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TWAMP Light Extensions for Segment Routing Networks
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Abstract

Segment Routing (SR) leverages the source routing paradigm. SR is applicable to both Multiprotocol Label Switching (SR-MPLS) and IPv6 (SRv6) data planes. This document describes [RFC 5357](#) (Two-Way Active Measurement Protocol (TWAMP) Light) extensions for Delay and Loss Measurement in Segment Routing networks, for both SR-MPLS and SRv6 data planes.

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[1.](#) Introduction

Segment Routing (SR) leverages the source routing paradigm and greatly simplifies network operations for Software Defined Networks (SDNs). SR is applicable to both Multiprotocol Label Switching (SR-MPLS) and IPv6 (SRv6) data planes. Built-in SR Performance Measurement (PM) is one of the essential requirements to provide Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

The One-Way Active Measurement Protocol (OWAMP) defined in [[RFC4656](#)] and Two-Way Active Measurement Protocol (TWAMP) defined in [[RFC5357](#)] provide capabilities for the measurement of various performance metrics in IP networks using probe messages. These protocols rely on control-channel signaling to establish a test-channel over an UDP path. The TWAMP Light [Appendix I in [RFC5357](#)] [[BBF.TR-390](#)] provides simplified mechanisms for active performance measurement in Customer IP networks by provisioning UDP paths and eliminates the need for control-channel signaling. As described in [Appendix A of \[RFC8545\]](#), TWAMP Light mechanism is informative only. These protocols lack

support for direct-mode Loss Measurement (LM) to detect actual Customer data traffic loss which is required in SR networks.

This document describes [RFC 5357](#) (Two-Way Active Measurement Protocol (TWAMP) Light) extensions for Delay and Loss Measurement in Segment Routing networks, for both SR-MPLS and SRv6 data planes.

2. Conventions Used in This Document

2.1. Requirements Language

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](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

2.2. Abbreviations

BSID: Binding Segment ID.

DM: Delay Measurement.

HMAC: Hashed Message Authentication Code.

LM: Loss Measurement.

MPLS: Multiprotocol Label Switching.

NTP: Network Time Protocol.

OWAMP: One-Way Active Measurement Protocol.

PM: Performance Measurement.

PTP: Precision Time Protocol.

SID: Segment ID.

SL: Segment List.

SR: Segment Routing.

SRH: Segment Routing Header.

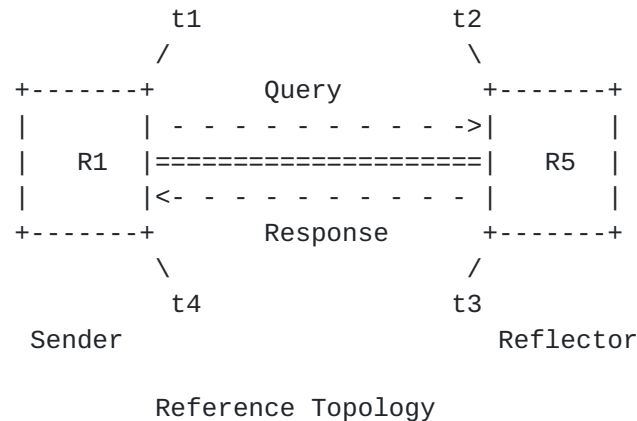
SR-MPLS: Segment Routing with MPLS data plane.

SRv6: Segment Routing with IPv6 data plane.

TWAMP: Two-Way Active Measurement Protocol.

2.3. Reference Topology

In the reference topology shown below, the sender node R1 initiates a performance measurement probe query message and the reflector node R5 sends a probe response message for the query message received. The probe response message is typically sent to the sender node R1.



3. Probe Query Message

3.1. Control Code Field Extension for TWAMP Light Messages

In this document, the Control Code field is defined for delay and loss measurement probe query messages for TWAMP Light in unauthenticated and authenticated modes. The modified delay measurement probe query message format is shown in Figure 1. This message format is backwards compatible with the message format defined in [RFC5357] as its reflector ignores the received field (previously identified as MBZ). With this field, the reflector node does not require any additional state for PM (recall that in SR networks, the state is in the probe packet and signaling of the parameters is undesired). The usage of the Control Code is not limited to the SR and can be used for non-SR network.

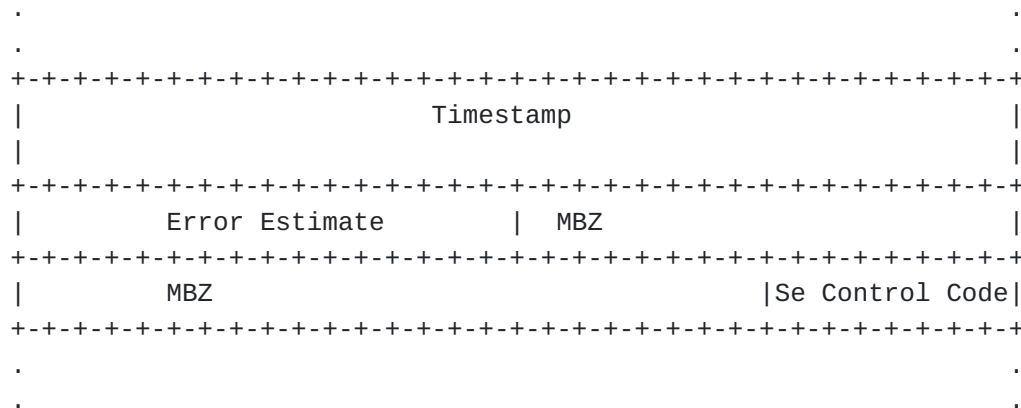


Figure 1: Sender Control Code in TWAMP Light DM Message

Sender Control Code: Set as follows in TWAMP Light probe query message.

In a Query:

0x0: Out-of-band Response Requested. Indicates that the probe response is not required over the same path in the reverse direction. This is also the default behavior.

0x1: In-band Response Requested. Indicates that this query has been sent over a bidirectional path and the probe response is required over the same path in the reverse direction.

0x2: No Response Requested.

3.2. Loss Measurement Query Message Extensions

In this document, TWAMP Light probe query messages for loss measurement are defined as shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. The message formats are hardware efficient due to well-known locations of the counters and payload small in size. They are stand-alone and similar to the delay measurement message formats (e.g. location of the Counter and Timestamp). They also do not require backwards compatibility and support for the existing DM message formats from [\[RFC5357\]](#) as different user-configured destination UDP port is used for loss measurement.

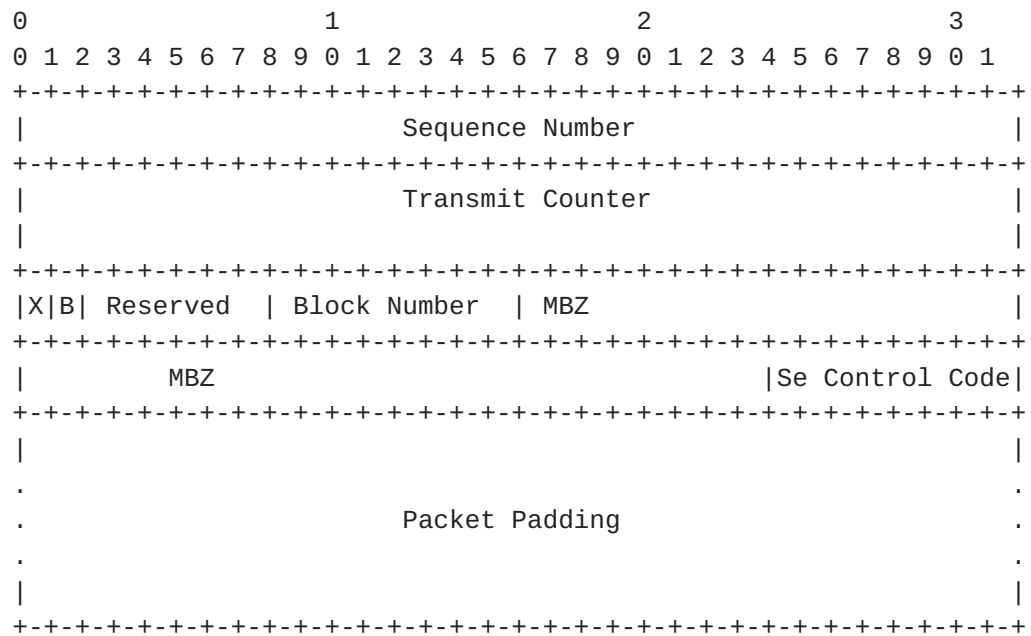


Figure 2: TWAMP Light LM Probe Query Message - Unauthenticated Mode

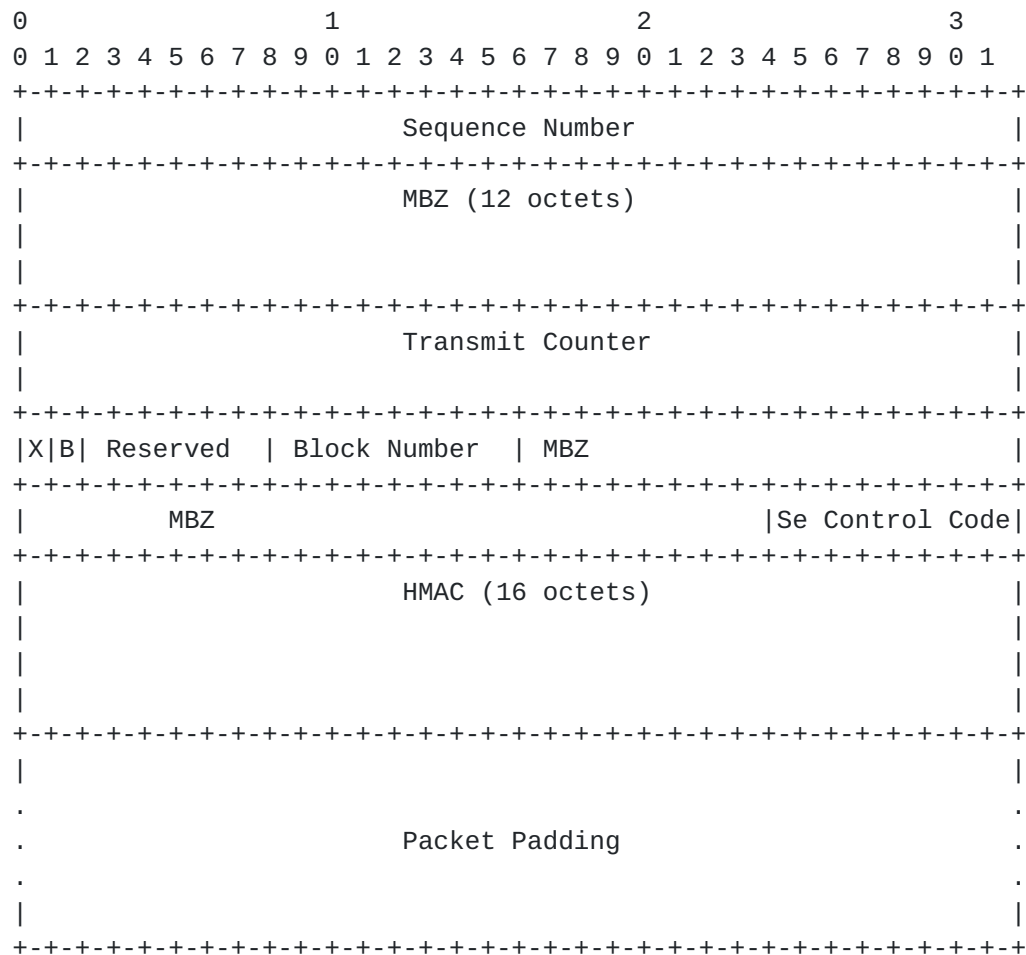


Figure 3: TWAMP Light LM Probe Query Message - Authenticated Mode

Sequence Number (32-bit): As defined in [\[RFC5357\]](#).

Transmit Counter (64-bit): The number of packets or octets sent by the sender node in the query message and by the reflector node in the response message. The counter is always written at the well-known location in the probe query and response messages.

Receive Counter (64-bit): The number of packets or octets received at the reflector node. It is written by the reflector node in the probe response message.

Sender Counter (64-bit): This is the exact copy of the transmit counter from the received query message. It is written by the reflector node in the probe response message.

Sender Sequence Number (32-bit): As defined in [\[RFC5357\]](#).

Sender TTL: As defined in [\[RFC5357\]](#).

LM Flags: The meanings of the Flag bits are:

X: Extended counter format indicator. Indicates the use of extended (64-bit) counter values. Initialized to 1 upon creation (and prior to transmission) of an LM query and copied from an LM query to an LM response message. Set to 0 when the LM message is transmitted or received over an interface that writes 32-bit counter values.

B: Octet (byte) count. When set to 1, indicates that the Counter 1-4 fields represent octet counts. The octet count applies to all packets within the LM scope, and the octet count of a packet sent or received includes the total length of that packet (but excludes headers, labels, or framing of the channel itself). When set to 0, indicates that the Counter fields represent packet counts.

Block Number (8-bit): The Loss Measurement using Alternate-Marking method defined in [[RFC8321](#)] requires to color the data traffic. To be able to correlate the transmit and receive traffic counters of the matching color, the Block Number (or color) of the traffic counters is carried by the probe query and response messages for loss measurement. The Block Number can also be used to aggregate performance metrics collected.

HMAC: The probe message in authenticated mode includes a key Hashed Message Authentication Code (HMAC) [[RFC2104](#)] hash. Each probe query and response messages are authenticated by adding Sequence Number with Hashed Message Authentication Code (HMAC) TLV. It can use HMAC-SHA-256 truncated to 128 bits (similarly to the use of it in IPSec defined in [[RFC4868](#)]); hence the length of the HMAC field is 16 octets.

HMAC uses its own key and the mechanism to distribute the HMAC key is outside the scope of this document.

In authenticated mode, only the sequence number is encrypted, and the other payload fields are sent in clear text. The probe message may include Comp.MBZ (Must Be Zero) variable length field to align the packet on 16 octets boundary.

4. Probe Response Message

4.1. Loss Measurement Response Message Extensions

In this document, TWAMP Light probe response message formats are defined for loss measurement as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

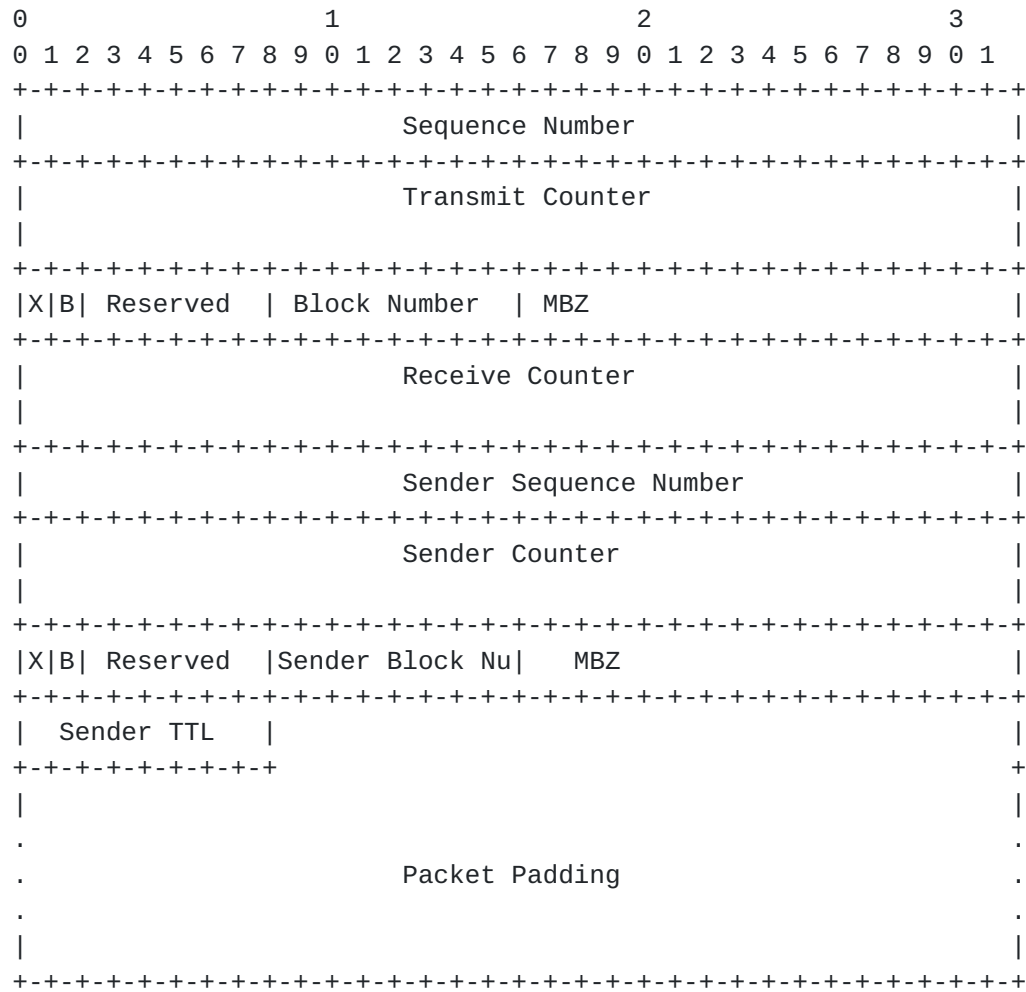
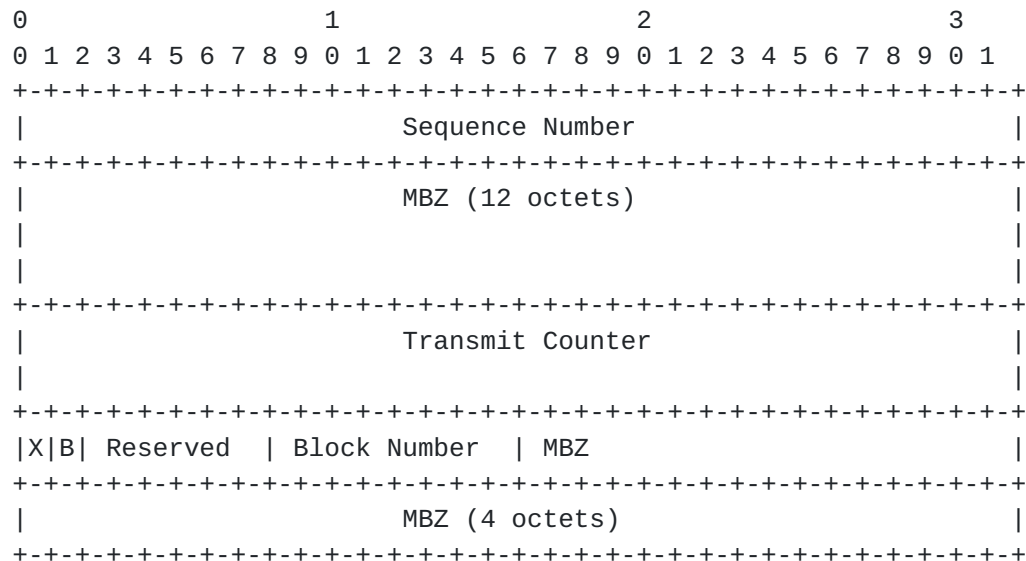


Figure 4: TWAMP Light LM Probe Response Message - Unauthenticated Mode



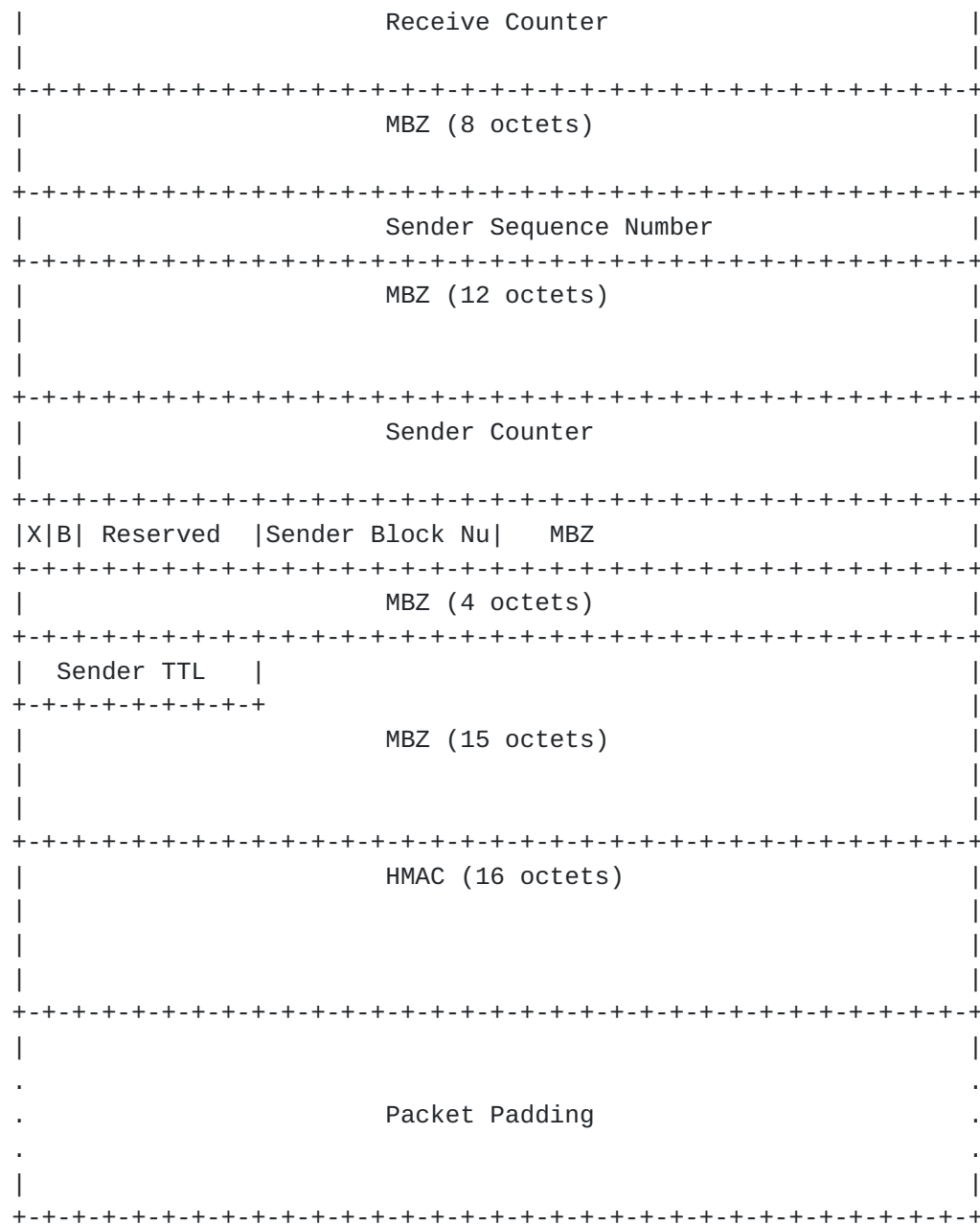


Figure 5: TWAMP Light LM Probe Response Message - Authenticated Mode

5. Security Considerations

The performance measurement is intended for deployment in well-managed private and service provider networks. As such, it assumes that a node involved in a measurement operation has previously verified the integrity of the path and the identity of the far-end reflector node.

If desired, attacks can be mitigated by performing basic validation and sanity checks, at the sender, of the counter or timestamp fields in received measurement response messages. The minimal state associated with these protocols also limits the extent of measurement disruption that can be caused by a corrupt or invalid message to a single query/response cycle.

Use of HMAC-SHA-256 in the authenticated mode protects the data integrity of the probe messages. Cryptographic measures may be enhanced by the correct configuration of access-control lists and firewalls.

6. IANA Considerations

This document does not require any IANA action.

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