 GNOME Annual Report 2014

Letter from the GNOME Foundation 3
By Jean-François Fortin Tam

Hackfests 4
By Parth Panchal

Releases 6
By Allan Day

Financial Report 8
By Ekaterina Gerasimova

 GNOME Trademark Battle with Groupon 10
By Sriram Ramkrishna

Conferences 12
By Rosanna Yuen & Oliver Propst

Outreach 14
By Marina Zhurakhinskaya

Bugzilla Statistics 15
By Andre Klapper

Accessibility 16
By Juanjo Marin

Advisory Board 17

Friends of GNOME 18

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Letter from the GNOME Foundation

2014 is on record as one of the most challenging years in the Foundation's history. It is also the year that has given us the most demonstrative and passionate display of support—from our members, our contributors, and the Free Software community—that we have ever experienced.

With two successful releases in 2014, both met with high praise from the technical press and our users, GNOME has had a very successful year as it continues to evolve the desktop and developer experience, maintaining its focus on quality and stability.

On the bleeding edge, GNOME has continued to deliver great releases every six months and garnered good reviews in the press. These releases included over 60,000 changes by more than a thousand contributors around the world.

On the business side, throughout the year we have seen successful adoption of GNOME 3 by enterprise-grade GNU/Linux distributions, with longer testing and support cycles. Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7, SUSE Linux Enterprise Desktop 12, and Debian 8 now use GNOME 3 as their default desktop. Feedback continues to be positive and we are eager to hear from other organizations deploying GNOME 3 on a large scale to make their experience smoother.

At the beginning of 2014, we found ourselves on the verge of a lengthy legal battle to defend our trademark, at the same time as we were dealing with a temporarily restricted cash flow. Therefore, the GNOME Foundation's directors formulated a series of actions:
- Ran a successful media campaign to defend our trademark (more details on page 10).
- Instigated a temporary spending freeze to stabilize our finances.
- Collected every single outstanding invoice from companies participating in the Outreach Program for Women (OPW).
- Worked with the OPW team to transition the program to the Software Freedom Conservancy, under the new name, "Outreachy". GNOME remains a strong partner of the new program, providing critical infrastructure.

These actions are representative of many challenges that required time, precision, and sustained work throughout the year. For each of these challenges and accomplishments, every member of the volunteer Board of Directors rose to the occasion, contributing far more of their time than has been typical of a GNOME Board.

The Board does not work in isolation however, and owes many thanks to the various teams—engagement, release, events & travel, translations, design, bug squad, sysadmin, documentation, and our many developers—for their continued involvement and support.

Preparing the Annual Report is a very time-consuming task. I would like to extend my thanks to everybody who has helped with this edition and whose names can be found at the beginning of this document. I have always enjoyed reading the GNOME Foundation's beautiful and well-written reports. Year after year, our volunteers take the time and effort to put together this substantial document for our membership and other interested parties, so it is a privilege for me to introduce this year's report, which I hope you will find just as interesting as I do.

After this momentous year, overcoming such hurdles, while still releasing great Free Software on schedule that exceeded expectations, I am looking forward to what the next year will bring!

Jean-François Fortin Tam, President of the GNOME Foundation 2014-2015
GNOME gets loads of love from people all around the world, and when these contributors and users come together to hack on the projects close to their hearts, the outcome is magical. GNOME contributors collaborate, connect, and celebrate their valuable contributions all the while paving the path for the next GNOME release. Here are some glimpses into what we have achieved in 2013-14.

WebKitGTK+ – A Coruña, Galicia, Spain
The fifth edition of the WebKitGTK+ hackfest was the largest to date. A variety of things were worked on during the hackfest, including Wayland support for WebKit2 and WebKitGTK+, design and functional improvements to GNOME Web, porting the build system to CMake, as well as improving the integration of the new Web Inspector with WebKitGTK+.

Docs – Norwich, UK
The Documentation hackfest brought brand new features in Yelp, the start screen’s design overhaul, and several bug fixes. Evolution’s user docs were consolidated, System Monitor docs were rewritten and updated, getting started pages were integrated on the GNOME web site, and a feature to have stable documents directly updated from git branches was added. Tons of bugs were fixed in several docs. Moreover, discussion with newcomers resulted in the “GNOME Project Health” webpage that lists the activity of GNOME projects along with their primary languages.

GStreamer – Munich, Germany
This exciting two days hackfest made progress on both the framework and application side. On the framework side, OpenGL Plugins were integrated into the GStreamer Plugins-Bad Module, a new torrent based streaming source was introduced, many plugins were improved, a new device probing API got merged, and a prototype for better tracing infrastructure was created. On the application side, several bugs were investigated for the Pitivi video editor, the Transmageddon transcoder tool, and GNOME Sound Recorder.

Translation – Paris, France
A whopping 1962 strings and 1238 strings were translated in GNOME 3.12 UI & GNOME 3.12 Docs, respectively. Preview apps, parts of GNOME extra, and release notes, were also translated. The translation team worked very hard to reduce the review queue. Several French l10n bugs were fixed. The hackfest also inspired several newcomers to contribute, which led to several fixes in the wiki.

Freedesktop Summit – Nürnberg, Germany
Developers from the KDE, GNOME, Unity, and Razorqt projects met at Freedesktop Summit to improve collaboration among themselves by discussing improvements to the freedesktop specifications. Presentations and discussions occurred regarding D-Bus specifications for app launching kdbus, a replacement for X11-based startup notification, desktop actions, splash screens on low end hardware, icon theme related simplifications, a full-fledged shared inhibition API, faster desktop file cache, and more. Requirements for a filesystem notification and mime applications specification to setup per-desktop default applications were written. Startup notification specs were updated. A number of bugs was fixed in shared-mime-info. Moreover, specs were also updated on the freedesktop.org website.

West Coast Summit – San Francisco, USA
West Coast Summit was a hackfest in the form of a conference, a good amount of work was done on GTK+ on Wayland, application sandboxing, KDBus, Glade, and several internal modules. Foundational development for Builder, the IDE made specifically for GNOME development, was also started. A lot of improvements brought more responsiveness, and less memory usage by GNOME Shell and other JS apps, along with several bug fixes.

Developer Experience – Berlin, Germany
This hackfest focused on both dev tools & documentation for a better developer experience. The attendees split into two groups. The first group tackled GTK+ planning, roadmap for new widgets, and capabilities and dev tools. The second group
improved app development docs including the GNOME developer website, API reference documentation, and tutorials. Substantial work was done for GNOME HIG and GTK+ API consistency, touch support, better Glade support, different profiles in Devhelp, simulator VM to test GNOME apps, and gnome-clang. developer.gnome.org, API reference documentation UI was also updated.

**Location – London, UK**
This hackfest was a great example of how GNOME technology influences several projects. At the Mozilla office in central London, Geoclue2 was discussed among GNOME, KDE, Jolla and Mozilla developers. A new GeoClue2 based plugin to QtLocation was created. Mozilla Location Service's development plans were also shared, while attendees scanned and contributed location data using mozstumbler for the entire hackfest. Moreover, designs for location in GNOME 3.14 was discussed and implemented.

**Open Help Conference – Cincinnati, USA**
Following the OpenHelp conference, members of the GNOME documentation team worked on updating the user help for the GNOME 3.12 release. The overall structure of the guide was completely reworked and the index page for the guide was redesigned. The restructured System Administration Guide now features multiple groups for settings. An additional input format for Mallard-based documentation, called Duck pages, that doesn't use the often distracting XML syntax, was also planned to be included.

**Evince – Strasbourg, France**
Just days before GUADEC, some GNOME contributors gathered in Strasbourg to improve the GNOME document reader, Evince. The hackfest brought together members of the GNOME Accessibility team and Evince developers, making further improvements to Evince's accessibility support. They accomplished tiling support to allow infinite zoom, improvements in comics back-end, inclusion of Recent View, and several UI improvements. Two Google Summer of Code students also hacked on free text annotations & highlighting annotation.
GNOME is known for its predictable release schedules, with a new version being released every six months. This pattern continued in 2014, with the release of GNOME 3.12 in March and 3.14 in September. These releases included over 60,000 changes by more than a thousand contributors around the world, ranging from major new features to small bug fixes.

3.12
New features in 3.12 included faster startup times, a new application folders feature, enhanced high-resolution display support, and redesigned Videos and gedit applications. GNOME's initial setup assistant was also revamped, based on results of user testing conducted by Intel's Open Source Technology Center.

Software, which provides an "app store" experience for installing applications and other software, had numerous refinements with the addition of screenshots, ratings, and the ability to install downloaded packages as well as repositories.

3.14
3.14 arrived with its own list of new features: new animations in the Activities Overview, better handling of Wi-Fi hotspots, multi-touch gestures on touchscreens, redesigned Help and Evince applications, and support for browsing Google pictures and home media servers (via DLNA) in Photos.

Boxes, the GNOME application for virtual and remote machines, had a long list of enhancements in 3.14, including virtual machine snapshots, automatic downloading of operating system images, express installation for Debian, and a collection of user interface improvements.

Developer Experience
The two 2014 releases also included significant enhancements for developers. 3.12 introduced a raft of new GTK+ widgets, including popovers and action bars, as well as new APIs for notifications and process launching.

GNOME 3.14 introduced GTK+ Inspector, which allows inspection of running GTK+ applications, as well as live editing of properties, settings, and CSS. Other improvements included the ability to use and style SVG assets using GTK+ CSS themes, a new default GTK+ theme, and the release of comprehensive design guidelines (called Human Interface Guidelines) for GTK+ and GNOME 3. 3.12 and 3.14 both featured major progress in our ongoing efforts towards Wayland adoption.

Find Out More
The 2014 GNOME releases contained many more features than it is possible to review here. If you want to find out more, the release notes for both versions are available online. 3.12 and 3.14 were also accompanied by release videos, which give a great overview of each version. These can be viewed on the GNOME YouTube channel.
The GNOME Foundation 2014 financial year ran from October 1st, 2013 to September 30th, 2014. It was a very challenging time as spending was frozen for much of the year due to cash flow issues and the threat of having to pursue legal action against Groupon.

**Income**

2014 saw a drop in corporate income, but a rise in donations from the community. The large increase in OPW income was the result of sponsors form 2012 and 2013 rounds reimbursing the Foundation for the payments that had been made to the interns in previous years. As a result, the board took a harder stance on requiring invoices to be paid before providing the services which corresponded to those sponsorships.

### Income

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### Expenses

After an active start to the year, 2014 saw an intentional reduction in spending to counteract delays in receiving sponsorship towards the OPW project. The delays put the Foundation into a tough situation, but with the help of supporters and patience from sponsored members, enough funds were raised to tide the Foundation over until the OPW could be brought back to a positive balance. Unfortunately, the timing of Groupon naming its product Gnome meant that expenditures were kept frozen until the end of the financial year as a defense against the trademark infringement would have been extremely likely. GUADEC expenses are also lower due to conscientious spending by the organisers. The drop in employee expenses was the result of the Foundation losing Karen, the Executive Director, who had been with GNOME since 2011. 2014 also saw the completion of work on accessibility by Igalia which was the result of an earlier fundraiser.

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1. From 2012, OPW was moved from “Sponsorship” to its own line
2. One time and subscription donations from individuals.
3. European conferences (GUADEC and Desktop Summit): the income from any specific year often shows up on the budget for the following year. For example, the income from 2009 Desktop Summit shows up in the 2010 accounts. The income from 2010 GUADEC shows up in the 2011 accounts.
4. Some GUADEC/DS income and expenses are handled by the organizing teams, so this is not a good indication of turnover.
5. Royalties: merchandise sale royalties and Amazon referral fees.
6. Outreach Program for Women: in the 2010-2012 financial years, the income and expenses from OPW was under "Sponsorship."
7. The GNOME Foundation employed an executive director and an administrator, and contracted a system administrator in 2013.
The GNOME Foundation has never had a legal issue more emotionally jarring than having to defend its trademark, our very identity.

In May 2014, it was discovered that Groupon [GRPN], a publicly-traded corporation with $3.2 billion in revenues (year 2014), had filed multiple trademarks for various versions of the name "GNOME" (G NOME, G-NOME, and GNOME) for a point-of-sale product they called an "operating system". The onus was on the GNOME Foundation to defend our mark.

Shortly after learning about the trademark infringement, the Board began discussions with Groupon’s legal representative through our own phenomenal trademark lawyer, Pam Chestek. Knowing that an unsuccessful legal battle’s effects would be far-ranging, the Board decided this was too pressing an issue to ignore. Pam expressed to Groupon the outrage that the Foundation felt with Groupon’s attempt at appropriating the GNOME name, and the need for Groupon to abandon their continued efforts to usurp it. With each interaction, it seemed that Groupon was not only uncooperative, but they were also actively ramping up their adoption of the name and filing a new set of applications at the trademark office. Ultimately, they filed a total of 28 trademark applications for GNOME name variants. Due to Groupon’s actions, there was little progress in starting serious discussions toward a suitable resolution. As the deadline for filing our opposition to Groupon’s first set of trademark filings approached, it became clear to the Board that more serious action needed to be taken.

The Foundation Board spent quite a few meetings working on a plan for how to address the situation.

The Board came to the consensus that the Foundation would have to try to fundraise enough money to launch a lawsuit against Groupon for trademark infringement, and make the trademark conflict public—a fact the Board communicated to Groupon several times. The Board had an internal deadline of the beginning of November to file the lawsuit, which they hoped would allow them to raise the $80,000 USD goal amount, the approximate amount needed to begin the process of opposing the numerous filed US trademark applications.

** GNOME Trademark Battle with Groupon**
With time growing short, the Board prepared a media strategy, chose the fundraising apparatus, and made sure the Foundation communicated a message that would resonate with the public. The idea was to pursue a media blitz—posting on social media and talking to the press about our fight to enforce our trademark.

The Board wanted to bring as much attention and scrutiny to the situation at hand as they could in order to raise the needed amount of money for the battle. All of the Directors of the GNOME Foundation had some serious reservations about being able to raise the amount of money necessary for all the filings in time. Contingency plans were discussed regarding what the Board would do if the deadline arrived before enough money was raised, or if Groupon continued to file even more applications, thereby dragging the GNOME Foundation into a sustained legal fight that would quickly deplete our funds. Hope rested in ending the conflict quickly with a focused public campaign.

The Board and an extended family of GNOME community stalwarts came together bringing their various skill sets and iterating on the elements of the media campaign until completing messaging that would have the best chance of success. Even if the campaign failed, the Board could take pride knowing each and every one of the Directors had put their heart and soul into doing all that could be done to give GNOME the best chance it had to defend its trademark.

The first message, a call for help, was sent from GNOME's twitter account at 5pm U.S. Pacific time on November 10. 48 hours later, it was over.

Under fire from all corners of the Internet, and with immense social pressure from the general public, Groupon capitulated, abandoning all their trademark applications and eventually acknowledging the pain it had caused GNOME. They apologized to the GNOME and FOSS communities.

Throughout the entire ordeal, members of the GNOME community were completely humbled by the Free Software Community, who not only generously donated, but also spoke out about how important the GNOME brand is, and how objectionable it was for Groupon to attempt to coopt it. It was amazing, inspiring, and deeply humbling. GNOME's success was their success.

At FOSDEM, this story was related to a packed audience in the legal devroom as well as the subject of Pamela's Chestek's GUADEC 2015 keynote.

Pamela Chestek stated "I didn't consider it a close case legally, but GNOME was up against a much better-resourced opponent and often the bigger one wins. So it was wonderful to see the GNOME and larger free software communities pull together on this common goal, with a result that surprised even the most optimistic. My job was easy after that."

The number of organizations and individuals who amplified the Foundation's message and passed it on was numerous. The GNOME Foundation is very grateful. In the end, $102,000 USD was collected, and will go towards improving GNOME and securing our trademarks globally. We, those of us in the GNOME Foundation, thank all of you who came and supported us.
GNOME.Asia

GNOME.Asia Summit 2014 was hosted in Beijing, China from May 24-25. The conference attracted more than 350 passionate people from all around Asia and beyond.

Tobias Mueller, Lennart Poettering, and Richard Stallman gave the keynotes at the Summit. Tobias talked about the latest advancements and features in GNOME. Lennart spoke about systemd—the now universal service manager for GNU/Linux. Richard's talk focused on the philosophy of the Free Software movement and why a free desktop is needed.

In addition to the keynotes, there were talks on a wide range of topics covering subjects such as documentation, extension development, translations, bug reporting and enterprise integration. Ekaterina Gerasimova, David King, and André Klapper, all active members of the GNOME Foundation, ran two successful training sessions about how to start contributing to GNOME.

West Coast Summit

Differing from our other conferences, the West Coast Summit's aim is to bring in participants from periphery projects aiming to get them more involved in the GNOME ecosystem. From April 9 through 11, participants from Intel, Red Hat, Yorba, Google, Endless, and elementary OS met and discussed ways they can work together.

GNOME Peru Fest

On June 28, 2014, GNOME Peru Fest was held in at the IBM campus in Lima, Peru. Spearheaded by Julita Inca, this free event invited everyone to come and learn more about GNOME with talks from both longtime engineers and students who had participated in Google Summer of Code internships with GNOME. Covered favorably in the local press, the GNOME Peru Fest introduced newcomers to GNOME and invited users to look under the hood.

GUADC

GUADC is where many in the GNOME community meet every year to hear talks on what is up and coming, plan together on where to go next, and welcome new contributors into our lively community. The 2014 edition of GUADC took place from July 26 through August 1 and had about 190 attendees. We were hosted by Epitech, a technology school located centrally in Strasbourg, France.
We were very fortunate to have three exciting keynotes this year from Jim Hall, Nathan Willis, and Matthew Garrett. All three keynotes were given to packed rooms and rousing applause.

Jim Hall discussed his work on user testing various parts of GNOME. He presented his methodology and showed how it revealed various usability issues and pointed out ways GNOME could be even better.

Nathan Willis gave a fascinating talk on how free software is making inroads into the automotive industry. He gave useful tips to those who are willing to take a more hands-on approach to the computers within their own cars.

Matthew Garrett took us through the history of the desktop and showed us his vision of the future. He challenged us to continue our mission to provide a free and open desktop while keeping user privacy and security in mind.

The other talks ran the gamut between technical talks including sessions on GStreamer, Wayland, and GTK+, to community issues like copyrights and trademarks, being an ally to women in tech, and using GPG for beginners. Also of note were talks by our former Executive Director, Karen Sandler, sharing what she learned during her tenure here, and an introduction to Builder by Christian Hergert.

One of the aims of GUADEC is to encourage and invite new contributors. One of the staples of GUADEC, the intern lightning talks, gave our many interns the opportunity to present their work to the community at large. In addition, we had a newcomers’ workshop which helped those who attended learn how begin contributing to GNOME.

Another staple of GUADEC, the annual GNOME Women’s Dinner in its fifth year, featured lively conversation that inspired attendees who found themselves in a group of other women passionate about GNOME. There were 23 women attending GUADEC or 12% of total attendees, and 4 women speaking at GUADEC, or 11% of the speakers.

As a community, we also like to thank long-term contributors who have gone above and beyond during the past year by giving them the traditional Pants Award. This year, this award went to Alexandre Franke, who was the driving force in making sure this year’s GUADEC was a success. In his spare time, he also works with the internationalization and localization teams and we cannot be more grateful to have him in our community.

The conference continued after the core days with BOFs and hackfests. A total of fourteen different topics were discussed, including internationalization, Maps, Pitivi and GStreamer, Documents and Photos, privacy, and screenshot automation.

After such a wonderful GUADEC, the GNOME community was invigorated and went home ready to implement some of the ideas and plans they had developed.

Others Conferences
In addition to these GNOME-specific conferences, GNOME sent representatives and staffed a booth at FOSDEM, JDLL, and FSCONS. We also sent representatives to SXSW, DebConf14, and FOSSASIA. We aim to increase exposure to GNOME and both hosting and attending more conferences is one way to reach that goal.
2014 marked the 10th year of Google's Summer of Code (GSoC), and GNOME's 10th year having the privilege of participating. 2014 also marked the 7th and 8th rounds of the Outreach Program for Women (OPW), a program GNOME started in 2010. GNOME OPW internships were sponsored this year by Google, the GNOME Foundation, HP, the Linux Foundation, and Red Hat.

GNOME had 35 GSoC and 6 OPW interns in 2014, all of whom successfully completed their internships. Notably, 11 of their mentors were once GNOME interns. As a community, we are proud to offer a place for people to grow from being first-time contributors to experts eager to guide others in their first steps. The interns-turned-mentors in 2014 were: Mattias Bengtsson, Giovanni Campagna, Cosimo Cecchi, Mathieu Duponchelle, Fabiano Fidencio, Ekaterina Gerasimova, Izidor Matušov, Tobias Mueller, Arth Patel, Parin Porecha, Sindhu Sundar.

We help interns get integrated with the community by helping them connect with mentors during the application process, requiring them to make a relevant contribution for the application to be considered, requiring them to blog, aggregating their blogs on Planet GNOME, and helping them attend GUADEC. Having interns’ blogs integrated on Planet GNOME brings visibility to their work and invites community feedback. Attending GUADEC allows them to meet people in-person and feel the excitement of being a part of an international community of passionate Free Software contributors.

With the help from the GNOME Foundation and GUADEC sponsors, 25 GSoC interns and 1 OPW intern attended GUADEC 2014. We made sure they felt welcome and integrated by having an interns’ lunch the first day of the conference and hosting a lightning talks plenary session in which they presented their work.

OPW continued to grow in 2014 by offering internships to 70 women with 18 Free Software organizations: Debian, Fedora, Foreman, GNOME, Libav, Linux kernel, Mesos, Mozilla, Open Source Robotics Foundation, Open Technology Institute, OpenStack, ownCloud, Perl, Python, QEMU, Wikimedia, Xen Project, and Yocto Project. These internships were sponsored by Wikimedia Foundation at Equalizer level; Google, HP, Intel, Linux Foundation, Mozilla, Open Source Robotics Foundation, and Red Hat at Promoter level; and Cloudera, Codethink, Debian, GNOME Foundation, Libav, Linaro, Open Technology Institute, Open Source Robotics Foundation, OpenStack Foundation, ownCloud, Perl Foundation, Python Software Foundation, Rackspace, Twitter, Xen Project, and Yocto Project at Includer level.
Bugzilla statistics

2012

2013

2014

Reports opened
Reports closed

2014 Summary

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* Excludes reports marked as enhancements

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Patches Contributed

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Bugs Reported

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Patches Reviewed

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Accessibility

GNOME is working hard on replacing X with Wayland, and the Accessibility team is working towards bringing all the GNOME accessibility features to Wayland. This is turning into a long winding road where, although many goals have been set, there are still many bugs to address—for example, how input methods are synthesized via AT-SPi2.

Two members of the Accessibility team, Joanmarie Diggs from Igalia, and Joseph Scheuhammer from the Inclusive Design Research Centre (OCAD University), are participating in creating the WAI-ARIA 1.0 W3C Recommendation standard as a part of the Protocols & Formats Working Group, which is a part of the Web Accessibility Initiative. This participation makes it possible for GNOME’s accessibility vision to be taken into account in the creation of the standard as well as helping GNOME to follow these standards.

Orca's support for Gecko have been massively refactored, which means that Mozilla/Thunderbird work correctly with Orca. Lots of bug fixes are being done. Work is also going into making changes that will help Orca work more predictably, and consistently with NVDA (e.g. having a focus mode, a browse mode, a sticky focus mode, and configurable settings for automatic switching between them).

All the efforts sponsored by the Friends of GNOME accessibility campaign finally turned the GNOME Document reader, Evince, into a much more accessible application. This involved not only work on Evince, where the keyboard navigation support was added and refined, but also on several other places in the stack. For example, in Poppler, the PDF rendering library, Tagged PDF was added, and in the implementation of ATK interfaces, things like AtkText and AtkDocument were improved. We encourage Orca users to give Evince a try and provide feedback.

The Java ATK Wrapper is now actively maintained. It was also updated to fix build bugs, GTK+3 support was finally integrated, and the minimum Java version was set to 1.6.
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