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Original Contribution

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MODERN VULNERABILITY SYSTEMS AND DATABASES

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ABSTRACT: This scientific article examines and compares several modern vulnerability management systems and databases, such as CVE, CWE, EUVD, NVD, and OSVDB. The goal is to understand how these resources differ in scope, structure, and interoperability. In the article of the analysis, particular attention is paid to platforms like MITRE's frameworks, Exploit-DB, and Rapid7-DB, as well as to international initiatives such as Japan's JVN project. The scientific study also reviews the scoring models they employ, mainly CVSS, and considers alternatives like VEDAS. Overall, the results highlight how each system contributes differently to strengthening cybersecurity practices and how they can complement one another in real-world defense strategies.

KEY WORDS: CVE, CVSS, CWE, EUVD, Exploit-DB, Japan Vulnerability Notes (JVN), MITRE, NVD, OSVDB, RAPID7-DB, VEDAS.

1. Introduction

The modern digital environment faces a constant and evolving wave of software vulnerabilities, which continue to threaten global information security. Because of this, effective vulnerability management has become one of the key components of contemporary cybersecurity, requiring consistent, structured, and data-driven approaches. To achieve this, the process depends on a broad ecosystem of specialized databases and systems that help security professionals identify, categorize, and prioritize software flaws. These repositories form the essential knowledge base for the global cybersecurity community, supporting coordinated defense activities and faster mitigation of threats.

Among the most influential initiatives in this field is the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) system [1,11,12], maintained by MITRE, which assigns standardized identifiers to publicly disclosed vulnerabilities. The National Vulnerability Database (NVD), built upon the CVE list [1,11,12],

expands this information by adding analytical data such as severity ratings through the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS). In parallel, the Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) offers a conceptual framework for describing the underlying causes of software weaknesses instead of focusing only on specific cases.

The vulnerability management ecosystem extends beyond these core systems and includes a number of other important sources. For example, the now-retired Open Source Vulnerability Database (OSVDB) represented an early, community-based initiative to document security issues [4,18]. Modern platforms such as Exploit-DB and Rapid7-DB remain highly valuable because they focus on exploit code and proof-of-concept demonstrations that show how specific vulnerabilities can be practically used [5]. On an international level, systems like Japan Vulnerability Notes (JVN) adapt global vulnerability data to the needs of the Japanese software market [8,17]. In addition, research-oriented models such as VEDAS introduce data-driven approaches to evaluating vulnerabilities.

Although these platforms share a common purpose, they differ significantly in scope, data sources, and operational design. This diversity can make it difficult for organizations [15] to develop a unified and effective vulnerability management strategy. The present article therefore offers a systematic comparative study of these databases and systems, aiming to clarify their specific functions, overlaps, and relative strengths, and to provide guidance for both researchers and practitioners.

The increasing number of reported vulnerabilities each year makes manual evaluation nearly impossible, which means that automated prioritization has become essential. Yet, variations in data structures, update schedules, and scoring models across platforms frequently cause integration issues and inconsistent interpretations. As a result, a vulnerability considered critical in one system might appear less urgent in another, leading to uneven security responses. Moreover, the discontinuation of projects such as OSVDB highlights the dynamic and unstable nature of this field, as well as the need for a better understanding of sustainable alternatives. A structured comparison of current systems is therefore necessary to inform tool selection, improve data integration, and enhance the overall efficiency of organizational vulnerability management.

The content of this academic work is intended for research and instructional applications. Any unauthorized or unethical use of the presented material falls outside the author's scope of responsibility.

2. Related work

The body of academic research addressing vulnerability management systems reveals a wide range of interconnected investigations that together outline how modern flaw-tracking practices have evolved. Early studies [1] laid the conceptual groundwork for understanding the development of vulnerability cataloging, showing how the CVE system [1,11,12] created a standardized terminology that allows consistent communication between different repositories. Building on this foundation, later analyses such as [2] examined the limitations of the CVSS scoring methodology within databases that document contemporary cyberattacks.

Parallel lines of inquiry have explored the internal diversity of vulnerability databases. The review of OSVDB's operational history in [4] provides valuable insight into community-driven monitoring efforts while [10] offers a detailed structural assessment of how the NVD manages and processes vulnerability intelligence. Research focused on geographically tailored systems such as studies [8] and [17] has shown how regional initiatives like Japan's JVN adapt global vulnerability information for local use. The changing nature of distributed vulnerability repositories and their associated challenges is further discussed in [21].

Researchers have also examined the specialized functions of individual repositories. Study [5] analyzes the contribution of platforms such as Exploit-DB in improving access to penetration testing resources, whereas [19] discusses how proprietary databases like Rapid7-DB are integrated into defensive architectures. Work in [16] introduces automated assessment mechanisms through the VEDAS model, illustrating a broader trend toward algorithmic prioritization.

Methodological contributions include [13]'s quantitative evaluation of vulnerability prioritization metrics and [7]'s comparison of national database strategies. Broader ecosystem perspectives are presented in [6] and [14], which discuss MITRE's central role in shaping cybersecurity standards and the interaction between the ATT&CK and CWE frameworks. In addition, [20] explores the application of CWE-based analysis to proactive software defense, while [3] highlights CWE's essential role in secure software development lifecycles.

In summary, existing studies offer significant insight into individual elements of the vulnerability management ecosystem [1,11], yet they often address these components separately [2,13]. What remains missing is a comprehensive comparative perspective that systematically examines the scope [7,8,17,20], data integrity, operational focus, and potential synergy among core vulnerability databases, exploit-oriented repositories [5,15,18], international systems, and experimental research frameworks.

3. Experiment

The scientific experiments in this article in a controlled virtual computer environment were conducted.

The Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) list serves as the basic dictionary for the cybersecurity community, offering standardized identifiers for publicly known software flaws. Its purpose is to provide a common language that enables various organizations and security tools [11] to exchange information clearly and consistently. Each CVE entry consists of a unique identifier that includes the year of disclosure and a sequential number. Importantly, a CVE record itself does not include technical analysis, risk ratings, or remediation details. Instead, it acts as a reference point that links data across multiple security platforms and repositories. The program is maintained by the MITRE Corporation and funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Today, obtaining a CVE ID [1,11,12] has become a standard step in the responsible disclosure process for nearly all security vulnerabilities. Without this consistent naming system, information sharing across the global security ecosystem would be fragmented and inefficient. Though a U.S.-based initiative, CVE's adoption is worldwide, forming the base layer upon which many other databases are built. Fig. 1 shows the detailed information about vulnerability record - CVE-2025-59289.

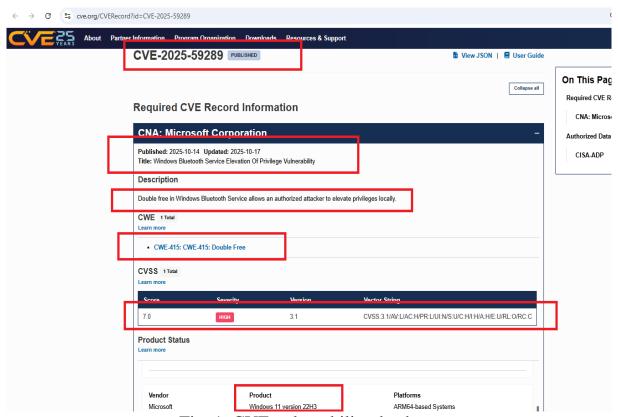


Fig. 1. CVE vulnerability database

The Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) provides an open and standardized method for assessing the severity of software vulnerabilities. It translates complex technical properties into a numerical score that reflects the

potential risk level. The framework includes three metric groups: base metrics describing the fundamental characteristics of a flaw [13]; temporal metrics, which account for time-dependent factors like the availability of exploit code; and environmental metrics, which let organizations [15] adjust scores to match their specific systems and risk tolerance. The base score primarily measures exploitability and potential impact [2,13], while the temporal and environmental factors add contextual relevance. The final value, between 0.0 and 10.0, gives a concise view of a vulnerability's danger [13]. However, this number is not an absolute measure of risk—it should be treated as one input in a broader risk management process [2,13]. CVSS is governed by the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), whose stewardship ensures the model evolves alongside industry needs. Its widespread use has made it the de facto standard for prioritizing mitigation across the cybersecurity field [2,13]. Fig. 2 shows a custom made vulnerability 4.0 calculator with score of 9.5 critical points.

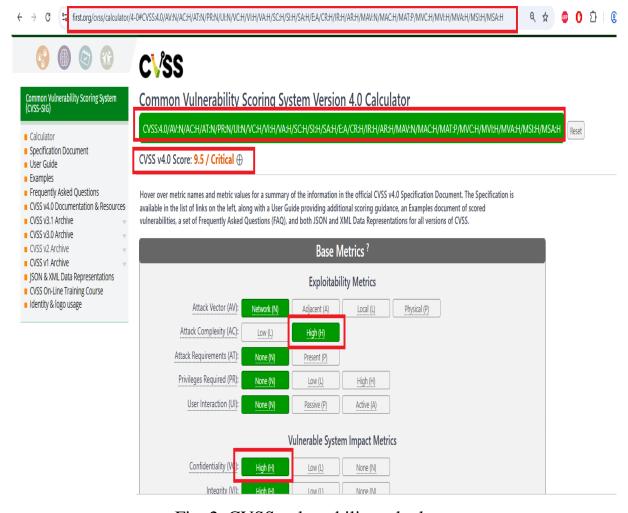


Fig. 2. CVSS vulnerability calculator

The Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) differs from CVE by focusing on categories of software and hardware design weaknesses rather than specific vulnerability instances [3,14]. It serves as a taxonomy that identifies recurring programming and architectural errors that can lead to security issues. By emphasizing the underlying causes [3,14], CWE encourages developers to prevent flaws before they manifest as exploitable vulnerabilities. The framework is community-driven and provides a shared vocabulary for developers, architects, and security professionals. Each entry describes patterns such as buffer overflows or cross-site scripting in abstract terms, independent of any product or CVE [3,14]. CWE is used extensively in secure development lifecycles, code analysis tools, and educational materials [3,14]. Many organizations employ the taxonomy [20] to evaluate their coding practices and to identify recurring weakness trends. In this sense, CWE offers a blueprint for proactive security—helping teams to "build security in" from the start [20,3,14]. Fig. 3 illustrates the cyber-attack XSS with its vulnerability record information.

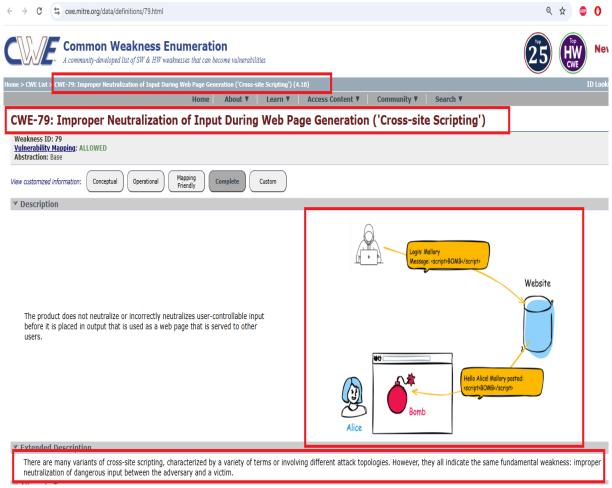


Fig. 3. CWE vulnerability database

The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) maintains a database of vulnerabilities designed to address European regulatory and

operational priorities [21]. This resource often focuses on threats that affect critical infrastructure within the EU and supports policy-making, certification efforts, and incident response coordination. Beyond serving as a data repository, ENISA's platform provides analysis and contextual reports that guide national cybersecurity agencies and decision-makers [21]. The system's curated approach helps identify vulnerabilities that could have the most significant impact on the European digital market. It therefore functions both as a technical and strategic tool for governments, CERTs, and operators of essential services [21], reinforcing Europe's goal of digital resilience and strategic autonomy. Fig. 4 presents several critical vulnerabilities that are detected in 2025.

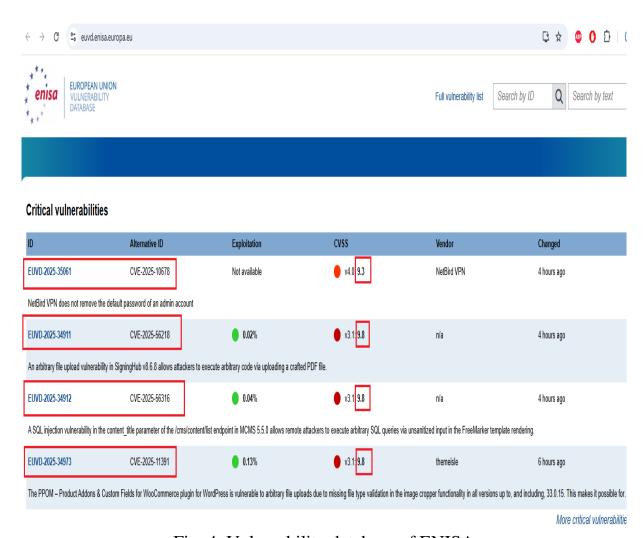


Fig. 4. Vulnerability database of ENISA

Exploit Database (Exploit-DB) is a practical, community-maintained repository specializing in exploit code and proof-of-concept demonstrations [5]. Unlike theoretical databases, it contains real exploit scripts and tools that can demonstrate how specific vulnerabilities can be used in attacks. For penetration testers, researchers, and red teams, it is an essential source for validating

vulnerabilities. Each entry usually links to a CVE identifier, providing clear context and traceability. The platform's community-driven nature ensures that it remains frequently updated [5], making it a trusted reference for both offensive and defensive cybersecurity work. For defenders, it provides a window into attacker methodologies, helping to test detection and prevention mechanisms. Fig. 5 shows the exploit with remote code execution on Ingress-NGINX 4.11.0.

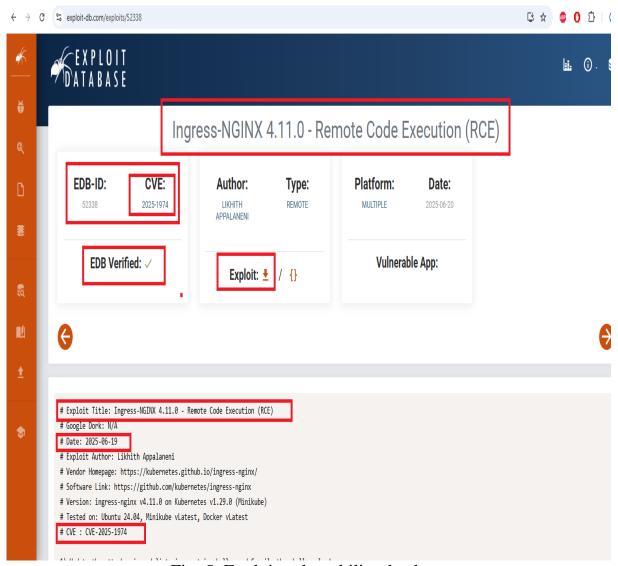


Fig. 5. Exploit vulnerability database

Japan Vulnerability Notes (JVN) is a national portal maintained by JPCERT/CC and the Information-Technology Promotion Agency (IPA). Its main function is to localize and analyze global vulnerability data for the Japanese market [8,17]. JVN translates advisories and adds region-specific context, such as how vulnerabilities affect software commonly used in Japan. This approach ensures that local organizations receive timely and understandable security updates. As a result, JVN plays a crucial role in

strengthening Japan's cybersecurity ecosystem by bridging global disclosures with domestic awareness [8,17].

The MITRE Corporation acts as a central coordinator in the vulnerability management ecosystem [6,14]. As a non-profit organization, MITRE operates several foundational frameworks, including CVE and CWE, and supports community collaboration across governments, vendors, and researchers [6,14]. Fig. 6 shows another critical found vulnerability with CVSS base score of 9.3 points.

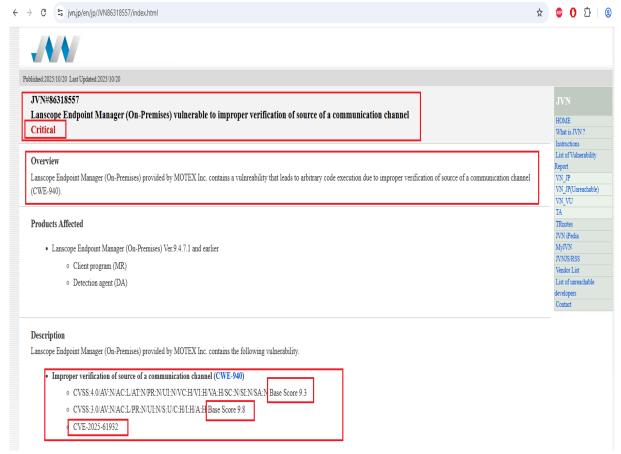


Fig. 6. JVN vulnerability database

Its mission extends beyond maintenance and in this context it conducts research, develops new methodologies, and advances standards that underpin global cybersecurity operations. MITRE's neutral and open approach promotes trust, ensuring that its frameworks are widely adopted across both public and private sectors [6,14].

The National Vulnerability Database (NVD) serves as the official U.S. government repository built upon the CVE list. Managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), it extends basic CVE records with comprehensive analysis, including CVSS scores and CWE categorizations

[7,10,12]. The NVD also provides metadata on affected products and available remediations. Because of its depth and reliability [7,10,12], it is widely integrated into vulnerability scanners, management tools, and academic research. Analysts rely on its datasets to automate prioritization and reporting workflows. In essence, the NVD transforms CVE identifiers into actionable intelligence, becoming a cornerstone of operational cybersecurity [7,10,12]. Fig. 7 presents the detailed CVE information for the vulnerability with number 2025-9972.

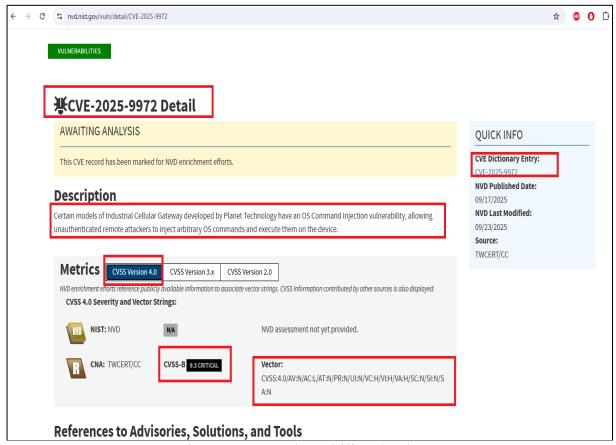


Fig. 7. NVD vulnerability database

The Open Source Vulnerability Database (OSVDB) was one of the earliest community-driven repositories documenting software flaws [4,18]. Operating for over a decade, it offered detailed, human-written analyses for each entry and was widely appreciated for its independence and depth. Despite its success, OSVDB was discontinued in 2016 due to financial and operational challenges [4,18]. Its closure left a noticeable gap in the open-source security landscape, underscoring the difficulties of sustaining large-scale volunteer-based initiatives. Still, OSVDB remains an important milestone in the history of vulnerability information sharing [4,18].

The cybersecurity firm Rapid7 operates a proprietary vulnerability intelligence database that integrates tightly with its Metasploit framework [9,19]. The repository emphasizes the practical exploitability of vulnerabilities, including details about exploit availability, weaponization, and real-world attack activity observed by the company's threat intelligence team. This contextual insight enables organizations to prioritize remediation based on active exploitation trends [9,19]. Because Rapid7 functions both as a security product vendor and a research entity [9,19], its database represents the convergence of commercial intelligence and empirical analysis. Fig. 8 illustrates a vulnerability detected in Android based systems.

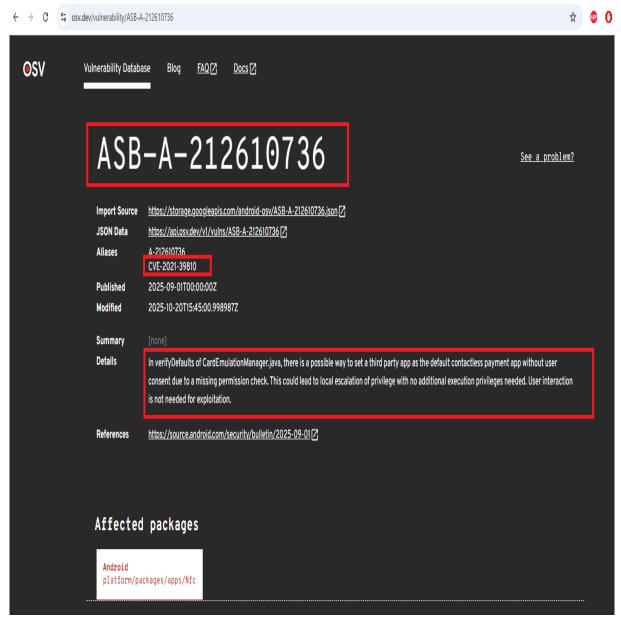


Fig. 8. OSVDB vulnerability database

The Vulnerability Exploit Database and Aggregation System (VEDAS) represents a research-oriented approach to vulnerability analysis [16]. Its strength lies in aggregating and correlating data from numerous public sources through automation [16]. Using data mining and machine learning, VEDAS identifies trends, predicts the appearance of new exploits, and supports proactive defense strategies. By modeling the lifecycle of vulnerabilities from disclosure to exploit development and it provides predictive insight that helps organizations shorten exposure windows [16]. Such systems illustrate the shift from static documentation toward dynamic, data-driven vulnerability intelligence. Fig. 9 shows unspecified security vulnerability in the database of Redis.

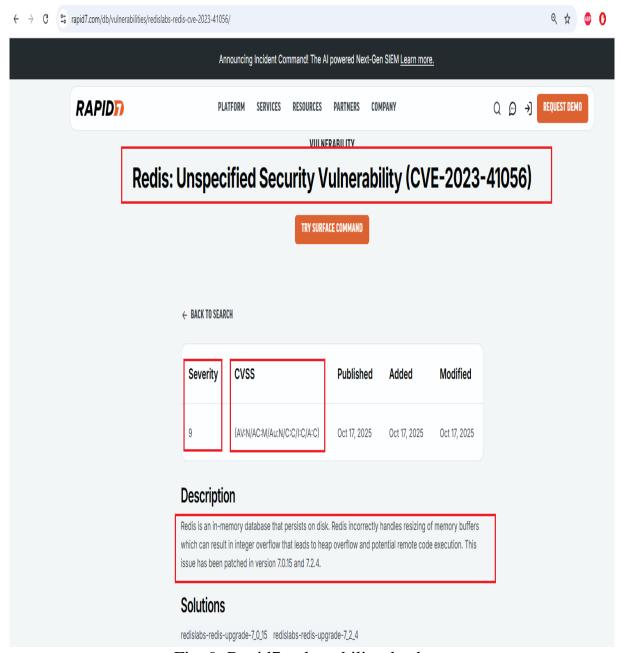


Fig. 9. Rapid7 vulnerability database



Fig. 10. VEDAS vulnerability database

3. Conclusion

This comparative analysis highlights how complex and interconnected today's vulnerability management ecosystem has become. The progression from simple standardized identifiers in CVE to the detailed and contextualized records of the NVD illustrates the evolution from basic cataloging toward actionable intelligence. Throughout this study, it became clear that while CVSS provides an essential, if sometimes imperfect, metric for prioritizing risks, CWE adds a valuable structural perspective by focusing on the underlying causes of vulnerabilities rather than just their manifestations.

Specialized repositories such as Exploit-DB [5] and Rapid7-DB [9] add practical insight by demonstrating how theoretical weaknesses translate into real-world exploitation, thus bridging the gap between analytical assessment and operational threat. At the same time, international platforms like Japan Vulnerability Notes emphasize [8,17] the importance of adapting global vulnerability data to local languages, technologies, and regulatory settings. The historical contribution of community-led projects such as OSVDB also serves as a reminder of how challenging it is to sustain independent and comprehensive databases over time.

In practice, none of these systems function effectively in isolation. Their collective value comes from the way they complement and enrich one another through integration and shared standards. A mature cybersecurity strategy therefore relies on the combined strength of these systems rather than any single repository. Looking forward, the continued development of data-sharing frameworks, interoperability standards, and collaborative research will be crucial for transforming vulnerability data into proactive, context-aware defense capabilities.

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