S A DANGEROUS WORLD OUT THERE!

REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Everyone likes to reminisce, especially the fun, the tasty food and the amazing strong community spirit within a neighborhood.

The swiftness and comfort of current day's transportation; the instantaneous and ease of communication; and the advancements in education landscape have obviously made a positive impact on our lives.

Nostalgia kicks in at times and one may feel a tinge of longing on what it was like to be back in those simpler moments. So do you still remember Singapore in the 1980s?

What do we eat?

Recall those days we would conveniently go to Mama Stalls to snap up a 10 cents Sng Bao (ice pop) after school? 10 cents was also the price of those sugary bubble gums whereby the wrappings come with cartoon designs. One would happily stick the designs as "tattoos" on their hands. We also enjoyed those simple snacks like 20 cents Kaka, a type of corn crackers; 50 cents Ding Dang, Doreamon chocolate balls that would also come with a small toy. The idea is similar to our current day's Kinder Surprise, which is definitely pricier.



Food preparation was a daily ritual for our mothers whom were homemakers. They would prepare our meals with freshly bought food from the wet market and would only use natural ingredients. The cooking was an arduous process but it was definitely more delicious and satisfying than a packet of take away. Do you still remember seeing live chickens and ducks caught in a cage in those wet markets?

Visiting fast food restaurants, like Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and McDonald's were rare treats.

What do we play?

We enjoyed those sand based playgrounds and were not afraid of dirtying ourselves. Playing Catching (also known as Police and Thief) and marbles were common. The more adventurous boys liked catching fighting spiders and conduct their mini competitions. Girls on the other hand would play five stones, zero point and paper dolls with different dresses and accessories for make believe story telling. We played many different handheld video games. Western Bar from Casio was a big hit in

the 80s. The sound effects were excellent, with realistic gunshot sounds and cowboy-styled music.



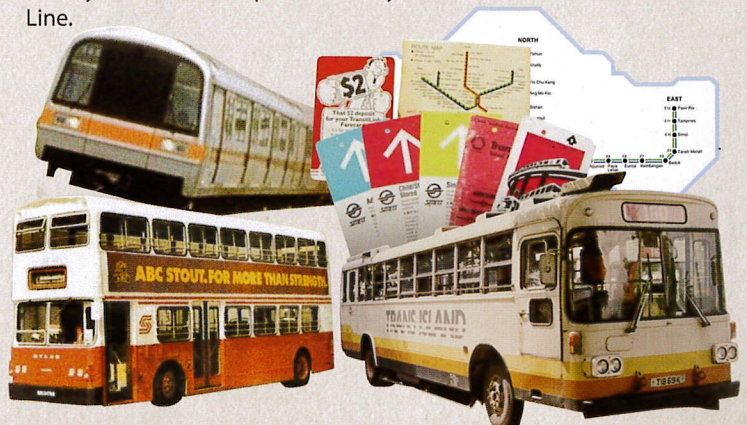
We would religiously follow the schedule of watching He-Man, MASK, Transformers, Silver Hawk, Ninja turtles, Care Bears, Smurfs and many other cartoon shows. We would automatically wake up early during the weekends for the shows, despite no schools.

How do we commute?

Walking is the most basic form of transportation. Walking for a couple of miles is not uncommon.

For those who needed to go faster, buses were available. The buses were none air-conditioned and the seats were made of wood with red cushions. There were bus tickets issued for each trip. Regularly, you would see bus conductors boarding the buses to check if you have paid the correct fare. Students would have concession cards which allow monthly purchase of bus stamps if they would need regular trips.

In the late 1980s, Mass Rapid Transit rail or MRT were available. It was a much faster mode of transport and was fully air-conditioned. The railway lines were simpler with only North South Line and East West Line.





How do we communicate?

You got a mail! When was the last time you wrote a letter with a pen and paper? When was the last time you would be checking your mail box daily in the hope of receiving a mail from your pen pal? Snail mail used to be the most basic mean of communication. We would write long messages in order to fully maximize the conversation; as the mail would only reach your friends after some time. We could feel and sense the emotions of our senders. Every piece of mail would have its own personal touch. We would pick up scented paper and creatively designed envelopes to match the message inside.



When we were in our teenage years, we used pagers to contact one another. To avoid the hassle of searching for a public telephone to call back our friends, we used coding instead. We would arrange to meet at the last cabin of the MRT at a specific time, without the use of mobile phones. When we had our first mobile phones, we were taught of their secondary purpose - weapons against bad guys as they were bulky and huge.

What do we feed our minds?

Going to libraries was like an excursion to us. We could only borrow up to four books at any one time. When you wanted to borrow the books, you would pass them to the librarian at the counter. She would retrieve the borrowing card attached with the book together with your library pass.

"Yesterday is but today's memory, and tomorrow is today's dream."

For those families whom were fairly capable, there would be encyclopedia at their homes. Some encyclopedia series came with audio cassette tapes as well. Do you remember the use of a pencil with together with a cassette tape?



Present Day

Nowadays, many machines are used to create our food; often trading quality for speed and better yield. Instant foods are widely available, which may be compromising to our health and taste. Fast-food chains are treated as regular meals instead of occasional treats.

Transportation has become so convenient for us to use. The MRT railway lines are massive, covering almost every corner. Walking is deemed the least popular option to travel. Or is that an option?

Instead of playing outdoors, the children prefer to swipe their way to victory in their tablets. The children turn to social media, like Youtube to watch whatever cartoons they want at any place and any time.

Communication has evolved so much that we are all connected. In Singapore, the mobile phone subscription is more than the population size.

Education has transcended the physical training with the evolvement of digital age. The cyberspace has allowed learners and educators to interact even if they are miles apart. Research for information can be done via internet with great ease.

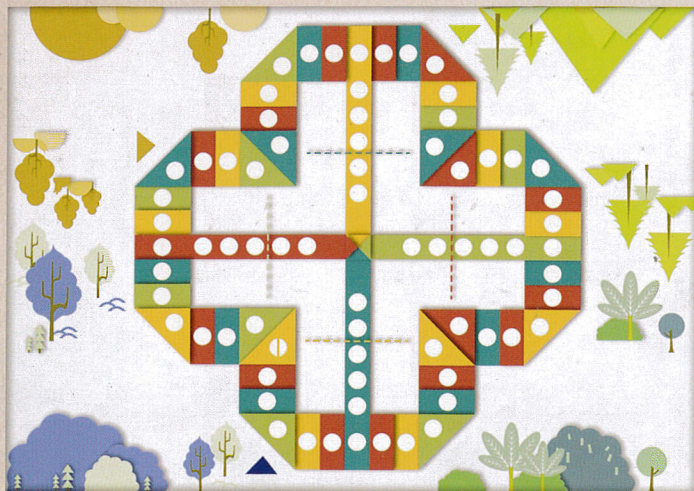
Can we cope without Technology?

In this 21st century, everything we do and eat would have involved technology. We could never deny the vast benefits that technology has brought to our lifestyle. We have improved in our efficiency and effectiveness.

We are fond of reminiscing the good old days. But if given the option to relive the good old days today, will you be able to cope with the simpler lifestyle with no mobile phones and internet?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 7 differences in these aeroplane chess boards?



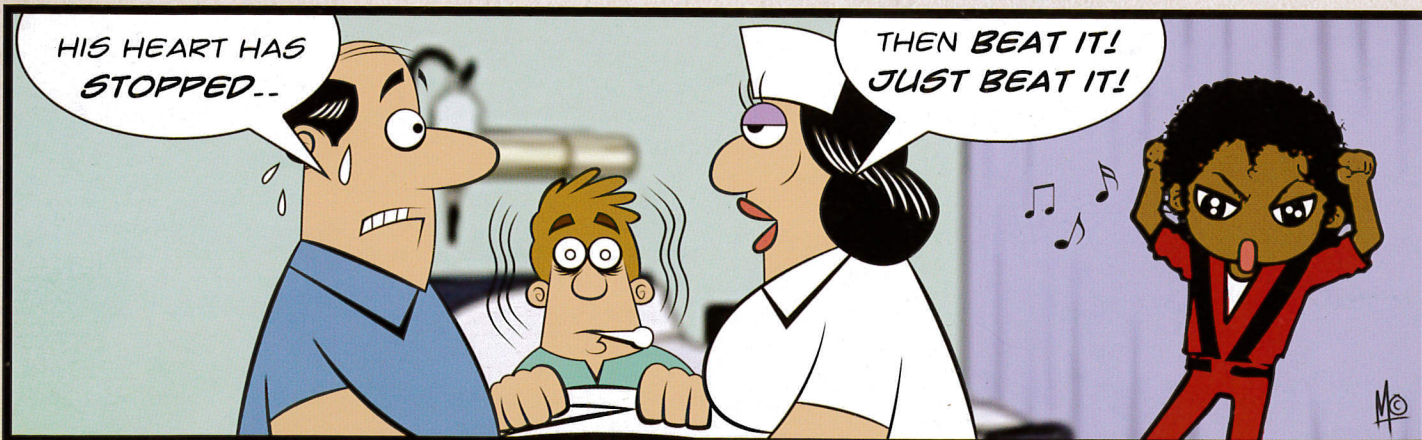
DO YOU REMEMBER THESE MASCOTS?

There were many mascots created by different organisations and agencies in the eighties. Which do you recognise and remember?



Answers: (1) Singa the Lion, (2) Singa the Elephant, (3) Captain Green, (4) Teamy the Productive Bee

LAUGH IT OUT!



LUMINARIES



Nithin is thankful for the challenges as he has grown professionally.

My inclination towards the field of Information Technology (IT) started during my younger days when I was an avid gamer. It inspired me to take the plunge for a career in this field. Thus, I did a couple of IT certifications to enhance my skillset, soon after my completion of my Bachelor's Degree. I continue to update myself in the latest IT advancements regularly.

ACP entrusted me the role to be an ICT Executive in Bukit Timah Primary School. I am still in the same school and have broadened my duties. I am currently in charge of Infocomm, Audio Video and Cyberwellness clubs in the school. I teach students programmes like Photoshop, animation, video editing, photography and digital arts and music. I have also assisted the students in some interschool competitions. There may be a number of responsibilities, but the work is fulfilling. I am thankful for the challenges as I have definitely grown professionally over time.

ACP has helped me to progress from being an ICT Executive to ICT Executive cum IT Trainer. Recently I have been promoted to be a Senior Executive. I am currently pursuing my Masters. In the years to come, I may apply for the role of Senior IT Manager in ACP to contribute more to the organisation.

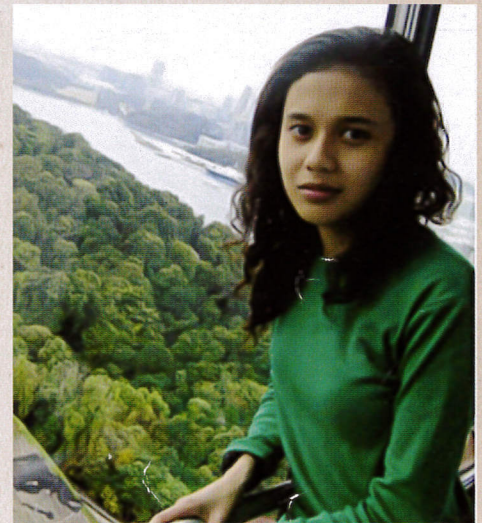
Whatever problems you face, just remind yourself that you have already come this far and it's not worth giving up now.

The ACP experience has been and is fulfilling to me. I have met great colleagues whom have supported me constantly whenever the need arises.

During my earlier days in ACP, I was seconded to a few different schools before settling down in First Toa Payoh Primary. I have learnt to be more outspoken and independent since then. I am able to fit into the school environment easily.

Being a trainer, I believe one must be generous in sharing one's knowledge and be patient towards your audience. I must agree that ACP has been generous in sharing its knowledge with me via both in classroom and out of classroom trainings. Observing other teachers in action is definitely another great way of grooming oneself.

When I am stuck in a rut, I will motivate myself "whatever problems you face, just remind yourself that you have already come this far. It's not worth giving up now."



QUICK FACTS

Singapore Getting Bigger - Literally



In the 1960s, the size of our country was only about 581.5km squared. Land reclamation is inevitable since there will be a rise in demand as the population increases. Expanding commercial and industrial activities in addition to building private housing for the growing population has triggered the creation of new land. By 1990, the total land area of Singapore was 633km square. That was an increase of 51.5km square, which made up 8.9% the total land area. With continuing land reclamation, land area in Singapore will increase by about another 100km square by the year 2030.

<http://news.insing.com/feature/44-things-you-may-not-know-about-singapore/id-2a140100>
<http://library.thinkquest.org/C006891/reclamation.html>

The Last Kampong

Singapore's current housing state is a stark contrast from its origins. Singapore used to be dominated by villages known as kampongs; before we made way for the aplenty blocks of flats surrounding us. Today, Kampong Buangkok is our mainland's last remaining kampong, located at Hougang. There are less than 30 families at the kampong. The residents continue to enjoy the slower pace and simpler lifestyle offered by a kampong setting.





HEARTBEAT

Voice out your concerns and problems with Joomla!

Consult ACP on your Joomla! issues which you may encounter.

Let ACP hear your Joomla! heartbeat and normalize it at **ZERO** cost!

Consultation Overview

ACP is here to guide you through your issues with Joomla! with our one to one consultation session – Joomla! Hearbeat.

At the end of the session you would be able to -

- Navigate the Joomla! Interface at ease
- Identify the usage of the many plugins in your website
- Maintain your website effortlessly
- Embed YouTube and other videos in your website
- And many more...

Consultation is NOW opened for Registration!

Register on or before:

- Sept. 25, 2013 for session on Oct. 2, 2013
- Oct. 30, 2013 for session on Nov. 6, 2013
- Nov. 27, 2013 for session on Dec. 4, 2013

Session starts from: 2:30PM to 5:30PM

Duration per one to one consultation: 30 minutes

Eligible to: All ACP's Joomla! clients*

ACP wants you to have a smooth, enjoyable and trouble free Joomla! experience.

Please email us at info@acpcomputer.edu.sg or or call us at 6227 7996, for registration.

**This is an introductory offer valid till Dec 2013. Thereafter, session will be open exclusively to ACP's Joomla! Premium clients.*

ACP Promotes Wellbeing

ACP espouses a series of initiatives targeted at the wellbeing of her employees. There will be more upcoming activities, so stay tuned!



Chase Away the Blues Training

ACP engaged Ms. Jolyn Wong from Dayspring Wellness to conduct an interactive session with regards to tips in handling and managing stress while coping with the varied demands in our work and family. This event gave an opportunity for ACP's employees to understand how our minds and bodies work; exploring the causes of our blues; and to place the appropriate preventive measures. With this interactive session, ACP seeks to chase the blues away to create a healthy and effective workforce!



The Salad Bowl

Just because something is good for you doesn't mean it has to taste bland and boring. Recently, we engaged a consultant to conduct a salad bowl workshop for our employees. The workshop showed how to make a healthy and satisfying meal without compromising one's health.

ACP's staff had hands on experience to whip up a delicious salad. Eating greens can be satisfying!

Health Screening

We recently had a health screening at Tanjong Pagar Community Center's Multi-Purpose on 8 July 2013 for all ACP's staff. It was a check to allow everyone to know his/her health condition and to pursue for his/her tip-top shape.

ACP Recognizes Committed and Loyal Staff



ACP's Long Service Award commemorates the long-term commitment and loyalty of ACP's employees who have achieved significant milestones in their years of service. There was a simple award ceremony on 28th of August 2013 and the recipients are as follows:

Alan Poh

Founding & Managing Director - 15 years

Kevin Lee

Asst. Director of Operations & Services - 15 years

Eric Poh

Assistant Director of eSolutions - 10 years

Kudos to your dedication!

ACP Congratulates Promoted Staff



ACP gives her warmest regards to her newly promoted staff. Below are the employees whom have been promoted.

Nithin Shetty - Senior ICT Executive at Bukit Timah Primary School

Debby Liew - Senior ICT Executive at Commonwealth Secondary School

Once again, congratulations to both!

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