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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

**RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS** 

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### **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMPUTER APPLICATION & MANAGEMENT**

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#### IMPACT OF ISLAMIC WORK ETHICS ON JOB SATISFACTION IN THE PRESENCE OF JOB AUTONOMY AS **MODERATING**

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#### ABSTRACT

Satisfaction is one of the most important desires in human life. The main purpose of this paper is to examine the relationship between Islamic work ethic and job satisfaction in the presence of job autonomy as moderator. This is quantitative study and conducted in natural settings of Pakistani Public Sector Organizations. Questionnaire based survey was formulated to test the hypothesis. Data analysis is based on the responses collected form employees of public sector Organizations. The results are significantly in favor of all hypotheses which were developed after comprehensive study of literature review related to this topic. All hypotheses are proven to be positive. It is found that IWE as independent variable and Job autonomy as moderating variable between IWE and Job satisfaction effects Job satisfaction. This paper would help to increase Job satisfaction of employees as well as this paper would help employers to eliminate ethical dilemmas from organization.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Islamic Work Ethics, Job satisfaction, Job Autonomy.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

n this study, Islamic Work Ethics, Job Satisfaction, and Job Autonomy are main variables. Islamic Work Ethics is treated as Independent Variable, Job Satisfaction as Dependent Variable and Job Autonomy as Moderating Variable.

It is Obligatory for Muslims to seek knowledge." This knowledge has 2 main branches, "Religious knowledge" and "Scientific knowledge." The scientific knowledge is called "Wisdom". Our Prophet (Peace be upon him) said,

"Wisdom is the lost property of a Muslim. He should pick it up wherever he may find it." So above great hadith of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) commands Muslims to learn scientific education and knowledge. "Islamic knowledge" has twenty sub-branches, eight branches of Islamic Knowledge consist of a higher level of teaching and other 12 contain subsidiary nature of teaching. And Ethics deals with higher level of Islamic teaching (Emrullah & Hadimi, 2001). Civil or Progressive Muslim has two main qualities has Scientific knowledge and Good moral character. Alternately, a Muslim who has Scientific Knowledge but has poor moral character is called abandit, tyrant or dictator (Emrullah & Hadimi, 2001). Ethics got fundamental place in Islam. Islamic work Ethics are directly derived from sacred books of Islam ie: Quran and Hadith books, Quran is book of Allah and Hadiths are sayings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him). Beekun (1997) defined "ethics can be a set of moral principles that distinguish what is right from what is wrong". (Beekun, 1997). In Allah's book Quran Khulug is the most relevant term used for ethics (Fakhry, 1991). Once a Person asked the Rasoolallah (PBUH) when would the Day of Requital take place? Rasoolallah (PBUH) replied, "When honesty is lost" (Beekun, 1997). Islamic Work Ethics has vast scope, it has several dimensions; Sincerity, Proficiency, Truthfulness, Justice, Patience, Promise keeping, continuous self evaluation, Moderation, Courteousness etc.

- Levels of Business Ethics International Level
- 1.
- 2. National Level Societal Level 3.
- 4. Association Level
- 5. **Organizational Level**
- Individual Level 6.

#### (Weiss, 2003)

- Five Myths of Ethics
- Ethics is personal 1.
- Business and Ethics don't mix 2.
- 3. **Business Ethics is relative**
- 4. Good business means good ethics
- 5. Information is neutral and amoral
- (Weiss, 2003)

Weiss (2003) Justifies ethics in business, because many times laws are not sufficient and cannot cover all aspects of a problem. Ethical dilemmas are very common all over the world. Bribery, corruption, harassment, Fraud, injustice, unfairness, inequality, dishonesty and illegal acts etc. are one of the most common problems in public as well as in private sector organizations. Prophet of Allah (PBUH) Said, "Truthful, Honest Business man will be with Prophets of Allah, Allah's Beloved Persons and Martyrs." This study aims to explore the impact of Islamic Work Ethics on Job satisfaction in presence of Job Autonomy as Moderating

Variable. In this study we try to exploring the relationship between Islamic work ethic and job autonomy and we hope this study would help HR managers and practitioners to increase job satisfaction of employees.

#### 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Only few researches have been done regarding Islamic Work Ethics (Rokhman, 2010; Abbasi, 2008; Al-Kazmi and Ali, 2007; Rahman, 2006; Yousaf, 2001; Yousaf, 2000; Ali, 1992 and Ali, 1988). Yousef (2001) investigated the moderating effect of IWE between job satisfaction and organizational commitment. Rokhman (2010) investigated outcomes of Islamic work ethics. Abbasi (2008) wrote PHD thesis about impact of Islamic ethical values on Managerial performance. All studies shows positive impact on employees, leaders and organization etc.

Islam is a complete code of life and it provides guidance about all aspects of life. Islam is most practicing religion in the world. Islam has three main parts.

• Beliefs

• Devotions/ Worship (Ibadat)

Dealings.

Only Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is a business man among founder of religions. And Non-Muslims also said that He is a Great man. Lamertine (1854) stated that, "who could dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhummad?" Masserman (1974) stated that, "Perhaps the Greatest Leader of All Times Was Mohammed".

The Beloved Prophet of Allah Muhammad e Mustafa (Peace be upon him) says: "I have been sent for the purpose of perfecting good morals" (Ibn Hanbal, No. 8595). and "Indeed, the most perfect believer in faith is one who has the best manners" (Tirmazi, No. 2612).

"A Mumin by his good conduct acquires the rank of one who fasts and stands in Prayer during Night" (Abdu Dawud, No. 4798) and "Allah is kind and loves kindness, whatever He confers for kindness is neither conferred upon being harsh nor through any other means except it" (Muslim, No. 6601).

Job satisfaction can be defined as "a positive feeling about one's job resulting from an evaluation of its characteristics" (Rauf, 2010; Robbins et al, 2008, p.89). Job satisfaction means "the extent to which people like their jobs" (Spector, 1996, p.214). Every human being wants satisfaction and Job satisfaction is very important for job commitment, performance, motivation and positive morale of employee.

"Job Autonomy means, degree to which a job provides an employee with the discretion and independence to schedule their work and determine how it is to be done" (Cengage, 2006). Islamic values have two important outcomes that are human's prosperity and happiness in all functions of human life. Islamic Ethics, values and norms have their great history. These norms and values are not for specific time but these are universal. Islamic values help and guide human beings in every field of life. Greed, Injustice, Arrogance, dishonesty has no place in Islam (Alhabshi & Ghazali, 1994).

There are various components of Islamic Work Ethics for example, Sincerity, Proficiency, Truthfulness, Justice, Patience, Promise keeping, continuous self evaluation, Moderation, Courteousness etc. These dimensions are directly derived from Allah's book Quran, which is proved by following references.

#### Sincerity

"Say you, 'I worship Allah only being purely His devotee" (Quran 39:14)

#### Proficiency

"And Do Good As Allah Has Done Good to You and Seek Not Mischief In The Land" (Quran 28:77)

#### Truthfulness

"That Allah may recompense the truthful ones for their truth and torment the hypocrites, if He will or He may turn towards them. Undoubtedly, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful" (Quran33:24)

#### Justice

"Undoubtedly, Allah bids justice and good doing and giving to kindred and forbids indecency and wicked things and rebellion" (Quran 16:90)

#### Patience

"But those who believed and did good deeds and stressed one another to accept truth and counselled one another to be steadfast" (Quran 103:3)

"And fulfil the promise, undoubtedly the promise is to be questioned of" (Quran 17:34)

#### **Continuous self-evaluation**

"And whatever one earns it is on his own account. And no bearer of burden will bear the burden of another" (Quran 6:164)

#### Moderation

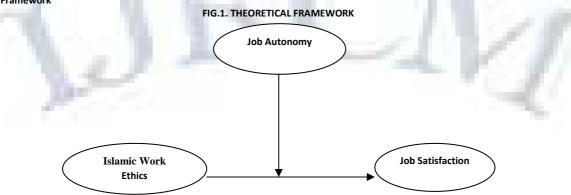
"And walk moderately and lower your voice to some extent" (Quran 31:19).

So all dimensions or components of Islamic work ethics are directly derived from Quran and Sunnah. Muslims have both type of guidance in theoretical form as well as in Practical form, Quran is guidance for whole humanity in theoretical form and Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is a guidance for whole humanity in Practical form. Both Quran and Life of Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him provides complete guidance to humanity. Quran and Life of Prophet is perfect guidance, now it is task of humanity to get complete and full benefit from Islamic work ethics.

Koh and Boo (2004) elaborated that the relationship between Islamic Work ethics and job satisfaction might be illuminated by the theory of organizational justice and this theory described that perceived justice of employee's affects the attitude of employees.

Researches also proved that employees ethical behavior affects job satisfaction (Weeks et al, 2004; Schwepker, 2001). Basic Objective of Islam is to provide satisfaction to its followers. Ghazali Moral Theory and Aristotle virtue theory also explain link between work ethics and satisfaction. And Link between Job Autonomy as moderating variable between Islamic work Ethics and Job satisfaction can be explained by Self Determination Theory (SDT) and Job Design Theory (Cengage, 2006).

#### 2.1: Theoretical Framework



#### 2.2. HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

In light of five theories Organizational Justice Theory, Aristotle Virtue Theory, Ghazali Moral Theory, Job Design theory and Self Determination theory (SDT) as explained in Literature Review in detail, following Hypothesis are written. H1: Islamic Work Ethics will be positively related with job satisfaction.

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H2: Job Autonomy will moderate in the relationships of Islamic work ethics with Job Satisfaction.

#### 3. METHODOLOGY

Non Probability Convenience Sampling technique has been used and Sample is taken from 4 public sector Organizations (District Accounts Office Rawalpindi, Rawalpindi Development Authority, Water and Sanitation Agency Rawalpindi, Parks and Horticulture Authority Rawalpindi). 150 questionnaires distributed among theses public sector organizations and 103 respondents properly among of them. IWE are measured by using 17 items scale which developed by (Ali, 1992), the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient reliability of this scale was 0.80 in this study. For the measurement of job satisfaction, 3 Items' scale was used which developed by Harely and Dubinsky in 1986 and reliability of this scale in this study was noted 0.71. Job autonomy is measured by the 3 item scale adapted from (Hackman & Oldham, 1980) and reliability of this scale noted 0.70 in this study. All above subjective variables have been arranged in five point likert scale in which I for strongly disagree with the satetemnet and 5 for strongly agree with the statement in questionnaires. All alpha coefficients for the data exceed the minimum standard for reliability of 0.70 recommended by Nunnally (1978) for basic research. Thus, the results indicate that these multiple measures are reliable for measuring each construct.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study were analyzed by using the SPSS 15.0 software and examined the demographical information of respondents (table I), (M) mean, (SD) standard deviation. (SE) standard error and (correlation) strength of relationship among the variables (table II), (regression) variation between independent and dependent variables, (t values and F value) accepting and rejecting region of hypothesis, (Beta) regression coefficients which mean how much units effected on the dependent variable when increase one unit of independent variable, and (p value) significance level of the results (table III and table IV) for interpretation of study's hypothesis confirmation.

4.1: TABLE I RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Demographical information	No. of Respondents	Percentage rate of Respondents	
Gender			
Male	65	63%	
Female	38	37%	
Age			
Below 25 years	24	23%	
25-40 years	50	49%	
Above 40 years	29	28%	
Education			
Graduation	27	26%	
Master	70	68%	
PHD	6	6%	
Experience			
0-5 years	31	30%	
6-10 years	43	42%	
11-15 years	16	16%	
Above 16 years	13	13%	
Working Area			
Finance	31	30%	
HRM	38	37%	
G. Management	18	17%	
Others	16	16%	
Management Level			
Lower Management	16	16%	
Middle Management	24	23%	
Top management	63	61%	
	03	01/0	

#### **Note**: \* p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01

Table I shown the demographically information of respondents. The percentage rate of the respondents' was in gender (male 63% and female 37%), the percentage rate of the respondents was in age (23% below 25 years , 49% between 25 and 40 years, 28% and above 40 years), percentage rate of the respondents in education level (26% graduation, 68% master, and 6% PhD), percentage rate of the respondents in experience level (30% of 0-5 years, 42% of 6-10 years, 16% of 11-15 years, and 13% above 16 years), percentage rate of the respondents in working area (30% working in finance, 37% in human resource management, 17% in general management and 16% in others area), percentage rate of the respondents in management level (16% of lower level , 23% of middle level, 61% of top level) were responded on study's questionnaire during survey (table I).

4.2: TABLE II PEA	ARSON'S CORRELATION AND DE	ESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS O	STUDY'S VARIABLES
Measure	Islamic Work Ethics	Job Autonomy	Job Satisfaction
Islamic Work Ethics	1		
Job Autonomy	0.40**	1	
Job Satisfaction	0.62**	0.56***	1
No. of Observations	103	103	103
Mean	4.30	3.40	3.59
Standard deviation	0.28	0.50	0.67
Standard Error	0.02	0.04	0.06

Note: n = 103, \* p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.01 level (2-tailed) and Islamic work ethics, job autonomy and job satisfaction rating by using the 5 point likert scale 1 to 5

Table II shows the relationship between independent, moderate and dependent variables and this relationship call Pearson's correlation of the variables it means to measure the strength of relationship between two variables. There were positive and significant relationships among independent variable (Islamic Work Ethics); moderate variable (job autonomy) and dependent variable (job satisfaction) of this study (table II). The Islamic work ethics was significantly

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positive correlated (r = 0.40, p < 0.01) with the job autonomy, and significantly positive correlated (r = 0.62, p < 0.01) with the job satisfaction (table II). The job autonomy was significantly positive correlated (r = 0.32, p < 0.01) with the job satisfaction (table II).

Table II also has been shown the mean score of respondents on Islamic work ethics scale was 4.30, standard deviation in the score was 0.28 and standard error in the mean score was 0.02, mean score on job autonomy scale was 3.40, standard deviation in the score was 0.50 and standard error in the mean score was 0.04, and the mean score of job satisfaction scale was 3.59, standard deviation was 0.67 and standard error in the mean score was 0.06. According to the Kenny's and Barron (1986) there should be significant correlation between all the variables for moderation analysis. Hence this study did meet this requirement for moderation analyses of job autonomy because there were positive and significant relationships between Islamic work ethics, job autonomy and employees' job satisfaction (table II). Table III shown the regression analysis of Islamic work ethics and job satisfaction. 4.3. REGRESSION ANALYSIS

4.5. REGRESSION ANALISIS						
4	.3.1: TABLE III REGR	ESSION ANALYSIS C	OF ISLAMIC WORK ETH	HICS AND JOB SAT	ISFACTION	
		Adjusted	Change in	Significance		
Variables	Beta	R square	R square	t value	p value	F
Islamic work ethics and						
Job Satisfaction	0.64***	0.38	0.00	7.97	0.000	63.65***
<i>Note:</i> * <i>p</i> < 0.05, ** <i>p</i> < 0.01, *** <i>p</i> < 0	.001					

Table III has been presented regression analysis of two (Islamic work ethics and job satisfaction) variables in which Beta value (Beta = 0.64, p < 0.001) of these two variables interpreted, if one unit increase in Islamic work ethics then 0.64 unit increase the satisfaction of employees on p< 0.001 that was highly significant value (table III). Adjusted R square (0.38) explained the significant variation between Islamic work ethics and employees' job satisfaction was 38% and t value (t = 7.97, p < 0.001) which shows significant true relationship between these two variables, because t value (7.97) was greater than t tabular standard value (±1.96) (table III). According to the Sobel, (1982) this t value (7.97) is normally distributed, that for large samples it will lead to accept the study hypothesis at p < 0.05 because it is exceeds ±1.96 which is standard normal distribution for small samples. So this study first hypothesis (H1) is significantly confirmed that was "Islamic Work Ethics will be positively related with job satisfaction".

Previous study has examined the positive association between Islamic work ethics and job satisfaction and commitment and individual's work attitude toward computer use ethics within universities' environment (Mohamed, Abdual Karim and Hussein, 2010).

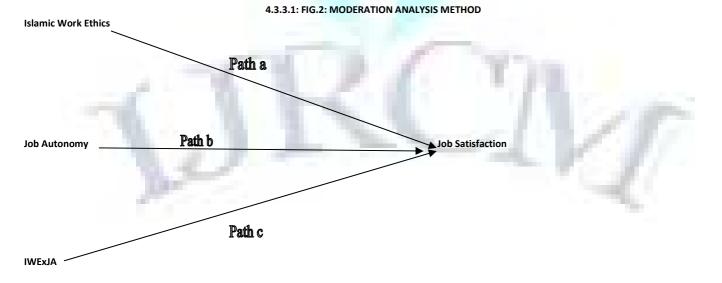
Rokhman (2010) has been concluded that Islamic work ethics positively and significant affected on job satisfaction and organizational commitment but not found significantly relationships between Islamic work ethics and turnover intentions of the employees in Islamic micro finance institution at Denmark.

	4.3.2: TABLE IV HIERA	ARCHICAL REGRESSION FOR MODER	ATION ANALYSIS	
Variables	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
Gender	-0.22**	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03
Age	0.01*	0.09	0.00	0.02
Education	-0.19*	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Experience	0.16	-0.26	-0.15	-0.17
Working Area	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Management Level	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.00
Islamic work ethics		0.67***	0.50***	0.38***
Job Satisfaction			0.35***	0.000
IWExJA				0.40***
Adjusted R Square	0.02	0.38	0.48	0.47
Change in Adj. R square	0.00	0.36	0.10	0.09
F value	1.308	10.24***	13.17***	12.54***

Note: The standardized regression coefficients are shown in table, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001 and dependent variable is Job satisfaction Table IV shown the hierarchical regression analysis of demographical variables (gender, age, education level, experience, working area and management level), independent variable (Islamic work ethics) and moderate variable (job autonomy) with the dependent variable (job satisfaction).

#### 4.3.3. MODERATION ANALYSIS METHOD

Kenny and Barron (1986) declared when three paths conditions (path a, path b and path c) would be fulfilled then it is supported the moderation impact. In first path (path a), the independent (Islamic work ethics) variable must be significantly related to the dependent variable (job satisfaction) then first condition (path a) would be satisfactory meet in step 2 of hierarchical regression analysis.



In second condition (path b), Barron and Kenny (1986) described that there also must be significant relationship between moderate variable (job Autonomy) and dependent variable (job Satisfaction) directly in hierarchical regression analysis of step 3. In third and last condition (path c), Barron and Kenny (1986) explained when added the interaction variable IWExJA {production of independent (islamic work ethics) variable and moderate (job autonomy) variable} in hierarchical regression analysis of step 4 and there also must be significant relationship between interaction (IWExJA) variable and dependent (job satisfaction) variable.

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When the Beta value of interaction (IWExJA) variable would be significant on t value >  $\pm 1.96$ , p < 0.05 (Sobel, 1982)} and Adjusted R square would greater of interaction variable (IWExJA) and dependent (job satisfaction) variable in hierarchical regression analysis of step 4 than the direct impact of independent (Islamic work ethics) and dependent (job satisfaction) variables in hierarchical regression of step 2 and shows the significant differences in Adjusted R squares in hierarchical regression analysis of step 2 & step 4 (Change in Adjusted R square). It means there would be significant presence of moderation variable (job autonomy) between (Islamic work ethics) and (job satisfaction) variables.

#### 4.3.3.2. ISLAMIC WORK ETHICS AND JOB SATISFACTION MODERATED BY JOB AUTONOMY

Table IV shown the hierarchical regression analysis of all demographic (gender, age, education, experiences, working area and management grade level) and study's variables (Islamic work ethics, job satisfaction and job autonomy) and in hierarchical regression analysis divided into 4 steps. Step 1 analyzed the hierarchical regression analysis of demographical variables (gender, age, education, experiences, working area and management level) with the job satisfaction and table shown the standardized regression coefficients, Adjusted R square, Change in R square and F values (table IV). Adjusted R square (0.02) explained the variation between these demographical variables and dependent variable (job satisfaction) was 2% and it was not significant relationship at (F = 1.38, p < 0.05). In next step 2, independent variable (Islamic work ethics) was added in hierarchical regression analysis and the regression coefficient was (Beta = 0.67, p < 0.001) and Adjusted R square (0.38) explained the variation between these demographical variables and dependent variable (job satisfaction) was 38% and it was strongly significant relationship at F value (F = 10.24, p < 0.001) and t value (t = 7.68, p < 0.001) of Islamic work ethics and job satisfaction which shows significant (for large samples) true relationship between these two variables in step 2 (table VI), because t value (7.68) was greater than t normally distributed standardized value (±1.96) for small samples (Sobel, 1982). So according to Barron and Kenny (1986) first (path a) condition in which Islamic work ethics positively related with job satisfaction was met (table IV, step 2). The moderate variable (job autonomy) was added in next step 3 and the regression coefficient was (Beta = 0.35, p < 0.001) and t value (t = 4.42, p < 0.001) and F value (F = 16.17, p < 0.001) of job autonomy and job satisfaction relationship which shown it was also significant positive relationship between these two variables. In step 4 interaction (IWE\*JA) variable was played significant moderation role between islamic work ethics and job satisfaction because when production of islamic work ethics and job satisfaction (IWE\*JA) was added in step 4 then there was highly significant value of Beta (Beta = 0.40, p < 0.001) and t value (t = 4.09, p < 0.001), and F value (F = 12.54, p < 0.001) and was adjusted R square was (0.47). While there was Beta value (Beta = 0.67, p < 0.001) and t value (7.68, p < 0.001) and F value (F = 10.24, p < 0.001), and adjusted R square (0.38) of Islamic work ethics and job satisfaction was significant in step 2 but when job autonomy variable added as moderator in step 4 there was also significant relationship between Islamic work ethics and job satisfaction at value of Beta (Beta = 0.38, p < 0.001) and value of t (t = 3.64, p < 0.001) and 9 percent adjusted R square (Change in Adjusted R square = 0.09) was significantly changed between independent variable Islamic work ethics (Adjusted R square = 0.38) on job satisfaction and interaction variable IWExJA (Adjusted R square = 0.47) on job satisfaction (table IV). So second hypothesis was also accepted that "Job Autonomy will play moderation role in the relationship of Islamic work ethics and Job Satisfaction."

Previous studies about Islamic work Ethics shows positive impact on Leadership, performance, job commitment, goal achievement, employee positive morale and negative impact on Turnover intention (see Ali, 1992; Yousef, 2000; Yousef, 2001; Rahman, 2006; Ali & Al-Kazemi, 2007; Abbasi, 2008; Rokhman, 2010). This study also shows Positive impact of IWE on Job satisfaction and job autonomy moderates relationship between IWE and job satisfaction.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Job satisfaction is one of the most important desire of employees and it causes positive impact on job commitment, goal achievement, performance, motivation and employee positive morale. IWE and job autonomy has positive impact on Job satisfaction. So this study would help to increase job satisfaction of employees.

#### **6. FUTURE STUDIES**

Research in reference with the model can be conducted on impact of Islamic work Ethics on dimensions of customer satisfaction, job insecurity and employees stress etc.

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