

A background network diagram consisting of numerous light blue nodes of varying sizes connected by thin lines, creating a complex web-like structure. A solid light blue horizontal line is positioned near the top of the page, and a solid light blue vertical line is on the right side, forming a partial frame around the central content.

STATEMENT : Q4 2019

NET NEUTRALITY

BUSINESS LEADERS STATEMENT IN
SUPPORT OF A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

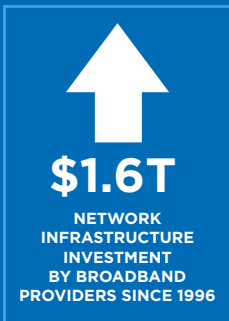
 **BUSINESSFORWARD**

BUSINESS LEADERS TO CONGRESS:

PASS BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION FOR NET NEUTRALITY AND CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY

Democrats and Republicans are offering competing proposals for net neutrality and consumer privacy, and neither side has the votes to win on its own. Business leaders across the country are calling on Congress to pass bipartisan solutions to these pressing issues.

WHY BROADBAND MATTERS



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Nearly one-third of economic growth in 2016 was generated by the digital economy.

ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Broadband also levels the playing field between fast-growing coastal innovation hubs and struggling smaller cities and rural areas in between.

WHAT NET NEUTRALITY MEANS

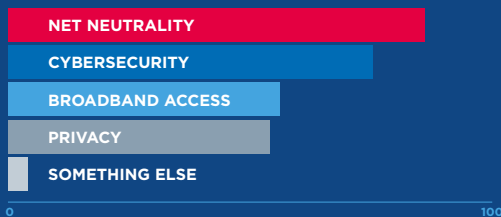
Net neutrality ensures an open and vital internet by preventing network operators from favoring internet traffic from some sites over others, censoring viewpoints, or unfairly prioritizing their own offerings. Rules should be clear, enforceable, and permanent.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

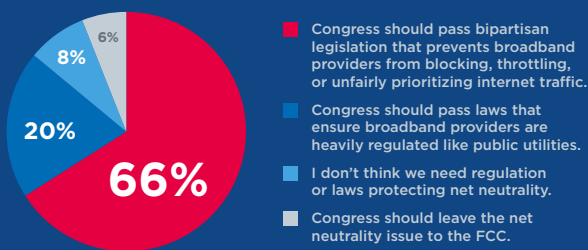
Without net neutrality, companies may invest less in new, data-intensive applications. We'll see less innovation in distance learning, telemedicine, and media streaming.

WHY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS CARE

Our network is more concerned about net neutrality than cyber security, data privacy, and broadband access, because they believe a neutral internet is critical to their ability to reach customers, open new markets, and compete with larger companies.



By more than a 3 to 1 margin, our leaders support a bipartisan approach over utility-style regulation.



TODAY'S GRIDLOCK

Four successive FCC chairs, serving two Presidents, issued net neutrality principles, policies or rules. But federal courts or subsequent FCC orders struck down each of them, largely because the FCC cannot act without clear authority from Congress. *Only Congress can create net neutrality rights.*

NET NEUTRALITY SUPPORTERS TEND TO CALL FOR "GOING BACK TO OBAMA'S RULES" - BUT WHICH RULES?



OBAMA'S 2010 "PLAN A"

Julius Genachowski, President Obama's first FCC Chair, issued formal regulations against blocking, throttling, and other discrimination, but they were overturned because he lacked authority from Congress.



OBAMA'S 2015 "PLAN B"

Tom Wheeler, Obama's second FCC chair, proposed a workaround that reclassified broadband as a Title II "telecommunications service" - a distinction that gave the FCC greater authority to regulate. But reclassifying broadband opens the door for the FCC to set broadband prices or demand broadband companies share their transmission lines with competitors, which undermines their incentives to invest more to expand their networks.



NO NET NEUTRALITY RULES

Many Republicans have come around to the basic framework of Obama's "Plan A", but they strongly oppose the utility rule approach. Unless Congress reaches a bipartisan agreement that can get 60 votes, consumers and small businesses will be left with no net neutrality rules.

TO U.S. CONGRESS:

We write to encourage you to adopt a bipartisan approach to protecting net neutrality and data privacy. We understand these reforms are contentious in Congress, but they enjoy broad public support across the country.

Net neutrality is critical to keeping the internet open, free, and competitive, and it is particularly important to small businesses and start-ups. Business leaders in our network are more concerned about net neutrality than cyber security, data privacy, or broadband access – and two thirds of them support a bipartisan solution.

The FCC cannot effectively enforce net neutrality without statutory authority from Congress, but Congress has debated for 15 years without passing a bill. Today, a majority favors net neutrality, but they are split over which of two Obama-era proposals to support. His administration's first proposal ("Plan A" in 2010) treated broadband as "information service." His second proposal ("Plan B," in 2015) was a workaround. It treated broadband as a utility, which Republicans oppose. If net neutrality supporters in Congress cannot get behind Obama's "Plan A," we face at least two more years without net neutrality protections in place.

Meaningful privacy reforms face similar gridlock, but progress is being made. The middle ground in Congress now favors consumer rights like access, correction, and deletion, which were deal breakers a few years ago. It's about time. Nine in 10 business leaders in our network support a comprehensive, national privacy standard.

A patchwork of 50 state laws won't work for the Internet. We support a national approach, provided the protections are strong and enforceable.

Businesses rely on the internet every day. We can't afford to leave these issues unaddressed. We ask you to work across party lines to adopt these much-needed protections for net neutrality and consumer privacy.

“

Our business relies on a free and open internet for our online business to survive. Much of our business communication is done that way. It's essential that we maintain net neutrality.

”

- ROBERT DICKERMAN
OWNER,
WAVELENGTH
SHERMAN OAKS, CA

“

I run a small law office in the rural mountain area of Western Maine. Internet is my contact not only with clients but also with courts and countless databases such as the ones I use for legal research.

”

- SUSANNAH SPRAGUE
ESQUIRE,
LAW OFFICES OF O'BRIEN
& SPRAGUE
RUMFORD, ME

“

Any swing of the pendulum that is too broad will hurt innovation.

”

- ASTRID KOWLESSAR
DIRECTOR,
VEZTA & CO.
MIAMI, FL

“

To allow the industry to operate without regulation will result in higher costs that are not necessary. My business operates on a thin line and added costs are a concern.

”

- RICHARD WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT,
RTM VENTURES, INC.
KINGSVILLE, TX

SIGNATORIES

Over 2,300 business leaders signed this statement:

A. Tyler, AZ
Aaeron Robb, MD
Aaron Worley, OH
Abigail Howes, MA
Abigail Podrecca, NY
Abra Shapiro, IL
Adele Galloway, KS
Adib-Hassan Omar, TX
Adria Fredericks, PA
Adrian Maisonet, TX
Adriana Juarez Sanchez, MO
Adrienne Amar, WA
Aileen Adragna, MI
Ailene Succarotte, NV
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Alan Hodson, TX
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Alden Thayer, NY
Alene Graham, FL
Alex Eakley, CA
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Amal Youngblood, NV
Amanda Gonzalez, FL
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Amy Harlib, NY
Amy Kirkwood, OK
Amy Limyao, IA
Anahi Fonseca, TX
Andrea Chait, GA
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Andrea Mollo, FL
Andrea Preciado, MN
Andrea Saucedo, IA
Andrea Snyder, NC
Andrea Sullivan, NY
Andres Carrera, CA
Angela Sargent, CA
Angelia Clarke, MD
Angie Heide, OR
Angus Austin, AZ
Anissa Gage, PA
Anita Coolidge, CA
Anita Kiefer, OH
Ann Bickel, WA
Ann Galler, CA
Ann Honig, NJ
Ann Moffat, WI
Ann Moomau, MD
Ann Noonan, WI
Ann Prow, CO
Ann Stockdale, WA
Ann Walker, NM
Anna Diifno, IL
Anna Salvatierra, CA
Anna Savvides, MI
Anna Skorstad Salgado, OR
Annalisa Peace, TX

WHY BROADBAND MATTERS

1. Economic growth.

The digital economy accounted for nearly a third of all U.S. economic growth in 2016; over the past decade, the digital sector has grown at almost four times the pace of the economy as a whole.

2. Economic equity.

Broadband access is also critical to broadening economic opportunity and equity within the U.S. A 2013 report by Ericsson found that gaining access to broadband correlates with a \$2,100 per year boost to household income, while an earlier Brookings study concluded that each 1 percent increase in a state's broadband penetration increases employment by up to 0.3 percent per year.

3. Technology of the future.

Sound policy also lays the foundation for deploying the next generation of technologies in time to meet the exponential growth in bandwidth that tomorrow's applications (such as connected homes and autonomous vehicles) may demand.

“

Congress should compromise on a deal to continue to focus on building effective innovation. Investment in innovation is the key to our future. We need to work on a win-win solution philosophy.”

- DELANO WILSON
CEO,
M.A.C.S. LLC.,
SHREVEPORT, LA

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Anne Hayes, CA
Anne Henry, FL
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Annick Richardson, OH
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Arthur Lapite, WA
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Bettye Wentz, SC
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Beverly Davis, MS
Beverly Gibson, GA
Beverly Walker, TX
Beverly Williams, OR
Beverly Zweig, MN
Bijender Tanwar, TX
Bill Brady, IL
Bill Fricke, NC

SCALE OF INVESTMENT

Since 1996, broadband providers have invested **\$1.6 trillion** to create our current network infrastructure. That averages to about \$73 billion per year.

By comparison, the U.S. government invests \$64 billion per year in America's highways, mass transit, and rail infrastructure, combined.

“
A net neutral and cyber secure broadband infrastructure is required for the U.S. to compete and succeed economically, politically and militarily. Innovation in those areas is not just desirable, it is necessary to protect our national interests.”

- CLIFF BRUSH
CONTRACTOR
LAKE OSWEGO, OR

“
It's very important that legislation is not designed to overwhelm businesses with overregulation, or governmental interventions that prevent potential growth.”

- JOSEPH WIECZOREK
FORMER PRESIDENT,
RECYCLING AGENT
ROSEVILLE, MI

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BJ Ford, CA
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Carol Gordon, CA
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Carol Kemmerer, AZ
Carol Kite, NY
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Carol Rogan, CA
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Carolyn Engel, TX
Carolyn Fleischner, FL
Carolyn Foster, CA
Carolyn Haupt, VA

BALANCING POWER BETWEEN NETWORK AND EDGE

In order to encourage innovation across the internet, we must encourage investment by both the companies that build the network and the companies that use it.

If we regulate broadband providers too much (or unwisely), we discourage them from making the massive infrastructure investments those edge companies' products and services will require.

If we allow broadband providers to block or throttle access, we discourage edge companies from developing new applications and services.

“ Leaders of both parties need to compromise around middle-ground solutions to strike a balance between effective rules and encouraging innovation and investment. ”

- L.B. KING
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANT,
KINGSBORO & ASSOCIATES
CLAIRTON, PA

“ We cannot function properly without an open internet. ”

- CRYSTAL MOURAD
CHICO, CA

SIGNATORIES

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Carolyn Massey, IL
Carolyn Quinn, AZ
Carolyn Vaughan, WA
Carolynn Orona, CA
Carrie Thomas, CA
Carroll Dartez, TX
Cat Webb, CA
Catherine Foley, NY
Catherine Heim, CA
Catherine Lang-Cline, OH
Catherine Lynne Kearney, LA
Catherine Nash, CA
Catherine Neumann, NM
Catherine Von Phul, FL
Cathleen Lambie, NY
Cathy Brown, WA
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Cecily Morris, FL
Celeste Winterberger, NC
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Celina Isgrigg, WA
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Charles Jepson, CA
Charles Kuckel, WY
Charles Malinowski, CA
Charles Norton, OK
Charles Wilfing, WA
Charles Wirth, SD
Charley Hopkins, MN
Charlon Thomas, IL
Charlotte Hoelzel, AZ
Charlotte Keys, MS
Charmaine Calabrese, IL
Cherrie Wise, CA
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Cheryl Becker, IA
Cheryl Harriman, NV
Cheryl Helm, WA
Cheryl Hess, IL
Cheryl Kerns, OK
Cheryl Mick, OH
Cheryl Schuelke, WA
Cheryl Stout, UT
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Chris Plato, CA
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Chris Williams, OR
Christine Austin, IL
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Christine Cheng, NY
Christine E. Schmutz, NJ
Christine Hardy, NV
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Christopher Hansen, CA
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Christopher Sanchez, CA
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Christopher Vichiola, CT
Chuck Cory, CO
Chuck Donegan, NY
Chuck Fontes, CA
Chuck Martinez, MD
Chuck McPherson, GA
Chuck Willis, OR
Cinda Glenn, OH
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Cindy Blackburn, OK
Cindy Davis, CA
Cindy Mahoney, FL
Cindy Pike, SC
Cindy Way, IA
CJ Schmidt, OR
Claire Anderson, NJ
Claire Scarcella, NJ
Clare Farabaugh, PA
Claud Campbell, SC
Claud Ener, TX
Claudette McCoy, CA
Claudia Richner, TX

Providers should not be allowed to block or throttle consumers' access to lawful sites or services, nor discriminate against anyone on the edge of the network by prioritizing or discriminating against their traffic.

“

Bandwidth throttling to suit the needs of the provider is wrong. If we pay for a service it should be provided. If regulations are needed to [ensure] this then so be it.

”

- DARRYL KISTNER
OWNER,
BEAVER APPRAISAL
BEAVER, PA

“

Pay for play is never good for consumers. Throttling that is left up to the telecoms or their big clients will end up hurting the little guy.

”

- RICHARD STEEL
CEO,
PARSEC VENTURES
ALAMO, CA

SIGNATORIES

Cliff Long, NC
Clifford Carr, CA
Clifford Glover, TX
Clifford J. Schmutz, NJ
Colleen Cawley, NY
Colleen Cory, UT
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Colleen Neumann, MI
Colleen Wolff, IA
Connie Beck, PA
Connie Fisher, IL
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Connie Westbrook, TX
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Curt Sayers, NH
Cynthia Curtis, TX
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Cynthia Voigt, CO
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Dale Younkin, MN
Dallas Windham, TX
Dam Hickey, AZ
Dan Avery, MT
Dan Bos, IA
Dana Penoff, CA
Dana Stewart, CA
Daniel Bailey, GA
Daniel Belletieri, PA
Daniel Bonyeau, MA
Daniel Brown, FL
Daniel Carrillo, CA
Daniel Chauvin, AZ
Daniel Hemker, IL
Daniel Huard, NV
Daniel Pastrana, TX
Daniel Walter, NY

Danny Baker, AZ
Danny Schweighart, OH
Darla Lathan, TX
Darlene Bernard-Curl, FL
Darlene Browsers, OK
Darlene Hunter, TX
Darlene White, OR
Darrell Neinast, TX
Darren James, WA
Darren Sean Case, CO
Darryl Keys, FL
Dave Hennig, CO
Dave Hunter, MA
Dave Sloan, TX
David Abalos, NJ
David Avedisian, NV
David Bailey, WA
David Balan, FL
David Black, AZ
David Bowen, MI
David Brady, CA
David Bremenstuhel, MD
David Crawford, KY
David Duff, NY
David Eddy, WA
David Frank, WI
David Gover, MA
David Haun, MO
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David Johns, CA
David Kirshbaum, AZ
David Lindsey, KY
David Maceira, OR
David Maher, NJ
David Malott, FL
David Merrill, NH
David Moore, NV
David Quick, AZ
David Sonneborn, CA
David Taft, GA
David Tucker, AZ
David Tuthill, TX
David Villanueva, CA
David W. Robinson, OR
David Ward, NY
Dawn James, MI

COST OF DELAY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

The digital revolution has changed the American small business landscape over the past generation. These gains and opportunities could be endangered if broadband providers began charging extra tolls for businesses to reach their customers online or discriminating against some online services in favor of others willing to pay for the privilege.

“

As a small business owner, I depend on ready and fast access to the internet for everything. Slow speed slows my ability to maximize my time and efforts to reach sustainable success.

”

- ROXI AUGUSTINE,
OWNER,
MOBILEMOWSE,
MANTECA, CA

“

My business is a blog that depends on an open and equal internet so I can reach more people without fear of unequal treatment online.

”

- JERRY BIERENS
CEO,
JBA SERVICES LLC,
MILFORD, MI

SIGNATORIES

Dawn Kenyon, NY
Dawn Stone, NY
Dawne Santopietro, NY
Dchi Chinn, CA
Dean Borgeson, MN
Dean Thompson, TX
Deanna McHose, CA
Deanna Morrison, CO
Debbie Duncan, CA
Debbie Farmer, GA
Debbie Lay, CA
Debbie Lehwalder, OR
Debbie Travis, AZ
Debbie Travis, AZ
Debora Coleman, CA
Deborah Boomhower, NY
Deborah Bortot, CA
Deborah Davidson, CO
Deborrah Parris, NY
Debra Bridwell, IL
Debra Broughton, IA
Debra Goolsby, PA
Debra Hope Arrington, NV
Debra Lane, CA
Debra McCullough, IL
Debra Moore, MI
Debra Robinson, CA
Debra White, NM
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Deenna Kimmer, IA
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Deirdre Franklin, PA
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Delia Cooke, FL
Delia D'Angelo, CA
Delia Estrello, TX
Delila Owens, CA
Deneale Scott, SC
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Denise Brennan, MI
Denise Erin Sullivan, NM
Denise Fisher, MI
Denise Marlowe, MN
Denise Payne, FL
Denise Rosser, CA
Denise Thomas, MN

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Dennis Braun, NY
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Dennis Hough, NY
Dennis McCraven, CA
Dennis Rogers, MA
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Diana Klueter, OH
Diana Moon, CO
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Diane Brown, MN
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Diane Jay, CA
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Diane Sawtell, OR
Diane Shaughnessy, WA
Diane Sheheen, SC
Diane Wesson, CA
Dianna Posner, WA
Dianne Sullivan, CA
Dianora Niccolini, NY
Dinku Adale, TX
Dione Chanslor, MN
Dionicio Hernandez, TX
Dolores Adams, CO
Dolores Wickless, MD
Dolores Zieser, IA
Dolores Zuffante, CA
Dominic Orlando, IL
Dominic Percopo, CT
Don Barth, VA
Don Gerace, NY
Don Thompson, MA
Don Wachal, IL
Don Wleklinski, IN

“

The internet was intended for free and equal communication. We need to maintain the original intent and provide access for all.

”

- JANE FRITZ
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
WEST ISLIP, NY

“

We need a bipartisan bill that will bring net neutrality back immediately because the internet should not be vulnerable.

”

- GLENDA STATEN
OWNER,
POSITIVITY FOREVER
STATESVILLE, NC

“

Party affiliation shouldn't be an issue on this topic.

”

- JOHN KWIATKOWSKI
OWNER,
KWIATKOWSKI FARMS
POWELL, WY

“

We need clear federal laws guaranteeing open use of the internet for all, superseding state laws.

”

- CHRISTOPHER STIMSON
FOUNDER,
MIRALOMA MUSIC
AKRON, OH

SIGNATORIES

Donal O'Hare, WI
Donald Behr, NY
Donald DeWalt, WI
Donald Long, OK
Donald MacMurray, FL
Donald Polack, OR
Donald Shaw, NY
Donald Smith, FL
Donald Solomon, RI
Donna Holt, IL
Donna Jennings, IA
Donna Limper, IL
Donna Olsen, ND
Donna Phillips, VA
Donna Pizzo, OH
Donna Pope, FL
Donna Smith, PA
Donna Warner, TX
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Dora Villarreal, TX
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Dorothy Felton, OR
Dorothy Lewis, CA
Dorothy Strotkamp, MI
Dot Lewis, KS
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Doug Williams, IA
Douglas Best, NY
Douglas Henderson, ME
Drew Marco, IL
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Dustina Reed, CO
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Elaine Ercolano, NY
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Elaine Jurumbo, NY
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