

CAN EUROPE BE OPEN?

Graham Taylor,
Chief Executive, OpenForum Europe

Openforum europe

open, competitive choice for IT users

What is Openness?

It's all about freedom but it isn't necessarily free



Principles

Freedom to Innovate

Freedom to Integrate

Freedom to Participate

Freedom to Leave



Tools

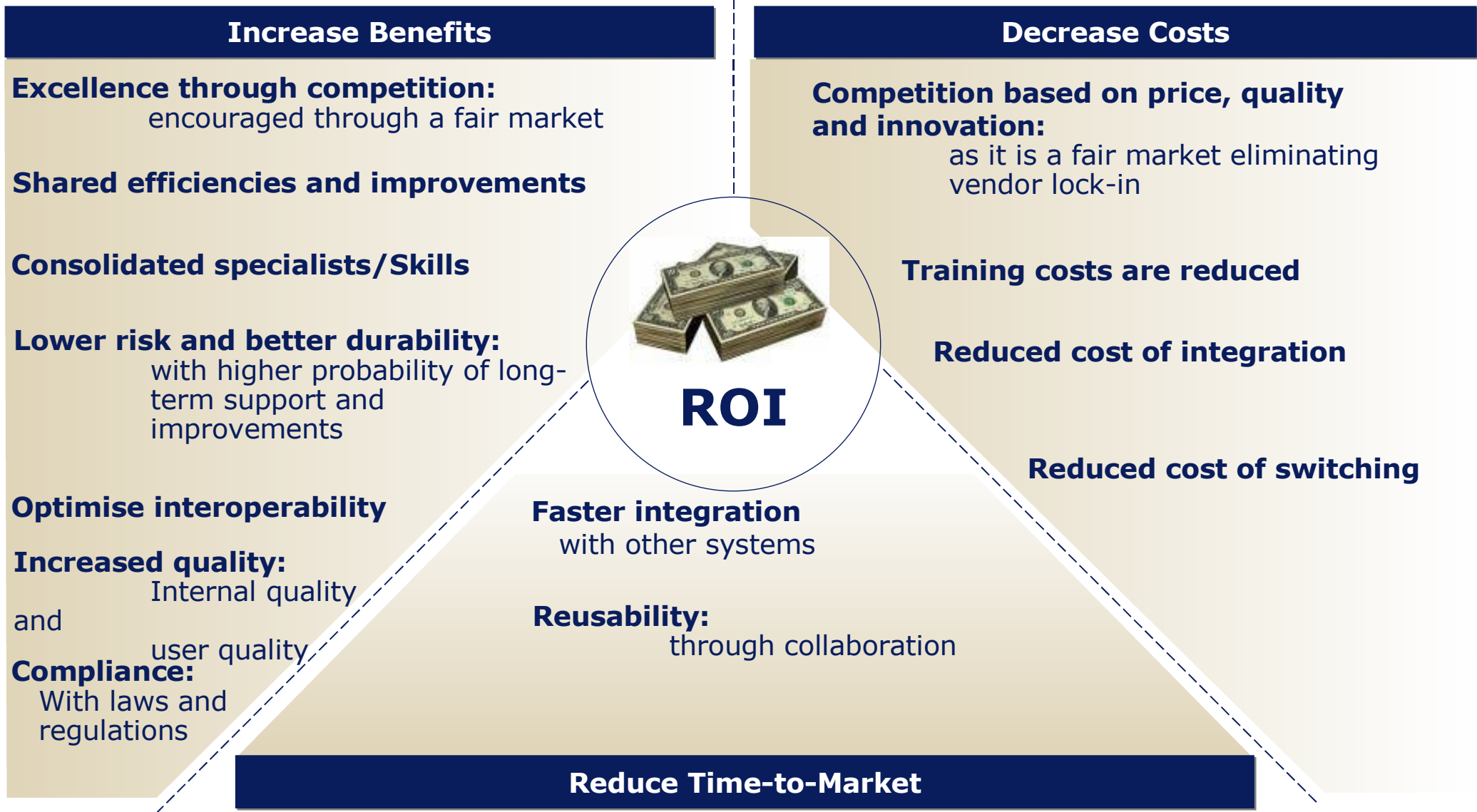
Open Source

Open Standards

Collaboration

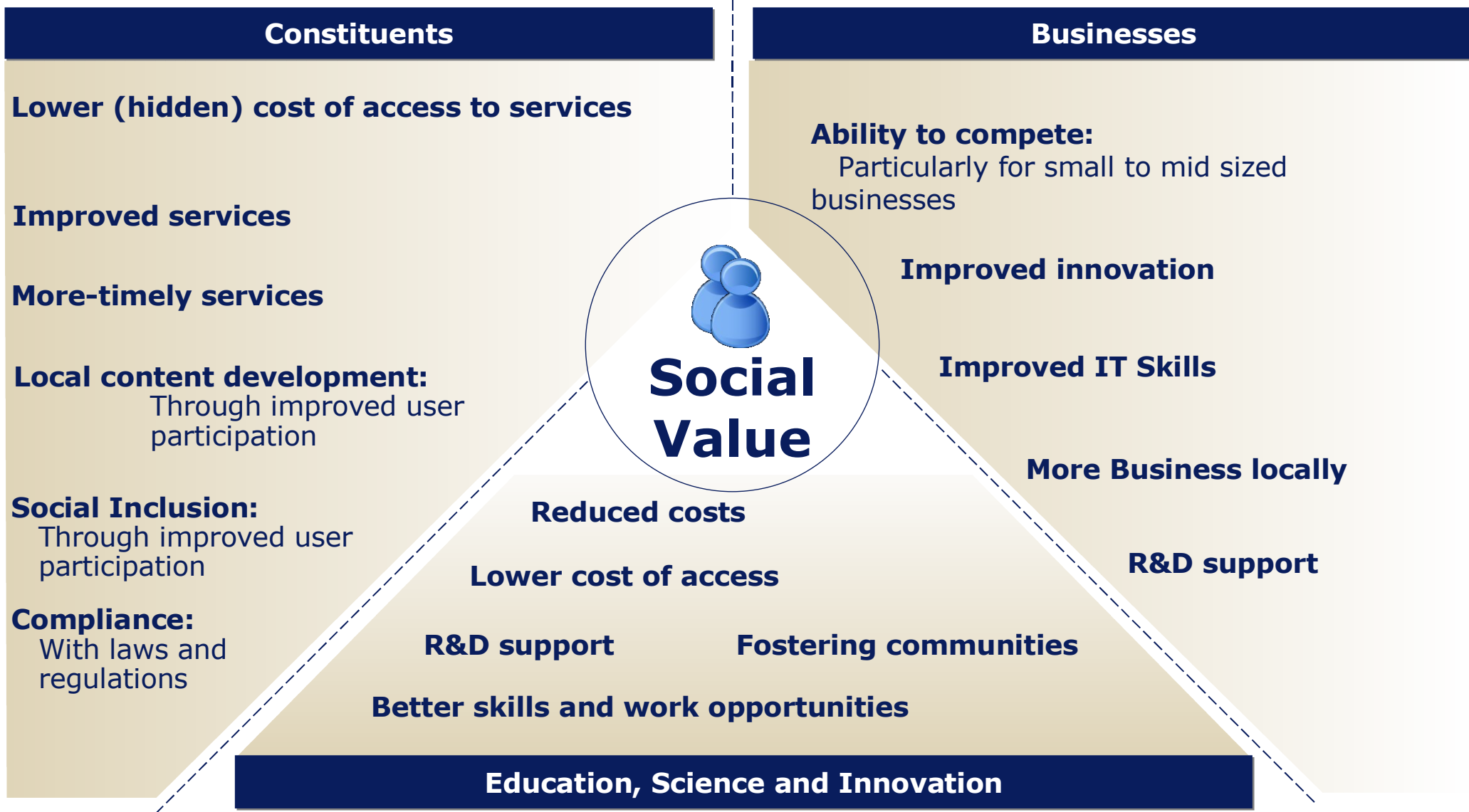
Why do I want Openness?

Economical benefits



Why do I want Openness?

Social benefits



Open Parliament

Have your say - Open democracy in action

Open Parliament



Join **5514** Europeans in signing our petition.

EU Petition Synopsis

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Conference at
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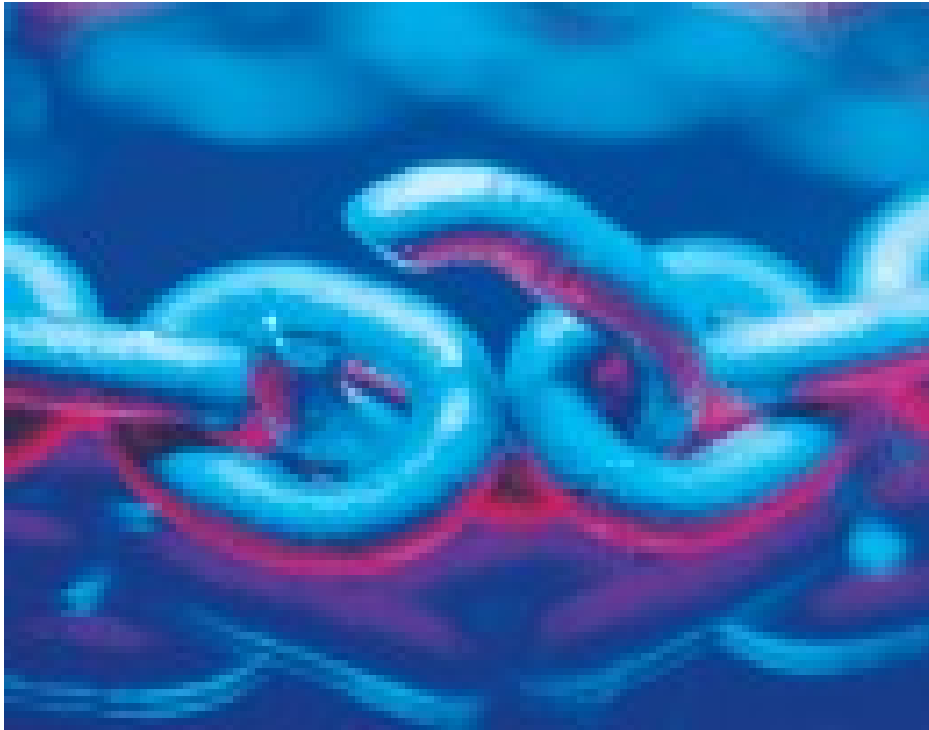
Sarah Fautré, Belgium

thomas Giry, France

recently joined...



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What is Openness

Openness?

- Open, Competitive Choice
- Avoidance of Lock-In

Open Source/Free Software

- Definition of a Licence
- A Development methodology
- A Business Model
- A Culture
- Value back in hands of the customer

Open Standards

- Definition?
- Enabler of true interoperability

Open Source – the Market Opportunity

- Some 50% of organisations already are using OSS in some way
- Firms have already invested €1.2 billion in developing FLOSS software.
- Existing base of quality applications would have cost €12 billion to reproduce internally
- Could reach 35% market share of all IT services by 2010.....and 5% of European GDP
- Potentially saves industry over 36% in software R+D
- Specifically suited to European SME based IT industry

“The Impact of Free/Libre/Open Source Software on Innovation and Competitiveness of the European Union – UN University MERIT on behalf of the European Commission”

Defining an Open Standard

- “The **standard is adopted** and will be maintained by a **not-for-profit** organization, and its ongoing development occurs on the basis of an **open decision-making** procedure available to all parties (consensus or majority decision etc)”
- “The standard has been **published** and the standard specification document is **available either freely or at a nominal charge**. It must be permissible to all to copy, distribute and use it for no fee or at a nominal fee”
- “The **intellectual property** – ie patents possibly present – of (parts) of the standard is made irrevocably available on a **royalty-free basis**”
- “There are **no constraints on the re-use** of that standard”

European Interoperability Framework – IDABC EC (Version 1)

Background/Market Influencers - Internet

*“It was the standardisation around HTML that allowed the web to take off. It was not only the fact that it is **standard, but the fact that it is open and royalty-free.** If HTML had not been free, if it had been proprietary technology, then there would have been the business of actually selling HTML and the competing JTML, LTML, MTML products. Because we would not have had the open platform, we would have had competition for these various different browser platforms but we **would not have had the web.** We would not have had everything growing on top of it. So I think it very important that as we move on to new spaces [...] we must keep the same openness we had before. We must keep an open internet platform, keep the standards for the presentation languages common and royalty-free. So that means, yes, we need standards, because the money, the excitement is not competing over the technology at that level. **The excitement is in the businesses and the applications that you built on top of the web platform”***

Tim Berners-Lee

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Document Exchange Formats

- So whats the fuss all about?
- Open Document Format (ODF) – already an ISO standard
- Office Open XML (OOXML) – a Microsoft driven, Ecma sponsored, fast track proposal to ISO
- More competition or less?
- Innovation or suppression?
- Cost?
- Complexity?

Document Exchange Formats - the OFE View

- The market needs another standard like a 'hole in the head' or as the EC put it '....with concern'
- Duplication of standards in the area of interoperability,
 - Add to user costs and complexity
 - They stifle innovation, not encourage it
 - Unless it can be proven that they are necessary because of the provision of required new functionality, which can't be delivered otherwise?

OFE Conclusions

- The ISO standardisation process is broken and adds zero value to the consumer and to industry.
- ECMA should now have their unjustified preferential status withdrawn.
- The EC are right to announce an investigation
- OOXML does not yet exist in any product.
- If Governments are to avoid continued lock-in they must resist implementation of any software which is not fully supportive of viable, proven, existing standards.
- Monopolies will only continue if Governments allow them to.
- Europe needs to rethink its requirements.

OFE Conclusions - Justify!

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ECMA, ISO and OOXML

- Was the fast track misused by ECMA to protect an individual members proprietary interests?
- Was it correct to use fast track for an immature, poor quality, ill defined specification riddled by complexity, unanswered questions – technical and non technical, with no obvious benefit to the market -and which competed with an existing standard?
- What value can ISO show in its process to justify its international status?
- How did ISO police and manage its processes and its members?
- Why does ECMA hold a unique position within ISO compared to any other consortia?
- How could the BRM reach any conclusion when only 20% of the (technical only) contradictions were even discussed?
- How could NBs vote when the revised specification had not been published?
- How can a fast track ('mature') specification have outstanding issues moved into 'maintenance' before it is even published?

The Role of ISO JTC1

"Resolution 27 - Consistency of JTC 1 Products (2000 JTC1 Plenary)

JTC 1 stresses the strong need for consistency of its products (ISs and TRs) irrespective of the route through which they were developed. Any inconsistency will confuse users of JTC 1 standards and, hence, jeopardize JTC 1's reputation. Therefore, referring to clauses 13.2 (Fast Track) and 18.4.3.2 (PAS) of its Directives, JTC 1 reminds ITTF of its obligation to ascertain that a proposed DIS contains no evident contradiction with other ISO/IEC standards. JTC 1 offers any help to ITTF in such undertaking. However, should an inconsistency be detected at any point in the ratification process, JTC 1 together with ITTF will take immediate action to cure the problem."

Further JTC1 Directives call for contradictions to be resolved before the ballot starts

The Brinkburn Analysis™ Examines Ecma International

- *“....Ecma has so publicly undermined every procedure that formal standards rest on?”*
- *“Ecma is the inventor and main practitioner of the concept of “fast tracking”.....less than 5% of their submissions failing”*
- *“Ecma's limited membership....is so small that there is virtually no representation for many points of view....”*
- *“Where Ecma really falls short as a consortium is in its relations with others; they have no outreach and no liasons with other consortia, but strong ties with formal, national bodies.”*
- *Ecma's IPR policy is mandatory RAND, with Royalty Free being accepted, but not mandated”*
-

The Brinkburn Analysis™ Examines Ecma International

- *“It is a breach, almost, of common sense. Ecma, through its members, has created, with the exploitation of a loophole, a precedent that may well enable the breakdown of the formal standards process. Despite having little evident regard for the European Commission, other consortia, users, or pretty much anyone, they are allowed to push through a major standard that could change standardisation forever”*
- *“When Microsoft went calling with a request that was a calculated attempt to again exploit this loophole in the world of formats, Ecma were in no position to refuse”*

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An Open Europe - Actions?

- EC Standardisation Review
 - Effectively supports the status quo. Why?
 - Support for RAND will disadvantage use of Open Source. Why support it?
 - Ignores use of term 'Open' standard, the dependence on ISO/WTO is fundamentally flawed.
- European Interoperability Framework Version 2
 - Version 1 inconsistent with above.
 - Degrees of 'openness' being considered
 - Basic definition unchanged?
 - Potential to legitimise lock-in?

An Open Europe - Actions.....continued

- An Open Parliament/ An Open EC
 - EC has announced an expansion of its Open Source policy, but not of Open Standards
 - European Parliament?
 - Use of Open Standards NOW is fundamental
 - Stop buying software which maintains lock in NOW
 - Abuse of monopoly will only cease when Governments stop buying, not just by fining...
- A level playing field that respects choice and competition, encourages local innovation, and benefits the citizen.

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