PIVOT®

PERFORMANCE TURF

CASE STUDY: *BREAKING RECORDS AT RICE UNIVERSITY*

"Everyone's hitting personal records."

Dean Connors, running back at Rice University

Background

When Rice University needed a to replace its artificial turf field just weeks before the start of the season, TenCate met the challenge with a bold solution. As a leader in turf innovation for over 60 years, we had the knowledge and resources to accomplish what seemed impossible: installing our new high-performance turf in time for kickoff.

Solution

We upgraded their old artificial grass to Pivot® Performance Turf and had them game-ready in under two weeks. Immediately, players, coaches and staff started to experience the benefits of our most advanced artificial turf. Pivot turf was purposefully designed to closely replicate natural grass and deliver the high-quality surface athletes expect—without the need for performance infill. And that's exactly what Rice University received.

Development of Pivot

At TenCate's Center for Turf Innovation (CTI), our R&D team worked closely with college and professional athletes to understand exactly how a field should respond underfoot. Using biosensors, high-speed video analysis, and iterative testing, we studied every sprint, cut, and tackle. After countless combinations, we landed on a groundbreaking pairing of traditional, durable sports fibers with new fibers engineered to replicate the movement and feel of natural grass.

Proven Performance

TenCate engaged Sports Labs, one of the industry's most trusted independent testing institutes, to carry out comprehensive performance testing on the Pivot turf system at Rice Stadium. Conducted in wet conditions, the results were compared to 10 Division I and professional infilled turf systems tested in dry conditions. All testing demonstrated elite-level playability without the use of performance infill.

The new field at Rice University recorded a Gmax score well below the national average, meaning the surface absorbs impact exceptionally well, an important factor in athlete safety. Pivot also met or exceeded industry standards for traction, surface responsiveness, and ball behavior. These results demonstrate that Pivot is able to provide consistent, responsive, and safe play conditions at the highest level of competition.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the science behind the surface.

SPORTS LABS
TESTING TECHNOLOGY FOR SPORT

Tencate requested a comparison of their Pivot FIFA approved turf system again an average of 10 Professional and Division one surfaces used within the USA. The below table compares a mixture of Professional and Division one surfaces which have been tested by Sports Labs for the various tests used in the FIFA Quality Turf standard along with gmax.

Performance Test Results						
Property	**Test Method**	**FIFA Quality Test Requirement**	**Pivot Turf Lab Result**	**Rice University Football Field Onsite Testing**	**Average of 10 Venues**	
Shock Absorption	FIFA Test Method 04a	55-70%	**65%**	**69%**	**66%**	
					Min	Max
					61%	**69%**
Vertical Deformation	FIFA Test Method 05a	4.0-11.0mm	**10.0mm**	**10.5mm**	**10.2mm**	
					Min	Max
					7.5 mm	**11.5 mm**
Gmax*	ASTM	<200g	**115g**	**83g**	**103g**	
					Min	Max
					89g	**147g**
Rotational Resistance LWRR	FIFA Test Method 06a	25Nm-50Nm	**34Nm**	**26Nm**	**36Nm**	
					Min	Max
					27Nm	**40Nm**
Vertical Ball Rebound	FIFA Test Method 01	0.60m - 1.0m	**0.80m**	**0.81m**	**0.83m**	
					Min	Max
					0.75m	**0.92m**

Note:
The Venues are a selection of professional NFL and Division 1 venues across the USA. These venues have used an infilled turf system and tested under the relevant environmental conditions at that time.

Only Initial Dry results have been used for comparison from the Pivot lab report.

*Gmax not part of the FIFA Turf Program.

Results*

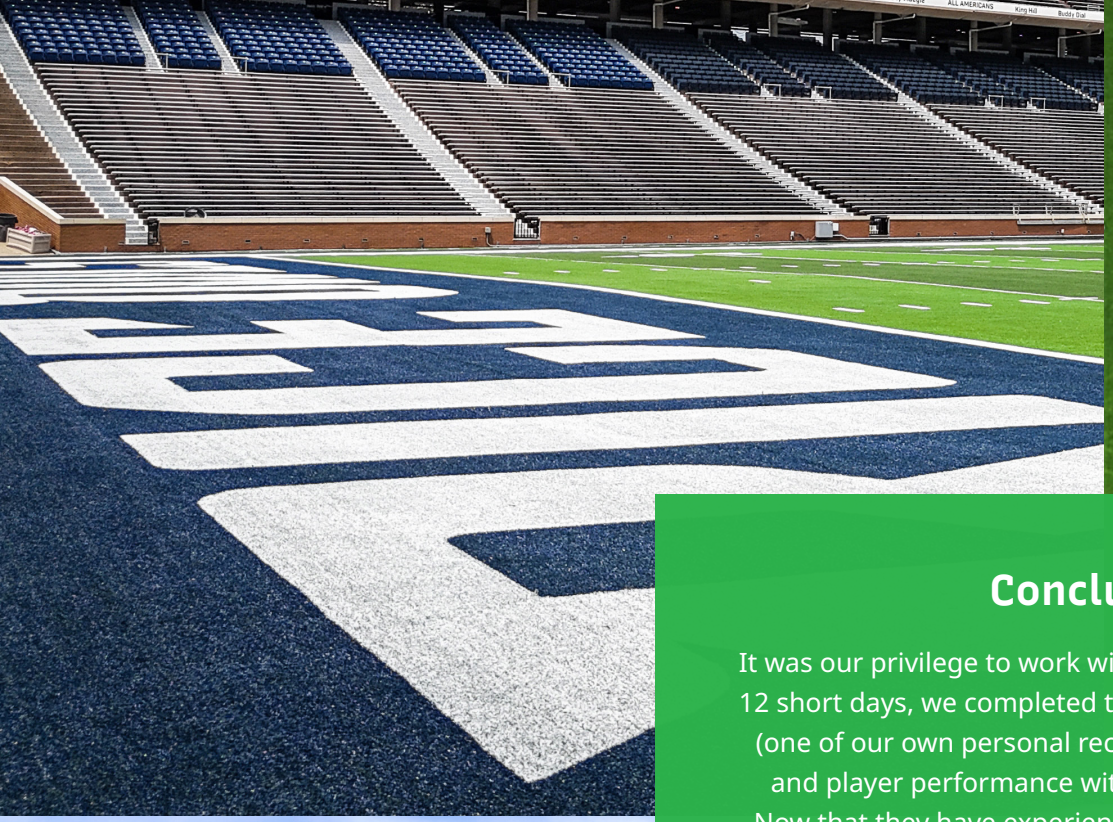
The players noted a clear difference as soon as they stepped on the field. This was unlike any other turf they'd ever played on, offering next-level artificial grass performance. They found it cushy enough to have some bounce, but responsive enough to make 90-degree cuts and quick plays. Athletes don't want a turf football field where their cleats dig too deep in the ground, but they also don't want turf that's too thin without any traction. Pivot Performance Turf offers them the best of both worlds — and the results are clear.

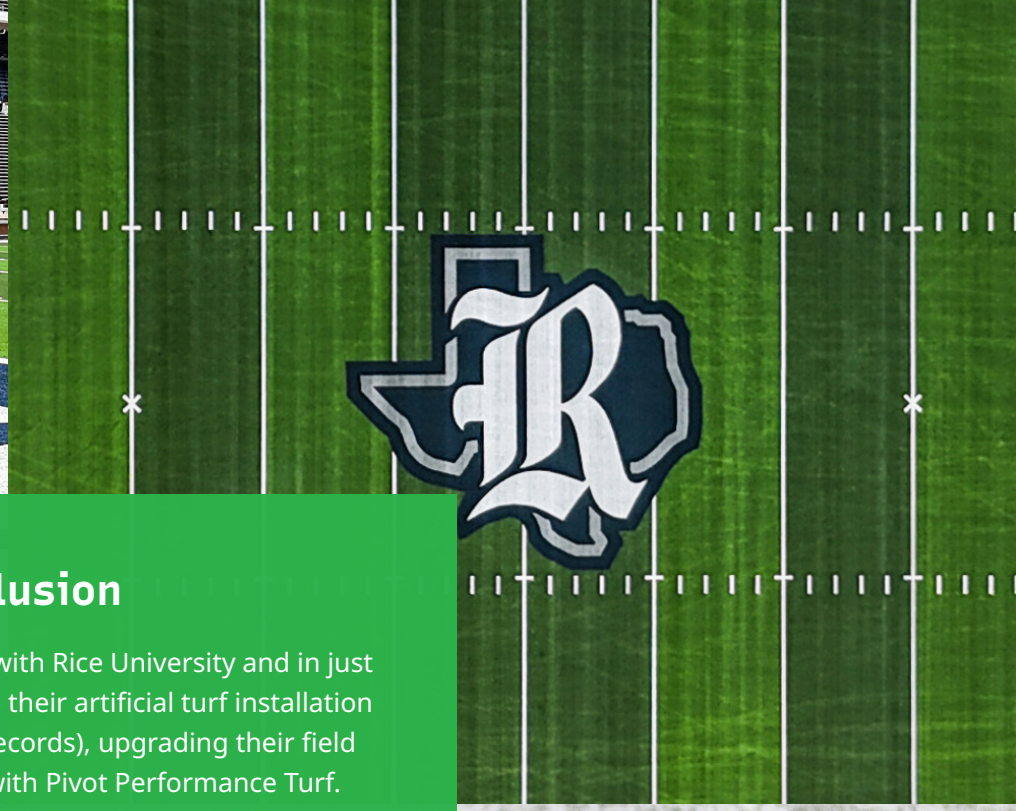
After only two games, Rice University's Pivot field became their chosen option for everything on the field — practices included. Players started setting personal records, and preferred practicing on Pivot to the alternative. Their $700,000 natural grass practice field couldn't compare to the new Pivot field, which offered peak performance. Coaches say it gets better every time the team plays on it, and athletes are achieving their personal bests.

Their takeaway was that Pivot feels more like natural grass than any other turf they've ever played on, offering new benefits of artificial turf. Traditional turf can be very hard on athletes, with extensive recoil that can lead to player fatigue. Pivot is made with no performance infill and no black pellets, which reduces the energy returned to the athlete. Players were thrilled to experience less wear on their bodies, and no turf burn. Now when they travel to other artificial turf fields and need to wrap themselves in leggings and turf tape to avoid turf burn, they miss their home field at Rice University. They describe it as the best surface they've ever played on. In every way.

It's not just the athletes who saw immediate improvements with Pivot. The coaches love being on it because they are amazed at how their bodies feel after a long practice. With former NFL players in their 50s and 60s on staff, they were used to coming off an artificial surface with soreness and swelling. On Pivot Performance Turf, they just don't feel that way anymore. Athletes and coaches can be on the field longer, with less recovery time.

*Statements reflect firsthand experiences and feedback from Rice University athletes, coaches, and staff as shared in interviews available via the QR code on the back page.

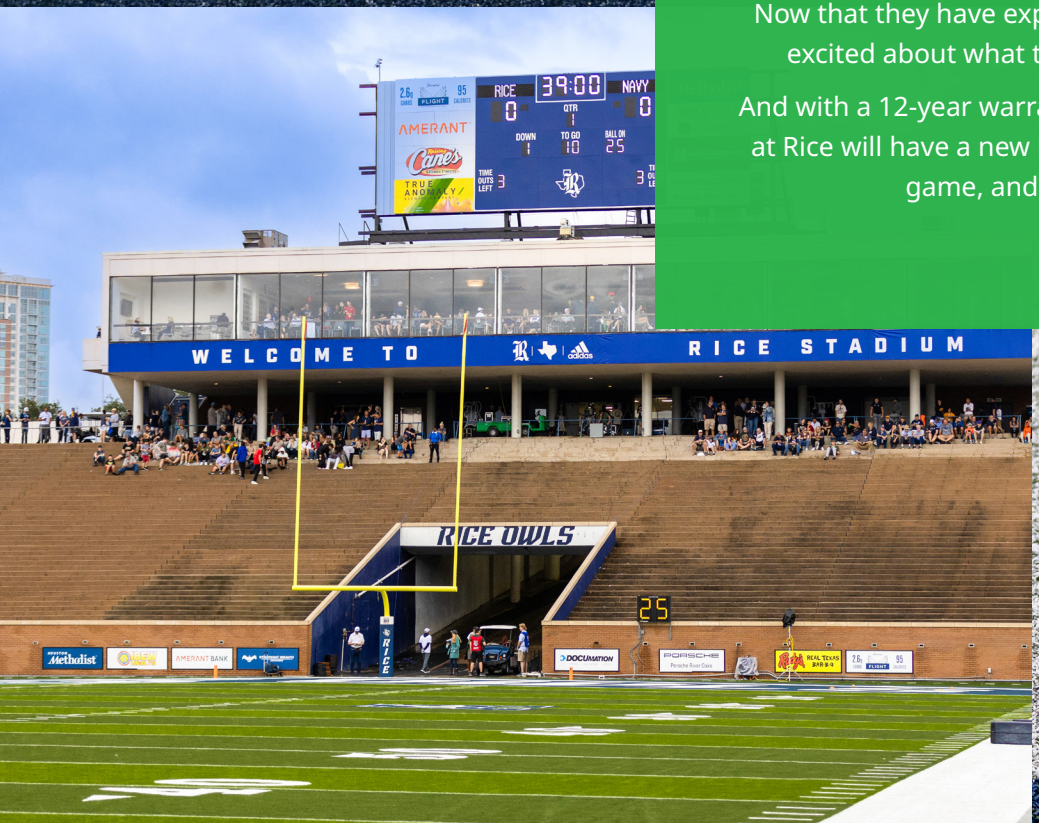


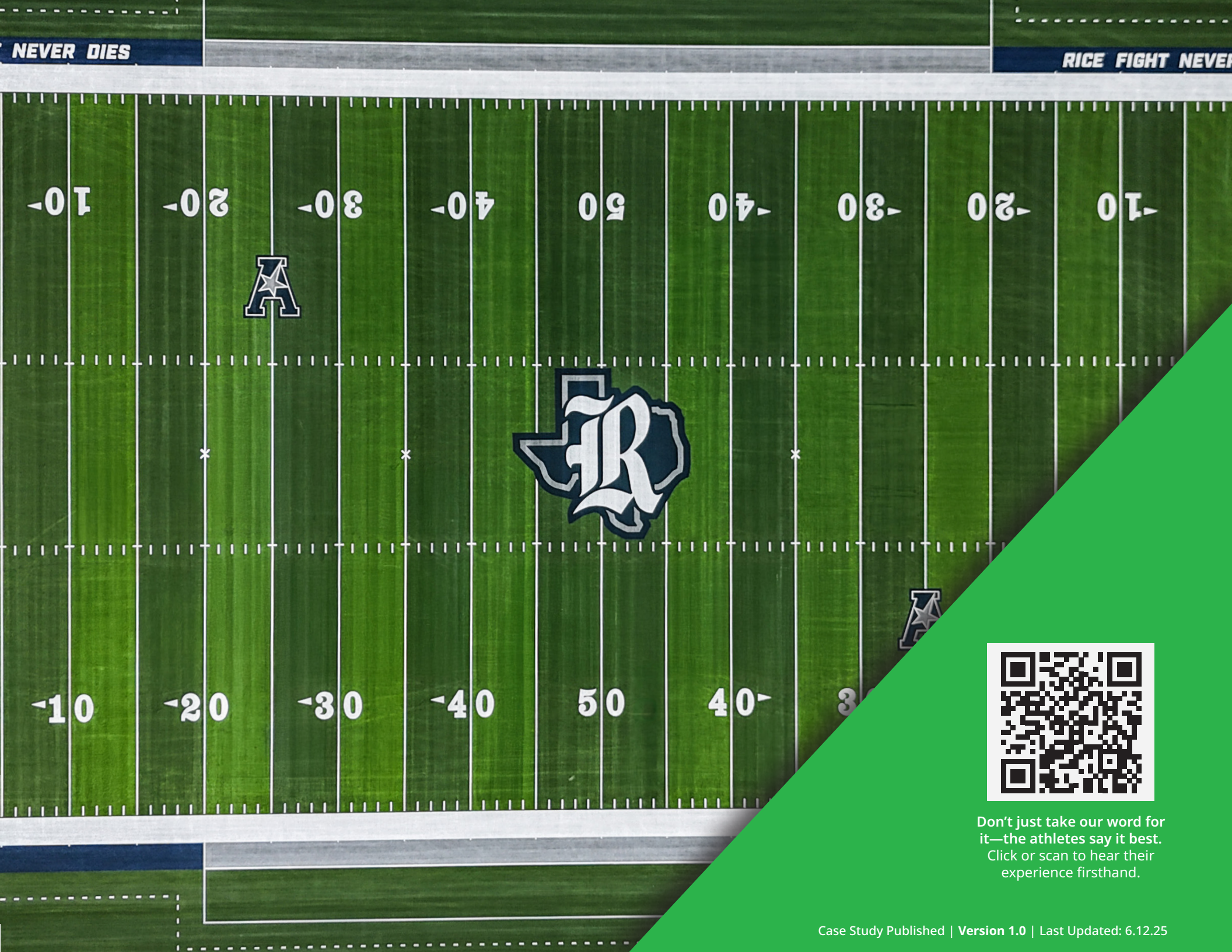


Conclusion

It was our privilege to work with Rice University and in just 12 short days, we completed their artificial turf installation (one of our own personal records), upgrading their field and player performance with Pivot Performance Turf. Now that they have experienced the difference, they are excited about what the future holds for their team.

And with a 12-year warranty on their new field, the players at Rice will have a new home-field advantage game after game, and season after season.





Don’t just take our word for it—the athletes say it best.
Click or scan to hear their experience firsthand.

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