



From the President: Spring - the BUSY season is upon us!

I love Wisconsin. I actually enjoy winter as much as summer and this has been a funky, wimpy winter. The minimal snow and warmer temps have made inspections easier, but it really messed up outdoor activities. Where I live, we recently had about 14 inches of snow, including lake effect, but now it's nearly gone and you can see roofs again. I even saw my first blooming flowers several weeks ago!

I want to thank all of the members who are responsible for the Spring Seminar and Education House. It was a great seminar - great speakers, great venue, great everything! The WAHI Education Committee has been *upping their game* by bringing in top quality speakers that really connect with us "everyday inspectors." I could have listened to the plumbing speaker, Jessica Cannizzaro, owner of Milestone Plumbing, much longer. She's the BEST plumbing speaker I've heard and absolutely connects with inspectors. Our electrical and Old Homes speaker, Dave Rushton, owner of Able Building Inspection, is in the same category - he's "one of us" and can relate to our everyday problems - which someone who doesn't do inspections simply can't.

Julie always takes care of us! The Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Stevens Point was great and as always no one lacked for great food. Thank you to all who attended, and for those who didn't, you missed out on great education and fun.

Speaking of education...

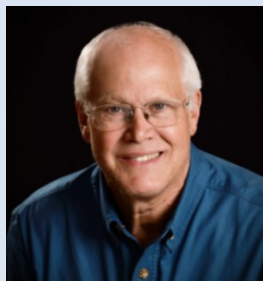
WAHI is planning ahead to provide education to our members on legislative changes regarding the definition of a Defect. **WAHI is the leader** on this! We're directly involved - providing input on the new language - we are **the best go-to source** on the effects on home inspectors. When this change becomes law, WAHI will conduct training to ensure all WAHI members are complying with the revised Statute. Most likely this will take place at the upcoming Fall 2017 or Spring 2018 WAHI Seminar. Stay tuned and plan to attend so you don't find yourself in legal jeopardy by not complying with the new Statute.

On to additional, potentially new, legislation...

There is a proposal in the State budget cycle to form an Occupational License Review Committee. The purpose of this committee is to look at all occupational licenses, including home inspectors, and determine which licensing is worthwhile or which is not (See last month's WAHI Newsletter for the report from our Lobbyist, Kathi Kilgore).

We must be involved in this. I have requested that WAHI be allowed to provide input to the committee to share "our side". While we operated for years without licensing, the current legislation, which we must follow, came to be with hard-fought efforts from several WAHI home inspector members. They worked to ensure home inspectors didn't get a raw deal - and they were successful! While some may think the current Statutes have deficiencies, they do provide a very important legal framework to guide what we do and do not do, and very importantly, limit our liability to 2 years (that term would be many years longer without the current Statute).

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Our March speaker was City of Wausau Building Inspector, Phil Borchart. Phil provided handouts on smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, egress windows, fire separation requirements and the new requirement for decks.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 19

Social at 6:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 pm

Meeting and meal is \$30; meeting only is \$10.

[Palms Supper Club Steak House, 5912 Business Hwy 51, Schofield](#)

Speaker: A representative from Affiliate member, Kulp's Roofing

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact the Chapter President, Richard Duerkop at 715-241-8222.



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 5

Buffet Dinner at 5:30 pm & Meeting at 6:00 pm

[Jade Garden Restaurant, 3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire](#)

Speaker: Andrew Evanoff, Hurlburt Heating and Plumbing

Andrew will be presenting information on furnaces, boilers and air conditioning.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Pete Saltness at 715-829-7348.

For our March meeting WAHI member and State Public Relations Chair, Bob Turicik, provided a photo review and led a discussion about the recent WAHI Spring 2017 Education House and Training Seminar that was held in Stevens Point on March 10th and 11th.



NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 17 (Meeting has moved to MONDAY; the Stone Toad is closed Tuesday.)

Social at 6:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 pm

[The Stone Toad, 1109 S. Oneida St., Menasha](#)

Speaker: Doug Hoerth, City of Fond du Lac Chief Inspector

Doug will address building codes.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Scott Hansen at 920-716-3025.



The Madison Chapter meets only the following months: January, February, May, June, September and October.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 18

Roundtable at 6:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 pm

[Alt 'n Bach's Town Tap, 2602 Whalen Lane, Madison](#)

Speaker: To be determined

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact the Chapter President, Denny Kruger at 608-835-5395.



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 11

Social at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm and Meeting at 7:00 pm

[Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis](#)

Speaker: Home Inspector Member, Mark Thomas

Mark will present Back to Basics - Reviewing the Standard of Practice.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Steven Knoebel at 414-828-4217.

What's Happening in WAHI?

By Executive Director, Julie Arnstein



Here is the brief recap of activity in the past month and a preview of what lay ahead. If anyone would ever like further information on something mentioned in this piece just let me know... julie@wahigroup.com, 414.299.9766

March 2017

- The WAHI Spring 2017 Education House and Training Seminar is behind us! Stevens Point turned out to be a very favorable location – attendance was great – thanks all! The Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center was an ideal location – excellent conference area, the overall layout was not too massive in size, accommodating staff, good food. I suspect we will return. The Education House was **very well-received**...again! Our turnout was incredible - we may have said "yes" to a few too many, but it's tough to deny people the opportunity to attend such a great program. I suspect attendees are still talking about our first speaker on Saturday - Jessie Cannizzaro, owner of Milestone Plumbing. Jessie is very skilled in her ability to present to a group - EVERYONE I spoke to could have listened to her all day and definitely want her back! David Rushton's return did not disappoint either - he is a wealth of knowledge and presents his material from the perspective of a home inspector - which he is, in addition to his speaking career.
- The 2017 State Election has come and gone – see page 4 in this newsletter for the re-elected and newly-elected Board members filling the 4 State-Elected Member at Large seats on the WAHI Board of Directors. We made some changes this year in the hopes of increasing participation - we were successful, but to a small degree. I would love to hear from members who chose to not participate – why? Contact me at julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766. And be honest, I can take it!
- For any WAHI committee work, remember WAHI has an account with an online meeting provider, Zoom. This service is available for use by the Board of Directors, chapter leadership and State and Chapter committees. Contact me for further information or to schedule a meeting for your group.

April 2017 and Beyond...

- Chapter Elections: Some chapter elections need to be held yet – Chippewa Valley and Madison will hold their election in May. See page 4 in this newsletter to see the 2017-2019 chapter officers for Central, Fox Valley and Milwaukee. Thank you all for your service to WAHI and the members.
- I plan to visit all of the chapters over the months of May and June. I am scheduled to attend Chippewa Valley and Milwaukee in May, Madison in June. I need to confirm with Fox Valley and Central yet. I look forward to meeting our many new members and existing members who have not been able to join us for a spring and fall seminar.

STATE ELECTION RESULTS

The results are in! The 4 WAHI Member at Large elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the next two years are:

- Tom Dempsey (Milwaukee)
- Denny Kruger (Madison)
- Ron Miller (Madison)
- Mike von Gunten (Milwaukee)

Tom, Ron and Mike are currently on the Board; Denny will take office May 1st.

Thank you to all you participated in this year's election process. The election changes this year (election held after seminar, online voting demo at seminar, the candidates introduced during the Annual Meeting) resulted in a slight increase in participation and even though "slight," an increase of any kind is a step in the right direction... *every little bit counts!*

Our sincere thanks to the candidates also...

Tom, Ron and Mike - for your continued, tireless service to the association!

Denny - for your interest in serving on the Board again - we all look forward to working with you again.

Rebecca - for your desire to get involved in WAHI in a leadership role early in your "WAHI membership career." Stay on that path!

CHAPTER ELECTIONS - RESULTS (so far)

All Chapters will hold elections in spring 2017 at their March, April or May meeting. Central, Fox Valley and Milwaukee held their elections in March:

Central:

- President Rich Duerkop
- Vice President Kyle Zimmerman
- Secretary Paul Zenker
- Treasurer Nathan Peterson
- Education Chair Rich Duerkop
- Chapter Elected Member at Large Mike Carson

Fox Valley:

- President Dave Pribyl
- Vice President Ron Nohre
- Secretary Dave VanderHeiden
- Treasurer Dave Stoinski
- Education Co-Chairs Scott Hansen and Dave VanderHeiden
- Chapter Elected Member at Large Dave Pribyl

Milwaukee:

- President Jay Paulson
- Vice President Jim Oezer
- Secretary Brian Derewicz
- Treasurer George Finch
- Education Chair Steve Knoebel
- Chapter Elected Member at Large Scot McLean

(President cont'd from pg. 1)

In relative terms in the State, home inspectors, as a group, are quite small compared to many other professions. My concern is that with such a small group, we could be overlooked and importance minimized. In the coming months we will provide contact information and talking points so you can reach out to your State representatives to express how significant our impact is on the public. Nearly every real estate transaction in this State is affected by a professional opinion from a HOME INSPECTOR! We may be small in numbers, but we have a huge impact on the public interest. WAHI will be working on this with our Lobbyist Kathi Kilgore, but a strong message from all of you to your Legislators will be so very important as well.

Finally, back to *Old Business*.....

We must keep the Affiliate Membership Campaign front and center! Every Chapter must continue to cultivate relationships with your existing Affiliate members and pursue new Affiliate members. As stated in numerous past newsletters, WAHI has a resolution to increase involvement with our Affiliates. This resolution must remain a top priority. Talk at your chapter meetings to see where your chapter falls. Your chapter Affiliate members should cover every area we deal with in the course of an inspection (roof, siding, windows, plumbing, heating, electrical, foundations, mold, etc.). If your chapter doesn't have a broad representation of Affiliate members, invite your favorite contractors to a chapter meeting - remember to tell them we offer a free dinner on their 1st visit.



Enjoy the warmer weather and have fun with your clients inspecting their buildings!
Andy Helgeson, President

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NEW MEMBERS

Bradford Arneson (Chippewa Valley)

Home Inspector Member
Arneson Home Inspection
262-909-3216
bradfordarneson@gmail.com

Robert Burt (Milwaukee)

Affiliate Member offering drain tile testing
Bob's Independent Drain Tile Testing, LLC
414-545-1456
idtibybob@gmail.com

Randy Miller (Milwaukee)

Affiliate Member offering roofing, siding and gutters
Allrite Home and Remodeling/S & E Insulation
414-353-6910
randy@allriteremodeling.com
www.allriteremodeling.com

Craig Nagy (Milwaukee)

Home Inspector Member
Nagy Inspections
414-588-3479
craig.nagy@phci.org

Richard Reimer (Milwaukee)

Affiliate Member offering services to address mold, fire damage, asbestos, bio hazards, etc.
Custom Craft Environmental
262-305-7221
customcraftenvironmental@yahoo.com
www.customcraftenvironmental.com

Jim Scuric (Milwaukee)

Home Inspector Member
Nagy Inspections
262-470-5289
jscuric@yahoo.com

Patrick J. Skeffington (Madison)

Home Inspector Member
Inspection 360 Pros
608-792-0360
pat@inspection360pros.com

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Add a photo to the [WAHI website](#) and link it to your business site!

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WAHI Arbitration Program

Not every homeowner/inspector interaction goes smoothly. Although all members are encouraged to make every effort to resolve disputes on their own, we know that is not always successful. **WAHI's Dispute Resolution Program** is here for you during those difficult times.

The process begins when the complainant (homeowner) contacts the Program Administrator at Resolute Systems by one of the following ways:

Mail: 1550 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53020

Email: info@ResoluteSystems.com

Website: www.resolutesystems.com

For more information, please contact Arbitration Committee Chair, Mark Thomas at (414) 486-2367 or mark@thomasbuildingconsulting.com

SPECIAL SPACES FOR KIDS

Longtime Milwaukee Chapter member and Embassy Homes architectural designer, Andrew Risch, is involved in the Special Spaces organization.

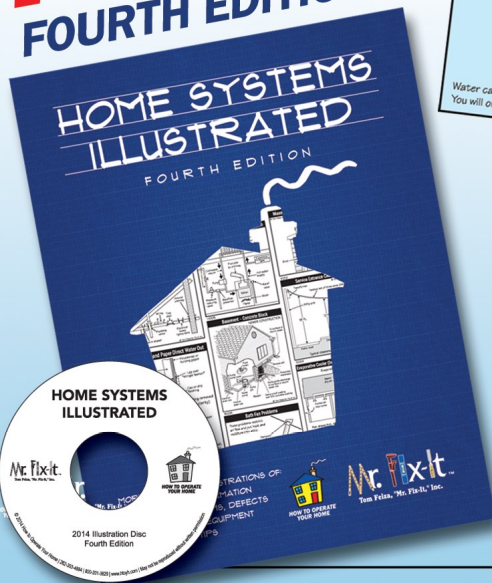
Special spaces, is a non-profit that creates dream bedrooms for children with life threatening illnesses.

The program is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to give of your time and talents, please contact Andrew at 262-841-8510 x111 or Andrew@embassyhomes.com

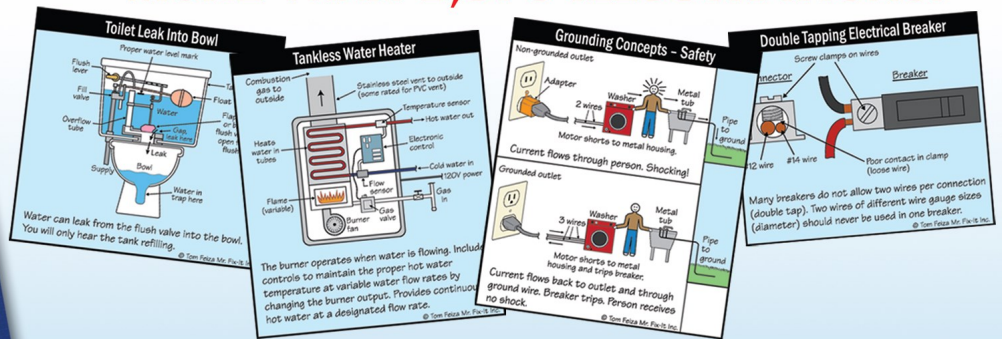
specialspacesmilwaukee.org



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WAHI 101 - INSTRUCTIONS TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE IN

5 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to www.wahigroup.com.
2. From the Home Page - upper right corner, select "LOGIN." ENTER your email address on file with WAHI and password.
*If you have questions, contact Julie at julie@wahigroup.com - she can provide your WAHI address or update it for you.
3. Once logged in, the upper right corner shows your name, "Change Password" and "Log Out."
CLICK on your name.
4. You should now be on the "My Profile" page. Select "EDIT PROFILE" in the gray rectangular box.
5. After making your updates, select "SAVE" in the gray rectangular box at the bottom of the page.

Stay in touch with WAHI's Facebook Page



Our [WAHI Facebook page](#) provides the perfect opportunity to make chapter announcements, post minutes, post meeting changes or just see what your fellow members have been up to.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Turicik
920-892-7654
homeview@wi.rr.com



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Learn From My Ignorance

This month's piece has nothing to do with chimneys, but rather furnace humidifiers. I have been fighting with the humidifier in my house forever.

Last year, I bought a self-filling, stand-alone whole house humidifier that you put in the middle of your home and fill with water. It didn't work that great, but made things a little better.

This year I decided to install a new humidifier with a digital controller. I paid almost \$300 for an electric powered, fan assisted humidifier and another \$90 for the digital display. Then I decided I didn't really want to install this thing - was there any way I could get the old one to work? The water ran through my old one, it just didn't make the air anymore humid. I couldn't figure it out.

So I went to the store and got a new, aluminum filter - the kind water runs through. As I was opening the box, I noticed it had a red paint mark on one side. I didn't recall ever seeing that before. I read the box to find out the red mark is the side that has to face upward on the unit. I put the filter in, as instructed, and now the air is humid! It's a miracle! Years of dryness and suffering solved by simply *reading the package!*

The interesting thing about this story, that made me feel *less* ignorant, was that when I went back to the major furnace distributor in town to return the \$300 humidifier, the branch manager did not know that humidifiers have a specific way the filters are to be installed. In my case, paint mark up!

DISPUTE PROCESS

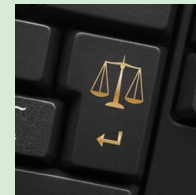


All member-to-member or member-to-association disputes must go through the Membership Committee. A member going public, with disputes of these types, risks disciplinary action.

The Membership Committee will implement this policy.

**Contact Membership Committee Chair,
Ron Miller at 608-832-6630 or
ronmiller547@gmail.com**

WAHI Legal Support



Attorney Roy Wagner of von Briesen and Roper continues to offer risk-free initial counseling to members with legal concerns. If further legal assistance is requested, the cost of the initial consultation will be included in the bill.

**Contact Roy Wagner at
(414) 287-1250 or
rwagner@vonbriesen.com**

Members Only - Interactive Forum

It has come to our attention that many of you may be unaware that the WAHI website hosts an interactive forum on the Members Only page. We encourage all members to check it out! This is a very useful tool for communicating directly with fellow members and with our large membership, chances are very good that you will find someone who has a shared experience similar to yours or an answer to your question! To access the forum section of the website you need to log-in to the website.

See page 11, of this newsletter for step-by-step instructions to log-in to your profile and make use of this additional "tool" and benefit WAHI offers to their members.



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Also, in conjunction with the recent WAHI conference, Josh is offering free website evaluations to all WAHI members. Email your website url to josh@kvfmarketing.com if you'd like a free, no-strings, evaluation of your website. See my ad on this page.

Legislative Update Regarding Yellow Coated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)

A bill recently passed both the Virginia House and Senate, VA [SB 812](#) 2016. The bill provides that whenever a home inspector observes the presence of any shade of yellow shaded corrugated stainless steel tubing during a home inspection, his observation must be included in the inspection report along with the following statement: *"Manufacturers believe that this product is safer if properly bonded and grounded as required by the manufacturer's installation instructions. Proper bonding and grounding of the product can only be determined by a licensed electrical contractor."* The bill was amended on January 26, 2017 such that if a home inspector observes the presence of any shade of yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing during a home inspection in a home that was built prior to the adoption of the 2006 Virginia Construction Code, effective May 1, 2008, he shall include that observation in the report along with the following statement: *"Manufacturers believe that this product is safer if properly bonded as required by the manufacturer's installation instructions. Proper bonding of the product should be determined by a contractor licensed to perform the work in the Commonwealth of Virginia."* The Governor's action deadline is midnight, March 27, 2017 in which to enact this bill.

A similar bill is already in effect in Maryland, House Bill 1435. The bill took effect October 1, 2013 and states: Any shade of yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) was observed during the home inspection, a disclosure in 14-point bold type that states: *"Manufacturers believe that yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is safer if properly bonded and grounded as required by the manufacturer's installation instructions. Proper bonding and grounding of CSST can be determined only by a licensed master electrician."*

Oklahoma House Joint Resolution 1051, signed into law on May 29, 2013 was included as part of the Oklahoma Standards of Practice for Home Inspectors. Section 2(f)2e of the Home Inspectors Act, known as the Standards of workmanship and practice, requires the Inspector to describe the presence of any shade of yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing ("CSST") flexible gas piping observed during the inspection in which the inspector is not required to identify concealed conditions, components not readily accessible, or any other item excepted from inspection pursuant to [this rule]. If any shade of yellow CSST flexible gas piping is observed, the home inspector shall notify the client, in writing, as follows: *"Manufacturers*

believe the product is safer if properly bonded and grounded as required by the manufacturer's installation instructions. Proper bonding and grounding of the product can only be determined by a licensed electrical contractor."

**Yellow
CSST**

Safety Campaign



An Important Safety Message

Do you have this fuel gas piping product installed in your home or business? This product, known as corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) should be properly bonded and grounded in order to reduce the risk to your house or business caused from lightning activity.

See back for details about what you should do if you have this product in your home or business



For more information concerning the safety of CSST go to CSSTsafety.com

What is CSST?

Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is a flexible, stainless steel piping system used to supply natural gas and propane in residential, commercial, and industrial structures. Standard CSST is coated with a yellow exterior plastic coating.

Why am I being contacted?

If lightning strikes on or near a structure, there is risk it can travel through the structure's gas piping system and cause a leak, and in some cases a fire.

Since 2006, manufacturer's instructions have required direct-bonding and grounding of yellow CSST in new installations. A bonding connection installed on a gas piping system, as with any metallic system within a house, will reduce the likelihood of electrical arcing to or from other bonded metallic systems in the structure, thus reducing the likelihood of arc induced damage.

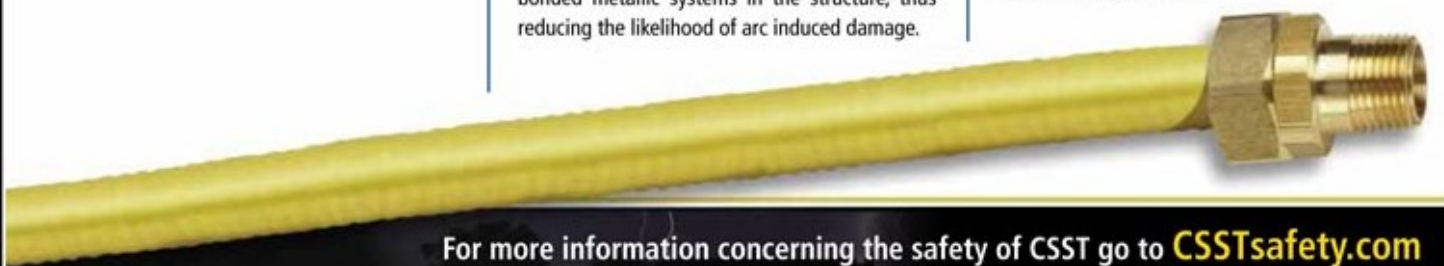
What should I do if I find CSST?

1. Inspect

If work has been performed on the gas piping system in your house or business since 1990, it's possible that yellow CSST was installed but not to current installation requirements.

2. Mitigate

If you find yellow CSST, it is strongly recommended that you contact a licensed electrician. The licensed electrician can make sure that your system is properly bonded.



For more information concerning the safety of CSST go to CSSTsafety.com



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| Secretary & Executive Director Julie Arnstein (414) 299-9766 | David Strandburg (608) 255-3966 |
| Treasurer Tom Kruse (608) 782-8831 | Mike von Gunten (262) 945-2446 |
| Members-at-Large Joy Bott (414) 395-0639 | Chapter Presidents Rich Duerkop, Central (715) 241-8222 |
| Tom Dempsey (262) 367-1536 | David Welch, Chippewa Valley (920) 889-2120 |
| Scott McLean (414) 228-6573 | Dave Pribyl, Fox Valley (920) 660-3000 |
| Ron Miller (608) 832-6630 | Dennis Kruger, Madison (608) 575-0371 |
| | Jay Paulson, Milwaukee (262) 751-5992 |

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