

DetNet  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: January 1, 2018

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June 30, 2017

**DetNet Flow Information Model**  
**draft-farkas-detnet-flow-information-model-01**

Abstract

This document describes flow information model for Deterministic Networking (DetNet). The DetNet service is provided either for a Layer 3 or a Layer 2 flow. This document provides DetNet flow information model both for Layer 3 and Layer 2 flows in an integrated fashion.

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## 1. Introduction

A Deterministic Networking (DetNet) service provides a capability to carry a unicast or a multicast data flow for an application with constrained requirements on network performance, e.g., low packet loss rate and/or latency. The DetNet service is provided either for a Layer 3 (L3) flow or a Layer 2 (L2) flow by an IP/MPLS network, see, e.g., [[I-D.ietf-detnet-dp-alt](#)]. Similarly, Time-Sensitive Networking (TSN) [[IEEE8021TSN](#)] can be used for L2 flows in a bridged network. DetNet and TSN have common architecture as expressed in [[IETFDetNet](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-detnet-architecture](#)]. DetNet service can be leveraged both by L3 and L2 flows, i.e., by DetNet L3 flows and DetNet L2 flows. Therefore, the DetNet flow information model provided by this document covers both DetNet L3 flows and DetNet L2 flows in an integrated fashion. Thus, the DetNet flow information model is based on [[I-D.ietf-detnet-architecture](#)] and on the data model specified by [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)]. Furthermore, the DetNet flow information model relies on the flow identification possibilities described in [[IEEE8021CB](#)], which is used by [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)] as well. In addition to TSN data model, [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)] also specifies configuration of TSN features (e.g., traffic scheduling specified by [[IEEE8021Qbv](#)]). Due to the common architecture and flow model, configuration features can be leveraged in certain deployment scenarios, e.g., when the network that provides the DetNet service includes both L3 and L2 network segments.

Based on the DetNet architecture [[I-D.ietf-detnet-architecture](#)] (see [Section 4](#)), this document (this revision) only considers the Centralized Network / Distributed User Model out of the models specified by [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)]. That is, there is a User-Network Interface (UNI) between an end system and a network. Furthermore, there is a central entity for the control of the network. For instance, the central entity implements a Path Computation Element (PCE) for the calculation and establishment of paths needed for packet replication and elimination, if any.

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): The Goals and Non goals subsections are only for initial revisions, they are to be removed from future revisions of this draft.]]

### 1.1. Goals

As it is expressed in the Charter [[IETFDetNet](#)], the DetNet WG collaborates with IEEE 802.1 TSN in order to define a common architecture for both Layer 2 and Layer 3, which is beneficial for various reasons, e.g., in order to simplify implementations. The flow information model should be also common along those lines. As the TSN flow information/data model specified by [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)] is



mature, the DetNet flow information model described in this document is based on [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)], which is an amendment to [[IEEE8021Q](#)].

The Centralized Network / Distributed User Model of [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)] is used in this revision as a start of the work. Further models can be also useful for DetNet, e.g., the Fully Centralized Model for the Industrial M2M use case [[I-D.ietf-detnet-use-cases](#)].

This document intends to specify flow information model only.

## **1.2. Non Goals**

This document (this revision) does not intend to specify either flow data model or DetNet configuration. From these aspects, the goals of this document differ from the goals of [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)], which also specifies data model and configuration of certain TSN features.

## **2. Conventions Used in This Document**

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

The lowercase forms with an initial capital "Must", "Must Not", "Shall", "Shall Not", "Should", "Should Not", "May", and "Optional" in this document are to be interpreted in the sense defined in [[RFC2119](#)], but are used where the normative behavior is defined in documents published by SDOs other than the IETF.

## **3. Terminology and Definitions**

This document uses the terminology established in [Section 2](#) of the DetNet architecture document [[I-D.ietf-detnet-architecture](#)]. The DetNet <=> TSN dictionary of [[I-D.ietf-detnet-architecture](#)] is used to perform translation from [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)] to this document. Additional terms used in this document:

DetNet L3 Flow: Layer 3 (L3) flow leveraging DetNet service.

DetNet L2 Flow: Layer 2 (L2) flow leveraging DetNet service.

DetNetwork Flow: DetNet data plane specific encapsulated format of a DetNet L2 or L3 flow leveraging DetNet service.



#### **4. Naming Conventions**

The following naming conventions were used for naming information model components in this document. It is recommended that extensions of the model use the same conventions.

- o Names SHOULD be descriptive.
- o Names MUST start with uppercase letters.
- o Composed names MUST use capital letters for the first letter of each component. All other letters are lowercase, even for acronyms. Exceptions are made for acronyms containing a mixture of lowercase and capital letters, such as IPV6. Examples are SourceMacAddress and DestinationIPv6Address.

#### **5. End System and DetNet domain**

Deterministic service is required by time/loss sensitive application(s) running on an end system during communication with its peer(s). Such a data exchange has various requirements on delay and/or loss parameters.

The DetNet architecture [[I-D.ietf-detnet-architecture](#)] distinguishes two kinds of end systems: Source and Destination. The same distinction is applied for the DetNet flow information model. In addition to the end systems interested in a flow, the status information of the flow is also important. Therefore, the DetNet flow information model relies on four high level groups:

- o Source: an end system capable of sourcing a DetNet flow. The Source information group includes elements that specify the Source for a single flow. This information group is applied from the user to the network.
- o Destination: an end system that is a destination of a DetNet flow. The Destination information group includes elements that specify the Destination for a single flow. This information group is applied from the user to the network.
- o DetNet Domain: a network providing the DetNet service. The DetNet domain information group includes elements that specify the forwarding method for a single flow. This information group is applied within the network.
- o Status: the status of a DetNet flow. The status information group includes elements that specify the status of the flow in the network. This information group is applied from the network to





the user. This information group informs the user whether or not the flow is ready for use.

There are two operations for each flow with respect to a Source or a Destination:

- o Join: Source/Destination request to join the flow.
- o Leave: Source/Destination request to leave the flow.

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): Adding Modify operation can be considered to address cases when a flow is slightly changed, e.g., only MaxPayloadSize ([Section 6.2](#)) has been changed. The advantage of having a Modify is that it allows to initiate a change of flow spec while leaving the current flow is operating until the change is accepted. If there is no linkage between the Join and the Leave, then in figuring out whether the new flow spec can be supported, the central entity has to assume that the resources committed to the current flow are in use. If it is a Modify the central entity knows that the resources supporting the current flow can be available for supporting the altered flow. Modify is considered to be an optional operation due to possible control-plane limitations. ]]

As the DetNet UNI can provide service for both L3 and L2 flows, end systems may not need to implement the L3 <=> L2 Transfer Function specified by [[IEEE8021CB](#)] (see, e.g., subclause 6.3; see also subclause 46.1 in [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)]). An edge node may implement a function similar to the Transfer Function, see, e.g., the Svc Proxy in Figure 1 in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-dp-alt](#)].

## 6. Flow

The flows leveraging DetNet service can be unicast or multicast data flows for an application with constrained requirements on network performance, e.g., low packet loss rate and/or latency. Therefore, they can require different connectivity types: point-to-point (p2p) or point-to-multipoint (p2mp). The p2mp connectivity is created by a transport layer function (e.g., p2mp LSP) [[I-D.ietf-detnet-dp-alt](#)]. (Note that mp2mp connectivity is a superposition of p2mp connections.)

Many flows using DetNet service are periodic with fix packet size (i.e., Constant Bit Rate (CBR) flows), or periodic with variable packet size.

Delay and loss parameters are correlated because the effect of late delivery can result data loss for an application. However, not all



applications require hard limits on both parameters (delay and loss). For example, some real-time applications allow graceful degradation if loss happens (e.g., sample-based processing, media distribution). Some others may require high-bandwidth connections that make the usage of techniques like packet replication economically challenging or even impossible. Some applications may not tolerate loss, but are not delay sensitive (e.g., bufferless sensors). Time/loss sensitive applications may have somewhat special requirements especially for loss (e.g., no loss in two consecutive communication cycles; very low outage time, etc.).

Flows have the following attributes:

- a. DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#))
- b. TrafficSpecification ([Section 6.2](#))
- c. FlowRank ([Section 6.3](#))

Flow attributes are described in the following sections.

## **[6.1](#). Identification and Specification of Flows**

Identification options for DetNet flows at the UNI and within the DetNet domain are specified as follows; see [Section 6.1.1](#) for DetNet L3 flows (at UNI), [Section 6.1.2](#) for DetNet L2 flows (at UNI) and [Section 6.1.3](#) for DetNetwork flows (within the network).

### **[6.1.1](#). DetNet L3 Flow Identification and Specification at UNI**

DetNet L3 flows can be identified and specified by the following attributes:

- a. SourceIpAddress
- b. DestinationIpAddress
- c. IPv6FlowLabel
- d. Dscp
- e. Protocol
- f. SourcePort
- g. DestinationPort



#### **6.1.2. DetNet L2 Flow Identification and Specification at UNI**

DetNet L2 flows can be identified and specified by the following attributes:

- a. DestinationMacAddress
- b. SourceMacAddress
- c. Pcp
- d. VlanId
- e. EtherType

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): The Multiple Stream Registration Protocol (MSRP) [[IEEE8021Q](#)] uses StreamID to match Talker registrations with their corresponding Listener registrations, i.e., to identify Streams (L2 TSN flows). The StreamID includes the following subcomponents:

- o A 48-bit MAC Address associated with the Talker sourcing the stream to the bridged network.
- o A 16-bit unsigned integer value, Unique ID, used to distinguish among multiple streams sourced by the same Talker.

]]

#### **6.1.3. DetNetwork Flow Identification and Specification**

DetNetwork flows can be identified and specified by the following attributes:

- a. SourceIpAddress
- b. DestinationIpAddress
- c. IPV6FlowLabel
- d. MplsLabel

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): Attributes are based on latest data plane solution.]]



## 6.2. Traffic Specification

TrafficSpecification specifies how the Source transmits packets for the flow. This is effectively the promise/request of the Source to the network. The network uses this traffic specification to allocate resources and adjust queue parameters in network nodes.

TrafficSpecification has the following attributes:

- a. Interval: the period of time in which the traffic specification cannot be exceeded.
- b. MaxPacketsPerInterval: the maximum number of packets that the Source will transmit in one Interval.
- c. MaxPayloadSize: the maximum payload size that the Source will transmit.

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): These attributes can be used to describe any type of traffic (e.g., CBR, VBR, etc.) and can be used during resource allocation to represent worst case scenarios. Further optional attributes can be considered to achieve more efficient resource allocation. Such optional attributes might be worth for flows with soft requirements (i.e., the flow is only loss sensitive or only delay sensitive, but not both delay-and-loss sensitive). Possible options how to extend TrafficSpecification attributes is for further discussion. Identified options are described in the following notes.]]

[[NOTE1: Based on the already defined attributes the most similar additional attributes for VBR type flows can be defined as follows:

- o AveragePacketsPerInterval: the average number of packets that the Source will transmit in one Interval.
- o AveragePayloadSize: the average payload size that the Source will transmit.

]]

[[NOTE2: another alternative to deal better with various traffic types can rely on [\[RFC6003\]](#), which describes the support of Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) Ethernet traffic parameters for using for resource reservation purposes. Such a Bandwidth Profile can be also adapted to describe the set of traffic parameters for a Detnet flow. Committed Rate indicates the rate at which traffic commits to be sent by the source (described in terms of the CIR (Committed Information Rate) and CBS (Committed Burst Size) attributes.) Excess Rate





indicates the extent by which the traffic sent by the source exceeds the committed rate. The Excess Rate is described in terms of the EIR (Excess Information Rate) and EBS (Excess Burst Size) attributes. ]]

[[NOTE3: a third alternative is to define application based traffic models such as [\[GPP22885\]](#) defines periodic and event-driven traffic model, and 5G PPP work defines traffic model for MTC (Machine Type Communication) use cases. Periodic traffic type is usually for status update between devices or devices transmit status report to a central unit in regular basis. TrafficPeriod, defines the period of the status update message. DataSize, defines the data size of the message which is constant. 3GPP also defines approximately-periodic transmission with variations on period and uncertainty in the time arrival of the packets. Event-triggered traffic type corresponds traffic being triggered by an MTC device event.

MinIntervalBetweenEvent, defines the minimum interval between two events. Event-triggered transmission will not happen all the time, whenever an alert is sent, it waits until the issue being solved to be able to send another alert. MaxPacketPerEvent, defines the max number of packets within one message. ]]

### **6.3. Flow Rank**

FlowRank provides the rank of this flow relative to others flows in the network. This rank is used to determine success/failure of flow establishment. Rank (boolean) is used by the network to decide which flows can and cannot exist when network resources reach their limit. Rank is used to help to determine which flows can be dropped (i.e., removed from node configuration) if a port of a node becomes oversubscribed (e.g., due to network reconfiguration). The true value is more important than the false value (i.e., flows with false are dropped first).

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): FlowRank specified by [\[IEEE8021Qcc\]](#) is according to L2 logic, where lower values are preferred.]]

## **7. Source**

The Source object specifies:

- o The behavior of the Source for the flow (how/when the Source transmits).
- o The requirements of the Source from the network.
- o The capabilities of the interface(s) of the Source.



The Source object includes the following attributes:

- a. DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#))
- b. TrafficSpecification ([Section 6.2](#))
- c. FlowRank ([Section 6.3](#))
- d. EndSystemInterfaces ([Section 9.1](#))
- e. InterfaceCapabilities ([Section 9.2](#))
- f. UserToNetworkRequirements ([Section 9.3](#))

For the join operation, the DataFlowSpecification, FlowRank, EndSystemInterfaces, and TrafficSpecification SHALL be included within the Source. For the join operation, the UserToNetworkRequirements and InterfaceCapabilities groups MAY be included within the Source.

For the leave operation, the DataFlowSpecification and EndSystemInterfaces SHALL be included within the Source.

## **8. Destination**

The Destination object includes the following attributes:

- a. DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#))
- b. EndSystemInterfaces ([Section 9.1](#))
- c. InterfaceCapabilities ([Section 9.2](#))
- d. UserToNetworkRequirements ([Section 9.3](#))

For the join operation, the DataFlowSpecification and EndSystemInterfaces SHALL be included within the Destination. For the join operation, the UserToNetworkRequirements and InterfaceCapabilities groups MAY be included within the Destination.

For the leave operation, the DataFlowSpecification and EndSystemInterfaces SHALL be included within the Destination.

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): Should we add DestinationRank? It could distinguish the importance of Destinations if the flow cannot be provided for all Destinations.]]



## **9. Common Attributes of Source and Destination**

Source and Destination end systems have the following common attributes in addition to DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#)).

### **9.1. End System Interfaces**

EndSystemInterfaces is a list of identifiers, one for each physical interface (port) in the end system acting as a Source or Destination. An interface is identified by an IP or a MAC address.

EndSystemInterfaces can refer also to logical sub-Interfaces if supported by the end system, e.g., based on IfIndex parameter.

### **9.2. Interface Capabilities**

InterfaceCapabilities specifies the network capabilities of all interfaces (ports) contained in the EndSystemInterfaces object ([Section 9.1](#)). These capabilities may be configured via the InterfaceConfiguration object ([Section 11.2](#)) of the Status object ([Section 11](#)).

Note that an end system may have multiple interfaces with different network capabilities. In this case, each interface should be specified in a distinct top-level Source or Destination object (i.e., one entry in EndSystemInterfaces ([Section 9.1](#))). Use of multiple entries in EndSystemInterfaces is intended for network capabilities that span multiple interfaces (e.g., packet replication and elimination).";.

InterfaceCapabilities attributes:

- a. SubInterfaceCapable (sub-interface capable)
- b. PREF-Capable (packet replication and elimination capable)

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): InterfaceCapabilities attributes are to be defined. For information, [\[IEEE8021Qcc\]](#) specifies the following attributes:

- o VlanTagCapable (Customer VLAN Tag capable)
- o CB-Capable (frame replication and elimination capable)
- o CB-StreamIdenTypeList (a list of the optional Stream Identification types supported by the interface as specified in [\[IEEE8021CB\]](#).)



- o CB-SequenceTypeList (a list of the optional Sequence Encode/Decode types supported by the interface as specified in [[IEEE8021CB](#)].)

]]

### **9.3. User to Network Requirements**

UserToNetworkRequirements specifies user requirements for the flow, such as latency and reliability.

The UserToNetworkRequirements object includes the following attributes:

- a. NumReplicationTrees
- b. MaxLatency

NumReplicationTrees specifies the number of maximally disjoint trees that the network should configure to provide packet replication and elimination for the flow. NumReplicationTrees is provided by the Source only. Destinations SHALL set this element to one. Value zero and one indicate no packet replication and elimination for the flow. When NumReplicationTrees is greater than one, packet replication and elimination is to be used for the flow. If the Source sets this element to greater than one, and packet replication and elimination is not possible in the network (e.g., no disjoint paths, or the nodes do not support packet replication and elimination), then the FailureCode of the Status object is non-zero ([Section 11.1](#)).

MaxLatency is the maximum latency from Source to Destination(s) for a single packet of the flow. MaxLatency is specified as an integer number of nanoseconds. When this requirement is specified by the Source, it must be satisfied for all Destinations. When this requirement is specified by a Destination, it must be satisfied for that particular Destination only. If the UserToNetworkRequirements group is not provided within the Source or Destination object, then value zero SHALL be used for this element. Value zero represents a special use for the maximum latency requirement. Value zero locks-down the initial latency that the network provides in the AccumulatedLatency parameter of the Status object ([Section 11](#)) after the successful configuration of the flow, such that any subsequent increase in the latency beyond that initial value causes the flow to fail.

[[NOTE-1 (to be removed from a future revision): Should we add a parameter to specify the maximum packet loss rate that can be tolerated for the flow?]]





[[NOTE-2 (to be removed from a future revision): TrafficSpecification ([Section 6.2](#)) specifies the Peak Information Rate (PIR) of the flow, which is a kind of user requirement to the network. Should we add Committed Information Rate (CIR), i.e., the minimum rate the user requests to be guaranteed for the flow by the network?]]

## **10. DetNet Domain**

The DetNet Domain may change the encapsulation of a DetNet L2 or L3 flow at the UNI. That impacts not only how a flow can be recognised inside the DetNet domain but also the resource reservation calculations.

The DetNet Domain object specifies:

- o The behavior of the flow (how/when it is transmitted).
- o The requirements of the flow from the network.
- o The capabilities of the DetNet domain.

The DetNet domain object includes the following attributes:

- a. DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#))
- b. TrafficSpecification ([Section 6.2](#))
- c. FlowRank ([Section 6.3](#))
- d. DetnetDomainCapabilities ([Section 10.1](#))
- e. UserToNetworkRequirements ([Section 9.3](#))

### **10.1. DetNet Domain Capabilities**

DetnetDomainCapabilities specifies the network capabilities, which can be used to provide DetNet service. DetNet Edge nodes may change the encapsulation of a flow according to the data plane used inside the DetNet domain.

DetnetDomainCapabilities object includes the following attributes:

- a. EncapsulationFormat (data plane specific encapsulation)
- b. PREF-Capable (packet replication and elimination capable)



## **11. Status**

The Status object is provided by the network each Source and Destination of the flow. The Status object provides the status of the flow with respect to the establishment of the flow by the network. The Status object is delivered via the corresponding UNI to each Source and Destination end system of the flow. The Status is distinct for each Source or Destination because the AccumulatedLatency and InterfaceConfiguration objects are distinct, see below.

The Status object SHALL include the attributes a), b), c); and MAY include attributes d), e):

- a. DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#))
- b. StatusInfo ([Section 11.1](#))
- c. AccumulatedLatency (this section below)
- d. InterfaceConfiguration ([Section 11.2](#))
- e. FailedInterfaces ([Section 11.3](#))

DataFlowSpecification identifies the flow for which status is provided. DataFlowSpecification is described in ([Section 6.1](#)) If the Status object is provided without a Source or Destination object in a protocol message via a UNI, then the DataFlowSpecification object SHALL be included within the Status object for both join and leave operations. If the Status object immediately follows a Source or Destination object in the protocol message, then the DataFlowSpecification object is obtained from the Source/Destination object, and therefore DataFlowSpecification is not required within the Status object.

AccumulatedLatency provides the worst-case latency that a single packet of the flow can encounter along its current path(s) in the network. When provided to a Source, AccumulatedLatency is the worst-case latency for all Destinations (worst path). AccumulatedLatency is specified as an integer number of nanoseconds. Latency is measured using the time at which the data frame's message timestamp point passes the reference plane marking the boundary between the network media and PHY. The message timestamp point is specified by IEEE Std 802.1AS [[IEEE8021AS](#)] for various media. For a successful Status, the network returns a value less than or equal to the MaxLatency of the UserToNetworkRequirements ([Section 9.3](#)). If the NumReplicationTrees of the UserToNetworkRequirements ([Section 9.3](#)) is one, then the AccumulatedLatency SHALL provide the worst latency for



the current path from the Source to each Destination. If the path is changed (e.g., due to rerouting), then the AccumulatedLatency changes accordingly. If the NumReplicationTrees of the UserToNetworkRequirements ([Section 9.3](#)) is greater than one, AccumulatedLatency SHALL provide the worst latency for all paths in use from the Source to each Destination.

### **11.1. Status Info**

StatusInfo provides information regarding the status of a flow's configuration in the network.

The StatusInfo object MAY include the following attributes:

- a. SourceStatus is an enumeration for the status of the flow's Source:
  - \* None: no Source
  - \* Ready: Source is ready
  - \* Failed: Source failed
- b. DestinationStatus is an enumeration for the status of the flow's Destinations:
  - \* None: no Destination
  - \* Ready: all Destinations are ready
  - \* PartialFailed: One or more Destinations ready, and one or more Listeners failed. The flow can be used if the Source is Ready.
  - \* Failed: All Destinations failed.
- c. FailureCode: A non-zero code that specifies the problem if the flow encounters a failure (e.g., packet replication and elimination is requested but not possible, or SourceStatus is Failed, or DestinationStatus is Failed, or DestinationStatus is PartialFailed).

[[NOTE (to be removed from a future revision): FailureCodes to be defined for DetNet. Table 46-1 of [\[IEEE8021Qcc\]](#) describes TSN failure codes.]]



### **11.2. Interface Configuration**

InterfaceConfiguration provides configuration of interfaces in the Source/Destination. This configuration assists the network in meeting the requirements of the flow. The InterfaceConfiguration object is according to the capabilities of the interface. InterfaceConfiguration can be distinct for each Source or Destination of each flow. If the InterfaceConfiguration object is not provided within the Status object, then the network SHALL assume zero elements as the default (no interface configuration).

The InterfaceConfiguration object MAY include one or more the following attributes:

- a. MAC or IP Address to identify the interface
- b. DataFlowSpecification ([Section 6.1](#))

### **11.3. Failed Interfaces**

FailedInterfaces provides a list of one or more physical interfaces (ports) in the failed node when a failure occurs in network configuration.

The InterfaceConfiguration object includes the following attributes:

- a. MAC or IP Address to identify the interface
- b. InterfaceName

InterfaceName is the name of the interface (port) within the node. This interface name SHALL be persistent, and unique within the node.

## **12. Summary**

This document describes DetNet flow information model both for DetNet L3 flows and DetNet L2 flows based on the TSN data model specified by [[IEEE8021Qcc](#)]. This revision is extended with DetNet specific flow information model elements.

## **13. IANA Considerations**

N/A.





## **14. Security Considerations**

N/A.

## **15. References**

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