

microsoft explore interview questions

Microsoft Explore Interview Questions: What to Expect and How to Prepare

microsoft explore interview questions are a key focus for many candidates eager to join Microsoft's innovative internship and early career programs. If you're targeting the Microsoft Explore program, understanding the nature of these interview questions and how to approach them can significantly boost your chances of success. This article will guide you through the typical interview process, the types of questions you might face, and strategies to shine during your Microsoft Explore interviews.

Understanding the Microsoft Explore Program

Before diving into the interview questions, it's important to grasp what the Microsoft Explore program entails. Designed primarily for undergraduate students, Explore is a 12-week summer internship that offers hands-on experience in software engineering and product development. It's a rotational program, meaning interns get to experience different teams and projects, providing a broad exposure to Microsoft's tech ecosystem.

Because of its nature, the interview process evaluates not only technical skills but also problem-solving abilities, teamwork, and adaptability. This dual focus means interviewers look for well-rounded candidates who can thrive in a dynamic environment.

Types of Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

Microsoft Explore interview questions typically fall into three broad categories: technical, behavioral, and situational. Each category aims to assess different skills and qualities.

Technical Questions

Technical questions are designed to test your coding skills, algorithmic thinking, and understanding of computer science fundamentals. Since Explore interns often have varying levels of experience, Microsoft structures these questions to be approachable yet challenging.

Common topics include:

- Data structures (arrays, linked lists, trees, graphs)
- Algorithms (sorting, searching, recursion)

- Problem-solving involving time and space complexity
- Basic coding tasks in languages like C++, Java, or Python

For example, you might be asked to write a function to reverse a linked list or find the maximum sum subarray. These questions test your ability to write clean, efficient code and explain your thought process clearly.

Behavioral Questions

Behavioral questions play a crucial role in Microsoft Explore interviews. Microsoft places a strong emphasis on culture fit and values such as growth mindset, collaboration, and customer obsession.

Interviewers might ask:

- Tell me about a time you worked on a team project.
- Describe a challenge you faced and how you overcame it.
- How do you handle feedback or failure?
- Give an example of a time you showed initiative.

The goal here is to understand how you think, communicate, and align with Microsoft's core values. When answering, use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) to structure your responses effectively.

Situational and Problem-Solving Questions

Apart from the straightforward behavioral and technical questions, you could encounter situational or hypothetical questions. These are designed to assess your critical thinking and problem-solving approach in real-world scenarios.

Examples include:

- How would you prioritize tasks when working on multiple projects?
- What steps would you take if you disagreed with a teammate?
- Imagine you found a bug in your code just before a deadline; how would you handle it?

Such questions reveal your interpersonal skills, decision-making capabilities, and resilience under pressure.

Preparing for Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

Preparation is key when facing Microsoft Explore interview questions. Here

are some practical tips to help you get ready:

Brush Up on Coding and Data Structures

Since coding questions are a major component, practicing on platforms like LeetCode, HackerRank, or CodeSignal can be immensely helpful. Focus on medium-level problems involving arrays, strings, trees, and recursion. Microsoft is interested in your problem-solving process as much as your final solution, so practice explaining your reasoning aloud.

Study Microsoft's Leadership Principles

Understanding Microsoft's culture and leadership principles will give you a leg up during behavioral interviews. Concepts like "growth mindset" and "customer obsession" are frequently referenced, so relate your experiences to these values when answering questions. This shows that you're not just technically capable but also culturally aligned.

Practice Mock Interviews

Mock interviews with peers, mentors, or through interview coaching platforms can simulate the actual Microsoft Explore interview environment. This helps reduce anxiety and improves your communication skills. Focus on articulating your thoughts clearly and confidently, whether you're describing code or sharing experiences.

Prepare Questions for Your Interviewers

Interviews are a two-way street. Having thoughtful questions ready about the Explore program, team dynamics, or Microsoft's technology stack demonstrates genuine interest and engagement. Avoid generic questions; instead, focus on specifics that show you've researched the company and the role.

Sample Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

To give you a clearer idea, here are some sample questions you might encounter:

Technical

- Write a function to determine if a string is a palindrome.
- Given an array of integers, find two numbers that add up to a target value.
- Implement a breadth-first search (BFS) traversal of a binary tree.
- Explain the difference between a stack and a queue, and provide use cases for each.

Behavioral

- Describe a situation where you had to learn a new technology quickly.
- Tell me about a time you received critical feedback and how you responded.
- How do you handle conflicts when working in a team?
- Share an example of when you took ownership of a project or task.

Situational

- If you realize you misunderstood a project requirement halfway through development, what would you do?
- How would you manage your time if assigned to multiple projects with overlapping deadlines?
- Imagine you have a disagreement with your team lead about the approach to a problem; how do you handle it?

Insights into the Interview Experience

Candidates often report that Microsoft Explore interviews are conversational and designed to put you at ease. Interviewers encourage you to ask clarifying questions and think out loud during coding challenges. This approach allows them to understand your problem-solving style and provide hints if you get stuck.

Additionally, the interview panel may include software engineers, program managers, or recruiters, so be prepared for a variety of perspectives. Demonstrating curiosity, a willingness to learn, and a collaborative attitude can sometimes be as important as technical prowess.

Microsoft also values diversity and inclusion, so showing how your unique background and experiences can contribute to their teams is beneficial. Authenticity goes a long way in these interviews.

Additional Resources to Prepare

To effectively prepare for microsoft explore interview questions, consider leveraging the following resources:

- **Microsoft Careers Website:** Offers detailed information about the Explore program and interview tips.
- **LeetCode and HackerRank:** Great platforms to practice coding problems commonly asked in interviews.
- **Glassdoor:** Read candidate experiences and specific questions asked in previous Microsoft Explore interviews.
- **Books:** “Cracking the Coding Interview” by Gayle Laakmann McDowell is a classic for technical interview prep.
- **Mock Interview Platforms:** Services like Pramp or Interviewing.io can provide live practice sessions.

Taking advantage of these tools can boost your confidence and prepare you thoroughly for the interview process.

Preparing for microsoft explore interview questions is more than memorizing answers; it's about developing problem-solving skills, understanding Microsoft's culture, and communicating effectively. With dedication and the right approach, you can navigate the interview process smoothly and take a significant step toward a rewarding internship experience at Microsoft.

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of questions are commonly asked in a Microsoft Explore interview?

Microsoft Explore interviews typically include behavioral questions, coding problems focusing on data structures and algorithms, and sometimes problem-solving questions related to software development concepts.

How should I prepare for the coding section of the Microsoft Explore interview?

Practice coding problems on platforms like LeetCode or HackerRank, focusing

on arrays, strings, linked lists, and basic algorithms such as sorting and searching. Also, review fundamentals of time and space complexity.

What behavioral questions can I expect during the Microsoft Explore interview?

You may be asked about teamwork, handling challenges, learning from failures, your motivation for joining Microsoft, and examples demonstrating leadership or problem-solving skills.

Are there any specific programming languages preferred for the Microsoft Explore coding interview?

Microsoft generally allows candidates to code in languages like C++, Java, Python, or C#. Choose the language you are most comfortable with to effectively demonstrate your problem-solving skills.

How important is understanding Microsoft's core values for the Explore interview?

Understanding Microsoft's core values such as growth mindset, customer obsession, diversity and inclusion, and making an impact can help you frame your behavioral answers more effectively.

What is the Microsoft Explore program, and how does it influence the interview process?

The Microsoft Explore program is a 12-week internship for early college students interested in software engineering. The interview focuses on assessing coding skills, learning ability, and cultural fit appropriate for interns.

Can you give an example of a coding question that might appear in the Microsoft Explore interview?

A typical question might be: 'Given an array of integers, find the two numbers that add up to a specific target.' This tests your problem-solving and coding skills using arrays and hash maps.

What tips can help me perform well in the Microsoft Explore interview?

Practice coding regularly, review common algorithms and data structures, prepare to discuss your past experiences clearly, and demonstrate a willingness to learn and adapt during the interview.

Additional Resources

Microsoft Explore Interview Questions: A Deep Dive into Preparation and Expectations

microsoft explore interview questions have become a focal point for aspiring candidates aiming to join one of the most prestigious technology companies in the world. The Microsoft Explore program, designed for recent graduates and early-career professionals, offers a unique gateway into the tech giant's ecosystem, blending hands-on experience with mentorship and professional development. Understanding the nature, breadth, and depth of the interview questions posed in this program can significantly enhance a candidate's chances of success.

Unpacking the Microsoft Explore Program Interview Process

The Microsoft Explore internship and entry-level program interviews are structured to evaluate a candidate's technical aptitude, problem-solving skills, cultural fit, and potential for long-term growth within the company. Unlike traditional interviews focused solely on technical prowess, Microsoft Explore interview questions often encompass behavioral components, coding challenges, and situational judgment assessments.

This multifaceted approach reflects Microsoft's broader hiring philosophy, which values diversity in skill sets and the ability to collaborate effectively across teams and disciplines. Candidates preparing for these interviews should therefore be ready to demonstrate both their technical knowledge and their interpersonal skills.

Core Areas Covered in Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

The interview questions typically span several key domains:

- **Coding and Algorithmic Problems:** Candidates are expected to solve problems involving data structures such as arrays, linked lists, trees, and graphs. Algorithms related to sorting, searching, dynamic programming, and recursion are also common.
- **System Design (Basic Level):** Although the Explore program is entry-level, some questions may touch on simple system design concepts to assess understanding of scalable and efficient software architecture.
- **Behavioral and Situational Questions:** Microsoft places substantial

emphasis on cultural fit, often exploring candidates' responses to teamwork challenges, conflict resolution, and leadership experiences.

- **Technical Knowledge and Fundamentals:** Questions may test core computer science concepts, including object-oriented programming, databases, operating systems, and networking basics.

Examples of Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

A selection of representative questions encountered by candidates include:

1. *Write a function to check if a string is a palindrome.* – This tests basic string manipulation and logical thinking.
2. *Explain the difference between a stack and a queue, and provide use cases for each.* – This question gauges understanding of data structures.
3. *Describe a time when you had to work with a difficult team member and how you handled the situation.* – Behavioral question evaluating interpersonal skills.
4. *Design a simple parking lot system.* – A basic system design prompt assessing architectural reasoning.
5. *What is the difference between TCP and UDP?* – Tests foundational networking knowledge.

These examples reflect the balance Microsoft seeks between technical rigor and the ability to communicate ideas effectively.

Strategies for Tackling Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

Preparation for Microsoft Explore interview questions requires a strategic blend of technical study, mock interviews, and self-reflection on past experiences. Candidates often benefit from leveraging online coding platforms such as LeetCode, HackerRank, and CodeSignal to hone their algorithmic skills under timed conditions.

Technical Preparation

Focusing on fundamental data structures and algorithms is crucial. Candidates should prioritize mastering arrays, strings, hash tables, trees, and recursion, as these topics frequently appear in coding challenges. Additionally, revisiting concepts in operating systems, networking, and databases can give candidates an edge in answering technical knowledge questions.

Behavioral Interview Readiness

Microsoft's corporate culture emphasizes growth mindset, collaboration, and innovation. Preparing for behavioral questions involves reflecting on personal experiences that showcase adaptability, problem-solving, and leadership potential. The STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) method is a valuable framework for structuring responses clearly and impactfully.

Mock Interviews and Feedback

Engaging in mock interviews with peers or mentors can simulate the pressure and format of the actual interview, enabling candidates to identify areas for improvement. Feedback on communication clarity and problem-solving approaches can be instrumental in refining performance.

Comparative Insights: Microsoft Explore vs. Other Tech Internship Interviews

While Microsoft Explore interview questions share similarities with other tech giants' entry-level interview processes, they possess distinctive characteristics. For example, Google's internship interviews tend to emphasize algorithmic complexity and optimization, often pushing candidates toward more challenging coding problems. Conversely, Microsoft Explore interviews balance coding with behavioral evaluation, reflecting the company's holistic approach to talent acquisition.

Additionally, compared to Amazon's internship interviews, which frequently assess leadership principles through scenario-based questions, Microsoft's Explore program places a comparable but slightly more technical emphasis on coding and system design fundamentals.

Understanding these nuances can help candidates tailor their preparation specifically for Microsoft's expectations rather than adopting a generic approach.

Pros and Cons of the Microsoft Explore Interview Format

- **Pros:**

- Comprehensive evaluation of both technical and interpersonal skills.
- Opportunity to showcase problem-solving in a realistic, collaborative context.
- Structured yet approachable for early-career candidates.

- **Cons:**

- Can be intimidating due to the broad scope of topics covered.
- Requires balanced preparation; candidates strong in one area but weak in another may struggle.
- Time constraints during coding rounds add pressure.

Emerging Trends and Future Outlook for Microsoft Explore Interview Questions

As Microsoft continues to evolve its recruitment strategies, interview questions for the Explore program are likely to integrate more real-world scenarios and collaborative problem-solving exercises. There is also an increasing emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion, with interviewers trained to reduce bias and assess candidates holistically.

Furthermore, the rise of remote interviews has influenced question design, favoring problems that can be articulated and solved clearly in virtual settings. Candidates may also encounter questions related to emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and cloud computing, reflecting Microsoft's strategic priorities.

Preparing for these shifts requires staying informed about industry trends and continuously updating one's skill set beyond traditional computer science fundamentals.

Navigating the landscape of microsoft explore interview questions demands more than rote memorization; it calls for a nuanced understanding of Microsoft's values and the ability to apply technical knowledge thoughtfully. Candidates who approach the process with a balanced focus on coding proficiency, behavioral insights, and system design fundamentals position themselves well to seize the opportunities the Explore program offers.

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microsoft explore interview questions: 600 Interview Questions & Answers for Business Intelligence Analyst - Based on Microsoft Certified: Power BI Data Analyst Associate (PL-300) Standards CloudRoar Consulting services, 2025-08-13 In today's data-driven world, Business Intelligence (BI) analysts play a critical role in turning raw data into actionable insights that guide strategic decision-making. 600 Interview Questions & Answers for Business Intelligence Analyst - CloudRoar Consulting Services is your complete, skill-based interview preparation guide designed to help you excel in BI-focused roles. This book is not a certification prep guide—but it follows Microsoft Certified: Power BI Data Analyst Associate (PL-300) best practices to ensure you gain industry-relevant skills. Whether you are preparing for your first BI role or advancing your career, this book covers real-world problem-solving techniques used by leading data teams. Key Topics Covered: Data Gathering & Preparation - ETL processes, data cleaning, transformation, and

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Manish Soni, 2024-11-13 Welcome to Robotics Interview Questions and Answers – a comprehensive guide designed to navigate the dynamic world of robotics through a lens of inquiry and exploration. In the pages that follow, you will embark on a journey through the fascinating realm of robotics, uncovering a myriad of topics that span the breadth and depth of this transformative field. This book seeks to provide not only a wealth of knowledge but also a practical resource for individuals aspiring to delve into the world of robotics or those seeking to enhance their understanding of its myriad facets. In the age of automation, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things, robotics has emerged as a pivotal force shaping our future. From manufacturing floors to healthcare settings, from deep-space exploration to our own living rooms, robots have become an integral part of our daily lives. Whether you seek to gain knowledge for interviews, academic pursuits, or simply to satisfy your curiosity about the incredible world of robotics, this book is designed to be your trusted companion. It serves as a roadmap to understanding the fundamentals, the nuances, and the future possibilities that robotics holds.

microsoft explore interview questions: Cybersecurity Interview Questions & Answers

Bolakale Aremu, 2025-07-18 Short on time before your cybersecurity interview? Don't panic—this practical guide is built to help you prepare fast, think smart, and answer like a pro. Whether you're aiming for a role at a top tech company or breaking into your first cybersecurity job, this book will equip you with the skills, strategy, and confidence to stand out in today's competitive job market. □ What You'll Learn Inside: Real interview questions used by companies like Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft Multiple formats covered: multiple choice, multi-select, and fill-in-the-blanks Behavioral, technical, and scenario-based questions with model answers Hands-on lab scenarios and command-line challenges used in practical assessments Advanced topics like incident response, risk management, encryption, threat detection, and SIEM tools Soft skills and ethics—because technical knowledge alone isn't enough Final reflection plan and 90-day career roadmap to keep your momentum going □ Who This Book Is For: Anyone preparing for roles like: Cybersecurity Analyst Security Engineer Security Architect SOC Analyst Security Administrator Cryptographer Penetration Tester Security Consultant Security Software Developer GRC Analyst From early-career learners to seasoned IT pros, this guide helps you master both the technical know-how and the real-world mindset that interviewers look for. □ Why This Book Stands Out □ Over 230 curated questions across 10 skill-focused modules □ Detailed explanations for every correct answer—no guesswork □ Scenario-based learning modeled after real-life cyber threats □ STAR method practice for behavioral interviews □ Tools and platforms used by top teams: Wireshark, Splunk, nmap, Burp Suite, and more

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microsoft explore interview questions: Microsoft Internet Explorer Fisher, Jennifer A. Duffy, Ann Fisher, 2001-07 Part of the Illustrated series, this text offers a visual, flexible way to build Microsoft Internet Explorer skills.

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microsoft explore interview questions: Azure for .NET Core Developers Kasam Ahmed Shaikh, 2020-04-14 Demystifying working in Azure Ecosystem for .NET Core Developers KEY FEATURES - Discover and put to use the latest features in .NET Core 3.1 and Azure Functions V3 - Learn how to debugging Azure Functions from Production, hosted on Cloud - Understand the working of Application Key Management with Security aspects DESCRIPTION Every developer is striving hard to up-skill oneself from a developer to a Cloud developer and with the growing pace of

cloud programming, this up-gradation is not simple. This book will help .NET Core developers to seamlessly cover this said journey. It covers the newly released .Net Core 3.0 / 3.1 features including, Azure Function V3. The book not only focusses on one way of working with Azure Cloud services but also includes another viable way of managing Azure resources with the software application. The book also touches base on some Azure products and services. From exploring the most used Azure services to touching the newest version of offerings, this book is aimed to cover everything from a developer perspective. Code exercise, Code blocks, azure service implementation, application secrets keys management, free super-fast hosting options along with live debugging of code hosted on Cloud, are some of the key take-aways from this book.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN - Develop a .NET core application with Azure App service - Use Azure CosmosDB to manage database services - Explore & work with Microsoft Azure Storage - Able to have the best hosting option for Static Content web application - Work with Azure Functions V3 using Visual Studio 2019 - Implement best Key Management in the app on Azure

WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR - This book is for aspiring Cloud developers with some experience in Microsoft cloud services. It is also for .NET Core developers who wish to learn and use Azure solutions.

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microsoft explore interview questions: The Customer-Driven Culture: A Microsoft Story Travis Lowdermilk, Monty Hammontree, 2020-02-24 If you're striving to make products and services that your customers will love, then you'll need a customer-driven organization. As companies transform their businesses to meet the demands of the digital age, they find themselves grappling with uniquely human challenges. Organizational knowledge becomes siloed, employees move to safeguard their expertise, and customer data creates polarization and infighting between teams. All of these challenges widen the distance between the people who make your products and the customers who use them. To meet today's challenges, companies need to do more than build processes for customer-driven products. They need to create a customer-driven culture. With the help of his friend and mentor Monty Hammontree, Travis Lowdermilk takes readers through the cultural transformation of the Developer Division at Microsoft. This book shows readers how to hack their culture and reduce the distance between them and their customers' needs. It's a uniquely personal story that's told amidst a cultural revolution at one of the largest software companies in the world. This story acts as your guide. You'll learn how to:

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- Meet Teams Where They Are: Make it easy for teams to adopt vital behavior changes
- Make Data Relatable: Move beyond numbers and focus on empathizing with customers

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wedding and bridal photography tourism, roots/affinity tourism and shamanic tourism), investigate a wide range of topics (e.g., tourist motivation, tourist anxiety and decision making) and consider Asian perspectives from diverse backgrounds (e.g., China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, and Nepal). The book provides tourism researchers, students and practitioners a consolidated, comprehensive and updated reference for the understanding of Asian tourists.

microsoft explore interview questions: *Career Management for Life* Jeffrey H. Greenhaus, Gerard A. Callanan, Veronica M. Godshalk, 2018-07-20 Career Management for Life provides students and employees with an integrative approach to managing their careers on an ongoing basis to achieve a satisfying balance between their work and their family responsibilities, community involvement, and personal interests. The career management model guides individuals through the different phases of their career from figuring out what their first job should be right to navigating the road to retirement. Expert authors Greenhaus, Callanan, and Godshalk bring their wealth of research experience to the book and demonstrate the individual and organizational sides of career management, allowing an appreciation of both. This material is well balanced by a set of practical tools, including self-assessments, case studies, and recommended interviews. The new edition also includes: An emphasis on attaining work-life balance, a topic that is of growing concern to workers at all stages of their careers. An updated focus on today's career contexts and stages. Material on technology and social media, now integrated throughout the book, to reflect the growing importance of these tools in career management and development. A chapter on international careers, helping individuals face a globalized world. Greater emphasis on alternative career paths, reflecting the newest trends and helping individuals understand all the different career options available to them. This rich and engaging book will help individuals understand themselves better, which in turn allows them to understand what they really want out of their career. Those taking (or offering) classes in career management or career development will come to rely on this book for years to follow.

microsoft explore interview questions: *Collaborative Web Development* Jessica R. Burdman, 1999 CD-ROM contains: Samples and demo versions of a variety of development tools and management software programs, including Microsoft Project 98 and FrontPage 2000. Also included are practical templates, forms, questionnaires, outlines, style guides, and other tools that can be easily tailored to meet your specific Web development needs.

microsoft explore interview questions: **Power of Persuasive Educational Technologies in Enhancing Learning** Sanmugam, Mageswaran, Lim, Darren, Mohd Barkhaya, Nurul Maziah, Wan Yahaya, Wan Ahmad Jaafar, Khlaif, Zuheir, 2024-08-09 In the domains of education, learners tend to lose interest over time when they are being forced to learn. While the use of extrinsic rewards could motivate learners to a certain degree, it is not ideal as a long-term approach. Instead, learners should be inspired and ignited by the passion for learning itself. Persuasion, which refers to a symbolic process that adopts communication as a medium to achieve behavioral and attitudinal change, holds the potential to convince students to act in such a way. Power of Persuasive Educational Technologies in Enhancing Learning addresses the needs of future generation classroom through leveraging the art and science of persuasion to be incorporated into pedagogical, andragogical and Heutagogical approaches in teaching and learning while also utilizing various technologies. Also, this book offers novel and practical proposition and precedent to be employed in training, classrooms, higher institutions and more with the aim of reaching readers such as educators, academicians, researchers, scholars, instructors, instructional designers, and even students.

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intangibles to establish leadership tools that will help create sustainable shareholder value. The book offers a broad, expansive perspective on leadership while eschewing convoluted theory for concrete practice. Dave Ulrich, Ph.D., (DOU@UMICH.EDU) has been listed by BusinessWeek as the top guru in management education. He has co-authored 10 books and over 100 articles, serves on the Board of Directors of Herman Miller, and has consulted with over half of the Fortune 200 companies. He is currently on professional leave as Professor at the University of Michigan to serve as Mission President for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Montreal. Norm Smallwood (nsmallwood@rbl.net) is co-founder of Results-Based Leadership (www.rbl.net), which provides education and consulting services based on this book as well as the ideas in Results-Based Leadership: How Leaders Build the Business and Improve the Bottom Line, which he co-authored with Ulrich. He has led leadership development, business strategy, organization capability, change management, and HR projects for a wide variety of clients spanning multiple industries.

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