

OTTAWA PC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG)

Product review

Quick View Plus for Windows 95

by Chris Taylor

One of the nifty features that Microsoft added to Windows 95 is the Quick Viewer. For many common file types, you can right click on the file in Explorer or on the desktop and choose Quick View from the pop-up menu. This opens the file in a viewer where you can see the contents without having to own and open the application that created the file.

While this is very handy, it does have its limitations. The document is displayed in a single font, even if multiple typefaces and point sizes were used in the

original. Embedded objects show up as empty boxes. You can't copy text to the clipboard and you can't print from Quick View. Quick View is extension based—it can view documents only with one of 35 pre-defined file extensions, covering something like 29 file formats. I showed a registry hack in the December issue of the newsletter that allows viewing of any file with Quick View, but only the 29 supported file formats will be viewed anywhere near properly.

Quick View Plus for Windows 95

Microsoft did not develop Quick View. They licensed it from Systems Compatibility, makers of Outside In. Systems Compatibility has been bought by Inso, who have released Quick View Plus for Windows 95 (QVP). Inso also has a version for Windows 3.1.

QVP replaces Quick View on right-click menus in Windows 95 and overcomes many of the limitations in what was licensed to Microsoft. It includes viewers for over 200 file types:

- graphics formats (for example, BMP, GIF, CGM, TIFF, Windows icons & cursors, DRW, and DFX)
- word processing formats (for example, Word, WordPerfect, Ami Pro, DisplayWrite, XY-Write, WordStar, MacWrite, and HTML)
- spreadsheet formats (for example, Excel, 1-2-3, Multiplan, Enable, Framework, QuattroPro, and SuperCalc)
- database formats (for example, dBase, Access, Paradox, R:BASE, DataEase, and Reflex)

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- presentation formats (Freelance, Harvard and PowerPoint)
- compressed file formats (Microsoft Binder, Unix Compress & TAR, and ZIP)

Finally, it can also view DOS and Windows executables and provide version information, whether they are 16- or 32-bit, names of modules called by the program, and so on.

WYSIWYG?

QVP displays properly most of the formatting in documents, including typefaces, text sizes, bold, underlined, italics, OLE objects (on which you can double-click to open in the server application), bullets, graphics, and so on.

The formatting is quite good, but it is not perfect. In a WordPerfect 6.1 file, it did not pick up columns, double-underlines displayed as single underlines, and shadowed text displayed as normal text. However, it picked up the different line formats used in a table but missed the shading on a cell, and it picked up the decimal alignment of numbers in a series of cells. A paragraph with double spacing displayed single spaced and triple spaced displayed as double spaced.

In a PowerPoint 4 presentation, embedded clip art images and graphs did not show up. This is due to the fact that presentations are viewed under QVP's graphics engine. The next release of QVP, due in March 96, has a presentations viewing engine which should correct this type of problem.

Text viewer

The text viewers allow you to search for text within the document and you can copy text to the clipboard. Text in most word proc-

essor formats is copied to the clipboard in Rich Text Format, which means most formatting should be retained when you paste it into another document.

The graphic and presentation viewers allow you to select portions of the image and copy them to the clipboard for use elsewhere. You can set any image as your wallpaper. It does so by converting (if necessary) the image to BMP format and stretching the image to fit the desktop. There is no way to have it convert a small image to a small BMP and tile it. I was a bit surprised to see the option to 'Make Wallpaper' while viewing a PowerPoint presentation. Choosing that option resulted in a totally black wallpaper.

Database and spreadsheet viewers

The database and spreadsheet viewers both display like a spreadsheet. You can select entire rows, columns or groups of cells and copy to the clipboard. The clipboard contents is pasted into a document as a table.

Compressed-file viewer

A few of the viewers go beyond basic viewing. With the compressed file formats, you can extract the files without need of an additional utility. You can view UUENCODED files, which strangely, are labelled as being an 'embedded graphic'. You cannot save the UUENCODED view of a file to disk.

Graphic-file viewer

For drawings, you can have them sized to fit the window, shown full screen, or scaled to the window's width or height.

Printing

Printing is quite good and reflects what you see on the screen. For heavily formatted documents, this generally means that it would have been better if printed from the original application, but if you don't care about absolute fidelity, or don't have the original application, it is fast and easy.

Unknown file formats

You can have unknown files displayed in text (7- or 8-bit ASCII, ANSI, or Unicode), hex, or you can choose not to display them at all. This worked for most unknown file types, such as Windows help files. When I tried to view a .COM file, however, QVP complained "Sorry. A viewer for this format is not available." If I renamed the file so that it did not have a .COM extension, QVP would then display the file.

Once you are viewing a file, often you then want to edit the file. A single click on a button in the QVP window is all that is required as long as the file is a registered file type in Windows 95.

What's the damage?

Quick View Plus for Windows 95 should be available for under \$80. If you work for the Feds, it is available under Standing Offer, at prices ranging from \$47.25 (for a single copy) to as low as \$16.00 a copy (if you are buying 15,000). A full install takes 5MB of which 830KB is the help file, and 300KB are sample files. The viewers themselves are an all-or-nothing proposition. You can't, for example, elect not to install the viewer for Volkswriter 3, even if the chance of ever running across such a file is almost nil. There are 109 separate DLLs with the program, so it should not be difficult to allow

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You're on the air

by Julie Dustin

It's the end of the business day and your company has been interviewed by a number of television and radio reporters. You tell everyone in your office to watch the news that evening. Everyone does, except the president, and no one recorded it on their VCR. The chance to save company history is virtually gone. Televitesse Systems Inc. has an impressive solution to prevent such problems. Their product is called accesTV. The next OPCUG meeting will feature this futuristic application of multimedia.

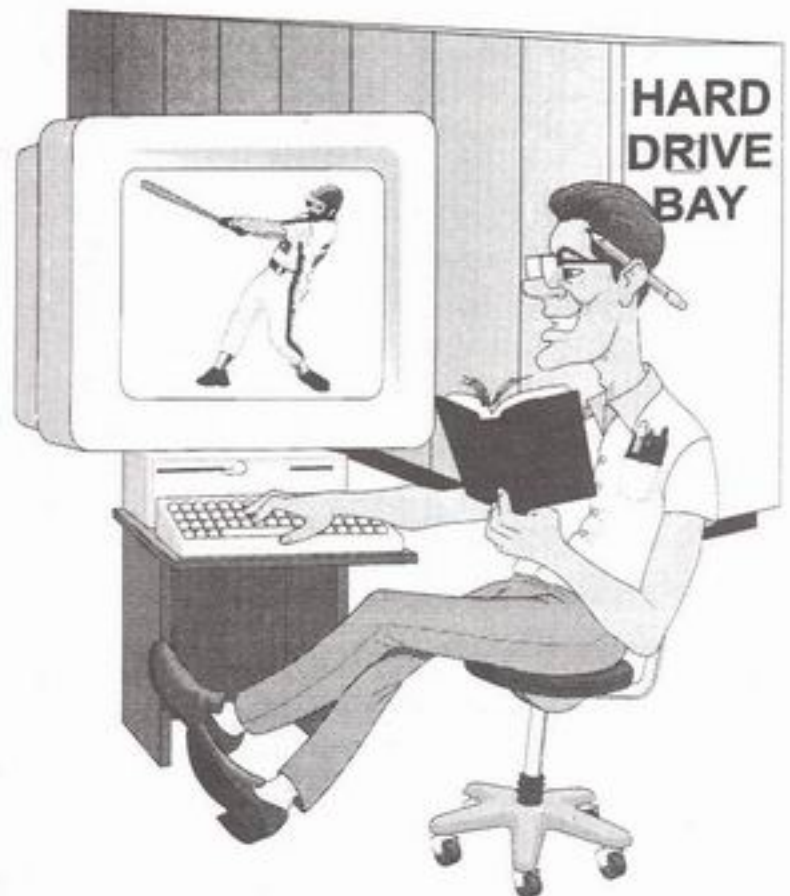
Carol Martin, a communications manager at Televitesse explains, "The software monitors each channel for audio signals which match the user's predefined requirements. Any matching news clips are recorded onto a disk. The user can then see the video and audio playback. In addition, the screen can be split into two windows so that you can see the corresponding written text. This text is the same text used for closed caption broadcasting. We are working with broadcasters to increase the encrypted data that is sent with each signal, to improve the searching and scanning."

This product costs more than a VCR but a lot less than paying someone to monitor tv channels and then record only one channel at a time. You enter key words in a personal profiler. It then listens for those key words in any broadcast. AccesTV then

either alerts you, records the event, or does both.

As their corporate overview states, accesTV enables computers to function as friendly, diligent, and pro-active helpers. A PC can be an intelligent personal assistant using speech, voice, and video recognition, as well as neural networks.

The product requires a Pentium PC running Windows 95. The PC must also have a video capture board, a closed caption extractor, and a tuner. A single channel setup, with hardware and software, costs approximately \$14,000. You can install this product on a network and have multiple queries running over multiple channels. AccesTV can be also used for editing and managing the storage of recordings.



The only drawback about this product is that you need a huge hard drive (no surprise to most readers). One minute of recording can take anywhere from 4 MB to 22 MB of storage on your disk depending on the video compression used. So don't have it look for the word hockey or baseball unless you can save onto CDs.

See you on the air!

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Calendar

General Meeting Location: Sir Robert Borden HS
131 Greenbank Road

General Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Date	Topic
Tuesday, 4 June	Televitesse Systems Inc.
Next meeting will be sometime in September. Watch the PUB, try the answering machine, or just wait for your next issue of the Newsletter. Have a nice holiday!	

Please note the next meeting is the *first* Tuesday in June.

Member discount(s)

by Bob Herres

Grand & Toy, Media Mountain, Public.net, and W.O.Stinson & Son Ltd, offer to OPCUG members discounts on a variety of products.

Grand & Toy: quality office products & furniture

Grand & Toy is offering a special discount card to each OPCUG member. This Card allows you to go to any Grand & Toy store and receive a discount of 25% on office supplies and 10% on furniture. The discounts apply only to articles that are picked up. Payment may be made by cash, interact, credit card, or cheque. These discounts do not apply to items marked 'net'. In the case of any item on sale, the lowest price applies (sale price or discounted before-sale price). Members are asked to show their OPCUG card at a general meeting to receive their Grand & Toy card. Grand & Toy stores are located at Merivale Mall, Rideau Centre, Billings Bridge Plaza, 116 Albert St (at Metcalfe), Place d'Orleans, St. Laurent Shopping Centre, Gloucester City Centre, Carlingwood Mall, and Bayshore Shopping Centre.

Media Mountain: CD-ROM software

Tom Bowie of Media Mountain offers all OPCUG members 10% off Media Mountain's already competitive pricing. This discount applies to all of their several hundred in-stock titles.

Media Mountain is a Kanata-based company that sells CD-ROM Software across North America at discount prices. Their software is shipped to your door by Express Post Payment may be paid by Visa, MasterCard, or COD. Delivery time in urban areas is 2-3 business days and 3 - 5 days in outlying areas. Pre-arranged pickup is available at their Kanata office. There is a small charge for shipping per order: Ottawa \$4.50 (discounts do not apply to shipping charges). COD is extra. To receive this 10% discount, mention your OPCUG membership card at time of ordering. See the extensive list of titles at their Home Page and On Line Catalog at: <http://in-foweb.magi.com/~mountain/> Media Mountain, 73 Stonemeadow Dr., Kanata, Ontario, K2M 2M3. Phone: 613-591-2052 or 1-800-578-7684. Fax: 613-591-9525. Email: mountain@magi.com

Public.net: custom Email setup

Public.net Internet Email offers more than 15% off Custom Email setup.

Public.net is running a POST OFFICE PROTOCOL server that allows you to send and receive Email directly through your public.net account. Using one of the many Internet mail utilities and our Email option you can compose and read mail off-line, send files and attachments with your mail, and use the direct mail links found on many web pages.

OPCUG



Like setting up your public.net account there is a one time administrative fee to add the Email option. This fee is \$15 if you wish to use your current username (for example, a1012@mail.public.net) as your Email address, or \$30 for a custom username like j_doe@mail.public.net. (Custom usernames cannot contain CAPITALS, spaces, or special characters, and are limited to 20 characters in length.)

Public.net is offering OPCUG members a custom username for only \$25.00 instead of \$30.00. Mention your OPCUG card at time of ordering, or note OPCUG and membership number on your application.

Like your public.net account, Email is sponsored by one or two lines of advertising in the header of your Email messages (which does not censor, violate the confidentiality of, or in any way interfere with your Email messages).

Each mail box is restricted to 1 megabyte of disk space, and mail expires after 30 days.

To activate your Email account send a cheque or money order along with your phone number, username and, if desired, a cus-

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I-SIG logo contest

by Jean Stalker

At the April 30 OPCUG meeting, I-SIG Coordinator David Curling unveiled the winning design in The Great I-SIG Logo Competition. This design appears for the first time in this issue. The winner is Stephen Leung of Corel Corporation.

Stephen's simple, distinctive design will call attention to announcements and news bulletins from the I-SIG in the PC-News and in the Internet.

We thank everyone who contributed to the competition, particularly those who submitted designs and the panel of distinguished judges _ David Curling, Bert Schopf, and Chris Seal.

I-SIG in the Web

The Internet SIG is establishing a presence in the World Wide Web.

You can now browse the schedule of up-coming meetings, refresh your memory on recent meetings, request a place on the SIG's email list, or link to some particularly cool web sites.

The address is: <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/isig.htm>. It is flagged with Stephen Leung's distinctive I-SIG logo.

We're still learning; please drop in and send us your comments and suggestions.

June meeting: virtual reality in the Web

Web sites that you can walk through! Martin Kolesar, author



of the feature article on VRML (Virtual Reality Modelling Language) in the March issue of Monitor Magazine, will discuss and demonstrate the present capabilities of this emerging technology and speculate about what the future will hold.

The meeting takes place on Thursday, June 13 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the Ottawa-Carleton Centre, 111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa. For additional information, contact David Curling at 731-5381 or email him at curlingd@loday.com.

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Member discount(s) *Continued from page 4*

tom username to: OTTAWA.public.net, 106-15 Capella Crt., Nepean, Ontario, K2E 7X1. Web site address: <http://ottawa.public.net>. Phone: 723-1897

W.O.Stinson & Son Ltd: heating oil

W.O.Stinson & Son Ltd is offering Ottawa and area OPCUG members a full 6 cent per litre discount for heating oil. In addition to this, members are also entitled to 10% off an Annual Furnace Service Plan. Stinson is a family owned company serving Ottawa since 1937, with offices in Kemptville and Arnprior. Stinson provides reliable heating oil delivery as well as heating and air conditioning service.

The cost of heating oil is 36.9 cents less 6 cents equalling 30.9 cents per litre.

Contact Mary Lynn Geddes or Bob Herres and mention your OPCUG membership.

W.O. Stinson & Son Ltd., 4727 Bank St, Gloucester, Ontario. Phone: 822-7400 or 1-800-267-9714

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Quick View Plus *Continued from page 2*

some choice of what viewers should be installed. A network version is available. As any good Windows 95 application should, it comes with a complete uninstall routine.

I am really impressed with this program. I often want to take a peek at the contents of a file and this program does a far better job than anything short of having the original program that created the file. Highly recommended for any Windows 95 user.

Note: There is now a fully-functional 30-day trial version of Quick View Plus for Windows 95 on The PUB. The file name is QVPTRW32.EXE, and you can find it in the Windows-Miscellaneous file area.

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DTP SIG: Show and tell report

by Bert Schopf, DTP coordinator



The May 7th meeting of the Desktop Publishing Special Interest Group was jam-packed with a flurry of interesting presentations from SIG members.

An evening full of interesting insights

Leading off was *H. J. "Clem" McClemens* with his review of several hard-to-find and fascinating publications related to computer graphics and related fields of interest. His selection appear at the end of this article.

Second up was *Paul Blakely*, who demonstrated some advanced methods used in web page design. Paul showed that content is paramount and making information easy to navigate is the way to better web page design.

Next, *Jean Vaumoron* gave a detailed account of the creative process he used in not only translating, but illustrating a book as well. Techniques range from building an electronic dictionary, tailored to each major translation, to using Corel Draw to improve the readability of the finished product. The book was printed straight from the Ventura files to the image setter.

Alan Brown's hobby is restoring old radios. In his show & tell, he explained how computer graphics is helping him

to restore broken radio dials and displays. He outlined the techniques (in WordPerfect Graphics, no less!) he used to restructure displays where only a shattered shard remained of the original glass.

Speeding right along was *Tim Mahoney*, who detailed image editing techniques used to show how sponsor's decals would appear on a retouched racecar photo. Twisting and resizing an image to make it fit the perspective view of a curved surface is no mean feat! It did look as real as you can make out on a race car at full speed! Tim also showed the results of restoring a 100-year old postcard for a special event souvenir.

Last up was yours truly, who touched on some technical features and special effects used in producing a 2-colour calendar using CorelDraw 6 and Photoshop 3.05.

Lots of neat stuff! We've gotta do a member's Show & Tell again in the fall... and a session on service bureaus... and have some more software guests in... and lots of other stuff (your input is important, folks).

Next meeting

In the meantime, our last meeting before the summer break will be June 11 (the General Meeting falls on our usual 1st Tuesday that month). The topic will be "Understanding Com-

puter Colour Graphic Formats & Optimizing Graphics for the Internet". Everyone is welcome to attend and a special invitation is extended to our friends at the Internet SIG. (P.S. Congratulations to all who submitted designs for the I-SIG logo contest.)

The DTP SIG meets on Tuesday June 11th at Digital Paradise — 14 Colonnade Road, Nepean. Please arrive

between 7:15 and 7:30 to enter the building. Hope you can all make it!

Summer challenge

Can anyone volunteer to compile our DTP SIG membership information into a database? All the member info is in hard copy at this time.

Thanks.

Bert

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Last minute addendum

Clem McClemens just called in his publication list:

Flash — the Premier Journal of DTP

Digital Publishing — Designing Graphics (Australia)

Adobe Magazine — free to registered Adobe product owners

Desktop Publishing by Design — Jan White & Ronnie Shusham

The Magic of Image Processing — good PhotoStyler tips!

Disk of the month #121

by John Rasmussen, Software librarian

The content of the April 1996 DOM) follows:

Accent Com

With this utility, you can easily enter accented characters within almost any program or from DOS. The accent entry format remains the same no matter what application you are using, and normal keyboard operation is not affected.

BarClock

A small utility that displays useful information such as the time (in any number of time zones), the date, free memory, free resources, and free disk space in the caption bar of the active window. In addition, BarClock optionally monitors the system and issue a warning if you run low on memory, resources, or disk space.

BOLOBALL v2.1

Play against the computer in this strategy marble maze game. Your objective is to get your marbles to the bottom of a maze filled with ramps, walls, black holes, and much more! Block your opponent by pushing your marbles into strategic positions to stop him from doing the same to you. Just a pure ADDICTIVE strategy game.

Coloring Book Version 2.0

Including 10 pictures, this program supports 50 colours, sound effects, keyboard, mouse, printing, and joystick control.

Coloring Book can be learned and used by children without any adult supervision. Special requirements: VGA.

Here 1.0 Beta 1

A program that makes it easy for you to post your ever-changing dynamic PPP or SLIP Internet address to a finger account, thereby allowing others to look up your current Internet address and contact you. Since other users will now be able to locate your current address, you will be able to use talk servers such as WinTalk; FTP servers such as WinQV/Net, Serv-U, and WFTPD; and HTTP servers such as HTTPD and ZB Server.

HTML TUTORIAL 2.0: the only web publishing tutorial you'll ever need!

This tutorial is a great way to learn the language of the World Wide Web. It covers text formatting, page design, tables, frames, graphical content, and links for html, ftp, and other Internet services. Easy to use, it contains plenty of samples and images.

INCONTROL.EXE (version 1.01)

An installation control program for Windows. It supervises an application's install utility and writes a report file of changes made to your system.

MARK AND RELEASE

This application is easy to use to manage both standard and

Reuse, recycle

Bring your old computer magazines, books, or any other computer paraphernalia you want to GIVE AWAY to the general meetings, and leave them in the area specified. If you don't bring something, you may want to TAKE AWAY something of interest, so look in on this area. Any item left over at the end of the meeting will be sent to the dumpster.



LIM expanded memory. Just type MARK before you load a TSR, and when you need to get rid of the TSR just type RELEASE.

NAVPAGE

A program that dials and sends a maximum message of 80 characters to an alpha-numeric pager.

Windows CodeBack (WCB)

A disassembler designed exclusively for Microsoft Windows applications. It can disassemble New Executable format files (such as .EXEs, .DLLs, .DRVs, etc.), Linear Executables (.386s and .VXD), and can extract LE files bounded into W3 files (such as WIN386.EXE). The current version does not include support for conventional DOS .EXE files, OS/2 2.x LX, or Win32 PE files, but you can disassemble OS/2 NE files.

Ottawa PC News

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members. Deadline for submissions is four Sundays before the general meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG normally meets on the second Tuesday in the month, except in July at Sir Robert Borden HS, 131 Greenbank Road, Nepean.

Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees

Membership: \$25 per year.

Disk-of-the Month: \$25 for either 5.25-in or 3.5-inch diskettes (10 diskettes).

Mailing Address

3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
Telephone answering machine 723-1329

Bulletin board—the PUB (BBS)

Up to 28.8 kbps v.34 228-0665 (6 lines)

Chairman

Harald Freise 828-3411

Treasurer

Tony Frith (819)671-0401

Secretary

David Reeves 723-9658

Membership Chairman

Mark Cayer 224-8031

Software Librarian

Jorgen (John) Rasmussen 821-3040

Judy Tomlin (assistant) 821-3040

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Julie Dustin (assistant editor) 823-1552

Jean Vaumoron (Mr.) (layout) 731-7847

Public Relations

Bob Herres 836-7532

Facilities

Bob Walker 489-2084

Beginners' Corner

To be announced

DTP SIG Coordinator

Bert Schopf 838-3492

Fox SIG coordinator

Andrew Ross MacNeill (voice/fax) 596-3313

Internet SIG coordinator

David Curling 731-5381

curlingd@loday.com

OS/2 SIG Coordinator

Jocelyn Doire (Mr.) Please contact via PUB

Paradox SIG coordinator

Larry Chop 236-8761 (days)

Windows SIG coordinator

Philip Baker 247-9555



Club news

Membership prizes for OPCUG members

by Mark Cayer, Membership
Chairman

Membership

Each month membership renewal notices are mailed out to those folks whose memberships are nearing their renewal date.

Please remember to update any pertinent information and mark down how much you are enclosing so that we can keep those records 'straight and up to date'.

Welcome

Winner of the draw for a rebate of membership fee from the recent Unexpo Computer

show was Glenn Lambert.
Welcome to the club Glenn.

OPCUG meeting of April 30

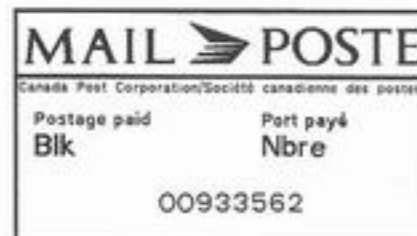
Thanks to Borland Canada for the:

- Delphi T-Shirt, won by Duncan Petrie
- Copy of Paradox Version 7, won by our Sysop, Chris Taylor

Thanks to Lotus Canada for the copy of Lotus Smart Suite, won by Kurt Baumgartner.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks very much to the presenters for their generosity.

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