



The Science of Investing in Prevention

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Making Sound Investments in Prevention

Within Prevention Science, researchers have increasingly studied the process of investing in upstream strategies that avoid downstream costs

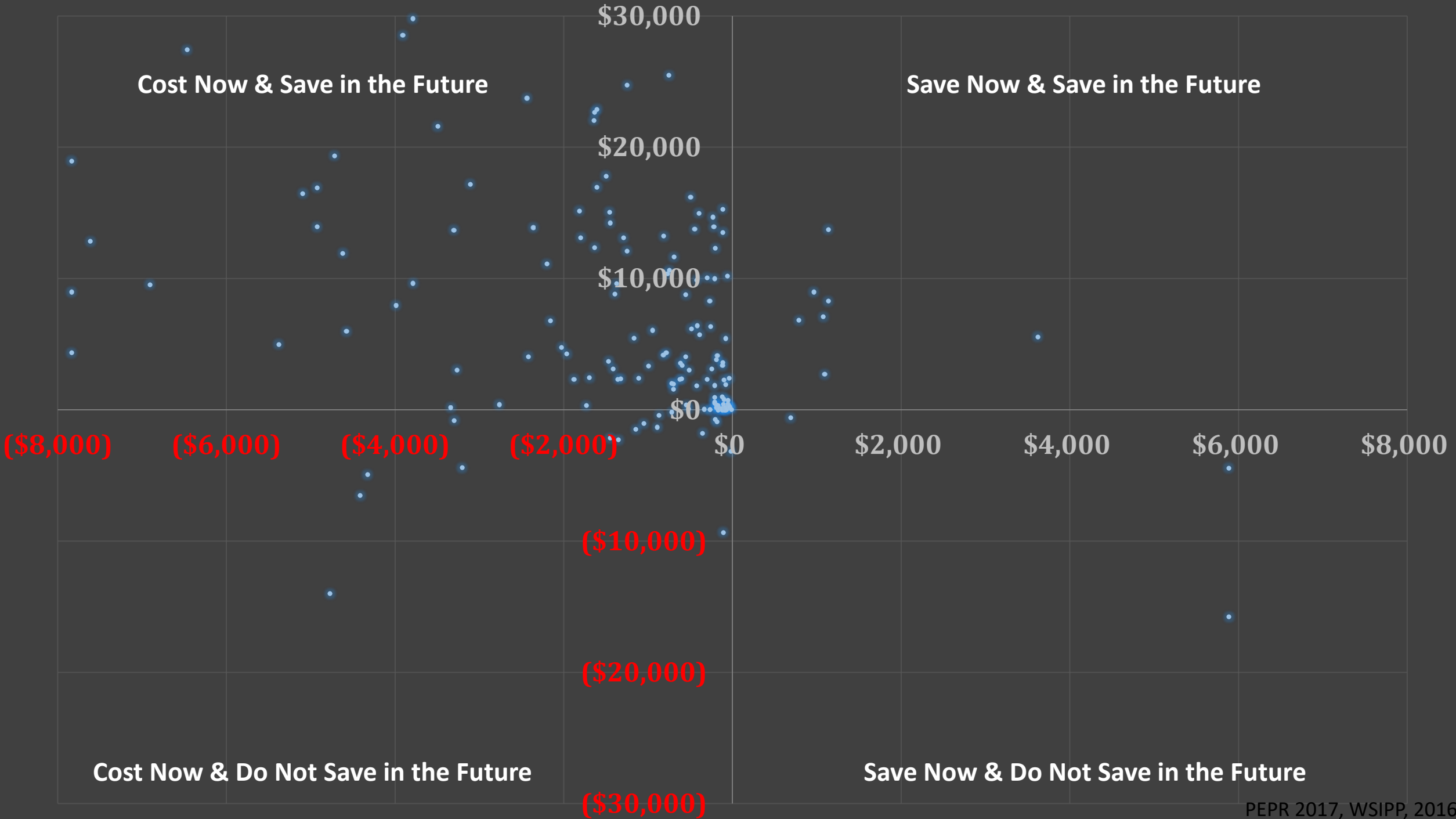
This science of investing in prevention has provided key insights into not only the benefits of prevention to the individual, but to society and the economy as a whole

There are key findings that can inform current and future efforts to invest in prevention that can increase government efficiency, save taxpayer dollars and increase the wellbeing of all.

(1) Prevention Can Save Public Resources

Prevention strategies that seek to reduce risk factors and augment protective factors can lead to savings to the individual and cost aversion to government

- Programs that cost now and save in the future
- Programs that cost now and **do not** save in the future
- Programs that save now and save in the future
- Programs that save now and do not save in the future



Preventing Youth Incarceration: Case Study

Cost Now & Save in the Future

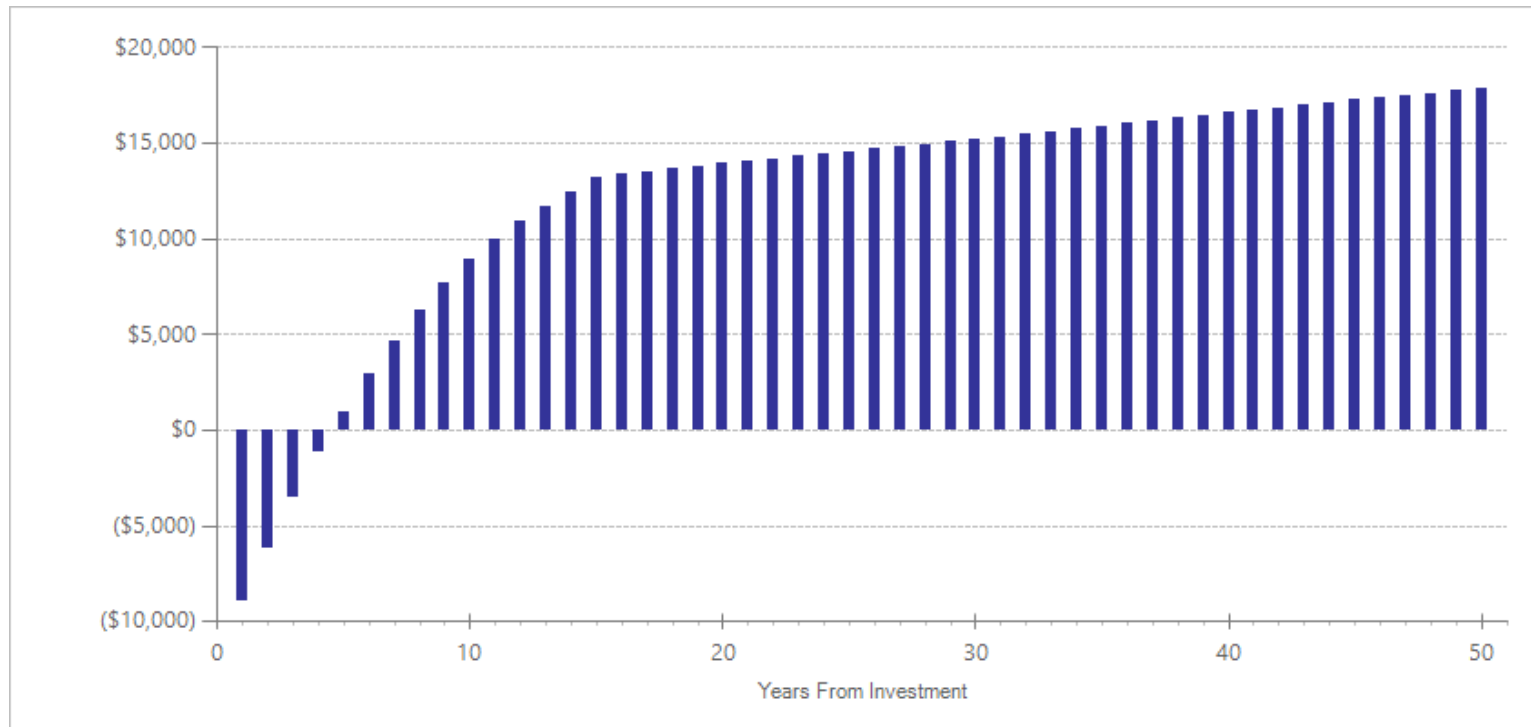
- Functional Family Therapy
- Cost
 - **\$3,470**
- Impact on Taxpayer
 - Save **\$7,155** in reduced crime, **\$181** in healthcare costs, **\$765** in increased revenue

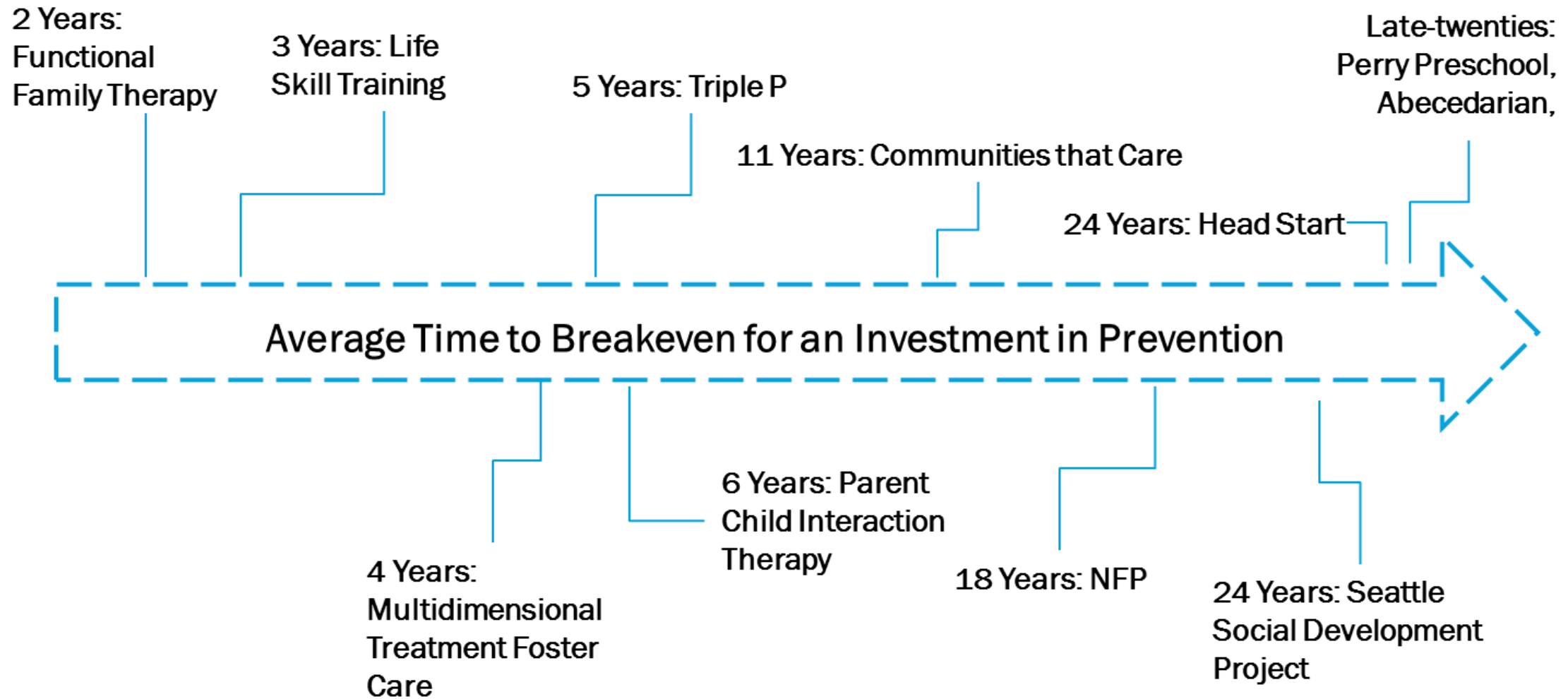
Cost Now & Cost in the Future

- Scared Straight
- Cost
 - **\$106**
- Impact on Taxpayer
 - Cost **\$2,084** in increased crime, **\$97** in increased healthcare and **\$409** in lost revenue

(2) Economic Benefits Accrue Across Lifetimes

Investments in early life can lead to virtuous cycles that lead to substantial economic benefits across the lifespan



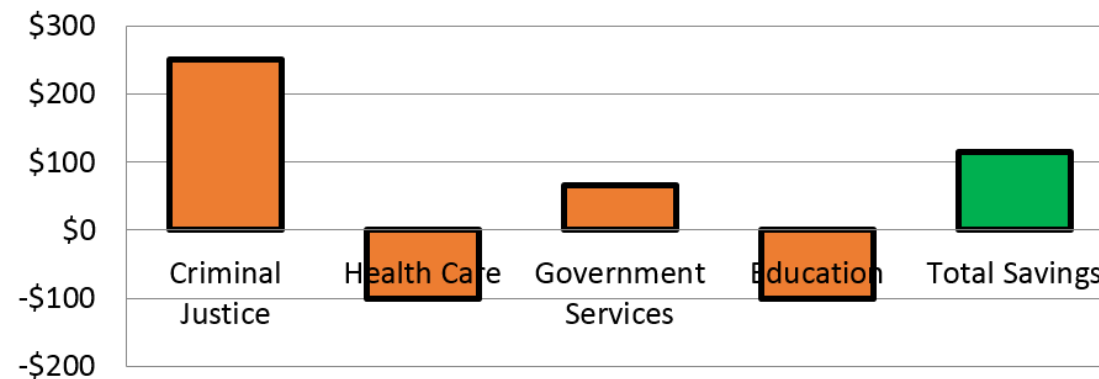


(3) Economic Benefits Cross Public Systems

Investments in prevention made to one system often impact other public systems

For instance, an investment in school-based prevention may impact criminal justice or healthcare systems

Sometimes the most efficient system in which to deliver a program may not be the system that receives the greatest savings



Key Things to Keep In Mind

Invest in Rigorously Tested Prevention

Invest in Programs with Economic Benefits

Invest in Infrastructure

Invest in Evaluation

References & Resources

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