

# **Making Online Submission Work For You**

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## Introduction

Exploring submission online is a growing reality. Chat networks, IRC chat rooms and websites developed for real-time fantasy all have areas where the D/s subculture thrives online. They have developed online protocols, rituals, belief systems and several new words to enhance the fantasy online.



I was once an online submissive. Years ago this was a safe way for me to explore BDSM and my possible role in the Lifestyle. It still remains a relatively safe place for someone to learn about the Lifestyle. There are some precautions I'd like to express regarding that safety.

### Why Are People Drawn to Online D/s?

Is it anything like real time, face-to-face Dominance and submission relationships? No, not at all. That said, it is still very real and intense for those of us in online or Long Distance Relationships (LDR), and often can and will lead to a real-time (RT) relationship.

Safety aside, perhaps the most commonly asked question is "Why online??" "Why LDR??" Well, the answer is different for everybody. I will go over a few of the answers here.

- First many of us enter online and/or LDR's because we are in a community with a small to no D/s presence. This is the primary reason for me being in an online/LDR right now. The community i live in is quite conservative and the local BDSM community is incredibly small and quite frankly not safe in my opinion. As such, i am choosing to be in a long distance relationship with my Master until i can be closer to Him.
- Secondly, many online Dominants and submissives do so because they are in other relationships, perhaps even married and use the online D/s relationship to get their Dominance and submission needs fulfilled. And so long as the Dominant or submissive is fully honest with all of their partners, can be quite successful. If this is you, i urge you to be honest with your real time partner.

While there often is no sex involved, it is still another relationship and in my opinion, you owe it to your real time partner to be honest about those needs and how you are getting them fulfilled. And you also owe it to your Dom or sub that you have another relationship.

- Another reason is that some use an online D/s relationship to learn more about Dominance and submission. To see if it's something that they may be interested in for a real time experience. While i do agree that it is nothing like the real time thing, there are many similarities, which i will go into shortly, and can be a good primer to see if something more intense would be a right fit for that individual.
- A fourth reason is that the person simply does not want the real time thing. They want the, for lack of better words, pseudo- or watered-down version of a Dominance and submission relationship that an online relationship can provide. My opinion of this is: whatever makes them happy. If that's how they get their needs fulfilled, the all the more power to them.

## How Does It Work?

Now that we have the “whys” aside I am sure you are wondering “HOW??” “How is it done??”

- When it comes to giving tasks, orders and controlling the submissive's life, orders can be given in many ways. Please remember the safety talk above. Most of these will come after you have established the trust with your partner:
  - A favorite of mine is text messages. I love that Master has the ability to text me an order. How does He know I did it though? Well that is...



- Photos. You can take photos of your completed task and picture mail them to your Master. (I must say this is my favorite thing to do for Master...especially when it's a surprise. This is something you real-timers can do to! Surprise your Master with a photo of you doing something He just loves) You could also take photos with a digital camera and upload them then email them to Him as "proof."
  - Webcam. While you are chatting online you can turn on your webcam and your Master can watch you actually perform the task.
  - Simple honesty. There are some things where you will only be able to answer questions about after you have done it. As such, if you are unable to provide an apt description, your partner will know you didn't do it.
- Online calendars and email reminders. This can be handy if your Dom wants to randomly give you tasks for the week/month. I'm quite fond of Yahoo's calendar system for this. The tasks can be set into the program and it sends you a reminder email. Another nice thing about it is you can program in your work schedule so your Dom knows when you're at work and can thus alter the tasks to fit a work environment.
  - Daily emails and/or blogs. Master wants me to do daily blogs as a way to "keep up" with how i am doing, etc. This can also be a way for your Dom to know what you do during your day, etc. Another thing this is good for is writing "reports" or "essays" for your Dom that S/He assigns you. I've seen both real-time and ldr couples doing this, and i myself quite love it.
  - Self bondage and other self-induced bdsm play. For this please keep in mind bdsm safety. But, many things you can do is under-the-clothes bondage, using things such as pleasure (ben-wa) balls, and/or anal beads under your clothes at work and/or simple breast bondage. With this you're limited to things you can do to yourself, but it's still fun and it's getting a little of the "kink" in your life.

Well that's a pretty basic, partially detailed description of how we do online/long-distance relationship (LDR) D/s relationships. I would like to mention that I'm sure you've noticed I used "real time" instead of "real life." The reason I did this is because for those of us in online/LDR D/s relationships, they are very real to us. They simply are not face to face as live-in relationships are. While I am not living with Master right now and am, in my opinion, way too far away from Him right now, He gives me orders and I follow them as I would if I were living with Him. The orders may be altered a bit, but they are still there. The feelings I have for Him are just as real as if O/our relationship were face to face.

## Can Online Training Work?



The world of online Dominance and submission is riddled with skepticism and disbelief that anyone can really live and enjoy a relationship online. The fact of it all is that there are an endless numbers of people experiencing a form of D/s called cyber D/s. Whether it be because they can not live it in real time due to partners that don't understand, or they are exploring their sexuality safely a cyber relationship with a D/s feel is developed.

With being a cyber submissive comes online training. When I was an online submissive it was facilitated with a web cam and microphone for conversation and a long list of chat rooms that I would frequent. In these rooms I would participate in ritualized role play from serving drinks from an imaginary and well stocked bar to pole-dancing and playing in a fully stocked dungeon. Anything I wanted 'experience' was available to me.

But that wasn't my main goal. I wanted a taste for what being a submissive was like. I longed for rules, and things to do that would keep me on task and I was even curious about discipline. I had an online Dominant that structured rules for me and set up daily tasks I had to do. At first they were mostly sexual in nature and I didn't have a problem with that. Then they branched into maintaining my home, setting up a journal, emailing them everyday. My current Master and I

started out online due to the distance between us. He set up personal grooming rules that I keep to this day.

The Dominant I was with in the beginning had me reading and studying a lot of different websites about different D/s and BDSM things. I was then to report back to him with what I learned as well as questions I had for him to answer. It was a great experience that he was so invested in my learning. While he wasn't much for rules, he was a great mentor that I am very thankful for having in my life at one point.

The only way that training will work for a submissive is only if they do it. You have to hold a lot to the honor system. So it's safe to assume that some people just pretend they did it and those people really aren't in it like I was. There are submissives that will obey you and do all you request of them without needing proof that it was accomplished. For me, online D/s was the starting point for my learning.

Yes, online training can work if you both are honest with each other and trust that you will only get out of it what you put in. It goes without saying that the submissive who pretends to follow the rules will not get as much out of it and may hop from one online Dom to another while those that learn and grow honestly will develop deeper relationships and learning. Maybe one day moving to real time submission.

## Maintenance and Punishment

### Sure, But What If I Disobey?



Each and every day there is the chance to screw up and be disobedient. Luckily, most of us won't break rules every single day but when we do we know that punishment will come swiftly and precisely. That is, unless you are an online submissive. Then there are a few other steps to having punishment carried out and most likely that involves you doing the punishment by direction.

Every submissive I know, including myself, hates to get into trouble, but it's going to happen. We have to admit that there will be times of backsliding, pushing limits and general disobedience in our learning. It's a part of growth. This doesn't mean we are more or less submissive or that we don't deserve the collar we wear. It just means we need that bit of focus that punishment affords us. Don't think of punishment as something bad, but as something to help us grow inward. Punishment really can be a good thing.

While most of the following ideas are used mainly in online relationships, they can and are used in face-to-face relationships as well. Feel free to add your own thoughts as well. I would like to point out that communication is key in any relationship and negotiation of these issues is important. A Dominant must not violate your limits or agreed terms during punishment. Also, punishment is not to be enjoyed by either party in order for it to work correctly. It is difficult for sex to be a good punishment because of this.

### Essays

Now, for those submissives in an online relationship punishment takes on a variety of tasks. Most common is the essay. The essay can be about anything that the Dominant feels would

benefit the submissive in improving their behavior. In most cases I have seen essays about the specific infraction used the most.

Many online submissives have blogs where they post their completed work. Others use email to send their completed essay to their Dominant. I know I used the email method when I was online only, but eventually those essays ended up on my blog as well. Reading old essays has helped me see where my mind was at in various times of my submission.

Writing lines is another form of essay punishment that can be a reinforcement tool. Handwriting lines in a book is a physical reminder as well as a mental one that you have disobeyed and are being punished.

It's easy to see that the proof that you fulfilled your punishment is the resulting paper or set of lines. This is why it is a good punishment tool for those online relationships.

#### Sexual Chastisement

Punishment in this form can be instructed to wear a sexual aid for a period of time, no orgasms for a time frame or any other form of control that the Dominant can take away as part of your punishment for misbehaving.

A common punishment in my Dominant's house is wearing a butt plug or ben wa balls while out, forbidding orgasms for a time or making me do something sexual that doesn't appeal to me (but isn't a limit).

The delicate thing about this form of punishment is that if the Dominant uses something that they want you to start enjoying then it could set a negative vibe about it once the activity is employed for pleasure instead of punishment. Sexual punishments should be used with care if used at all.

For online relationships, these things may be carried out while on web cam or chatting directly. With built up trust, these things can also be done with camera proof or maintaining communication.

### Lecture

No one ever looked forward to a lecture from their parents. Having to sit down and listen to your Dominant tell you that you were disobedient is just as scary. Having to hear a long drawn out message is even worse. You can feel horrible and that's the point. Driving it home is the purpose. Listen to your Dominant during lectures, don't tune them out.

### Privilege Restriction

In essence this is like being grounded. The Dominant can take away favorite foods, set a bedtime, allow only a certain number of text messages per day or can make clothing requirements. Anything that you take for granted can be taken away from you. Punishments of this sort are quite common in face-to-face relationships as they can be policed easier that way.

### Online 'Public' Punishment

Used mostly online as the title describes, this would be going to a chat room or other online BDSM venue where others are and declaring your misdeed and receiving chastisement in front of other people.

This is also possible in face-to-face relationships. I've read of submissives wearing signs at parties about thier misbehavior and what punishment they are under. There are many creative ways to be punished in BDSM public and if your relationship allows for this form of activity then the Dominant may deploy it to teach you a lesson.

### Proof

For an online or long distance relationship, part of the frustration of both parties is the proof that the punishment was carried out. Unlike the essay option where there is physical proof that it was completed other punishment may require the use of technology.

- Web Cam or Digital Photo – Used when an image is necessary to see that the punishment was carried out. This can be helpful in most any instance of self punishment.
- Other Documentation of Self-Punishment Obedience – things like calendars, text messages, emails and voice messages can help provide proof that you have obeyed.

## The Dangers of Blind Faith

As a novice submissive in this technology age you typically explore submission online in chat room and in instant messaging. There is nothing wrong with this avenue for dipping your toe in the water. There are, however, very real dangers that predators use to capture novices and can do more harm to your curiosity than good.

These predators use blind faith to pressure you into compliance as a demonstration of your 'true' submissiveness. They may use tactics like, 'If you are submissive you will do x, y and z for me.' They may also ask you for a lot of information as a test and yet they remain completely hidden. You could come away with absolutely no real information about them but they could know you like a book.



So, what is blind faith anyway? Let's start with the dictionary definition:

**BLIND:** To conceal or to put something forward for the purpose of misleading. Subterfuge. One who acts to the point of insensibility.

**FAITH:** To trust, give allegiance or loyalty to another. Fidelity to one's promises. Or, a firm belief in something for which there is no proof. It can also mean to offer a binding promise.

From the definition we can see that there is deceit and masking to provide trust and respect from another person. In the realm of online D/s this can be an access point for predators to find pliable victims to do illegal activities such as identity theft, physical harm or sexual violation.

You may be thinking that it's all online, you can't honestly be in that much danger from someone online. It is important to remember that first contacts are with total strangers. You do not know who is on the other end of the screen. The usage of testing your submissiveness immediately should be a warning sign. A healthy Dominant will not need to know every single detail of a submissive's life within the first conversation. A predator wants to glean information from you as fast as possible to find your weak points. They will be more interested in your personality, reactions, and interactions with them. Simple chemistry. Open natural conversations tend to reveal and answer most questions easily. A predator takes the time to learn what issues will trigger a submissive, how to speak to them and how to assault them.

Do not let yourself believe that trust and compliance is necessary from the beginning with anyone. A healthy Dominant knows that trust is something learned and earned between parties and will be patient with you while they gain your respect. You may be a novice to BDSM, but you are not new to life. You wouldn't trust the stranger sitting next to you on the bus with your personal belongings; don't trust the person on the other end of the keyboard with your information.

Blind faith testing is a way of turning a submissive's 'desire to perform' against them. There is no negotiation during this type of offering, the entirety of it is one sided or leading. A new submissive can easily be enticed into completing and following this pathway of tests often giving out personal information that if they were asked directly they would not answer. There is a subtle desire to 'do this test well' for this apparent Dominant. There is often additional pressure applied through stressed time frames for the completion of each test. This additional pressure may make the submissive feel desired but most often pushes them into revealing life details that they should not reveal to a total stranger." (Mistress Steel, "Blind Faith," <http://www.steel-door.com>)

Trust should not be given to anyone sporting a Dominant sounding name on the Internet. Trust is earned through significant consistent actions by that Dominant over a period of time. If a Dominant cannot offer any kind of references or information about themselves then you should not give to that person any level of blind faith or trust!

## Staying Safe Online

In my opinion, the most important thing to remember here is safety. There are a few things you can do to keep yourself safer while in an online relationship, or looking for someone to begin a relationship with online:

- First and foremost do not, under any circumstances, give out your home address before you have really gotten to know this person. Wait a few weeks, or even a few months. While in the end you must use your own judgment, if you have any “red flags” about the person you are chatting with do not give out personal information.
- If you and your online partner really want to exchange things via “snail mail” but you still do not want to give out your home address, get a post office box.
- Along the same lines as not giving out your home address, do not give out other important information such as your social social security number, debit/credit card pin numbers and so forth. These things may happen once you are in a stable, secure, full-time real time relationship, but until then keep these things to yourself.
- If the person you are chatting with asks for your home address after a few days and you decline, they should respect that, they should say they respect that, and then they should leave it alone. If they do not, that is a big red flag for you. Reconsider this relationship!
- One other thing you must think hard about is exchanging photos of yourself. This is especially important if the photos are nude, fetish or kinky. Once a photo is on the Internet, you no longer have control over who sees it. You must take into consideration what would happen if family, friends and/or co-workers found naked and/or kinky photos of you. And also please keep in mind, while you may simply be emailing the photos, once the recipient has them, s/he may do with



them as they please. If you are going to be “free” with your photos, you must be able to accept and cope with other’s seeing them, and the possibility of them being posted online. These also applies to webcam usage. It’s very easy to download a program that can capture what the user is looking at on their computer screen. This can include the webcam video of you doing whatever it is you are doing for your online D/s partner. These can be saved, and then uploaded to many websites.

Many times those of us in long distance D/s relationships, we are in them because of circumstances beyond our control. The emotions, desires and feelings, while different than in real time, are still there and are still incredibly intense. One last word about safety:

- Beware predators. Many people out there use the Internet as a tool for their own pleasure, and nothing else. Someone who has contacted you because they truly wish to get to know you better is incredibly unlikely to ‘order’ you to undress on the webcam and perform some BDSM act. This is a huge red flag. As are other ‘standard’ BDSM and D/s red flags:
  - ‘Ordering’ you to call them Master, Mistress, Sir before the relationship is established and those titles have been “earned.”
  - Similarly, calling you “slave” and other submissive pet names before the dynamics have been established.
  - Expecting you to immediately act submissive simply on the grounds you are submissive and s/he is Dominant.
- Also, beware those who have other relationships and are not honest about them. If they are unwilling to be honest with their husband/wife/main slave/what-have-you, what are the chances they will be honest with you?

All these safety precautions aside, the Internet is a wonderful tool for meeting people. I and many others have met their Masters/slaves on it. If you are safety conscious while being honest and true to yourself, you’d be surprised what can come of it.

## **Don’t Share Everything**

It may go without saying, but if I don't say it I will feel a responsibility to everyone one of you if something happens. There are predators online; from stalkers to identity thieves and even some plain old creepy people. Do not give out your full real name, address, phone number or any other REAL information about yourself. Even if you think you trust this person completely, you really can't online. You haven't a clue who is sitting at the other side of the keyboard; trust yourself with your information.

This also goes with sharing your family history, information about your relatives and friends, your job or anything else that could be used to dig up information about you. It's called personal information for a reason. Keep it that way.

### **Keep Your Heart Protected**

You can get very attached to someone online, and the feelings are real no matter what others say. The attachment to a possible dominant and yourself could overpower your emotions and you'd be hooked. Keep a sense of reality in mind at all times because online play is a fantasy. Think with your head not your heart when it comes to connections with someone online. It's amazing how many people fall in love online and then get hurt because the other person shattered the fantasy.

This isn't to say that you can't fall in love with someone online in this day and age and then meet each other and be completely happy. Online dating wouldn't be such a big thing if it didn't work for some people. Chatting and virtual reality are just extensions of the dating scene for BDSM folks.

Keep in mind that if you intend to move to offline submission, that the people you are talking to may not. For some people it is all about the fantasy, they choose not to live away from the computer for one reason or another. They could explore their fantasies, escape from life's struggles and pretend to be someone else online.

If you desire to move offline, do not pretend to be someone else. Those that you friend could become confused at your real intentions and may flag you as a pretender and not someone serious with exploration and learning. Know what you want to give as your personal impression.

## Online Protocol

There are rules online in the BDSM subculture as there are in realtime groups and relationships. These rules are developed for each chat room or environment. Don't assume that the rules are the same in every location. There are places that will require submissives to beg entrance, use the S/slash speak or even refer to every dominant as Sir/Ma'am. Your imagination is a vital asset in these places as they tend to require you to pretend you are in a room, lounge, dungeon, bar or another location with all the toys you could pretend to have at your disposal.

## Use Other Resources Also

Don't consider your online experiences as part of your overall experience. You may consider what you type and feel as real, but the realtime community will not. You can use this time to explore online websites, chat with people that are in the lifestyle offline as well and really get to know yourself. Online is a great place for that.

Ask for a mentor or helping hand when you are ready to really learn what it is to be submissive. The offline submissives will help you prepare to move offline and explore your new found lifestyle. It will be scary, but with someone there for you, it can be done. I've done it and I'm just fine now.

## What Not to Share on Your Online Profile

*I have a video to go with this section, if you'd like to view the video, go to YouTube:*

[http://www.youtube.com/subguide/#p/u/4/Ee5\\_njRQ2a8](http://www.youtube.com/subguide/#p/u/4/Ee5_njRQ2a8)

We all have one somewhere. FetLife being all the rage right now, but also we have alt.com, collarme.com, bondage.com and others where we place ads and identity profiles up to get people interested. This interest can be friends or relationship related; it doesn't matter. What does matter is what we broadcast to everyone that happens across our profiles. You need to

keep some things secure and really consider what's necessary to put out into the World Wide Web.

### **What's Safe?**

Nothing you place online is safe. Anyone can find you and use what you put online to harm you in some way. Take for instance a rather vanilla picture of yourself on an adult site. It could be used against you in your job or other social engagements. Just the knowledge alone that you are present on a site like FetLife or CollarMe could get you fired. Your ex could use it against you to gain custody of your children. Anything is possible.

The idea that because you have to log into the service means that every word you write or photo you share behind that security feature means you are safe. This is far from true. Too many people rely heavily on the false sense of security that a log in screen provides. Think about it this way; how easy was it for you to create a profile? A predator or someone you don't want to find you will find it a breeze.

Link: [Top 8 Online Safety Tips](#)

### Photos

If you share photos of yourself, even if you head and identifying features are cut out; be prepared to find them elsewhere online. So many people online just don't care if they don't own the rights to the photo, others like to increase their personal stash of porn, and others still want to earn money on your shared 'free' content. It takes all kinds. So, before you share a photo, consider if you want it on the internet. Don't limit your mental scope to the site you are placing it, but all over the internet.

Links:

- [Pictures Share You With The World](#)
- [Dangers of Online Photos](#)

### Personal Information

Other than the basic profile information, I'd keep your life pretty vague if you don't want to be found by others you may know in another sphere of your life. Leave relationship, family and work details out of profiles. Never share information about your children.

Think about it this way, put on your profile only what you wouldn't have a problem telling someone face to face that you don't know. Because you know, that's just it. Strangers are reading your profile and looking at those pictures before they know you... really know you. Sure it sounds counter productive for a dating site, but protecting yourself should come first. Besides, emails and site mailing systems are slightly safer for sharing a bit more about yourself. Granted, these too can be abused, so be careful.

Some of you may be saying, "Well sure lunaKM, but I've seen your profile here or there and you share a lot about yourself including unaltered photos. Practice what you preach!

Let me tell you; I have no job outside the home, no friends or tech-saavy family that do not know and have nothing to loose if someone sees me or learns about me. I'm a unique case. I'm not saying that some of you aren't either. I've given all of my profiles a look over and am happy with what is shared. That's all that matters.

Link: [How Much Information is Too Much?](#)

### **I Challenge You**

Today I challenge you to go through your profiles and reconsider some of the information you have shared. Rip out what could put you in some form of danger or get you recognized by someone you'd rather stay incognito with. If you aren't using a profile; delete it completely.

## Real Life vs. Online

*“What one has not experienced, one will never understand in print.” -Isadora Duncan*

I began my journey into D/s and BDSM in online chat rooms; namely those on IRC (BDSM-Net and Bondage.com). I knew nothing of what the lifestyle would be for me, only the fantasy that I lived when I got home from class or work; it was a retreat from the everyday hardship that I was living with. I felt the control release and the pleasure of making someone else happy. I loved the creative talent it afforded me in my poetry and writing, the scenes I participated in. It became an art. I fell in love with the fantasy of it. Even when I accepted an online collar I thought that there was no way I could really love this in real. The activities I participated in, the rules I followed, the tasks assigned to me all seemed a part of the fantasy.

I didn't understand why those that were 'real' shunned the way I behaved and looked down on my personae as one that would be trapped in online play for all my life. I didn't understand what they were talking about when they talked about service and hardship in surrender, about the pleasure of being there for their owner, about serving and the pride in the words, "good girl". I never understood the reality of what I was playing in.

Until one day I started asking a lot of important questions of myself. I wanted to experience the SM for real. I wanted to be tied up and see what the draw to my pleasure senses was. I wanted to know what it was like to kneel and serve someone. I wanted to hear "good girl" for something I had done. Was it going to remain fantasy? I seriously didn't know. I thought that maybe it would just lead to kinky sex and I was okay with that also. I really didn't know what I wanted nor could I have imagined that my life would be as it is now or where it will be in years to come. My surrender was not easy and there are parts of it that I still cling to; a part of my independence that Master is allowing me to hang on to.

I've known submissives that can only experience online or long-distance relationships(LDR). I do not shun them as I was shunned. I know the desire and the pull to live it in any form you can. I was lucky, I guess, and left my husband to explore the part of me drawn to BDSM, the service

and surrender specifically. I've been able to embrace the relationship I am in and am so very thankful for the role I played online to test the waters.

Online is no substitute and you can't learn all that there is to know about living this life from essays and forums. You have to experience it to truly know. Every journey is different but I am grateful for my online beginnings. Without them I would not have met my Master. Now we live happily together.

But even now I can't see how to explain how my life is to someone online. I don't know how to put my service to him in words that someone with no experience or ability to experience would understand. I don't think words like that really exist.

## **When Online Isn't Enough**

Just like me, I find the majority of submissives are content with online submission for only a short time. This is in part because their lives are open to long term relationships or their libidos are beckoning them to wilder and more physical encounters that what can be dabbled in online.

When you make the decision to get off the computer and into real life, where do you go? How do you start? It's a scary thing meeting people when you are identifying as kinky. But it can open the door for you to reach your dream.

## **Look Online**

A lot of clubs and groups now have websites, groups and forums where you can talk to people from the safety of your computer until you decide it's time to go to an event. Most websites will have a list of events and people to contact if you are nervous for a pre-meeting meeting. Right now, a really good place to get an active list of events in your area is [FetLife.com](http://FetLife.com). You'll probably even find the groups in your area have a group on there as well.

## **Get Out There**

At some point you are going to have to leave your computer keyboard and meet people. It's alright to be nervous, everyone is at the first venture out. Find someone there that looks like they are the leader and stick to them for the night. They will help you get comfortable and probably introduce you to people you can learn from and are generally friendly.

You may not know the protocol of the place you are at. Just be respectful and polite and you'll go a long way to a good impression. Relax, these people are not going to judge you by your interests; it's the one place you will be welcomed for your differences.

## **Conclusion**

Online submission is a whole new world of exploration and can be a safe way to learn and understand the submission you feel inside you. Play safe and remember that nothing online is protected, and you will have a great experience. Adventures are waiting for you, and perhaps if you are lucky, so is love.

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