# **CFLocale Reference**

**Core Foundation** 



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# **CFLocale Reference**

Derived From:	СҒТуре
Framework:	CoreFoundation/CoreFoundation.h
Declared in	CFLocale.h
Companion guides	Locales Programming Guide Internationalization Programming Topics

## **Overview**

Unicode operations such as collation and text boundary determination can be affected by the conventions of a particular language or region. CFLocale objects specify language-specific or region-specific information for locale-sensitive operations.

The CFLocale opaque type provides support for obtaining available locales, obtaining localized locale names, and converting among locale data formats. Locale identifiers in Mac OS X follow the IETF's BCP 47. CFLocale never uses Script Manager codes (except for the legacy support provided by CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromScriptManagerCodes (page 11))—the Script Manager and all its concepts are deprecated.

For more information on locale identifiers and the use of CFLocale, see *Locales Programming Guide*. It is also useful to read the ICU's User Guide for the Locale Class.

CFLocale is "toll-free bridged" with its Cocoa Foundation counterpart, NSLocale. This means that the Core Foundation type is interchangeable in function or method calls with the bridged Foundation object. Therefore, in a method where you see an NSLocale \* parameter, you can pass in a CFLocaleRef, and in a function where you see a CFLocaleRef parameter, you can pass in an NSLocale instance. See Interchangeable Data Types for more information on toll-free bridging.

## Functions by Task

## **Creating a Locale**

CFLocaleCopyCurrent (page 8) Returns a copy of the logical locale for the current user.

### CFLocaleCreate (page 10)

Creates a locale for the given arbitrary locale identifier.

CFLocaleCreateCopy (page 13) Returns a copy of a locale. CFLocaleGetSystem (page 15) Returns the root, canonical locale.

## **Getting System Locale Information**

CFLocaleCopyAvailableLocaleIdentifiers (page 7) Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all locales for which locale data is available.

## **Getting ISO Information**

CFLocaleCopyISOCountryCodes (page 9) Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO country codes. CFLocaleCopyISOLanguageCodes (page 10) Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO language codes. CFLocaleCopyISOCurrencyCodes (page 9) Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO currency codes. CFLocaleCopyCommonISOCurrencyCodes (page 7) Returns an array of strings that represents ISO currency codes for currencies in common use.

## Language Preferences

CFLocaleCopyPreferredLanguages (page 10) Returns the array of canonicalized locale IDs that the user prefers.

## **Getting Information About a Locale**

- CFLocaleCopyDisplayNameForPropertyValue (page 8) Returns the display name for the given value.
- CFLocaleGetValue (page 15) Returns the corresponding value for the given key of a locale's key-value pair.

CFLocaleGetIdentifier (page 14) Returns the given locale's identifier.

## **Getting and Creating Locale Identifiers**

CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromScriptManagerCodes (page 11) Returns a canonical locale identifier from given language and region codes.

### CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLanguageIdentifierFromString (page 11)

Returns a canonical language identifier by mapping an arbitrary locale identification string to the canonical identifier

CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromString (page 12)

Returns a canonical locale identifier by mapping an arbitrary locale identification string to the canonical identifier.

CFLocaleCreateComponentsFromLocaleIdentifier (page 13)

Returns a dictionary containing the result from parsing a locale ID consisting of language, script, country, variant, and keyword/value pairs.

CFLocaleCreateLocaleIdentifierFromComponents (page 14)

Returns a locale identifier consisting of language, script, country, variant, and keyword/value pairs derived from a dictionary containing the source information.

## Getting the CFLocale Type ID

```
CFLocaleGetTypeID (page 15)
```

Returns the type identifier for the CFLocale opaque type.

## **Functions**

### CFLocaleCopyAvailableLocaleIdentifiers

Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all locales for which locale data is available.

```
CFArrayRef CFLocaleCopyAvailableLocaleIdentifiers (
    void
):
```

#### **Return Value**

An array of CFString objects that represents all locales for which locale data is available. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCopyCommonISOCurrencyCodes

Returns an array of strings that represents ISO currency codes for currencies in common use.

```
CFArrayRef CFLocaleCopyCommonISOCurrencyCodes (
    void
):
```

#### **Return Value**

An array of CFString objects that represents ISO currency codes for currencies in common use. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

Availability Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later. Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCopyCurrent

Returns a copy of the logical locale for the current user.

```
CFLocaleRef CFLocaleCopyCurrent (
    void
);
```

#### **Return Value**

The logical locale for the current user that is formed from the settings for the current user's chosen system locale overlaid with any custom settings the user has specified in System Preferences. May return a retained cached object, not a new object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

Settings you get from this locale do not change as a user's preferences are changed so that your operations are consistent. Typically you perform some operations on the returned object and then release it. Since the returned object may be cached, you do not need to hold on to it indefinitely.

Note that locale settings are independent of the user's language setting. The language of the current locale may not correspond to the language at the first index in the AppleLanguages array from user defaults. For more details, see Locale Concepts in *Locales Programming Guide*; see also CFLocaleCopyPreferredLanguages (page 10).

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

### **Related Sample Code**

CFFTPSample CFPrefTopScores

Declared In

CFLocale.h

### **CFLocaleCopyDisplayNameForPropertyValue**

Returns the display name for the given value.

```
CFStringRef CFLocaleCopyDisplayNameForPropertyValue (
CFLocaleRef displayLocale,
CFStringRef key,
CFStringRef value
);
```

)

### Parameters

displayLocale

A locale object.

key

A string that identifies the type that *value* is. It must be one of the standard locale property keys (see "Locale Property Keys" (page 16)).

value

The value for which the display name is required.

#### **Return Value**

The display name for *value*. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

Note that not all locale property keys have values with display name values.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

### Declared In

CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCopyISOCountryCodes

Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO country codes.

```
CFArrayRef CFLocaleCopyISOCountryCodes (
    void
):
```

#### **Return Value**

An array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO country codes. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

Note: many of these will not have any supporting locale data in Mac OS X.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

#### **Declared In**

CFLocale.h

### **CFLocaleCopyISOCurrencyCodes**

Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO currency codes.

```
CFArrayRef CFLocaleCopyIS0CurrencyCodes (
    void
):
```

#### **Return Value**

An array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO currency codes.Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

Note: many of these will not have any supporting locale data in Mac OS X.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCopyISOLanguageCodes

Returns an array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO language codes.

```
CFArrayRef CFLocaleCopyISOLanguageCodes (
    void
);
```

#### **Return Value**

An array of CFString objects that represents all known legal ISO language codes. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

Note: many of these will not have any supporting locale data in Mac OS X.

#### **Availability** Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCopyPreferredLanguages

Returns the array of canonicalized locale IDs that the user prefers.

```
CFArrayRef CFLocaleCopyPreferredLanguages (
    void
);
```

#### **Return Value**

The array of canonicalized CFString locale IDs that the current user prefers. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

**Availability** Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

## Declared In

CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCreate

Creates a locale for the given arbitrary locale identifier.

```
CFLocaleRef CFLocaleCreate (
CFAllocatorRef allocator,
CFStringRef localeIdentifier
);
```

#### Parameters

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

```
localeIdentifier
```

A string representation of an arbitrary locale identifier.

#### **Return Value**

A new locale that corresponds to the arbitrary locale identifier *localeIdentifier*. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

#### **Declared In**

CFLocale.h

### **CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLanguageIdentifierFromString**

Returns a canonical language identifier by mapping an arbitrary locale identification string to the canonical identifier

```
CFStringRef CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLanguageIdentifierFromString (
    CFAllocatorRef allocator,
    CFStringRef localeIdentifier
);
```

#### Parameters

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

localeIdentifier

A string representation of an arbitrary locale identifier.

#### **Return Value**

A string that represents the canonical language identifier for the specified arbitrary locale identifier. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

**Declared In** 

CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromScriptManagerCodes

Returns a canonical locale identifier from given language and region codes.

```
CFStringRef CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromScriptManagerCodes (
CFAllocatorRef allocator,
LangCode lcode,
RegionCode rcode
);
```

#### Parameters

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

lcode

A Mac OS X language code.

rcode

A Mac OS X region code.

#### Return Value

A canonical locale identifier created by mapping *1 code* and *r code* to a locale. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

#### **Declared** In

CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromString

Returns a canonical locale identifier by mapping an arbitrary locale identification string to the canonical identifier.

```
CFStringRef CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromString (
    CFAllocatorRef allocator,
    CFStringRef localeIdentifier
);
```

#### Parameters

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

localeIdentifier

A string representation of an arbitrary locale identifier (for example, "English").

#### **Return Value**

A canonical locale identifier created by mapping the arbitrary locale identification string to the canonical identifier for the corresponding locale (for example, "en"). Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

#### **Declared In**

CFLocale.h

### **CFLocaleCreateComponentsFromLocaleIdentifier**

Returns a dictionary containing the result from parsing a locale ID consisting of language, script, country, variant, and keyword/value pairs.

```
CFDictionaryRef CFLocaleCreateComponentsFromLocaleIdentifier (
    CFAllocatorRef allocator,
    CFStringRef localeID
);
```

```
Parameters
```

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

localeID

The locale ID to be used when creating the locale dictionary.

#### **Return Value**

A dictionary containing the result from parsing a locale ID consisting of language, script, country, variant, and keyword/value pairs. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

The dictionary keys are the constant CFString objects that correspond to the locale ID components; the values correspond to constants where available. For example: the string "en\_US@calendar=japanese" yields a dictionary with three entries: kCFLocaleLanguageCode=en, kCFLocaleCountryCode=US, and kCFLocaleCalendarIdentifier=kCFJapaneseCalendar. See also CFLocaleCreateLocaleIdentifierFromComponents (page 14).

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

#### **Declared In**

CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleCreateCopy

#### Returns a copy of a locale.

```
CFLocaleRef CFLocaleCreateCopy (
CFAllocatorRef allocator,
CFLocaleRef locale
):
```

### Parameters

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

locale

The locale object to copy.

#### **Return Value**

A new locale that is a copy of *locale*. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the object. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

CFLocale.h

### **CFLocaleCreateLocaleIdentifierFromComponents**

Returns a locale identifier consisting of language, script, country, variant, and keyword/value pairs derived from a dictionary containing the source information.

```
CFStringRef CFLocaleCreateLocaleIdentifierFromComponents (
    CFAllocatorRef allocator,
    CFDictionaryRef dictionary
);
```

#### Parameters

allocator

The allocator to use to allocate memory for the new object. Pass NULL or kCFAllocatorDefault to use the current default allocator.

dictionary

The dictionary to use when creating the locale identifier.

#### **Return Value**

A locale identifier consisting of language, script, country, variant, and keyword/value pairs derived from *dictionary*. Returns NULL if there was a problem creating the string. Ownership follows the Create Rule.

#### Discussion

Reverses the actions of CFLocaleCreateComponentsFromLocaleIdentifier (page 13), creating a single string from the data in the specified dictionary. For example, the dictionary {kCFLocaleLanguageCode=en, kCFLocaleCountryCode=US, kCFLocaleCalendarIdentifier=kCFJapaneseCalendar} becomes "en\_US@calendar=japanese".

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared In

CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleGetIdentifier

Returns the given locale's identifier.

```
CFStringRef CFLocaleGetIdentifier (
    CFLocaleRef locale
):
```

#### Parameters

locale

The locale object to examine.

#### **Return Value**

A string representation of *locale*'s identifier. This may not be the same string that was used to create the locale—it may be canonicalized. Ownership follows the Get Rule.

**CFLocale Reference** 

**Availability** Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleGetSystem

Returns the root, canonical locale.

```
CFLocaleRef CFLocaleGetSystem (
    void
);
```

Return Value

The root, canonical locale. Ownership follows the Get Rule.

#### Discussion

The root locale contains fixed backstop settings for all locale information.

### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

**Related Sample Code** LSMSmartCategorizer

Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleGetTypeID

Returns the type identifier for the CFLocale opaque type.

```
CFTypeID CFLocaleGetTypeID (
    void
);
```

**Return Value** The type identifier for the CFLocale opaque type.

**Availability** Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In CFLocale.h

### CFLocaleGetValue

Returns the corresponding value for the given key of a locale's key-value pair.

```
CFTypeRef CFLocaleGetValue (
    CFLocaleRef locale,
    CFStringRef key
);
```

#### Parameters

locale

The locale object to examine.

key

The key for which to obtain the corresponding value. Possible values are described in "Locale Property Keys" (page 16).

### **Return Value**

The value corresponding to the given key in locale. The value may be any type of CFType object. Ownership follows the Get Rule.

#### Discussion

Locale objects use key-value pairs to store property values. Use this function to get the value of a specific property.

**Availability** Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In CFLocale.h

## Data Types

### CFLocaleRef

A reference to a CFLocale object.

typedef const struct \_\_CFLocale \*CFLocaleRef;

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.3 and later.

## Declared In

CFLocale.h

## Constants

### **Locale Property Keys**

Predefined locale keys used to get property values.

```
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleMeasurementSystem;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleDecimalSeparator;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleGroupingSeparator;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleCurrencySymbol;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleCurrencyCode;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleIdentifier;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleLanguageCode;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleScriptCode;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleScriptCode;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleVariantCode;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleExemplarCharacterSet;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleCalendarIdentifier;
const CFStringRef kCFLocaleCalendarIdentifier;
```

### const CFStringRef kCFLocaleCollationIdentifier; const CFStringRef kCFLocaleUsesMetricSystem;

#### Constants

kCFLocaleMeasurementSystem

Specifies the measurement system used.

The corresponding value is a CFString, for example "Metric" or "U.S.".

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

kCFLocaleDecimalSeparator

Specifies the decimal point string.

The corresponding value is a CFString, for example "." or ",".

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleGroupingSeparator

Specifies the separator string between groups of digits.

The corresponding value is a CFString, for example "," or ".".

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleCurrencySymbol

Specifies the currency symbol.

The corresponding value is a CFString, for example "\$" or "£".

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleCurrencyCode

Specifies the locale currency code.

The corresponding value is a CFString, for example "USD" or "GBP".

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleIdentifier

Specifies locale identifier.

The corresponding value is a CFString containing the POSIX locale identifier as used by ICU, such as "ja\_JP". If you have a variant locale or a different currency or calendar, it can be as complex as "en\_US\_POSIX@calendar=japanese; currency=EUR" or "az\_Cyrl\_AZ@calendar=buddhist; currency=JPY".

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleLanguageCode

Specifies the locale language code.

The corresponding value is a CFString containing an ISO 639-x/IETF BCP 47 language identifier, such as "ja".

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleCountryCode

Specifies the locale country code.

The corresponding value is a CFString containing an ISO county code, such as "JP".

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleScriptCode

Specifies the locale script code.

The corresponding value is a CFString containing a Unicode script tag (strictly, an ISO 15924 script tag). Usually this is empty (it is for "ja\_JP"). It may be present for locales where a script *must* be specified, for example "uz-Latn-UZ" vs. "uz-Cyrl-UZ" for Uzbek in Latin vs. Cyrillic (in the first case the script code is "Latn", and in the second it is "Cyrl").

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

### kCFLocaleVariantCode

Specifies the locale variant code.

The corresponding value is a CFString containing the variant name. The variant code is arbitrary and application-specific. ICU adds "\_EUR0" to its locale designations for locales that support the Euro currency. For "en\_US\_POSIX" the variant is "POSIX", and for "hy\_AM\_REVISED" it is "REVISED".

#### Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

kCFLocaleExemplarCharacterSet

Specifies the locale character set.

#### Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleCalendarIdentifier

Specifies the locale calendar identifier.

The corresponding value is a CFString containing the calendar identifier (for possible values, see "Locale Calendar Identifiers" (page 19)).

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleCalendar

Specifies the locale calendar.

The corresponding value is a CFCalendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

### kCFLocaleCollationIdentifier

Specifies the locale collation identifier.

The corresponding value is a collation.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### kCFLocaleUsesMetricSystem

Specifies the whether the locale uses the metric system.

The corresponding value is a CFBoolean.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### Discussion

Locale objects use key-value pairs to store property values. Use the CFLocaleGetValue (page 15) function to get the value of a specific property listed above.

### Locale Calendar Identifiers

Predefined locale keys used to get calendar values—values for kCFLocaleCalendarIdentifier.

```
const CFStringRef kCFGregorianCalendar;
const CFStringRef kCFBuddhistCalendar;
const CFStringRef kCFChineseCalendar;
const CFStringRef kCFHebrewCalendar;
const CFStringRef kCFIslamicCalendar;
const CFStringRef kCFIslamicCivilCalendar;
const CFStringRef kCFJapaneseCalendar;
```

#### Constants

kCFGregorianCalendar

Specifies the Gregorian calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

kCFBuddhistCalendar

Specifies the Buddhist calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

kCFChineseCalendar

Specifies the Chinese calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

kCFHebrewCalendar

Specifies the Hebrew calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

### kCFIslamicCalendar

Specifies the Islamic calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

kCFIslamicCivilCalendar

Specifies the Islamic Civil calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

### kCFJapaneseCalendar

Specifies the Japanese calendar.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

#### Discussion

Locale objects use key-value pairs to store property values. Use the CFLocaleGetValue (page 15) function to get the value of a specific property listed above.

### Locale Change Notification

Identifier for notification sent if the current locale changes.

const CFStringRef kCFLocaleCurrentLocaleDidChangeNotification

#### Constants

kCFLocaleCurrentLocaleDidChangeNotification

Identifier for the notification sent if the current locale changes.

This is a local notification posted when the user changes locale information in the System Preferences panel. Keep in mind that there is no order in how notifications are delivered to observers; frameworks or other parts of your code may also be observing this notification to take their own actions, and these may not have occurred at the time you receive the notification.

There is no object or user info for this notification.

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared in CFLocale.h.

Declared In

CFLocale.h

# **Document Revision History**

This table describes the changes to CFLocale Reference.

Date	Notes
2007-05-23	Corrected minor typographical errors.
2007-03-06	Clarified values for locale properties.
2006-12-05	Clarified the relationship of CFLocaleCopyCurrent to the user defaults AppleLanguages array.
2006-03-08	Added the definition of the CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifier- FromScriptManagerCodes function.
2006-01-10	Corrected a typographical error.
2005-12-06	Made corrections in Companion Documents list.
2005-11-09	Added kCFGregorianCalendar constant. Added availability information to constant definitions.
2005-08-11	Corrected function declaration for CFLocaleCopyDisplayNameForPropertyValue.
2005-04-29	Updated to include new API for Mac OS X version 10.4.
2004-05-27	Fixed minor typographical error in and added example to CFLocaleCreateCanonicalLocaleIdentifierFromString (page 12); augmented description of CFLocaleCopyCurrent (page 8).
2003-10-24	Included links to conceptual reference.
2003-07-01	First version of this document.

#### **REVISION HISTORY**

Document Revision History

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