



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi Disciplinary  
Peer Reviewed Edition :

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# **EVIDENTIARY VALUE OF TELEPHONIC CONVERSATIONS IN PERSONAL CASES AND A REVIEW OF THE MEDIA LAW PREVALENT IN GERMANY**

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## **Abstract**

With the use of the rules and regulations set out by the constitution<sup>1</sup> and updated by precedents in India<sup>2</sup> or by *The Information Technology Act, 2000*<sup>3</sup> this paper analyzes the all the cases and fact as a regulatory agency. The paper begins with understanding the legality of call recording in India<sup>4</sup> and subsequently, provides a detailed analysis of the provisions and functions of this as well as the disputes arises and the decision given by court<sup>5</sup> Further, the paper analyzes the law prevalent in Germany by inspecting the Germany criminal code<sup>6</sup>.

## **Introduction**

Innovation in innovation has obscured the line between confidential idea and public idea. Recording calls interweaves with the ideas of wire-catching or telephone tapping<sup>7</sup>. Recording a call assists the affirming the words expressed by a person<sup>8</sup>. A call recorded for hurting an individual is dishonest, and recording without the assent of the individual talking is an infringement of the right to protection<sup>9</sup>. Segment 65B of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 layouts unique arrangements connecting with electronic records. Managing tape accounts includes a

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution of India, Art.21

<sup>2</sup> Supreme Court of India, "Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) and Anr. Vs Union of India and Ors, "Writ Petition (Civil) No 494 of 2012.

<sup>3</sup> The Information Technology Act,2000 (India)

<sup>4</sup> Law Commission of India, "Report No. 259 on Early Childhood Development and Legal Entitlements" (2015)

<sup>5</sup> Supreme Court of India, "R. M. Malkani vs State of Maharashtra, " AIR 1973 SC 157

<sup>6</sup> Strafgesetzbuch (StGB) [German Criminal Code], 201

<sup>7</sup> Wiretap Act, 18 U.S.C. 2511 (1968)

<sup>8</sup> High Court of Delhi, "Virender Goyal vs State NCT of Delhi, " 2017 SCC Online Del 8460

<sup>9</sup> Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India and Ors, Supreme Court of India, (2017) 10 SCC

sensitive methodology. The way of getting phone accounts is critical according to a legitimate perspective. The Indian position on the acceptability of tape accounts is seen with the assistance of significant cases and decisions.

## **The information technology act, 2000**

The other rule that might be pertinent to the current conversation is the Information Technology Act, 2000<sup>10</sup>. Be that as it may, the relevance of this resolution to the particular circumstance being talked about seems, by all accounts, to be very restricted.

Segment 43A of the IT Act accommodates remuneration by a body corporate to any individual whose delicate individual data or information such body corporate has, manages or handles, in a PC asset that it claims, controls or works, if, because of the carelessness of such body corporate, unfair misfortune or gain is caused to any individual<sup>11</sup>. 'Delicate individual information or data' has been characterized in a leader warning passed under the said Section 43A and incorporates, data corresponding to an individual's funds, sexual direction, biometrics, and so on<sup>12</sup>.

Consequently, Section 43A of the IT Act might be material to the current circumstance in the exceptionally tight verifiable setting where speculatively, an organization captures a telephonic discussion occurring on a gadget which the organization possesses, and carelessly permits unapproved access or revelation of an individual's delicate individual data, and such carelessness brings about improper misfortune to that individual or illegitimate addition to another<sup>13</sup>.

Aside from Section 43A of the IT Act, the pertinence of different arrangements of the IT Act is as per the following: Section 66 is material if an individual, without consent of the proprietor of a telephonic gadget, accesses such gadget or downloads information from it<sup>14</sup>. In any case, only recording a phone discussion with somebody with the assistance of a recording gear/programming at the recorder's finish of things probably won't qualify the trial of this Section

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<sup>10</sup> The Information Technology Act, 2000 (India)

<sup>11</sup> Information Technology Act, 2000, s. 43A

<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, "Notification GSR 313(E)," The Gazette of India, April 11, 2011

<sup>13</sup> Department of Electronics and Information Technology, "Rules under Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000"

<sup>14</sup> Information Technology Act, 2000, s. 66

and may not be considered 'punishable'<sup>15</sup>. Further, Section 66E that rebuffs infringement of protection just applies to pictures and not voice accounts<sup>16</sup>. In its leftover plan, the IT Act possibly directs block attempt of electronic records when made by legislative or government-approved organizations or people. It doesn't discuss such interference or capacity when made by a confidential individual<sup>17</sup>.

Hence, the Telegraph Act as well as the IT Act don't seem to condemn the demonstration of undercover recording of phone discussion by party involved with the discussion<sup>18</sup>.

### **Legality of call recording in India**

Section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000<sup>19</sup> gives the meaning of an electronic record, which incorporates sound put away, got, or sent in an electronic structure. Moreover, Section 85B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872<sup>20</sup> arrangements with the law in regards to the adjustment of recorded electronic proof. The validness and trustworthiness of this electronic record are estimated by a computerized signature. This mark should be appended to sign the record.

Further, Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885<sup>21</sup> worries the power for the Government to claim authorized transmits and to arrange block attempt of messages. This Section gives a right to the Central or the State government to secure messages in light of a legitimate concern for public wellbeing. Subsequently, it can grab hold of electronic messages given that there is what is happening of public crisis. Segment 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1875<sup>22</sup> accommodates the states of suitability of electronic proof, and it likewise gives that a declaration is important for its connected tolerability. Under Indian regulation, an electronic record is characterized under Section 2(1)(t) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Besides, Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 is an extremely extended regulation. It very well may be summed up in two phases. The primary stage is acquisition and audit of

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<sup>15</sup> Shreya Singhal vs Union of India, AIR 2015 SC 1523

<sup>16</sup> Information Technology Act, 2000, s. 66E

<sup>17</sup> Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009

<sup>18</sup> Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, s. 5(2)

<sup>19</sup> Information Technology Act, 2000, s. 2 (India)

<sup>20</sup> Indian Evidence Act, 1872, s. 85B

<sup>21</sup> Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, s. 5

<sup>22</sup> Indian Evidence Act, 1875, s. 65B

legitimate requests. This Section expresses headings for interference under Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 must be given by the association or state home secretary. Further, in an undeniable situation, a legitimate request can be given by an individual of rank at least a joint secretary. Except if every one of the approaches to getting the data are precluded, really at that time a legal request can be given. The subsequent stage is the capture attempt process. It is done by policing in India. In the capture attempt process, the character of the staff and the organization isn't uncovered to general society.

## **The new data protection legislation**

The Draft Personal Data Protection Bill<sup>23</sup>, 2018 which has been distinctly expected by for its repercussions on information security, has been presented. The choice in Puttaswamy<sup>24</sup> laid a large part of the preparation for protection regulation in India. India's push to construct a strong information protection system is at a basic point now with the approaching of the DPP Bill.

The DPP Bill changes the worldview of the connection between specialist co-ops and clients. This regulation which gets sacred statutes, viz the established right to security, raises this relationship to a guardian level which is prefaced upon the key assumption for trust. The phrasing has been returned to alleviate the imbalance in dealing power. The person whose information is being gathered as the "information subject" is currently the "information principal, and the substance that gathers the information as the "information regulator" is the "information fiduciary.

Returning to the main thing in need of attention, the tenor of the DPP Bill (in its current shape) doesn't make it clear concerning whether it would cover the furtive recording of telephone discussion by one party, without the information on the other. It isn't clear concerning whether the elements of 'information trustee' and 'information head' were planned to apply to private discussions between two gatherings, which are at a manageable distance. In any case, regardless of whether gatherings to such a discussion were to fall inside the meanings of 'information trustee' and 'information head', the exception of 'Handling with the end goal of legal procedures' imagined under Section 44 of the DPP Bill may solidly apply to it, and grant the keep and utilization of telephone discussions in legal actions, as proof.

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<sup>23</sup> Draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 (India)

<sup>24</sup> Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) and Anr. Vs Union of India And Ors, 2017 (India)

It is trusted that future adjustments to the DPP Bill would get clearness on the lawfulness/culpability related with recording of calls. A potential rule could be the 'one party assent' rule kept by the government law of the United States, which grants recording of a telephone discussion on the off chance that one party to the discussion (counting the recording party) consents.

## Call recordings and right to privacy

Telephone tapping is a not kidding wrongdoing except if there is a legitimate explanation and authority behind recording an individual's confidential discussions. The right to protection of an individual is a fundamental idea that can't be overlooked in that frame of mind of electronic proof. Article 21 in the Constitution of India, 1949<sup>25</sup> is the major legitimate arrangement administering protection. It further ensures individual freedom as an unavoidable inheritance. Be that as it may, assuming that an authority is lawfully approved, these phone discussions are not private any longer, accordingly, can be gathered or reestablished as legal proof. Further, Entry 31 of the Union List of India (List I) puts the subject of refer to accounts under the rundown thing as "posts and transmits; phones, remote, telecom and other like types of correspondence." The right to protection with regards to recording calls is significant just when there involves public crisis or in light of a legitimate concern for public security. In *People's Union of Civil Liberties v. Association of India* (2003)<sup>26</sup>, it was expressed that furtively recording an individual's confidential discussions is a grave infringement of the right to security of a person. This case tested the protected legitimacy of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The Section awards legitimate power to state and focal associations in India to record those telephonic discussions that are simply against the sway and security of the country. The Court likewise set down point by point protections to check for mediation in the issuance of phone tapping requests and they are as per the following:

Orders for telephone tapping may simply be given by the Home Secretary of the central government or a state government. In an emergency, this power may be assigned to an authority of the Home Department of the central or state government, and a copy of the solicitation ought to be delivered off to the concerned Review Committee in multi week or less.

The power making the solicitation ought to consider whether the information which is seen as

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<sup>25</sup> Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 21

<sup>26</sup> *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*, AIR 1997 S 568 (India)

vital to get could reasonably be acquired by various means.

Orders given under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 will be genuine for quite a while from the date of issue.

Overview Committees will be Secretary-level authorities at both the government and state levels. They could evaluate whether a catch demand has been passed as per the law, and if it has not, they could save it and direct the decimation of any copies of the got exchanges.

The ability to give the block endeavour solicitation ought to stay aware of records of : (I) the got exchanges; (ii) how much material is uncovered; (iii) the amount of individuals to whom the material is uncovered and their personality; (iv) how much the material is reproduced; and (v) the amount of copies made.

The significance of the right to protection is additionally seen on account of Vinit Kumar v. Focal Board of Investigation and others (2019) where the Supreme Court responds to the subject of passability of copied discussions as legal proof. The case additionally features that any capture request of calls shouldn't abuse Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951. In one more instance of K.S Puttaswamy v. Association of India (2018), the Supreme Court set out the "Standards of proportionality and authenticity" to decide the lawfulness of call recording orders gave by the public authority. It was held that in the event that there was no gamble to general society, the public authority had no power to give orders for phone tapping.

### **Admissibility call recordings in court**

Today, electronic proof as call accounts is utilized widely in common and criminal matters, yet what's more significant is its tolerability factor. Area 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872<sup>27</sup> accommodates the suitability of electronic records. A discourse recorded without the express consent of no less than one of the speakers isn't legitimately substantial. The members to a similar discussion ought to agree to the recording. The evidentiary worth, regardless, is the main regulation behind fostering the lawfulness of introducing to the court a 'computerized' type of proof.

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<sup>27</sup> Indian Evidence Act, 1872, s. 65B

## Legal Decision on Admissibility of Recorded Evidence

A copied can be utilized as proof in Courts on the off chance that it finishes the accompanying circumstances:

The discussion that, first of all, is saved into the record should be applicable to the situation

The voice should be recognized appropriately if not it will be dismissed

The likelihood of deleting any kind of satisfied from the tape should be zero. The precision of the copied should be thought about appropriately.

Under segment 8 of the Act, A contemporary copy of a significant discussion is a pertinent truth and the proof is OK. This race is energy. It is likewise equivalent with the photo of a pertinent occasion. Subsequently, under Section 7 of the Act, the recorded discussion is a pertinent truth and the proof is OK.

On the off chance that a voice recording has displayed as proof in Courts, taking into account its tolerability and genuineness is significant. The kept proof in Courts may be permissible in the event that it is viewed as unique and true. The tape should be liberated from each kind of uncertainty.

To demonstrate the dependability of kept proof in course, the individual must be a very question about it. In the event that the voice recording isn't unmistakable without further ado are a few circumstances that can be thought of. That is:

Are the creator of the record should recognize the voice of the speaker that is kept in the recorded  
In basic words, we can express that to demonstrate the dependability of the voice proof in Courts distinguishing the recorded voice of the speaker is significant. In the event that it happens the creator keeps the voice from getting the speakers then the Courts requests severe verification to discover that either the voice was truly connected with the speaker or not.

To work on the exactness of the voice recorder is an assertion the creator genuinely should fulfill the proof is straightforwardly based on conditions.

It should be guaranteed that it not so much as a solitary piece of the copying is deleted. On the off chance that any kind of eraser of any part in the copy found then the proof in Courts will be viewed as forbidden.

The voice recording should Prove every one of the principles of Evidence Act.

The recording tape should be fixed cautiously and ought to be kept in true authority

The voice of the speaker should be clear in each perspective

There ought to be no aggravation in the tape at any circumstance.

## **Regulations Regarding Electronic Records**

In Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act<sup>28</sup>, every one of the regulations with respect to the electronic record and the suitability of electronic records are set down. The electronic records are displayed as proof in Courts as per the arrangements and rules given in the segment 65B can be thought of as simple. Consequently, to find a legitimate solution of the inquiry that is the voice recording can be utilized as proof in Courts in India then the person should get point by point information on segment 65B of Indian Evidence Act.

Any data that is put away in an electronic record by utilizing the attractive or optical media with the assistance of a PC can be thought of as supported in the event that it fulfills every one of the circumstances referenced in the segment.

In the event that every one of the circumstances given in the segment gets supported then the accounts become acceptable to be handled as proof in courts.

## **Admissibility of call recording in matrimonial disputes**

In marital questions it happens regularly that the mate submits under the watchful eye of the court telephone accounts which contains the material confirmations pertinent to the matter, for example, calls with lovers, discussing of the life partner or parents in law with guardians and so forth. It might happen that the calls were recorded and additionally got without the assent of the other mate, so it could become hostile whether the equivalent is permissible or not? The American legal framework follows the idea "product of the noxious tree" implying that proof got by unlawful means are unacceptable. In India, the 94th Law Commission Report recommended to the Parliament to acquire comparative arrangements into our general set of laws, which was not acknowledged by the Parliament. The Supreme Court talked about the

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<sup>28</sup> Indian Evidence Act, s. 65B

94th Law Commission Report in *State of M.P. v. Paltan Mallah*, [(2005) 3 SCC 169]<sup>29</sup>, recognized consequently also, has completely held that the proof gathered unlawfully or infringing upon the procedural regulation will not become forbidden except if genuine bias is caused to the denounced. Indian courts have taken the view that there is no regulation in force that avoids significant proof on the ground that it was gotten under an unlawful pursuit or seizure, or was generally illicitly acquired. (*RM Malkani v. Territory of Maharashtra*<sup>30</sup> (supra)).

In any case, in marital questions or procedures the telephone recording among a couple being delivered under the watchful eye of the court as a proof is frequently challenged by the companion against whom the proof is being conceded on the ground of Section 122 of the IE Act which gives that: Interchanges during wedding. No individual who is or has been hitched, will be constrained to uncover any correspondence made to him during marriage by any individual to whom he is or has been hitched; nor will he be allowed to reveal any such correspondence, except if the individual who made it, or his agent in interest, assents, besides in suits between wedded people, or procedures in which one wedded individual is arraigned for any wrongdoing perpetrated against the other." Be that as it may, the actual part restricts the use of honor to non-marital questions and additionally, Section 14 of The Family Courts Act, 1984 gives that: 14. Utilization of Indian Evidence Act, 1872.- A Family Court might get as proof any report, particulation, archives, data or matter that may, as its would like to think, help it to manage a debate, whether the equivalent would be in any case applicable or acceptable under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. - A Family Court might get as proof any report, explanation, records, data or matter that may, as its would like to think, help it to manage a question, whether the equivalent would be generally significant or acceptable In *Rayala M. Bhuvaneshwari versus Nagaphanender*

*Rayala*[AIR 2008 AP 98], Andhra Pradesh High That's what court held " the demonstration of tapping itself by the spouse of the discussion of his better half with others was unlawful and it encroached the right of protection of the spouse. Accordingly, these tapes, regardless of whether valid, can't be permissible in proof. Thus, Ex.P-18 itself isn't permissible in proof and there is no doubt of driving the spouse to go through a voice test and afterward request that the master look at the segments denied by her with her conceded voice.

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<sup>29</sup> *State of M.P. v. Paltan Mallah*, (2005) 3 SCC 169 (India)

<sup>30</sup> *R.M. Malkani v. State of Maharashtra*, AIR 1973 SC 157 (India)

## Some cases

S. Pratap Singh v. the State of Punjab (1964)<sup>31</sup>

For this situation, the Supreme Court acknowledged a telephonic recording of a discussion between two gatherings subsequent to inspecting the evidentiary worth of copied discussions. The proof submitted was acknowledged simply because it assisted with settling the case. The gatherings professed to have had a discussion that was then illicitly gotten and consequently permitted for this situation. Accordingly, through this case, we assemble bits of knowledge into the suitability component of recorded electronic proof. The court acknowledged copied discussions wrongfully acquired simply because it assisted in the conviction with handling.

Ratan N. Tata v. the Union of India and Others (2014)<sup>32</sup>

Vexed telephonic accounts of previous lobbyist Nira Radia, with a few representatives, partners, and assistants in correspondence with the new 2G range distribution trick caused a few issues when distributed by a media house. The two most significant regulations were the Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995, and the Information Technology Act of 2000. While the Delhi High Court was inspecting whether the items in the telephone discussions were easy to refute or even exceptionally secret, the Central Bureau of Investigation took over to evaluate similar persuasive nature of Nira Radia's tapes. Since the tape accounts were approved to be recorded, they were submitted and acknowledged as substantial proof by court request. Accordingly, the main part of this case was whether the approved recording of phone discussions was unlawful on the off chance that it maligned any party to the discussion.

## Landmark judgements

R.M. Malkani v. the State of Maharashtra (1973)<sup>33</sup>

For this situation, the Supreme Court of India expressed that the main regulation inside the setting of lawful tape accounts is the Indian Telegraph Act. This case spun around the topic of involving copied discussions as a reason for criminal indictment of an individual. The proof under question was wrongfully gotten from tape accounts thus they were in negation of Section 25 of the Indian Telegraph Act. In this way, such proof was forbidden. It was additionally held that the right to security in the Indian constitution safeguards just blameless residents and doesn't

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<sup>31</sup> S. Pratap Singh v. State of Punjab, AIR 1964 SC 72 (India)

<sup>32</sup> Ratan N. Tata v. Union of India, (2014) 6 SCC 272 (India)

<sup>33</sup> R.M. Malkani v. State of Maharashtra, AIR 1973 SC 157 (India)

safeguard the people who are attempting to justify the police since they are at fault for improper wrongdoings. For this situation, a specialist who was at legitimate fault for postoperative demise in a clinic attempted to get away from his criminal indictment through paying off. The committee for the litigant tested the tolerability of the tape accounts while proposing a gross infringement of Articles 20 and 21 of the Indian Constitution. Notwithstanding, the Court held that the tape accounts were acceptable as proof even regardless of the infringement of the Telegraph Act.

Ram Singh v. Colonel Ram Singh (1986)<sup>34</sup>

This case was about a claim where the litigant protested the end of casting a ballot in some piece of a town. The issue was with respect to the acceptability of articulations that were kept in the tollgate. The Court pronounced the copying as prohibited. Consequently, the Supreme Court excused the allure on the ground that the tape accounts were not sufficiently able to help the proof expected to demonstrate the issue raised by the litigant. The Court additionally expressed that the recording advanced no sort of trust in people in general. Consequently, the security of call accounts, sounds, and different types of advanced proof ought to be equivalent to other contraption including the right to protection.

## Germany law

### law in Germany for call recording

Germany is a two-party assent state — phone recording without the assent of the two or, when material, more, parties is a criminal offense as per Sec. 201 of the German Criminal Code<sup>35</sup> infringement of the privacy of the verbally expressed word. Phone tapping by specialists must be endorsed by an adjudicator. Phone recording by a confidential resident can be permitted in instances of self-protection, Sec. 32 of the German Criminal Code, or Necessity, Sec. 34 of the German Criminal Code.

### Record conversations in Germany(legal or illegal)

Germany is a two-party assent state, and that implies it against the law against the law to record discussions (counting calls) without the assent of the multitude of gatherings to the discussion. Assuming you're in a discussion with someone else, you want to get assent from that individual,

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<sup>34</sup> Ram Singh v. Colonel Ram Singh, AIR 1986 SC 3 (India)

<sup>35</sup> German Criminal Code, Sec. 201

and assuming you're in a call with more than one individual, you really want to get assent from all members prior to recording the discussion.

A similar applies in the event that you're not a member in a discussion and you need to record the discussion.

Segment 201 of the German Criminal Code expresses that it against the law against the law to make a sound recording or catch utilizing a listening gadget the secretly expressed expressions of someone else without getting approval to do as such.

It is likewise unlawful to utilize or spread illicitly recorded sound to an outsider. Likewise denied is openly imparting, in word for word or the items in secretly expressed expressions of someone else that were unlawfully recorded or captured.

So, in short, you're allowed to disclose private conversations if the information is meant to safeguard public interests which override private interests.

## Penalties

- Violating Section 201 of the Criminal Code is punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or a fine.
- In the case of a public official or a person entrusted with special public service functions violating Section 201 of the Criminal Code, the punishment is imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or a fine.

## Conclusion

As of late, remarkable development in the mechanical area has made it both advantageous as well as hazardous to direct our own issues over telecom administrations. Both the Central and the State specialists have the ability to record calls under Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885<sup>36</sup>. Electronic proof is a clever strategy for submitting proof to the Court under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act. This article permits us to analyze the two situations. Status of call keep proof in outside country germany, and the law in India on a similar subject. Different

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<sup>36</sup> Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, s.5(2)

state and regulations with some milestone cases divide India's legitimate position available to work accounts.

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