Episode 391

For the Week of May 25th, 2025

Context Matters

DreamHack Dallas Post-Show

Timestamps

- 0:00:00 Intro
- 0:03:15 Competitive Halo News
- 0:29:57 Rostermania
- 0:32:50 Upcoming Tournaments of the Week
- 0:34:00 Topic DreamHack Dallas Post-Show
- 2:44:35 Halo News
- 2:46:22 CoD and Other Games Watch
- 3:01:08 Will's Adventures
- 3:02:02 Shoutouts/Community Creations/Ending

On This Episode...

• IT'S OUR DREAMHACK DALLAS POST-SHOW!

News (Competitive)

• ForgeHub \$20,000 Halo Infinite S&D Forge Contest Results - by many



- From <u>Total Legend</u> Out at top 25 in the Forgehub SND contest. Not sure how the judging is done when at least 2 judges haven't even opened the maps. Good luck to those still remaining, some great maps in there but the transparency in the process has been shocking. Only 1 of the 4 Forgehub judges actually played the maps. The judging was almost solely done by Halo Studios. This is not how it was communicated, it was to be a joint process.
 - From <u>ArturBloodshot</u> All 9 judges have been actively participating in playtesting the entire catalog of entries. Since unreleased material is being involved for this contest, information about playtests is not available to the public and shouldn't undermine the outcome.
 - From <u>Total Legend</u> All 46 maps got a minimum of 2 games each for every judge? See it from my side Artur whereby you put 200+ hours in a map only to have it knocked out with no public or streamed playtests and no feedback. Your match history shows walking the map but no 4v4 games played. My map wasn't in that list or walked alongside those judges as well. Only a selection of the top 25 was. It's frustrating that it has to be like this instead of Comms detailing why and how maps were eliminated. Maybe that will come after but it's left a sour taste.
- Hot Girl Summer 4v4 Tournament Announced by Sin x Hydra Gaming
 - Ladies Only
 - 4v4 Randomized Draft
 - June 7th, 2025 at 1PM EST
 - o \$500+ Prize Pool
 - o Giveaways and More
- Introducing... Mythic League by Mythic Gaming
 - We're thrilled to announce the launch of our very own Mythic League, a project pawkeye has been passionately developing over the past month!

- Get ready for 12 weeks of intense competition! 12 teams will battle it out for a significant cash prize pool, with 50% going to 1st place, 25% to 2nd, and 3rd place earning free entry into the next season. The remaining 25% will fuel future events, giveaways, and talent development.
- Sign-ups are \$40 USD per team. Each team can have 4 players and 3 subs. Matches will be held every Monday at 9:30 PM EST. We'll be casting one match weekly, plus the semi-finals and grand finals!
- For Season 1, only the Hero Division (Diamond 3 to Onyx 1600) is available as we fine-tune the experience. Our goal is to eventually expand to four divisions:

■ Mythic: 1600+ or Open

■ Hero: Diamond 3 to Onyx 1600

■ Champion: Platinum 3 to Diamond 3

■ Elite: Bronze 1 to Platinum 3

- We aim to create competitive divisions for all skill levels!
- Season 1 kicks off on June 16th!
- o Sign Up Here
- Join our Discord: (Choose the 'player' role!)
- Halo Data Hive Update by Halo Data Hive
 - The Halo Data Hive series summary page just got an upgrade!
 - o The "Map Rotations" panel now includes head-to-head stats.
 - Click a row to expand and view breakdowns by scrim, LAN, and online tournaments.
- So, Where's the FaZe Event Dates?! by many
 - Ash Last year, the FaZe Major details came out exactly 117 days after the 2024 HCS roadmap was released. Today is a holiday in the US. It has been 116 days since the roadmap was announced. Will we get the Faze details tomorrow?
 - <u>Tashi</u> No, but we are close. Sorry it's taken so long again. New unforeseen circumstances. Event will be great, just taking long to finalize scope, budget, operating partners, venue, etc. Nearly at the finish line.
- LVT Pro League In Collaboration with Shopify Rebellion by LVT
 - o 8 Teams
 - o 3 Splits
 - \$50,000 LAN Finale
 - More Halo competitions are coming as LVT Halo is proud to announce a partnership with Shopify Rebellion to establish a pro league for Halo. LVT Halo has created a new Halo pro league with the help of Shopify Rebellion where North American teams will duke it out both online and on LAN at Shopify Rebellion's headquarters for a chance at a \$50,000 prize pool. With a new league coming into the mix here's what fans should know before the league starts.
 - The league will feature eight North American teams who have to earn their way into a league spot. There are multiple ways the teams can qualify with one being placing top four at DreamHack to secure a spot in the league. The other ways are the next two teams get in based on HCS points post-DreamHack and, lastly, an online qualifier tournament with the top two teams getting the last spots in the league. The format of the league is also a little different from the HCS format.
 - The league will have three monthly splits that follow a round robin format played on weekdays, meaning that every team plays every team once per split. To add to this every match in the split is a best-of-seven series. With three splits and

- eight teams in the league, every team will play 21 games before heading to the LAN finale at Shopify Rebellion headquarters on September 11 through 14.
- Teams will also have to follow certain rules to keep their slots in the league. For starters, all teams will still have the traditional four player starting roster, but they can have two substitutes. Said substitutes can only represent one league team at a time though. Another rule is that teams cannot make roster changes during the splits and have to wait until after the split is over, meaning less roster shifts. Another key rule is that to keep their spot in the league teams must retain two players from their initial roster meaning roster moves have a lot more thought needed behind them.
- The league is slated to start on June 4, but it is subject to change. LVT's mission to create an entertaining experience in Halo continues with the Halo Pro League. This endeavor would not be possible without the support and partnership of Shopify Rebellion. Follow LVTHalo and check out lvthalo.com for more information and updates on the new Halo Pro League and anything LVT Halo.
 - Official Rulebook

Roster Mania!

- Sylvanic Steps Away by Sylvanic
 - Not how I wanted my last event to turn out. Unfortunately I will be stepping away from competing due to some exciting job opportunities and won't be available to play on weekends.
 - o Halos been my life for the last 10 years, so I'm definitely going to miss it.
- Native Gaming
 - o Parts ways with aPG.
- OpTic Gaming
 - Signs aPG as a content creator.
- FaZe
 - Signs Royal1 as Coach.

Upcoming Tournaments of the Week - Presented By NoobCombo

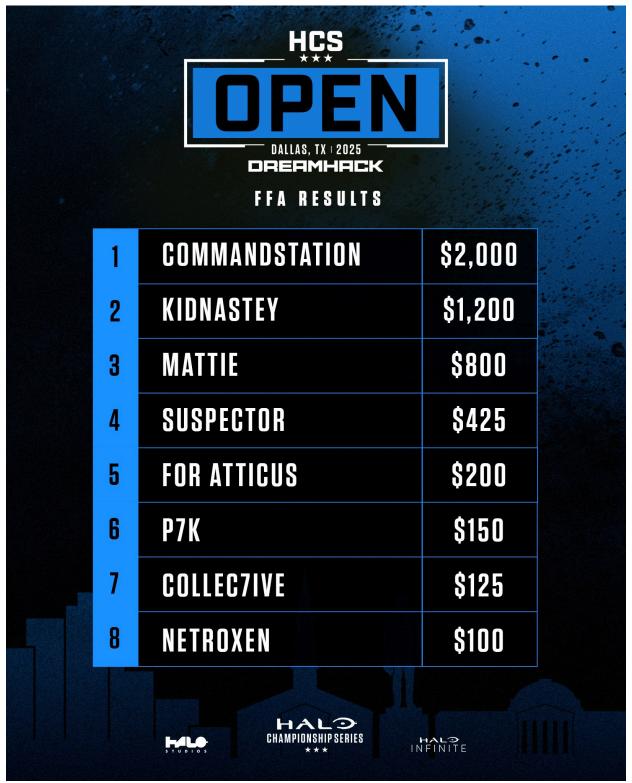
- Tuesday, May 27th
 - HRL Recreational FFA
- Wednesday, May 28th
 - Halo Rec League Mixed Division
- Thursday, May 29th
 - Halo Rec League Premade Division
- Saturday, May 31st
 - Thunder Dome 4v4 Draft Tournament
 - C9 x Halo Infinite \$5k Open Domination Tournament
- Saturday, May 31st Sunday, June 1st
 - o FoamForge Delta Arena Halo Infinite 4v4

Topic - DreamHack Dallas Post-Show

- Results
 - Side Tournaments

■ FFA

• Congratulations to <u>CommandStation</u> for winning the FFA and becoming the first woman ever to win an official HCS FFA tournament on LAN!



Side Tournaments



- Open Bracket Storylines
 - SWAT Latam being DQ'd from not being able to attend the event.
 - ETHR and Dark Inside being eliminated from Pool Play contention.
 - BH3 (EU), Alpha (Latam), Mindfreak (ANZ), and Unreal Nightmare (NA) qualified for Pools.
- Pool Play Series Breakdown
 - Pool A
 - TSM 3-2 OpTic
 - o Stats
 - VOD
 - TSM causing the upset over OpTic, like Nemesis did in Arlington.
 - Pool D
 - ENVY 3-1 SSG
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
 - ENVY causing the "upset" over SSG.
 - ENVY playing remarkably well after their roster change since Arlington.
 - SSG 3-2 Complexity
 - o Stats
 - o VOD
 - ENVY 3-0 Complexity
 - o <u>Stats</u>
 - VOD
- Pool Play Results

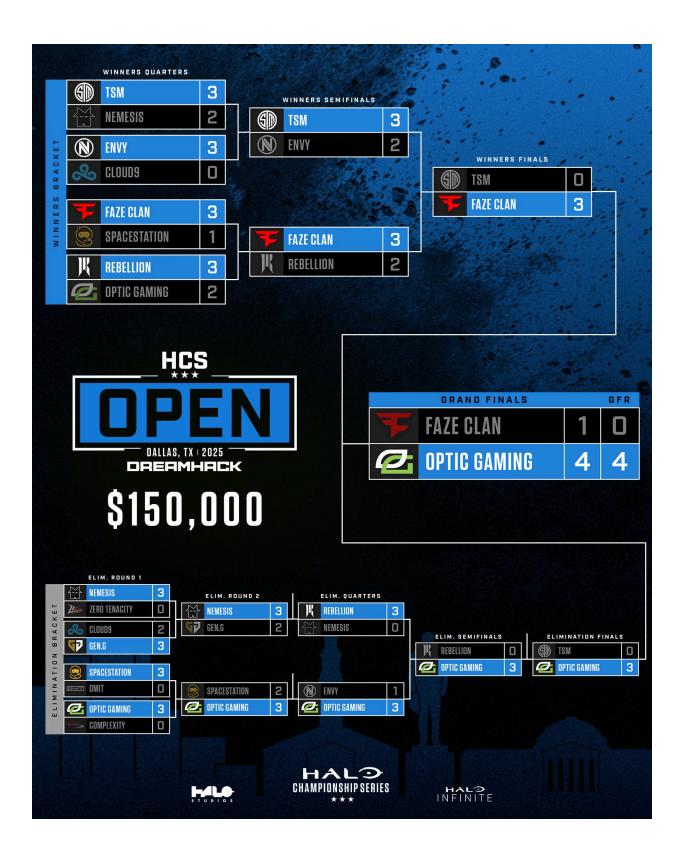


DreamHack Dallas 2025 Pools Results				
Pool/Placing	Will	Josh	Actual Result	
Pool A				
4th	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	
3rd	Gen.G	Gen.G	Gen.G	
2nd	TSM	TSM	OpTic Gaming	
1st	OpTic Gaming OpTic Gaming		TSM	
Pool B				
4th	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	
3rd	OMiT	OMiT	OMiT	
2nd	Nemesis	Nemesis	Nemesis	
1st	Shopify	Shopify Shopify		
Pool C				
4th	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	
3rd	Z10	Z10	Z10	
2nd	Cloud9	Cloud9	Cloud9	

1st	FaZe	FaZe	FaZe	
Pool D				
4th	Open Bracket Team	Complexity	Open Bracket Team	
3rd	Complexity	ENVY	Complexity	
2nd	ENVY	Open Bracket Team	Spacestation Gaming	
1st	Spacestation Gaming	Spacestation Gaming	ENVY	

- Bracket Play Series Breakdown
 - The "Easy Side" of the Bracket
 - Winners Quarter Finals
 - o TSM 3-2 Nemesis
 - Stats
 - VOD
 - o ENVY 3-0 Cloud9
 - Stats
 - VOD
 - The "Hard Side" of the Bracket
 - Winners Quarter Finals
 - o FaZe 3-1 SSG
 - Stats
 - VOD
 - o Shopify 3-2 OpTic
 - Stats
 - VOD
 - Losers Round 1
 - Gen.G 3-2 Cloud9
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
 - Losers Round 2
 - Nemesis 3-2 Gen.G
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
 - OpTic 3-2 SSG
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VO</u>D
 - The best we've seen SSG all year thus far.
 - The blowout Strongholds on Live Fire.
 - The 10-kill lead (too early) in the Solitude Slayer.
 - The Game 5 reset.
 - OpTic clutching up when needed to close out the series.
 - Winners Semi-Finals
 - TSM 3-2 ENVY
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>

- FaZe 3-2 Shopify
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
 - FaZe maintaining composure and collapsing on a lone LastShot being the last kill in the back of "A" on Streets to win the series.
- Losers Quarter Finals
 - Shopify 3-0 Nemesis
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
 - OpTic ENVY
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
- Losers Semi-Finals
 - OpTic 3-0 Shopify
 - o Stats
 - o VOD
- Winners Finals
 - FaZe 3-0 TSM
 - o <u>Stats</u>
 - o <u>VOD</u>
- Losers Finals
 - OpTic 3-0 TSM
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
- Grand Finals
 - OpTic 4-1 FaZe
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
 - OpTic 4-0 FaZe
 - o Stats
 - o <u>VOD</u>
- Bracket Play Results





DreamHack Dallas 2025 Placing Results				
Placing	Will	Josh	Actual Placing	

13th/16th	Open Bracket Team	Complexity	Open Bracket Team	
	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	
	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	
	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	Open Bracket Team	
9th/12th	Z10	Z10	Z10	
	Gen.G	Gen.G	Cloud9	
	OMiT	OMiT	OMiT	
	Complexity	ENVY	Complexity	
7th/8th	Nemesis	Cloud9	Gen.G	
	ENVY	Open Bracket Team	SSG	
5th/6th	Cloud9	Nemesis	Nemesis	
	TSM	TSM	ENVY	
4th	SSG	FaZe	Shopify	
3rd	FaZe	SSG	TSM	
2nd	Shopify	OpTic Gaming FaZe		
1st	OpTic Gaming	Shopify	OpTic Gaming	

• The "Hidden" Bracket (Still Wrong)

Winners Quarterfinals	Winners Semi-Finals	Winner Finals				Grand Finals	Winner
OpTic							
Nemesis							
	OpTic						
	Spacestation						
Spacestation							
Cloud9							
		OpTic				OpTic	OpTic
		Shopify				Shopify	
FaZe							
Open Bracket Team (ETHR)							
	FaZe						
	Shopify						
Shopify							
TSM							
Losers Round 1	Losers Round 2		Losers Quarterfinals	Losers Semi-Finals	Losers Finals		
Nemesis							
Z10							
	Nemesis		Nemesis				
	Cloud9		FaZe				
Cloud9							
Gen.G							
				FaZe	Shopify		
				TSM	TSM		
Open Bracket Team (ETHR)							
OMIT COMIT							
	Open Bracket Team (ETHR)		Spacestation				
	TSM		TSM				
TSM	7.500						
ENVY							

- Storylines
 - o 13th-16th
 - BH3 (EU)
 - Alpha (Latam)
 - Mindfreak (ANZ)
 - Unreal Nightmare (NA)
 - None of the Open Bracket teams proceeded into the Championship Bracket.
 - o 9th-12th
 - Z10
 - Unfortunately it looks like the bootcamping before the event didn't pay off in any meaningful way, losing to Cloud9 in Pool Play to then immediately being eliminated from the tournament by their EU counterparts in Nemesis.
 - Cloud9
 - Fucking OOF
 - OMiT
 - Unfortunately they had to play against Nemesis and Shopify in Pools to then immediately being eliminated by SSG in Losers Round 1.
 - Let's see if/how they regain for the future.
 - Complexity
 - Like TSM in Arlington, having to play OpTic in Losers Round 1.
 - Curious if being in a different pool would aid this team in any way.
 - 7th-8th
 - Gen.G
 - RyaNoob does it again.
 - SSG
 - Having to play OpTic for Top 8.
 - Taking OpTic to a Game 5.
 - The best we've seen this current SSG roster play all year, but is it too little too late?
 - Is it officially time for a change?
 - From Snakebite Weekend to forget topped off with a heartbreak of a game 5 to lose. GGs to everyone we played this weekend. Seriously sorry to the SSG fans we have been letting down. You're used to a much higher consistent standard we haven't found yet. You all deserve nothing but the best. As always thank you to the HCS and DH staff for the opportunity. Little bit of extra time between events now to really figure it out.
 - From <u>Lucid</u> Truly tragic finish to the weekend. Not a lot to say but GGs to the comp and keep moving forward. Thank you to everyone that's still been supporting, and good luck to the rest. See you all again soon.
 - 5th/6th
 - ENVY
 - So long as they remain consistent, this appears to be yet another "Top 6" team that can fight for Top 4 placings.
 - Nemesis

Regardless of the outcome, the top EU team consistently being in this
position is still insane to think about within the HCS. Yet another team
that can fight for Top 4 placings.

o 4th

- Shopify
 - Didn't show up on Sunday.
 - Should be a "one-off" and not the norm considering the roster.

o 3rd

- TSM
 - A consistent "Top 6" roster being blessed by the bracket for a Top 3 finish in Dallas.
 - o Ring a bell from Worlds 2022?
 - Never to take away wins from any team, this is why TSM, ENVY, Nemesis, and (unfortunately) SSG look to be the teams that will be fighting for Top 4 pending any rostermania the remainder of the year.

2nd

- FaZe
 - From Royal1 Won't be out tonight for the after-party & had 2 things I wanted to say on here as I reflect on this event:
 - After getting looked over by teams during the off-season and not being at the first event, I felt like I had to "re-prove" myself this event. I hope I did that with some conviction.
 - Thank you to everyone for the kind words of support throughout the weekend both in person and online. Just know I hear and see it all and appreciate it deeply.

1st

- OpTic
 - OpTic going back-to-back in the most difficult way possible, starting from Losers Round 1 at both the Arlington Major and the DreamHack Dallas Open.
 - Can anyone beat OpTic when they are this dominant coming out of Losers?
 - Can anyone beat OpTic if they come from Winners and have that Bo7 advantage?
 - This now marks 5 event wins in a row for Bound & Lqgend.
 - Lqgend is 7 out of 7 in LAN Grand Finals appearances.

Overall

- From the event and the matches, to the fans and the experience, and everything in-between, DreamHack Dallas was yet another "win" for Halo esports and esports in general.
- Overall Event Thoughts and Feedback
 - The Good
 - The gameplay.
 - The broadcasts.
 - The couch interviews with players/coaches.
 - The lack of major technical difficulties.
 - Teams causing upsets in Pool Play leading to a fucked bracket.

o The Bad

■ The fucked bracket leading to a "boring" Championship Sunday.

Feedback

- Move the FFA Finals to Mainstage.
- If scheduling/production allows, think about moving "higher tier" matches to Mainstage i.e. OpTic/SSG in Losers Bracket.
- More couch interviews.

Shoutouts

- Talent
- o LVT
- Tournament Operations
- Venue Security

Bracket's

- o Open Bracket
- o Pool Play
- Championship Bracket
- Side Tournaments
 - **■** FFA
 - <u>1v1 Showdown</u>
 - Halo 3 2v2
 - Halo 3 4v4
 - Halo 5 2v2
 - Halo Infinite 2v2

VOD's

- Day 1
 - A Stream
 - B Stream
 - <u>Highlights</u>
 - <u>LVT</u>
 - BtH
 - The After Party
- Day 2
 - A Stream
 - Part 1
 - Part 2
 - B Stream
 - Part 1
 - Part 2
 - C Stream
 - D Stream
 - <u>Highlights</u>
 - LVT
 - Part 1
 - <u>Part 2</u>
 - BtH
 - The After Party
- o Day 3
 - A Stream
 - <u>Highlights</u>

- LVT
- BtH
- The After Party
- Photo Albums
 - o <u>BlameTheMeg</u>
 - o Zeno
 - o HCS by David Sandman & JustSnipes

News - Regular

- Halo Infinite Backend Update by Halo Support
 - Custom Games now fully support Multi-Team sessions of up to 8 teams (in addition to Observers). This was previously possible utilizing custom Forge scripts, but this brings the functionality to non-Forge game modes.
 - Multi Bomb Assault on Breaker has been removed from the BTB playlist based on player feedback.
 - In Neutral Bomb Assault, dropping the bomb in your own team's arming zone no longer has a chance to disable arming in the enemy's arming zone.

CoD (and other games) Watch

- CDL Major 4 Results
 - o 4th
- OpTic Texas
- 3rd
- Miami Heretics
- 2nd
- Atlanta FaZe
- o 1st
- LA Thieves
- <u>CDL Champs Bracket</u> by Call of Duty League



Attach Retires - by Attach

- After 11 Years of Professional Call of Duty it's my time to hang the jersey up. The first moment I played this game I instantly fell in love. Once I learned about Gamebattles & Competitive CoD it was my dream to become a professional player. The fact that I was able to live out my childhood dream and meet so many amazing people along the way will be something I cherish for life.
- Thank you to my parents for the support throughout the years. All of my teammates and especially the ones I was able to make history with. I will forever be grateful for all the organization's that let me represent them throughout the years but especially FaZe & Rokkr where I spent the most time during my career.
- Most importantly thank you to all of the Call of Duty fans for showing up year after year and supporting the competitive scene to make this dream a reality. Without you none of this is possible.
- I've had the honor of winning a world championship and earning multiple pieces of the pie throughout the years. Now, I'm ready to take a leap of faith and embrace new challenges as I move into the next chapter of my journey.
- o Thank you for everything Attach
- Puckett is Out of Touch by many
 - From <u>Caesar</u> They just "added" a row in front of VIP so FaZe members can sit and watch what a sick joke. I'm seeing people say I shouldn't be upset at this. I am. I paid extra for a VIP ticket. My seat isn't reserved, it's first come first serve so we all wake up early to get here and get the front row. For it to just be randomly taken from us is insane idc who you are.
 - From Puckett Very Important Person... You can buy one, but don't think your purchase is worth more than those who earned their pass. You guys understand those are the FaZe Founders, staff, and some of the biggest cod content creators that were given their own row. Not a random group... it's better for production, an honor to those who paved the way, or work on the product daily. What are you all not understanding?

Wills Adventures Within the Haloverse

- What games did Will play during the week?
 - o Halo Infinite
- Josh?
 - Halo Infinite

Shoutouts

- Happy belated birthday to Ferzilla, AustinWebrink, and Alyek!
- Shoutout to everyone who joined in the 8's!
- Shoutout to everyone who followed/subbed during the live show!
- Shoutout to everyone who is a Patron at the Semi-Pro and higher tiers!
 - Harty
 - o Claas
 - Blackout
 - Dieode
 - o dpancakes
 - Ashley
 - Voodooman
 - Rasta Monkey Jr
 - Snaggu
 - Raidrhater
 - Peanutmut
 - 1SwoleDaddy
 - Danny OJ
 - Rizznak
 - Zarnerz
 - HiTechRedneck
 - o Goalie Sniper
 - Heavy Rainfall
 - ElatedDartBoard

Community Creations

- Halo memes every day!
- The New Banner: A TSM Halo Documentary | HCS Arlington Major
- What it takes to become a Halo Professional | NextUp by LVT
- How He Exploited Optic Gaming by LVT
- HCS Top 10 Clips: Arlington 2025 by HCS
- Starting from the Bottom | LAST SHOT Farming Success in the HCS by Tied the Leader

Plugs

- Patreon (<u>patreon.com/hcsprotalk</u>)
- Podcast Services (just search for HCS Pro Talk)
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