

# Trends in Gender Diversity and Pay Equity Disclosures

#### IN THIS THOUGHT PIECE

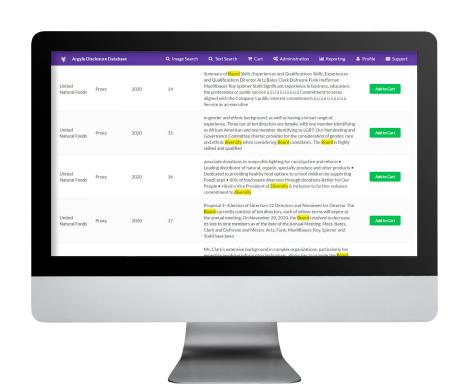
In this thought piece, we discuss developments surrounding gender diversity and pay equity in US and European corporations and the subsequent trends that can be observed in investor reports as a result of these developments.

This thought piece was written by Lucy Fergusson, University of Nottingham, and Deborah Koenen, Argyle Advisory Director.

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## Introduction

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the workplace are hardly new issues for corporations. With respect to gender, efforts to promote diversity across the globe have been varied and sometimes controversial, ranging from the introduction of government-regulated quotas in countries such as Norway and Belgium, to softer methods like increasing investment in female and gender nonconforming employees and promoting female and gender nonconforming candidates within the recruitment or promotion process. In 2023, discussions surrounding gender equality in the corporate world remain as pertinent as ever. In 2022, women held 8.8% of Fortune 500 CEO positions and, on average, attained 40% of new director appointments. Despite these considerable efforts, progress has been slow, and women remain underrepresented in the C-Suite and boardroom.

What has changed more rapidly, however, is the attitude of investors towards the issue of gender diversity. Increasingly, we are observing a wave of socially engaged investors for whom gender diversity is a key topic. Investors are engaging more intentionally on gender diversity and equality by incorporating higher expectations into their voting guidelines.

Recent shareholder proposals have advanced gender diversity by seeking reports related to workplace diversity, US Employment Information Report (EEO-1) demographic data, and disclosures related to pay equity gaps and audits. Other proponents are looking beyond demographic data and want a picture of a company's DEI practices (e.g., sexual harassment policies, pay equity, and mandatory arbitration). These developments make it increasingly crucial for corporations to reflect internally on this topic. With this aim, this thought piece will summarize some of the most relevant developments within this field and explore how this issue has affected investor reporting.

Hinchliffe, Emma. (May 23, 2022). "The number of women running Fortune 500 companies reaches a record high." Fortune.

# Regulatory Developments

## The European Approach

Europe has been at the forefront of major changes in relation to corporate gender diversity. As early as 2004, Norway became the first country to adopt gender diversity quotas at the board-level and has subsequently been followed by many other countries. These laws require between one-third and 40% of directors to be women, and while major changes have been made, some countries are lagging these mandates.

The European Union recently adopted a <u>new law on the gender balance of corporate boards</u>. Member states are required to adopt national rules mandating that 40% of non-executive directors, or 33% of all board members, be women, and listed companies will have until the end of June 2026 to meet these targets. It is clear gender diversity has been and continues to be an important topic in Europe.

## The American Approach

Gender diversity has also been a hot topic in the United States (US), albeit a controversial one. In 2018, California became the first state to introduce <u>mandates for board gender diversity</u>, requiring publicly listed corporations headquartered in the state to have a prescribed number of female directors. In May 2022, the Superior Court of California in Los Angeles held that the law was unconstitutional and enjoined its enforcement pending decision on appeal. Washington state passed a <u>board gender diversity bill</u> in 2020 that requires public boards to be at least 25% women. If the Washington requirement is not met, companies must explain their approach to developing and maintaining board diversity. Other states (such as Illinois, New York, and Maryland) have enacted laws that encourage board diversity through disclosure, but do not require mandated quotas.

In August 2021, the US Securities and Exchange Commission approved <u>new listing rules</u> requiring each NASDAQ-listed company to have at least two diverse directors or explain why it does not. The rules also require disclosure of directors' voluntary self-identified gender, racial characteristics, and LGBTQ+ status. Before this, though, major US corporations had been developing their own policies to promote gender diversity, with Facebook, Pinterest, Intel, Xerox, and Amazon, among others, implementing a version of the 'Rooney Rule' (a National Football League policy that teams interview at least one diverse candidate for head coach or manager positions). While the methods of achieving gender diversity remain varied, the appetite for increased female and gender nonconforming representation is clear.

## **Pay Equity**

Gender pay equity has also been a hot topic and for good reason as gender gaps still exist. According to a 2021 report by the World Economic Forum, "financial disparities continue to represent a major area of concern for working women and their dependents": the wage gap is still approximately 37% and the income gap remains close to 51%.<sup>2</sup>

Recent regulatory developments are working to try to close that gap. The government of the United Kingdom (UK) has <u>required</u> employers with 250+ employees to report their gender pay gap since 2017. In 2021, Ireland implemented <u>legislation</u> that requires certain employers to begin reporting on differences in the mean and median pay between male and female employees. If a pay disparity exists, the company needs to provide a written explanation for why and outline any steps planned to close the gap. A forthcoming <u>European Union Directive</u> related to pay transparency will require employers with at least 50 employees to report publicly some statistical data on the company's gender pay gap. If the reporting shows a gender pay gap of at least 2.5% and the employer cannot justify such difference in average pay level by objective gender-neutral factors, then the employer will be required to conduct a formal pay assessment.

In the United States, California, Colorado, and a dozen other states have either passed or are considering a variety of pay transparency bills. For example, as of March 2021, certain private employers in California must submit annual pay data reports to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum. (March 31, 2021). "Global Gender Gap Report 2021."

<sup>3</sup> State of California Civil Rights Department. (2022). "California Pay Data Reporting website."

# **Investor Response**

Many institutional investors and proxy advisory firms have formal voting policies on gender diversity for directors and the broader workforce. Failure to meet investor or proxy advisor expectations can result in votes against members of those companies' nominating/governance committees. Fewer voting policies address pay equity. The following table outlines some of these guidelines.

	Date Adopted	Stance on Diversity
BlackRock	January 2023	<ul> <li>Board Diversity</li> <li>In the US: Believes that boards should aspire to be at least 30% diversity of membership. An informative indicator of diversity for such companies is having at least two women and a director who identifies as a member of an underrepresented group.</li> <li>In Europe, Middle East, and Africa: Looks for all boards to be taking steps towards at least 30% of their members being comprised of the</li> </ul>
		underrepresented gender.  Workforce Diversity: In the US, companies should disclose the steps they are taking to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion; job categories and workforce demographics; and their responses to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's EEO-1 Survey.
Fidelity	February 2023	<b>Board Diversity:</b> Evaluates board composition and generally will oppose the election of certain or all directors if there are no women on the board of if a board of ten or more members has fewer than two women directors.
Glass Lewis	January 2023	Board Diversity: Beginning with shareholder meetings held after January 1, 2023, will transition from a fixed numerical approach to a percentage-based approach and will generally recommend voting against the nominating committee chair of a board that is not at least 30 percent gender diverse at companies within the Russell 3000 index. For companies outside the Russell 3000 index, the existing policy requiring a minimum of one gender diverse director remains in place.

	<b>Date Adopted</b>	Stance on Diversity
Goldman Sachs	March 2022	<ul> <li>In US: Vote against or withhold from members of the nominating committee at companies incorporated in the US if the board does not have at least 10% women directors and at least one other diverse board director. Vote against or withhold from the full board at companies incorporated in the US that do not have at least one woman director.</li> <li>Outside of US: Vote against or withhold from members of the nominating committee at companies not incorporated in the US if the board does not have at least 10% women directors or does not meet the requirements of local listing rules or corporate governance codes or national targets.</li> </ul>
		Workplace Diversity A company should have a clear, public Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement and/or diversity policy. Generally, vote for proposals seeking to amend a company's EEO statement or diversity policies to additionally prohibit discrimination on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
ISS US	February 2023	Board Diversity: Generally, vote against or withhold from the chair of the nominating committee at companies where there are no women on the company's board.  Pay Gap: Generally vote case-by-case on proposals requesting reports on a company's pay data by gender/race/ethnicity or a report on policies and goals to reduce any pay gaps, taking into account i) the company's current policies and disclosures related to both its diversity and inclusion policies and practices and its compensation philosophy and practices, ii) whether the company has been the subject of recent controversy, litigation or regulatory actions related to pay gap issues, iii) the company's disclosure regarding pay gap policies or initiatives compared to its peers, and iv) local laws regarding categorization of race or ethnicity.
State Street Global Advisors	March 2022	<b>Board Diversity:</b> Expects boards of all listed companies to have at least one female board member. In 2023, State Street will expect companies in the Russell 3000, TSX, FTSE 350, STOXX 600 and ASX 300 indices to have boards composed of at least 30 percent women directors. <b>Workforce Diversity:</b> May vote against the chair of the compensation committee at companies in the S&P 500 that do not disclose their EEO-1 reports.

	Date Adopted	Stance on Diversity
Vanguard	February/March 2023	<ul> <li>Board Diversity</li> <li>In the US: Absent a compelling reason, a fund will generally vote against the nominating and/or governance committee chair if a company's board is making insufficient progress in its diversity composition and/or in addressing its board diversity-related disclosures. Board diversity disclosures should at least include the genders, races, ethnicities, tenures, skills, and experience that are represented on the board.</li> <li>In Europe and UK: Asks European and UK companies to meet local market standards intended to support gender and ethnic diversity, and at a minimum to demonstrate progress towards at least 30% gender diversity at board level (to be read in conjunction with</li> </ul>
		country-specific guidelines) and where necessary, disclose plans to align with any upcoming local requirements.
		Workplace Diversity In the US, a fund may support shareholder
		proposals that request disclosure on workforce demographics inclusive
		of gender, racial and ethnic categories. This could include publishing
		EEO-1 reports.

# Argyle Reflections on Best Practice

Some key trends have emerged in how corporations are choosing to report on gender diversity. The best ESG reports have recurring features in common, such as:

- Dedicating a separate section of their ESG report to DEI (or even publishing a separate human capital management/DEI report).
- Setting measurable DEI goals and reporting on year-on-year progress.
- Providing transparent links to their latest EEO-1 reports or other sources of diversity information at the board, leadership, management, and associate levels.
- Discussing all aspects of DEI, including board oversight, pay equity, and practices to foster a diverse and inclusive culture and workforce.
- Disclosing any executive incentives tied to DEI-related goals and metrics.

Strong DEI disclosures go beyond just demographic data and trends. Most also include a strong emphasis on an inclusive culture and values from the top of the organization, as well as a description of a DEI emphasis in recruitment and retention, training and professional development, and events and awareness raising.

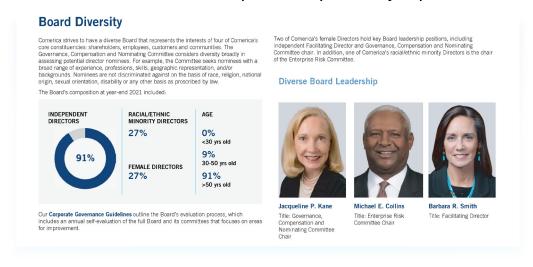
# Examples of Gender Diversity and Pay Equity Disclosures

Considering the importance of disclosing on gender, companies should look to integrate the topic into multiple aspects of their ESG report, particularly within goal setting, narrative pages, and appendices/data disclosures. Below are examples of such disclosures from a variety of industries.

## **Board Diversity**

Disclosing statistics on director characteristics in proxy statements is not new to companies. Many are now including those characteristics, including gender and racial/ethnic diversity, in both their proxy statements and ESG reports. The same infographic used in the proxy statement can be repurposed for the ESG report.

#### Comerica - 2021 Corporate Responsibility Report



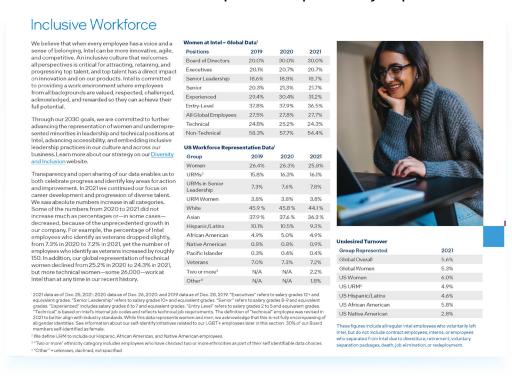
#### United Therapeutics - 2022 Corporate Responsibility and Public Benefit Report



## **Workforce Diversity**

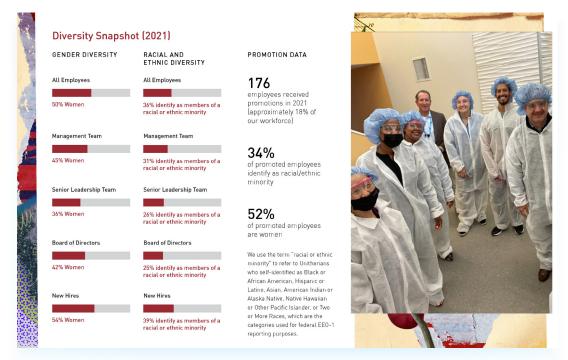
More companies are including their employee demographics in their ESG reports, with a breakdown by employee classification and an analysis of year-over-year changes. EEO-1 reports are generally posted separately on company websites with links included in their ESG reports. As EEO-1 reports only include US-based employees, companies with international footprints make sure to state that context and add information on the diversity of their non-US employees. Company efforts to recruit, advance, support and retain diverse associates, supported by robust DEI goals, are an increasingly important part of these disclosures.

#### Intel - 2021-22 Corporate Responsibility Report





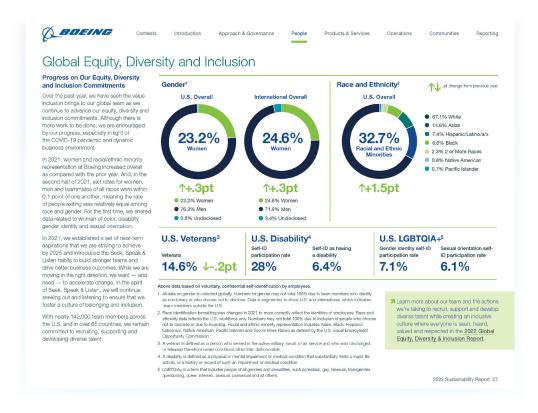
#### United Therapeutics - 2022 Corporate Responsibility and Public Benefit Report



#### Texas Instruments - 2021 Corporate Citizenship Report



#### The Boeing Company - 2022 Sustainability Report



#### Intuit - 2022 Corporate Responsibility Report



#### Enel - 2021 Sustainability Report

#### Taking action to close the gender gap

#### 405-1 405-2

In 2021 Enel continued its commitment to overcoming the In 2021, Enel continued list commitment to overcoming the gender gap and achieving wage equality with an organic approach of actions that influence all phases of women's journey in the organization: from representation at entry level to empowement and development in positions of re-sponsibility, paying attention to various relevant moments in life, such as becoming parents and personal or family care.

care.

The gender gap action plan consists of measures that directly and indirectly affect equal pay, given the fact that the gradual increase in female representation at different organizational levels is a prerequisite for natural generational exchange and thus for achieving parity in remuneration over time.

The indirect measures include a steady increase in women picining the Company and in positions of responsibility in the organization. Selection processes are closely monitored to ensure a fair balance of the two genders in the candidate pools, with a rising trend in the last five years (\$2.1\text{si} no 2011). The commitment to the growth of women in positions of responsibility is also significant: \$23.6\text{si} of middle managers were remein (2021, £16\text{si} no 200), and \$3.4\text{si} of middle managers were female managers and middle managers are the remained 10.0\text{si} no 2000, with an increase in the ratio between female managers and middle managers in the ratio between female managers and middle managers in the ratio between female managers and middle managers of \$\text{si} \text{various exclusion have been taken at a global evidence in the properties of \$\text{si} \text{si} \text{si} \text{circle prime from the Plan 2021 of a new performance target, with weighting of 5\text{si} \text{si} \text{si} \text{circle prime from the pr The indirect measures include a steady increase in wom-

The **direct measures** include internal policies addressing succession plan management and salary review processes, which take into account gender diversity dimensions, as

#### Gender gap: the action plan, direct and indirect measures

**52.1**%

**22.5**%

23.6%

**15.7**%

44.4% 42.7%

succession plans

well as the allocation of a budget dedicated to ensuring equal pay for equivalent roles. In addition, the commit-ment to promote gender equality also resulted in setting a specific MBO 2021 track as part of the MBO objectives assigned to the management of the People and Organization Function

zation Function

For the purposes of monitoring equal pay, the number and proportion of female managers show a trend of steady increase over the years, in particular, in 2021 there was an increase of 2% from 21.6% to 26.8% jin the percentage of women managers, and this led to a slight decrease in the Equal Remuneration Ratio (ERR), which went from 83.3% to 81.1%. All the actions taken to advance womens standing are also continuing, not only in senior management, the effects of which will be fully appreciable in the medium to long term, also taking into account the generational dynamic.

## **Pay Equity**

Spurred by investor, employee and regulatory interest, more companies are including details related to their pay equity practices and audit results in their ESG reports, including whether a pay gap exists and the practices applied to close any identified gaps.

#### Intel - 2021-22 Corporate Responsibility Report

Pay Equity

At Intel, we strive for an inclusive and fully engaged workforce that is reflective of the best and brightest talent in our industry. Since 2019, we have achieved gonder pay equity globally and we continue to maintain race/ethnicity pay equity in the US. We achieve pay equity by closing the gap in average pay between employees of different genders or race/ethnicity in the same or similar roles after accounting for legitimate business factors that can explain differences, such as location, time at grade level, and tenure.

Intel's legal and human resources teams work with third-party experts using proven statistical modeling techniques to monitor and advance global pay equity. Our comprehensive analysis includes base publicular should be also should be also should be also should be also who are identified as having a gap through this analysis receive appropriate adjustments.

A key component of our pay equity strategy is ou commitment to transparency, which helps us to h A key component of our pay equity strategy is our commitment to transparency, which helps us to hold ourselves accountable and encourage action by others. In support of this goal, we first publicly released our EEO-1 survey pay data in 2019, we feel it is important to continue collecting and disclosing diversity and inclusion data publicly.

Inclusion is one of Intel's core values and it is at the heart of our culture. We have taken actions to integrate our inclusion expectations into our policies, performance management systems, leadership expectations, annual bonus metrics, and employee surveys.

# The Intel Code of Conduct and Intel Global Human Rights Principles set out our commitment to nondiscrimination and to provide a workplace free of harassment. We have redesigned our employee performance management system and leadership promotions process to focus on results delivered, as well as how those results are achieved through alignment with Intel's values and commitment to inclusion.

Inclusion@Intel. The global Inclusion@Intel portal provides a community for employees and empowers them to build tangible and actionable inclusive practices into their everyday work environment. This unique platform provides highlights on inclusive leaders, inclusion training, sharing of best practices, videos, podcasts, and scenario cards that can be used to encourage critical conversations. Our inclusive Leaders program is designed to equip managers to play leadership roles in growing Intel's inclusive culture and fostering leadership skills needed to build diverse and inclusive, high-performing teams. In 2022, we expanded the program across Intel worldwide via workshops and small-cohort-based learning. Employees completed over 4,000 individual learning modules in 2021. For further impact, we also integrated the inclusion content into new "Manager Academy" training and began rolling it out to our 13,000 managers worldwide in 2021. Inclusion@Intel. The global Inclusion@Intel portal

Inclusive Hiring Practices. We have developed a set of best practices and training to mitigate the influence of unconscious bias in the hiring process. These practices include posting of formal requisitions for internal positions, using impartial descriptions of qualifications for all open jobs, and having diverse slates of candidates and diverse hiring panels. In 2021, we also required inclusive hiring training for all of our hiring managers.



#### Texas Instruments - 2021 Corporate Citizenship Report

#### Our commitment to equitable pay

We pay our employees fairly and equitably. TI has had competitive and equitable compensation policies regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or other protected characteristics, and we have designed checks and balances into our compensation system, including regular in-depth analyses, to ensure that we achieve it.

In 2021, we conducted a separate compensation analysis examining gender and race pay parity (including base, and bonus pay and equity), that considered job type, job level and country. Our analysis confirmed that within the U.S. and worldwide, TI pays women as much as men, and in the U.S., TI pays minorities as much as non-minorities.

#### Intuit - 2022 Corporate Responsibility Report

### Commitment to DEI results in strong belonging and pay equity

Because of our support of employees from the first interview to onboarding and beyond, we've created a work environment where our employees can thrive. To help us understand how they're experiencing inclusion and belonging, we ask them to complete a DEI survey once a year. This informs our long-term DEI strategy and helps us understand where we have opportunities to take action and improve. We look at the data across multiple dimensions.

For example, we ask our employees if they have a sense of belonging at Intuit. Our Belonging Score for the FV22 DEI survey ranks Intuit in the top 10% of our industry benchmarks. This score is an outcome of a variety of factors and demonstrates a culture of inclusion. We're proud of this accomplishment and are heartened to know that our employees overwhelmingly feel supported and appreciated by their teammates and managers.

Top 10% ranked among our peers in employee belonging

Pay equity is fundamental to our DEI strategy. Intuit adheres to equitable talent practices and policies to mitigate bias in performance management, pay, and promotions. These best practices also apply to the development of female tech talent and our URG employees.

Our pay equity analysis is key to bringing clarity to our equity goals, ongoing work, and progress. Twice a year, we conduct a survey through a third-party vendor to review all job codes in which we have a sufficient number of employees for analysis, and those employees have the same or similar job duties and compensation mix. We then compare base pay by gender and ethnicity, while factoring in location and time spent in the role, and make adjustments when there are unexplained statistical differences.

As of August 1, 2022, none of the identified job codes had statistically significant differences in pay between employees of different gender or between race/ethnicity in the U.S.



#### Mattel - 2021 Citizenship Report

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I)

Mattel continued to make important progress with its DE&I initiatives. We remain committed to fostering a culture where all employees are included and valued and can realize their full potential.

#### **Progress Toward Goal**

- Maintained 100% base pay equity by gender globally and by ethnicity in the U.S.\*
- Increased representation of women, which comprised 58% of the global non-workforce and 47% of all management positions.\*
- Increased representation of ethnically diverse employees in the U.S. to 44%.\*
- Recognized for creating an outstanding workplace culture by Forbes World's Best Employers of 2021; Forbes Best Employers for Women 2021; Fast Company Best Workplaces for Innovators 2021; Great Place to Work 2021; Newsweek 100 Most Loved Workplaces for 2021; Human Rights Campaign Best Places to Work 2021.
- Expanded Employee Resource Group (ERG) programming to promote accessibility for people with disabilities and support for active and veteran military employees, family members, and allies.
- Reorganized ERGs into regional chapters in North America, EMEA, LATAM, and APAC, and have global strategic alignment.
- Achieved 93% participation in the 2021 Global Engagement Survey, for the second year in a row, and incorporated an inclusion index to measure a sense of belonging at Mattel.

\*Please see GRI Supplemental Data Appendix for further details

#### **Highlights on Progress**

Goal	Base Pay Equity	2020	2021
Achieve and maintain 100% base pay equity for all employees performing similar work with	Pay Ratio by Gender	100%1	100%²
comparable roles and experience in similar markets	Pay Ratio by Ethnicity	100%1	100%³
Goal	Representation of Women	2020	2021
Increase representation of women at all levels of the organization	Total Representation of Women	56%4	58%²
Goal	Representation of Ethnicity	2020	2021
Increase representation by ethnicity at all levels of the organization	Total Representation of Ethnically Diverse Employees	42%¹	44%³

Table covers employees, excluding manufacturing labor and temporary and seasonal employees. Please see GRI Supplemental Data Appendix for further details

As of December 31, 2020; U.S. employees only
 As of December 31, 2021; worldwide employee.

As of December 31, 2021; Worldwide employees only
 As of December 31, 2021; U.S. employees only

# **Going Forward**

Looking forward, corporations should expect to see a continued focus on gender diversity and equality, especially as some of the investor and proxy advisor enhanced guidelines go in effect in 2023. Pay equity practices and disclosures will continue to mature as more companies conduct pay audits and more regulations are adopted. Additional diversity characteristics will be highlighted as company diversity and inclusion policies and reporting evolve. In addition to increased disclosure around race, ethnicity and LGBTQIA+, more companies are disclosing other characteristics, such as veteran or disability status.

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