Exposition of Converging 9Mobile MMS Security News Reports as Part of Sustainable Development Goal-11

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Abstract

There has been an emergence of converging mobile-telecommunications news services in Nigeria. By 2018, 9Mobile, one the countries prominent mobile-telecommunication companies had also taken due advantage of digital technologies to offer converging news services. Meanwhile, there have been serious and increasing security challenges and disturbances in the country. Therefore, this content analysis research -which is theoretically framed by the Proximate Locations and New Media theories, explores how relative security reports from randomly selected prominent Nigerian national dailies had been embedded to converge with equivalent 9Mobile MMS [Multi-Media Service] news. As far as social protection and inclusion is considered vital for Nigeria's national cohesion and development, this content analysis-based research article majorly unveils the extent to which emerging digital technological telecommunication news services in Nigeria had given due regard to security issues the country - as relative part of the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goal-11. As part of the findings, this research exposes the value of digital news convergence correlation analysis amidst informed understanding of proximate news locations and suggests that as digital mobile technologies continue to penetrate and influence contemporary information aggregations, proper delineation of security information nuances is encouraged.

Keywords: Media Convergence, Digital Technology, Mobile-Telecommunications, 9Mobile News, National Security, Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

Blurred media-communication realities are said to be caused by digital technologies -which have further continued to reduce the borders between conventional and non-conventional media journalism, digital media creativity, innovations, and even tele-marketing (Sociology Central, 2011; Nyam & Olubodede, 2017; Sambe & Nyam, 2018; Nyam & Okpara, 2021; Nyam, 2022).

With the expansion of digital technologies such as telecommunications, potentials for journalism have also expanded side by side innovative news convergence practices (Nyam, 2021a) For instance, due to the functional expansion and penetration of digital mobile technology in Africa, journalism convergence is no longer novel. Such is experience is palpably the case in Nigeria - where digital mobile telephone penetration is said to be very high. The country, which is the most populous in Africa, has continued to account for vast digital network expansions, innovation, media practices and convergences.

One of such digital mobile telephone convergences is the emergence of 9Mobile MMS news service (Nyam, 2021a; Nyam, 2021b). While the news service -is itself- seemingly non-conventional, the news texts sent out to subscription-based customer is sourced from conventional media -and mostly from within Nigeria.News articles from *9Mobile-MMS* news text are sourced from conventional media such as national newspapers. The MMS [Multi-Media News Services] which are delivered in text forms along with pictures. The *9Mobile-MMS* news usually has complete replications from the original newspapers servicing the mobile versions.

The foregoing is not to say that no digital media-communication research has so far been done on the subject matter. Much is already done by the likes of Williangham (2016) -who studied professional method of figuring out fake news [for instance]; Williams-Hawkins (2010) studied [quiet interestingly] aspects of digital media-communication such as revenue driven aspects of digital adoptions. and Mdlongwa (2009) on the other hand rather took a deep into the uncertainties, opportunities, potentials as well as the complexities of digital adoption in Africa. The foregoing brings a combination of thought on digital dynamism such as profiting from digital media and communication innovation, understanding the grey aspects, studies the challenges and difficulties as well as looking into the future possibly hidden promises of digital media-communication ecosystems.

Perhaps, this may be the reason for the views ofFaris, Roberts, Etling, Bourassa, Zuckerman, and Benkler (2017) -who posit that innovative media and communication options and strategies ought to be adopted for contemporary entities to stay sustained and efficient. The mobile telephone news service is non-internet dependent and delivered according to pre-paid subscription. (Nyam, 2021a). However, there are some concerns around the professional and tactical nuances of mobile telephone news aggregation and dissemination (Nyam & Uwujiougu, 2021). Indeed, this may account for the scepticism expressed by Hasan (2010), that the fast pace and spread of modern digital information has also created professional and tactical gaps. One of such tactical gaps include the lack of certainty about the bases for the selection of various news categories such as security information. This means it is not obvious how certain sub-scriber turn news customer who are willing to profile certain news categories may experience relative news access and usage gratifications.

While Brock (2013) acknowledges the contemporary merit of digital media diversities, such merits are equally challenged by type and quality of adoption. The aspect of adoption is not much of a concern -when compared with the aspects of innovation, empirical [instead of theoretical edge]. For instance, phone penetration in Nigeria is no longer a concern, but how the mobile telephone industry in Nigeria is innovating is still a point of attention and relative issues (NCC,

2018). Therefore, mobile digital news portfolios ought to be broad segmented hunch of varying news issues such as security. With the rising concerns about security, the quality or manner of news aggregation across digital options has become a source for evaluation more concerning. As such, the emergences of converging digital news options such as *9Mobile-MMS* in Nigeria readily lends into curious under-study of relative security reports' quantifications.

Statement of Problem

In the preceding paragraphs, it has been shown that much effort is already made into the study and understanding of the social dynamics and implications of digital media-communication. Irrespective, understanding of digital converge and relative news categorisation imperatives has been seemingly underrated. Efforts by Nyam (2021a;) and Nyam (2021b) have shown the foregoing to be true -as much it is value able to understand shades of digital news nuances and convergent content spread. Indeed, despite an array of other digital media and communication scholarly inputs, the aspects of digital news categories and inherent sociological implications has been elusive (Nyam, 2022a; Nyam, 2022b)..

Advancing from the lack of digital-convergent news categorisation and relative implications, one may not help but notice how Brock (2013) realised that digital-print adoptions and strategies vary across and yield mix outcomes across different countries and continents -news categorisation was not evaluated as part of the study. Williangham (2016) and Mutsvairo (2016) separately [but not exactly] research about the implication of digital capacities that are possible via interactive digitalisation such as podcast andnews-blogs amongst others. Indeed, much about digital convergence has also been on citizen journalism instead. The works of Kperogi (2016); Skjerdal (2016); Tshabangu (2019); and Bruijn (2016) are handy examples.

As such, this research effort is critical towards taking a more nuanced dive into the nature of digital news convergence amidst the involvement of mobile telephone in a developing nation such as Nigeria (Nyam, 2022c; Nyam, 2022d). At this point in the history of the country [Nigeria], security -as a news category needs more academic research profiling towards understanding relative convergent quantifications among the emergent *9Mobile-MMS* News in Nigeria. Besides, this article also brings into fore, the proximate location theory (Nyam, 2019a; Nyam, 2019b, Nyam, 2021). The ultimate question then remains whether profiling security news convergences of *9Mobile-MMS* along relative news locations would provide any newer appreciations and insights into the understanding of properly delineated news categories.

Research Questions

This research article is guided by the following questions, thus:

1. What is the level of security news convergence of 9Mobile MMS News?
2. How is security implicated in the quantification of 9Mobile MMS news categorisation?
3. How are the delineated proximate locations implicated in 9Mobile MMS News?

Review of Relevant Literature

It is even in an era of digital mobile telecommunications that news categorisation and relative content aggregation should become more imperative. While McQuail (2010) as well as Deuze & McQuail (2020) reputably illustrated the dimensions and variants of the socio-constructivist inter-plays of the media, contemporary media convergences via digitalisation have indeed caused keener interest in niche media content delineations. In view of the emerging digital mobile telecommunications convergences in Nigeria [such as 9Mobile MMS News], Nyam (2021a) seem to lean further into understanding such niche media content delineations -especially, as relates to Nigeria. One of such news niche news categories -as examined in this research article is security/conflict and crisis. As considered herein, the foregoing interplays between conflict and crisis are considered as part of security news, therefore, implicated in the relative convergent news categories quantifications.

Critical to development and governance in Nigeria, is the interplays involving security in the country -report of which the national media ought to take seriously (Okoro, 2013).In a country of over 180 million people, from more than 250 ethnic classifications [otherwise called tribes], security in Nigeria -which is the African continent's most populous nation- is very major concern. There are indicators that imply taking the issue of convergent media coverage of security seriously. First, Nigerian is a prominent oil producing nation [which others may even prefer to call 'nation-state']. Second, the country is former British colony. This means there are international connections and colonial ties and antecedents, as well as precedents. Third, the country is roughly split into a dominant Christian southern and largely Muslim north -which implies some readily implied religious sentiments. Since 1960 -when Nigeria attained political independence from Britain, security has indeed remained a major and perplexing complex issue -bedevilled by mostly bad and corrupt government, and by extension, unpatriotic citizens (Bala and Ouédraogo, 2018). While there are improvements in term political structures which accompanied the transition to so called democratic 4th republic rule since 1999, much of such structures are even considered by many to be political grand posturing and perfunctory-hypocritical reality that has significantly affected genuine development.

The connection between security and development in any society is well establish. Just as factors affecting security are said to include poverty -mostly through corruption, poor infrastructures, environmental degradation socio-religious constructs. Igbogo (2015) who is credited with the fore going further asserts that 'security' is the considerably the state of protection from potential danger or anxiety -and that it also implies the state of peacefulness, stability, orderliness, and progress. In a broader sense, security is seen as the physiological and social equality and stability of life of any society. There is an erroneous notion of security by the level of authority and weapons control -whereas it generously includes the level social utopia, as well as economic and political stability and generally good social infrastructure and amenities. Even, lack of security is already found to be a direct repellent to foreign investments (Igbogo, 2015). Indeed, there is the corroboration that security correlates with peace, safety, and happiness (Otto and Ukpere, 2012).

In view of the value of security and the also widespread use of digital mobile technologies such mobile news applications and location-based information services (Schmitz Weiss, 2018); the

penetration of digital mobile media in Nigeria (Forenbacher, Husnjak, Cvitić, & Jovović, 2019); alongside convergent mobile telecommunications news services (Nyam, 2021a), one would expect very high coverage of security matters. Besides, such coverage of security is not just expected to be just informational, but also educational -covering several dimensions and target wide variety of audiences -including the country's leadership. By the hour, the Nigerian society is said to be even more insecure -with increased number of citizens getting into or involved with criminal activities. Insecurity activities are becoming more deadly, sophisticated, and complicated. It is no longer a matter of armed robbery -but kidnaping, rapes, vandalisms, attacks on security operatives, insurgencies, and broad-based terrorism -not just Boko Haram (Otto and Ukpere, 2012).

Though Transparency International (2020) hints of the role of military efficacy towards tacking insecurity in Nigeria, the reputed international entity still insist even the military and other defence apparatus in Nigeria needs to be far more transparent and accountable to be effectiveand efficient. This returns to the point of corruption being at the heart of insecurity in Nigeria -and indeed being the major problem. The organisation [Transparency International] mentions defence sector, which is integral to the security of the state, but insist that while there are several legislative frameworks for due process in Nigeria, political selectivity, favouritism, broad inefficiency, poor coordination, porous resources, and limited expertise have among other factors, limited, or even hinders genuine progress -all of these comes along with the perfunctory engagement with civil (Transparency International, 2020). Further linking corruption and relative effects on the state of insecurity in Nigeria,(Daniel & Kwopnan, 2018) mentions that Niger Delta, which is the major source of Nigeria's oil wealth has been neglected to wonder in unemployment, inequality, poor infrastructure and poor or non-existent social amenities and indeed poverty -thereby resulting to protest, conflict and violence. Just as Odozi &Nyam (2014); Nyam & Olubodede (2023a), as well as Nyam & Olubodede (2023b) had observed in relation Sustainable Development Goals' relative objectives, the foregoing does not leave genuine hopes about development in Nigeria.

Therefore, it is vital to also understand how the Nigerian media, amidst the emergence of the digital mobile telecommunications convergence, had profile security as a top issue worthy of niche news service and content aggregation and dissemination. Relative research by Nyam and Okpara (2021) showed that out of four national dailies converging that provided the original news that converged with the emerging mobile telecommunications news services in Nigeria, there is improving but low local health news among three of the four newspapers. The international proximate locations of health news were high than local health news -which unveiled the value of proximate locations as a way of interrogating news dynamics amidst the need for delineated content aggregation. The study eventually recommended more attention to development communication research based on news analyses along proximate news locations and health-news space allocation aided by relevant advanced computer software.

Another research showed that digital journalism is already widespread, but there is less research on issues surrounding the dependency on digital mobile technologies for prompt information (Nyam, 2021b). In the said research, findings showed that there were inconsistencies of mobile news texts deliveries, varied news text replications in relative converging hardcopies, as well as

unpredictable news text deliveries -which hampered the overall value of mobile telecommunications news services efficacy (Nyam & Sambe, 2019; Nyam & Sambe, 2020).

In terms of niche content, details of findings from Nyam & Oyewole (2019) as well as Nyam & Oyewole (2020)revealed that while religion remains among major contentions in Nigeria, it was least covered -showing that converging digital media spectrum such as 9Mobile- Multimedia Service [MMS] was less than 1% of overall converging digital mobile telecommunications news services in Nigeria. One wonders how security news needs may fare. Importantly, the Proximate Locations Theory has been used as the frame for this article towards enabling broad inference in relation to security matters in Nigeria. News media theories on the other hand open the perspective that advances in new news technologies have enabled opportunities that were hither hard to even imagined. Hence, the serious need for innovation news aggregation practices such as robust security news coverage amongst Nigeria's digital mobile telecommunications companies offering news services. As hinted by Anaeto, Onabajo and Osifeso (2008), roundly comprehensive digital tools stand to serve media realities in ways yet explored -security news therefore stands amongst the vital news dimension to vast spread through non-internet dependent mobile news in Nigeria [a country bedevilled by digital dive issues].

Method of Research

The research report is based on a secondary analysis. Secondary analysis is reputable research design which Dale (2004) corroborate to be a means of making sense of already existing data towards varied but significant fresh insights. The essence of secondary analysis is to provide different direction from the intentions of the initial research -upon that data is derived (Irwin and Winterton (2011). The major advantage of secondary analysis research is the inherent time and financial cost-effectiveness. One vital condition for using secondary data is that instruments of original data collection -as the bases of the usefulness of data, must be authenticated. The foregoing condition was duly satisfied in this instance.

The data is based on a on content by Nyam (2021). The research method [content analysis] is already well documented media-communication scholars (Wimmer and Dominic, 2011). Hardcopies of Four prominent national dailies [*Daily Sun*, *The Guardian*, *Vanguard*, *The Punch*] servicing the converging digital mobile telecommunication 9Mobile MMS News in Nigeria were randomly considered along with the relative [actual] soft news versions of 9Mobile MMS. The immediate foregoing meant that this research report covers a total of 720 editions [90 editions of *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian*, *Vanguard*; and *The Punch* = 360 edition of hardcopies; and another 90 editions of 9Mobile MMS news contents each from *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian*, *Vanguard*; and *The Punch* = another 360 editions]. Using a random sampling interval of 1:4, data from 21 editions was considered. Such sample size is reasonable enough because it falls within .05 error [±5% = 95% sampling confidence] (Rasul, 2009).

The respective test of validity score for security was 1[Sum of $d^2(\sigma d^2) = 0$; a perfect positive correlation value];validity scores for respective slants and neutral were thus: positive = 1[Sum of $d^2(\sigma d^2) = 0$; a perfect positive correlation value]; Negative = 1[Sum of $d^2(\sigma d^2) = 0$; a perfect positive correlation value]; neutral = 0.8636 [Sum of $d^2(\sigma d^2) = 22.5$; a strong positive correlation

value]. The test was done via Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient (RHO) formula. The inter-coder reliability test scores ranged from a minimum of 89.5% to 100% agreement; Scott's Pi of between 0.774 to 1; Cohen's Kappa of between 0.776 to 1; and to 100; while Krippendorff's Alpha (nominal) ranged from 0.78 to 1.The inter-coder test involved two external coders (tagged as Coder A & B); and across 19 N-Cases and 38 N-Decisions. result was obtained within the rating scale range of ≤ 5% error = 2 [Reliable]; > 5% but ≤ 10% error = 1 [Fairly Reliable];> 10% error =0 [Not Reliable]. All inter-coder reliability scores are therefore within acceptable margins (Freelon, 2013).More details on the inter-coder reliability test score are provided in the appendix -along with details of content categories and unit of analysis.

Research Data

Data reviewed indicate how the level of 9Mobile MMS is poor. The highest converging content on security news is *Daily Sun* -with a converging rate of 37.1%. The overall security news convergence level of the four prominent Nigerian national dailies is 25.7%. Such low convergence indicates the poor aggregation and dissemination of news contents via digital mobile telecommunications in Nigeria. Indeed, data also portray that security news was well reported in the hardcopies of the four national dailies. Security news was either the second highest news category -or the third highest. Meanwhile, there is low level of 9Mobile MMS convergence (cumulative of 25.7%), the equivalent reportage of security among other news categories was the highest in all the converging 9Moible MMS contents. Such data reveals how security information is considerably prominent in the scheme of digital mobile news categorisation, aggregation, and dissemination. Summary of the foregoing is shown below in table 1.

Table 1: Level and Quantification of9Mobile MMS Security News Convergence

Sub-Table 1A: Level of Security News Convergence of 9Mobile MMS			
Sources	**Hardcopies**	**9Mobile MMS**	**Convergence Level (%)**
Daily Sun	210	78	37.1
The Guardian	214	68	31.8
Vanguard	319	81	25.3
The Punch	227	22	9.7
Total	**970**	**249**	**25.7**

Table 1B: Quantification of 9Mobile MMS Security News								
Sources	**Hardcopies**					**Converging 9Mobile MMS**		
	Total	**FQ**	**%**	**PS**		**Total**	**FQ**	**%**	**PS**
Daily Sun	**1,660**	210	12.7	2nd		78	18	23.0	1st
The Guardian	**2,068**	214	10.3	3rd		68	15	22.0	1st
Vanguard	**2,318**	319	13.8	2nd		81	25	30.9	1st
The Punch	**1,731**	227	13.1	3rd		22	5	22.7	1st

*FQ = Frequency; PS = Position
Source: Secondary Analysis (2022)

Data analysis revealed that local contents dominated the entire 9Mobile MMS news contents. Just in a single instance [*The Guardian* -foreign news contents (11.8%) were more than

international ones. This means alluding to proximate locations makes sense towards better appreciation of the nature of converging coverage. Based on the proximate locations, it is impressive to note that the data indicated the prominence of security news among 9Mobile MMS local contents. Similarly, security news contents of the *Daily Sun* and *The Guardian* had the second highest coverage among international news proximate locations -though nothing [in terms of international security news] was covered by *Vanguard* and *The Punch.* However, the overall data further imply the foreign security news were not with the top three range of news categories.

Table 2: Spread and Top Three Delineations of Security News Proximate Locations

Sub-Table 2A: Spread of Proximate News Locations -9Mobile MMS-EasyNews									
News Categories	**Daily Sun**		**The Guardian**		**Vanguard**		**The Punch**		**Average (%)**
	F	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	
Local News	57	73.0	54	79.4	81	100	19	86.4	84.7
International News	16	20.6	6	8.8	0	0.0	2	9.0	9.6
Foreign News	5	6.4	8	11.8	0	0.0	1	4.6	5.7
Total	**78**	**100**	**68**	**100**	**81**	**100**	**22**	**100**	**100**

Sub-Table 2B: Proximate Locations and Relative Security News in Top Three Delineation						
MMS Converging Newspaper	**Local**		**International**		**Foreign**	
	(%)	**Position**	**(%)**	**Position**	**(%)**	**Position**
Daily Sun	28.0	1st	12.6	2nd	0	Nil
The Guardian	25.9	1st	16.6	2nd	0	Nil
Vanguard	30.8	1st	0	Nil	0	Nil
The Punch	26.3	1st	0	Nil	0	Nil

Source: Secondary Analysis (2022)

Discussion of Findings

9Mobile MMS convergence level is poor. With the highest converging content on security news at 37.1 from the *Daily Sun* and a cumulative convergence rate of security convergence level at 25.7% [from four of the six prominent national dailies randomly selected], the mobile telecommunications digital news service security news aggregation is considerably lagging when compared with what is in the hardcopies of the said national dailies. As such, as far as security news is concerned, it will be reasonable to point that there is poor aggregation and dissemination of news contents via digital mobile telecommunications in Nigeria.

Given that McQuail (2010) mentions the socio-constructivist inter-plays of the media, relative contemporary convergences via digitalisation, it may suffice to point to the underserving nature of digital mobile innovation towards conveyance of critical mass but niche information in Nigeria. Also, the views of Anaeto et al (2008), [about the value of media tools] comes to mind. The view is that news media gratifications ought to the bases for heralding new media technologies -not just the presence and sophistication of mobile digital smart phones and relative telecommunication set ups. Besides, previous research by Nyam & Sambe (2019) had already

found serious inconsistencies in the deliveries of mobile telecommunications news texts -as a paid, non-internet-based subscription-prone service.

The story of 9Mobile MMS is not entirely gloomy. This is because, unlike the general poor level of convergence of security news content, the overall outlook of security -among other news categories is good. Just as security news was well reported in the hardcopies of the four national dailies, security news was also dominant among converging 9Mobile MMS. Compared with the coverage of health news (Nyam & Okpara, 2019), security news roundly dominant across the four national dailies -being either the second highest news category -or the third highest. While the cumulation of 9Mobile MMS convergence rate stood at 25.7%, the equivalent reportage of security among other news categories dominated the entire digital mobile news convergence of 9Moible MMS contents. This finding is encouraging [though more can be done]. It shows that information on or relating to security in Nigeria is considered with utmost prominence among digital mobile telecommunication companies -or at least the companies think customers-turn-news-audiences will find value in security information that is the dominant aggregate of such digital news service.

The foregoing aligns with the views of Okoro (2013) who asserts that mobile news in the scheme of security categorisation ought to be considered very vital to the development of Nigeria -and beyond. This may be the justification for the fact the local contents -as part of proximate locations, dominated the entire 9Mobile MMS news contents. Even in relation to international news, it was found that only in a single instance [*The Guardian*9Mobile MMS contents (11.8%)] that foreign news was more than international. Alluding to proximate locations for better understanding of security in Nigeria and in any location beyond Nigeria, would make sense towards better appreciation of the nature of media attitude with a given locale and inherent converging digital mobile coverage. As digital mobile technologies continue to penetrate worldwide (Schmitz Weiss, 2018), and in Nigeria (Forenbacher et al, 2019), it may stand pivotal to allude to proximate location Theory towards understanding of digital mobile normative and converging media nuances (Nyam, 2019). It is based on such proximate locations that it is impressive to observe how the level and dimensions to the prominence of security news among 9Mobile MMS local contents.

Conclusion

It is not acceptable for digital mobile telecommunications news services in a fast-expanding digital economy to be poor. 9Mobile MMS convergence level was not appreciable enough. Even news about security converged only at a cumulative 25.7% [from four of the six prominent national dailies randomly selected]. Even as security news is concerned, the overall aggregation [when compared with the level of coverage in the hardcopies] was poor. Irrespective, the story of 9Mobile MMS is not entirely gloomy. This is because the general poor level of convergence of security news content did not take off the impressive revelation that security dominated the entire digital mobile telecommunication converging coverage. The overall outlook of security -among other news categories of the four national dailies was consistently top -or within the top three. Such findings clearly show how information on or relating to security in Nigeria is considered with utmost prominence among digital mobile telecommunications news innovations.

Given the value of stability and security to development, digital mobile converging news text services and relative information on security remain critical. More so that such news content can be best understood by clearly delineated content categorisations and relative contents' proximate locations. As digital mobile technologies continue to penetrate worldwide and in Nigeria such proximate location theoretical application stand to greatly enhance digital new dynamics and categorisation such as security.

Recommendations

9Mobile MMS convergence news services [and perhaps other such news services] need improving on the overall level of digital content convergence. The situation where hardcopies of national dailies lag so much behind the digital versions may not be motivating enough to warrant reliance on such mobile telecommunication paid media services. It is critical to appreciate the level of relative convergence of niche security news in Nigeria. Such level of attention given to security is much needed towards propagation and advocacy security information in Nigeria. Taking advantage of the entire security content spread would not just imply not improved digital convergence-prone coverage but stands to prove worthwhile with mobile telecommunication customers-turn-news-subscribers.

Better news convergence practices may even mean going to further to delineate and distribute algorithm based convergent digital news categories. Such approach would further bridge the seeming gap between digital adoption and socio-constructivist inter-plays of the media. Broadly speaking but in relation to media and communication scholarship, normative theorisation ought to be advanced beyond basic socio-constructs of national boundaries. Rather, given the ubiquitous nature of digital mobile technologies and relative spread, the Proximate Locations Theory -as advocated herein should be adopted. This is because [once more], proximate locations [the breakdown and content profiling of 9Mobile MMS digital mobile news contents into 'local', 'international' and 'foreign' contents, has shown the nature of Nigerian telecommunications media services inclination to security.

Acknowledgements

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