**Blaster Worm, Sobig Hit MIT Computers**

By Michael E. Rollsh

Recent worms and viruses attacking Windows operating systems have created large-scale problems on the MIT network. One worm, known as the Blaster, exploits a vulnerability revealed by Microsoft in mid-July. It is designed to infect other machines on the network, install a backdoor on the host computer, and periodically download a new version of a malicious program.

As a result, Information Systems is filtering e-mail for the virus. "The worm has been so widespread that people have been compromised within a minute of being put on the network," said Linda LeBlanc, network security analyst for Information Systems. "We've had more than 750 machines compromised in the past three weeks. Five hundred are currently off the net and awaiting reinstallation."

The MIT network has also been plagued by the Sobig virus, which infects Windows computers via e-mail attachments.

"The worm has probably been the most virulent I have ever seen," said LeBlanc. "It's been a little bit more widespread than expected." Sobig was first identified over the weekend.

"The worm exploits a vulnerability that Microsoft never disclosed," said LeBlanc. "It's a vulnerability in the product that's been exploited by a worm." Sobig is a variant of the worm that attacks Windows operating systems.

"The worm is a little disappointed with the IC's lack of cooperation in honoring our rules," said Dormcon President Emily E. Cofer '04. "Dormcon feels this was against the spirit of the event," Cofer said. "Issues also arose with violations of previously agreed upon attendance levels of fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. According to the rules, all upperclassmen must wear shirts identifying the living group they represent. Only five FSILJ members per group were invited to Friday's party, and they were required to wear badges. However, Dormcon's Judicial Committee reportedly identified fraternity members posing as freshmen, wearing neither their identifying shirts nor badges, and also in shirts without badges."

David B. Gottlieb '04, AFC Judicial Committee chair, asserts that fraternity members did not pressure freshmen to leave the party with them, but merely invited freshmen already planning to leave or go with them.

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A federal judge has ordered the Boston Fire Department to hire four white men who successfully challenged the department's affirmative action policy and were bypassed in favor of lower-scoring minorities.

The ruling marks the first time since the 1970s — when a federal court decreed that the city hire white and black firemen in equal numbers — that a court has ordered layoffs or other changes to make up for past discrimination.

One of the plaintiffs, Druce Johnson, a former firefighter, said the ruling was a victory in a long fight for justice.

"This is a day for a possible escalation in violence, and represented potential setbacks for an American-backed peace effort."

The evacuation orders came after an alleged blast in a car bomb in the city center, which killed at least 135 people and wounded more than 700.

The area is majority Hindu, but has a substantial Muslim population; at least 30 percent of those wounded were Muslim. But many of the jews in the area are originally from the state of Gujarat, prompting immediate speculation, unsupported so far, that the blast was in retaliation for communal riots last year that left 1,000 Muslims dead.

The lawyer, Jim Pineo, director of litigation for Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, a prisoners' rights organization, did not give a reason for when the prisoners had approached the guards but said they took no action. Pineo said the inmate had also said that Druce was standing directly outside Geoghan's cell door just before it was to be closed after the bomb blast on Saturday, a violation of prison regulations. The area is majority Hindu, but has a substantial Muslim population; at least 30 percent of those wounded were Muslim. But many of the jews in the area are originally from the state of Gujarat, prompting immediate speculation, unsupported so far, that the blast was in retaliation for communal riots last year that left 1,000 Muslims dead.

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Shiya Ribowsky, the medical examiner's office director, said that so far, investigators have found nothing that would complicate the project's design, but that doesn't mean the work will not be challenging. Many relatives of victims killed in the attack have long asked that unidentified remains be interred at the World Trade Center site. This will relieve the memorial designers of having to include a refrigeration or freezer system in unidentified, not the families, not the remains, for future scientific study. "Our job is to inter them and if technology changes in the future, we will have the chance to identify them, we will be able to do a double-dig probe in the remains in such a way that we can use this new technology," Ribowsky said.

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On August 26, 2003

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

By Elizabeth Becker

WASHINGTON

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The Meaning of the Law

In his column "The Meaning of the U.N." (Aug. 25) Ken Nesmith breathlessly informs us that law without an accompanying force is "meaningless." He then says that legal force is "so important that Congress will invest the Judiciary with only limited power." But Congress will not invest the Judiciary with limited power unless law and force are viewed by the judiciary as two different things. Law is a statement of what should be done, while force is the means by which it is carried out. The two are not the same thing, and it will only be respected so long as it is willingly observed. Law that must be forcefully executed is no better than what Saddam Hussein ordered as a "meowlingual." The "Meowlingual" will not be available until November.

John Armstrong
Words of Advice

Sandra M. Chung

Dear Freshmen,

You might not be quite certain that you’re in the right place. I wasn’t. I was too psych- ologically involved in being a sophomore bioengineering major at Harvard when you feel the familiar tingle of the eight o’clock bell and realize you’re a Freshman. The first week of college can be so rewarding because it’s the first time you’re exposed to all the possibilities that life has to offer. You will have to sort through all of these possibilities later in other courses, but for now it’s all there for you to take advantage of. You will find out very soon that you are not only a student at Harvard, but also a part of a larger community of students and faculty. You will learn to work harder undergraduate life the way we treasure ours.

You will need to face the fact that there is no such thing as being a Freshman. You are in the right place. You might not know it now, but I’m certain you will.

Sandra M. Chung is a member of the class of 2004.

A Change of Heart

Andrew C. Thomas

I’d like to make a retraction.

In an April 4 article (“Politics and Sports”), I wrote about the danger that the patriotic song “God Bless America” represents to a world deeply divided over Ameri- can foreign policy, specifically, the invasion of Iraq known cinematically as Gulf War II. Bud Selig, commissioner of baseball, had declared that the song should be performed or played during the seventh inning stretch of all Sunday games and home openers, and any other game at the home team’s discretion.

It wasn’t taken too well in Toronto, where the decision was seen as purely political. Canada’s opposition to military involvement without United Nations consent charged the issue all the more.

Time has passed; the invasion has come, Saddam is out of power and Iraq is under occupation. But soldiers are being picked off left and right, and American security continues to be threatened.

So, I confess. I overreacted about the song. Worse than that, I failed to appreciate any of its real power, or the history it embodies.

I didn’t get that until recently, when I had the opportunity to visit New York City and its two ballparks, Shea and Yankee Stadiums, respectively. The song wasn’t just performed at both ballparks that day. It was celebrated.

There didn’t seem to be a single place that wasn’t singing along. At the time, I thought it was just another example of the way New York crowds, but the same thing hap- pened again yesterday at Fenway Park.

Given the passion that the American public feels toward this song, it makes me wonder why “God Bless America” isn’t this country’s national anthem. I can’t say I’ve ever heard an enthusiastic crowd sing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” though I do remember crowds at Chicago Stadium, the former home of hock- ey’s Blackhawks, cheering wildly through it.

Some feel that baseball is responsible for the enshrinement of the national anthem. I don’t believe that. The song was an established part of baseball’s repertoire in 1916. The song’s affair with baseball dates back to 1918, when the World Series was under threat of cancellation because World War I was being waged in France.

I some wished the series cancelled out of respect for the soldiers, who themselves wished no such thing. Baseball is the ultimate American celebration, and to some a rason d’etre. They wanted to cheer for their teams (which were the Chicago Cubs, and of course the Boston Red Sox). The anthem was performed at those games for the first time as a compromise, during the seventh inning stretch.

Fast forward to Oct. 2001. The invasion of Afghanistan had begun, and New York was only barely beginning to heal. Once again, the threat of cancellation loomed. Mayor Giuliani, the people of New York, and the soldiers of the U.S. Armed Forces all insisted that the series go forth.

The compromises are now both history, and the mood of the time has changed. A song about war was appropriate for a distant conflict in 1918, but a song about freedom, beauty, truth, and love is terrifically appropriate for today, at a time when the country is still in pain.

Besides, “God Bless America” even sounds more like a national anthem. It’s easier to sing, with a smaller range and smoother melody. The words are more simple and more visually pleasant. It’s not militaristic or politically partisan. Changes in national anthem are not unprec- edented when the old one outlives its purpose.

But there is still the God issue. Would the establishment of “God Bless America” as the national anthem violate the First Amendment? As someone who is in favor of reverting the pledge of allegiance to its pre-1954 ver- sion, minus “under God,” the argument on its surface seems hypothetical. For that matter, I’m not a big fan of “In God We Trust” on legal tender. So why the difference?

Well, I’ll confess. There isn’t one, and I can’t think of a good reason why any legal scholar would even consider it. But no one has ever said that national anthems must be official and government sanctioned. After all, the origi- nal patriotic song “Yankee Doodle” was recog- nized for its importance by women and men, and cer- tainly not by the governing power of the time.

Baseball still has power over this nation, and it has often been a beacon to the people of this country and beyond. “God Bless America” must take the place of its predecessor and become the new national anthem, whether recognized by government or not. Failing that, it should be played at the national anthems before sports events, if not immediately, then gradually. No action I could think of would do more justice to this country and those who support it.
Crowding May Affect Freshmen's Choices in Lottery

Rush, from Page 1

didn’t see any [instances of] anyone breaking the rule,” Gottlieb said. “The problem was not widespread at all.”

The IFC and Dormcon have been discussing Sunday’s events and detailing their joint goals for dormitory rush.

“This will all be worked out in the next couple of weeks and into fall term. Hopefully we’ll be able to invite the IFC back to our events next year,” Cofer said.

“I don’t really anticipate any [future] problems,” Gottlieb said. “This is all a totally new process [for everyone]. We’re trying to work some issues out, but I think we’re still heading in the right direction.”

Dorm rush strategies differ

Organizers hail dormitory rush as successful in getting freshmen to move around ... I’ve talked to a lot of people who want to move into Next, but it’s hard to judge if people are going to get in or not,” said Christopher C. Hemond ’03.

Freshmen contemplate moving

“[You] still want to look at all the dormitories,” said Miaw, who is considering entering the readjustment lottery.

“It feels that dormitory rush events will be essential in helping you make an informed decision on where to live,” said Dennis R. Miaw ’07.

Two large Dormcon events, Sunday night’s party in the Z-Center and Monday night’s Red Sector A party at East Campus, were well-attended.

“Speaking for the east side of campus, we seem to have a lot of people who are really excited to live in EC or move here from the west side of campus,” Cofer said. “[We’ve been] better at getting the name out there, and letting people know what we’re all about. Since last year, EC has done a better job.”

On the other side of campus at Next House, the strategy of dormitory rush was a little different because of its residence-based advising program.

“We have less people who are free to move around ... I’ve talked to a lot of people who want to move into Next, but it’s hard to judge if people are going to get in or not,” said Christopher C. Hemond ’03.

Freshmen contemplate moving

“I’m still sort of looking at all dormitories,” said Miaw, who is considering entering the readjustment lottery. “It feels that dormitory rush events will be essential in helping you make an informed decision on where to live.”

“All the students and staff are really helpful in helping you get all the information you need and get the feel of each dorm,” he said.

Despite the seemingly successful events of this year’s dormitory rush, some freshmen do not plan to participate in dorm lottery.

“[I chose not to really participate in dorm rush],” said Alissa R. Kern ’07. “Maybe if I didn’t like it, I’d try to explore other dormitories, but there was no need. Plus, I didn’t feel like moving all my stuff.”

Crowding may affect lottery

The decision to have dormitory crowding may have an affect on the number of students who choose to participate in today’s readjustment lottery.

“Last year we didn’t have to deal with [crowding] at all. I think it could definitely play a major role in how many people sign up for the readjustment lottery and get reassigned,” said Denise A. Vallay, assistant director for undergraduate housing.

It is hard to predict how participation in this year’s lottery will compare with last year, when only one out of seven freshmen requested transfers.

Out of 140 requests, only 84 students were able to move.

“If you think that the fact that last year was no crowding at all probably had something to do with the low number of lottery entrants,” said Anthony E. Gray, PhD ’01 of the housing office who is a consultant for this year’s lottery.

A goal for this year’s Orientation has been to raise awareness about the residence selection process and encourage more people to enter the readjustment lottery.

“The more people that enter [the readjustment lottery], the more people that we can move,” Vallay said. “So we hope more people enter.”

Changes in this year’s lottery

Three major changes have been made from last year, which was the first year that all freshmen were required to live on campus. The housing office has made concerted efforts this year to improve the quality and informativeness of the guide from first-year residences.

“We tried to make it clear and express that we have a possible the purpose and reason for the adjustment lottery,” Vallay said.

This year, changes have also been made to the online adjustment lottery Web site to encourage increased participation in the lottery.

The adjustment lottery form has an additional fourth choice of dormitory to switch into, and it is also on the same Web site as the housing confirmation form.

“The housing office has been really great in working with us to get out all the information freshmen need to make [an] intelligent decision given time and info they have,” Cofer said.

“One thing that is definitely important to keep in mind is that every year one of the things the designers of the lottery look at is the number of places students indicate as preferences,” Gray said. “The greater the number of preferences, the more likely you are to get a reassignment.”

This is based on the assumption that a student who enters four alternative dormitories may find that their situation is more dissatisfied with her current assignment than somebody who enters only one alternative.

Lottery results not final

“If all else fails and a student is unable to be reassigned, it’s important to keep in mind that this is not the last opportunity for change,” Vallay said.

Students who do not get their desired reassignment can still sign up to go on residence hall lists after the adjustment lottery has closed. Also, students in crowded dormitories may find that their situations change.

“My expectation is that dormitories that are crowded will find it is not crowded for the year,” Vallay said, emphasizing that the housing assignments change constantly throughout the year.

The online housing adjustment lottery will close today at 5 p.m. New housing assignments will be available tomorrow at 6 p.m.

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in the Johnson Athletic Center from 4 to 7 p.m. Afterwards we’ll be having movies, ice cream, and snacks in our office, Room 483 in the Student Center.
Coop to Pay Fee for MIT Card Use

Coom, from Page 1

Fee paid to MIT negotiated

One of the main issues under negotiation was the percent of each MIT Card sale that the Coop would pay to MIT. This fee goes toward the maintenance of the TechCASH network.

Neither Suarez nor Powell could comment on the exact percentage of sales to be paid to MIT. "I don't know exactly how much it is," Suarez said.

McDonald also declined to comment on the precise percentage, but he did say that it was equal to or slightly more than the percentage of credit card sales paid to credit card companies.

He said one reason that the Coop was concerned about the percentage of sales paid to MIT was the low margin of sales on textbooks at the Kendall location. Textbooks have a low profit margin, so the Coop was concerned that there would be little profit after a percentage of the textbook sale was paid to MIT.

"There was a concern about the type of sales at each store," McDonald said, "Because of this concern, the Stratton Student Center location will pay a different percentage of purchases made with the MIT Card than the Kendall location."

Despite the recent addition of the MIT Card as a form of payment, Suarez said that there will not be an increase in prices at the Coop.

Student convenience a factor

Last year, both Quantum bookstore and the MIT Press bookstores, both in Kendall Square, began accepting the MIT Card. Powell said that this was not the main motivation for the Coop to begin accepting the card, but that it did add some pressure. "We certainly weren't happy with that," he said.

"It was much easier for them because they only have one store," Suarez said.

Powell and Suarez said that their main motivation for accepting the card was student convenience.

"We don't do this for sales alone," Suarez said. "We do it as a service," Powell said. Melinda J. Cromie '06 agreed with their reasoning. She said that she is more likely to purchase books and other back-to-school items from the Coop if she can use the card. She pointed out that students would be more likely to use this option since parents can add money directly to the TechCASH account.

Another student disagreed: "If it's cheaper elsewhere, I will buy the books there," said Tushiyyah Lui '07.

McDonald also declined to comment on the precise percentage, but he did say that it was equal to or slightly more than the percentage of credit card sales paid to credit card companies.

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August 26, 2003

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"I think it went very well," said Associate Dean Ayida Mthembu of her discussion group. She said that even when people disagreed, they were able to smoothly continue discussion.

Race discussions follow picnic

To allow freshmen to delve more deeply into the topic of diversity at MIT. He encouraged them to use MIT's resources if they need help. Uzamere made a much shorter speech, for the freshmen appeared to be getting hungry for their sunny picnic lunch at Killian Court.

On the topic of the upcoming VA Senate elections, he said, "I'd like to ... encourage all of you to participate."

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Enthusiastic applause permeated Kresge at his conclusion. "It was kind of a long speech, but you could tell everybody was pretty attentive," said Elizabeth Hu '07.

Thomas uses humor in speech

The keynote speaker at the convocation was Professor Edwin L. Thomas, who made a light-hearted presentation.

Thomas detailed some of his experiences as the Director of the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies, presenting photographs of himself dressed in army camouflage while learning first-hand about carrying the heavy loads of the American soldier. Thomas's presentation evoked some laughter; he fixed jokes into his main topic, including one subtle reference to a neighboring school. "Any speech that bashes Harvard is a good speech," said Collin E. Johnson '07.

Before the freshmen left Kresge, both Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert Redwine and Undergraduate Association President Pius A. Uzamere '04 gave short presentations.

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Professor of Material Science and Director of the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies Edwin L. Thomas speaks to freshmen during Convocation. Thomas emphasized the importance of blurring the distinctions between the classroom and the laboratory in a research university such as MIT.

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Annual East vs West Water Wars on Kresge Oval

Far Left: Andrew Brooks G's water balloon explodes mid-throw.
Left: Jeanette C. Fershtman '04 looks up as she struggles over weaponry.
Above: Moria C. Chambers '06 unleashes water upon an East Campus resident.

The annual East vs. West water war took place yesterday on Kresge Oval.

Photography by Jonathan Wang
Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from the paper, plastic, metal and glass that you've been recycling.

But to keep recycling working to help protect the environment, you need to buy those products.

**BUY RECYCLED.**

So look for products made from recycled materials, and buy them. It would mean the world to all of us.

To receive a free brochure, write Buy Recycled, Environmental Defense Fund, 257 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10010, or call 1-800-CALL-EDF.

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**MIT Computing Help Desk**

**We're Hiring Student Consultants**

If you are:
- a logical problem solver
- patient, friendly, motivated to help
- good at explaining technical topics
- seeking relevant work experience
- eager to learn in a team setting
- seeking a starting rate of $12.50/hr

Come meet us at our information session:

**MIT Computing Help Desk**

**Info Session**

**Thursday, September 4th, 2003**

**5:15 - 6:45 pm**

**N42 Demo Center**

211 Mass Ave, across from NECC/Novartis

Attendance at the session is required for all applicants. Candidates should also submit a resume by noon on September 4th to:

hd-hiring@mit.edu

We'll try to answer you quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information will be posted on our website:

http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb

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**Environmental Defense Fund**

**38300**

nightline

This space donated by The Tech
The Graduate Student Council runs a large number of programs to help new possibilities, and the Resource Center. Change. For others, you are already familiar with the campus, and we hope the GSC can help make your first year easier. If you are a new student we highly encourage you to explore all of the information on these webpages, and we believe GSC can make your first year at MIT as enjoyable as possible. Check this link for Details. Sponsor: Academic Resource Center.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Information Booth. Info Booth is organized by the Graduate Student Council with volunteers who can answer questions about your new campus. Free. Meet in lobby 10. Sponsor: GSC Orientation.

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Admissions Office Information Session. Room: Building 6, Room 120. Sponsor: Information Center.

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10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - GradWelcome Events. Free. Room: lobby 10. Sponsor: GSC Orientation.

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7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. - WWR Wednesdays. Enjoy free wings and veggies each week. Great for kids of all ages! For up-to-date announcements visit the WWR web-site for details. Sponsor: Academic Resource Center.

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Gender & Cultural Awareness Workshop. Workshops range in topics about the urban environment and one’s safety and ethics in an academic environment. Free. Room: Ashdown House. Sponsor: GSC Orientation.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Tour providing useful and anecdotal information about your new campus. Meet in lobby 10. Sponsor: GSC Orientation.

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Information Booth. A free coffee break to converse with professors and peer members of MIT students, to encourage community building. Sponsored by: Sponsored by Partners & Babylot, Free. Room: Sidney-Pacific Multi-Purpose Room. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

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10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Sponsored: Partners Coffee House. A free coffee break for sponsors and partners of MIT students, to encourage community building. Sponsored by: Sponsored by Partners & Babylot, Free. Room: Sidney-Pacific Multi-Purpose Room. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

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08:15 - EAT - Campus - Call Bay-
ley's Rush Chair at (673) 393-3177 for a
tour of East Campus.

08:17 - [no text]

08:18 - Food - Campus - Only if you
could put a monkey in front of a type-
writer and have him write our entries.

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By Andrew C. Thomas

The Red Sox entered this weekend series looking for a little luck against the AL West leaders, the Seattle Mariners. They got more than a little.

Pedro Martinez returned from a severe bout of pharyngitis to make a surprise start, winning his tenth game of the season by a score of 8-1, and sweeping the Mariners in a four-game set at Fenway Park.

The game began optimistically as Johnny Damon made a leaping grab to rob Ichiro Suzuki of a lead-off hit. Things started to get shaky when DH Mark McLemore, starting instead of Seattle slawtart Edgar Martinez, was struck in the arm with a pitch and first Boost took a ball just under the glove of third baseman Bill Mueller. But the troubles abated as Trot Nixon, much maligned for losing a ball in the sun on Saturday, made a routine catch look extraordinary. Pedro got out of the jam by causing CF Mike Cameron to pop out to Kevin "High Life" Millar.

The Sox answered in the top of the first in due kind, as Damon fled out to his counterpart Cameron. Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez stroked singles to right field in an attempt to rally, but DH David Ortiz popped out gently to shortstop Rey Sanchez to end the threat.

The Sox opened up the scoring in the third, by making Mariners pitcher Gil Meche pay his mistakes after walking Damon, allowing him to advance to second on a wild pitch and to third on a Todd Walker grounder. Nomar brought him home with a single to center, and David Ortiz brought Nomar in with his career-high 25th home run of the year, becoming the sixth member of the Sox to hit 20 home runs in a season. It broke the previous team record of five, set most recently by the 2000 Tony Gwynn Jr. and Adrian Beltre.

The heat is on for four-game set at Fenway Park against the Seattle Mariners on August 26, 2003. But the troubles abated as Trot Nixon, much maligned for losing a ball in the sun on Saturday, made a routine catch look extraordinary. Pedro got out of the jam by causing CF Mike Cameron to pop out to Kevin "High Life" Millar.

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