



**MAJOR FINDINGS**

- Faint scarps and lineaments and elevated relief benches, stream terraces, and alluvial fans may be due to post-glacial tectonic activity.
- The Seattle uplift may be responsible for exposure of relatively old(?) sediment in the map area.
- Weathered bedrock exposures a few miles north of the map area may have contributed significantly to the polyimic sedimentary deposits in the map area.
- Ubiquitous subglacial channels and fluvial sediment are evidence that the Vashon Stage glacier stagnated at the end of the last glaciation.
- Deposits associated with late Wisconsinan ice-dammed lakes are widespread in the map area and record several late-glacial lake levels.
- Stagnant-ice deposits and subglacial erosion channels likely provide pathways for near-surface water drainage and groundwater infiltration.

**GEOLOGIC SETTING**

The map area is located in the central Puget Lowland, where repeated glaciations have covered forearc rocks of the Cascadia subduction zone with allocthonous glacial sediment. No bedrock is exposed in the Burley quadrangle. Buchanan-Banks and Collins (1994) estimated sediment thickness above Tertiary bedrock in the map area at under 530 ft in the northwest, over 650 ft in the south, and between 1000 and 1,300 ft in the northeast. However, Haussner and Clark (2009) estimated depth to bedrock in the Union River valley near the northwest map edge at close to 950 ft. The record of the Hoffer 1 well 2000 ft west of the quadrangle and 1,600 ft north of the Pierce-Kitsap county line (well location per Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources website: <http://dept.dnr.wa.gov/land/landuse/bedrock/2009/090101.htm>) was based on 6,288 ft below the surface (Union Oil Company of California and National Oil Company of California, 1950; see also McFarland, 1983, p. 38-39). Surficial exposures of Tertiary volcanic and igneous intrusive rocks at the north end of the map area were mapped by Reeve (1979), Clark (1989), and Young and Gower (1991) as mostly basalt and diabase. Clark (1989) and Haussner and Clark (2009) noted ophiolite tectonism near the north end of the map area. McFarland (1983) and Haussner and Clark (2009) noted ophiolite tectonism near the north end of the map area. McFarland (1983) and Haussner and Clark (2009) noted ophiolite tectonism near the north end of the map area. McFarland (1983) and Haussner and Clark (2009) noted ophiolite tectonism near the north end of the map area.

**Artificial fill**—Clay, silt, sand, gravel, organic matter, and rip-rap; placed to elevate and reshape the land, may be engineered or non-engineered, shown where fill is readily verifiable and relatively unweathered. Judgment sufficiently thick to be geotechnically significant (greater than 5 ft); excludes roads, except across water basins.

**Modified fill**—Local sediment ranging from clay to gravel and rip-rap; placed to elevate, mixed and/or covered by excavation and (or) redistribution that notably modifies topography, shows where relatively extensive, masking underlying geology, and geotechnically significant (greater than 5 ft); excludes roads and abandoned pits where underlying units can be identified; includes aggregate pits active at time of mapping.

**Beach deposits**—Sand, pebbles, pebbly sand, cobbles, silt, clay, and shells; clasts typically moderately to well rounded and locally well sorted; loess; derived from shore bluffs, streams, and underlying deposits. Uplifted relict beach terraces are apparent in parts of the map area and, where maps permit, are separately shown as subunit Qob.

**Marsh deposits**—Organic sediment and (or) loose silt, clay, and sand in tidal flats and coastal wetlands; saltwater to brackish equivalent of unit Qg; includes layers of freshwater peat in some areas, due to relative sea-level changes. We excluded from unit Qm mudflat areas identified as water on the USGS topographic base map.

**PEAT**—Organic and organic-rich sediment; includes peat, muck, silt, and clay; typically in closed depressions; all recognized upland peatlands in the map area. The sediment source is most commonly reworked organic or standing water was specifically identified (identification of some peatlands is therefore tentative); freshwater equivalent of unit Qm, where field data were unavailable, mapped on the basis of aerial photographs, or prior mapping such as soil maps (U.S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, 1944; McMurphy, 1980; Zaluzny, 1979). The unit post-dates Vashon ice and is predominantly Holocene but locally includes some late Pleistocene deposits.

**Landslide deposits**—Clean sand, gray, medium- to fine-grained; moderately to well sorted; loess; derived, except for sections of compact, bedded sand blocks structured from outwash sand that inclusions of sediment source for the single slide documented in the map area. This outwash is mapped as Vashon advance outwash sand (unit Qgo) south and north of the slide, which is located on the west shore of Burley Lagoon, where additional slides were also observed but are too small to show as mapped. Absence of a mapped slide does not imply absence of sliding or hazard, and the single mapped slide is unlikely to leave a persistent deposit because shore erosion may quickly remove slide debris. The slide is mapped as a debris flow on the beach below the slide suggest that the pre-Vashon drift we mapped south of the slide is also present in the slide area, and it is unclear if the gray sand exposed by the slide is Vashon advance or from an earlier glaciation.

**Mass wasting deposits**—Boulders, gravel, sand, silt, clay, and dammed, generally unsorted, but locally stratified; typically loose; show as mostly colluvium-covered or densely vegetated slopes that are potentially or demonstrably unstable, may locally include exposures of underlying units that either we could not map confidently or are too small to show, as well as debris fans, alluvial fans, and landslides. Absence of a mapped mass-wasting deposit does not imply absence of slope instability or hazard. The unit post-dates Vashon ice and is predominantly Holocene but locally may include some late Pleistocene deposits.

**Alluvium**—Silt, sand, and gravel; clasts typically well rounded, typically well sorted and loose; stratified to massively bedded, deposited in streams and floodplain terraces. The sediment source is most commonly reworked recessional outwash, alluvium, and (or) glacial outwash, but may include lodgment till and nonglacial deposits. Exposures locally recognizable in the map area include a particularly notable feature in the lowlands around Burley and Blackjak Creeks, where the unit is mostly derived from glacial outwash and (or) recessional deposits (units Qgo and Qgs). Shown as a debris flow profile, confirm, however, that unit Qgs forms a more diverse deposit than unit Qgo and at least some deposits of unit Qgs (e.g., of Polenz and others, 2009). Subunit Qsa is older alluvium that resembles Qgs in every way but forms elevated, relict terraces. Most appear to be situated at an elevated base level that prevailed prior to a local base-level lowering event (see discussion of elevated terraces under Structure). Such elevated former base levels are more clearly apparent in the Bellair quadrangle west of the map area (Polenz and others, 2009). Where unit Qgo is correctly identified along the lower reaches of streams that are graded to sea level, the age of unit Qsa should not exceed about 6,000 years because prior to that, sea level was significantly lower, which likely resulted in an erosional setting that precluded deposition of alluvium. As mapped, the unit is generally Holocene but may locally include some unrecognized recessional outwash terraces (unit Qgo) and other late Pleistocene deposits.

**Alluvial fans**—Silt, sand, gravel, and boulders; typically poorly sorted and stratified; forms conical lobes and benches streams emerge from confining valleys and reduced gradients cause sediment load to be deposited. Subunit Qfa identifies relict late Holocene alluvial fans that resemble unit Qgo in every way but form relict fans that are tied to an elevated, former base level (see discussion of elevated terraces and fans under Structure). Such older fans typically are dissected by a distinctly incised modern stream channel. The unit post-dates Vashon ice and is predominantly Holocene but locally probably includes some late Pleistocene deposits.

**STRUCTURE**

**Tectonic Setting**

Broadly situated in the forearc of the Cascadia subduction zone, the map area is tectonically active. The Seattle uplift, a west-trending structural high between the Seattle fault to the north and the Tacoma fault zone to the south, post-glacial uplift along with what is now known as the Seattle fault was first noted by Kimball (1897). Katsa (1988) suggested a major fault along a topographically prominent, regional lineament that he termed the Olympic-Wallawa lineament, which coincides with what is now considered the Seattle fault in and near Seattle. Heiskanen (1951) noted the Puget Lowland seismicity and a gravitational low at Seattle. The sediment source is most commonly reworked recessional outwash, alluvium, and (or) glacial outwash, but may include lodgment till and nonglacial deposits. Exposures locally recognizable in the map area include a particularly notable feature in the lowlands around Burley and Blackjak Creeks, where the unit is mostly derived from glacial outwash and (or) recessional deposits (units Qgo and Qgs). Shown as a debris flow profile, confirm, however, that unit Qgs forms a more diverse deposit than unit Qgo and at least some deposits of unit Qgs (e.g., of Polenz and others, 2009). Subunit Qsa is older alluvium that resembles Qgs in every way but forms elevated, relict terraces. Most appear to be situated at an elevated base level that prevailed prior to a local base-level lowering event (see discussion of elevated terraces under Structure). Such elevated former base levels are more clearly apparent in the Bellair quadrangle west of the map area (Polenz and others, 2009). Where unit Qgo is correctly identified along the lower reaches of streams that are graded to sea level, the age of unit Qsa should not exceed about 6,000 years because prior to that, sea level was significantly lower, which likely resulted in an erosional setting that precluded deposition of alluvium. As mapped, the unit is generally Holocene but may locally include some unrecognized recessional outwash terraces (unit Qgo) and other late Pleistocene deposits.

**Evidence for Post-glacial Tectonic Effects**

Two scarps whose eastern ends extend into the map area cross each other in the adjacent Bellair quadrangle 4,000 ft north of the southwest corner of the map area (144<sup>th</sup> Street and Wright Hill Road scarps in Polenz and others, 2009, after Sherrill and others, 2003a, and Nelson and others, 2009). Trenching failed to reveal evidence of faulting on the Wright Hill Road scarp but suggested an earthquake on the southeast-trending 144<sup>th</sup> Street scarp between 1.1 and 1.5 ka (Nelson and others, 2009). Liberty (2005) used seismic profiles to suggest several fault strands with south-directed reverse offset between this area and about 4000 ft farther north, where we noted additional, faint scarps and lineaments on lidar-based images of the map area and the Bellair quadrangle (Polenz and others, 2009). We caution that we did not systematically survey the map area for such showings and may have missed others of equal subtlety.

Between two and five miles farther north, we saw a set of conjugate(?) northeast- and north-west-trending, faint and questionable scarps and lineaments. The northeast-trending scarps and lineaments appear to be the extension into the map area of the north-trending-trend of Sunset Beach scarps (Haugard and others, 2003; Polenz and others, 2009; Nelson and others, 2009), which is located three miles west of the map area and is a set of strike-slip faults (1.1 to 1.3 ka (Gershwin and others, 2007; Polenz and others, 2009; Nelson and others, 2009).

Mud-flat sediment at Burley Lagoon was coseismically uplifted about 1,100 ± 70 y.B.P. (Buchanan-Banks and others, 1998) and is capped by peat. The peat represents an upland setting and includes two separate, discontinuous sand layers that Buchanan (1998) and Bourgeois (2008) and her collaborator M. Elizabeth Martin (Univ. of Wash.) interpreted as evidence of a major earthquake. Because the liquefaction that produced the older of the two sand layers to the above-mentioned 1,100 ± 70 y.B.P. coseismic uplift and suggests liquefaction during another event c.1310 to 720 years ago as cause of the younger sand layer. Assuming that we correctly located all exposures referred to by Buchanan and Bourgeois, we mapped these exposures and adjacent mudflats areas at the north end of Burley Lagoon as unit Qm. Based on morphology, we also included with unit Qm some adjacent coastal flatland at the north end of Burley Lagoon that is elevated about 10 ft above the modern mud flat. At the southeast end of Burley Lagoon, we mapped a terrace that appears to be elevated by a few feet above the modern beach as older, apparently uplifted beach. Additional, similarly elevated surfaces that we interpret as uplifted beach elsewhere at Burley Lagoon were too narrow to show separately from the modern beach but appear to confirm late Holocene net uplift, despite the suggestion by Garrison (2005) that the terrace was deposited because beach erosion at Burley Lagoon was followed by subsidence, the timing and rates of which were unconstrained. Two miles north of the map area, Martin and others (2007) and Bourgeois (2008) similarly noted upland mud-flat deposits capped by peat and upland deposits. Sherrill and others (2003a, 2004) suggested that more distinctly uplifted shorelines at North Bay three miles west of the map area (see also Polenz and others, 2009) may have resulted from a large Tacoma fault earthquake between A.D. 770 and 1160.

On the north shore of Hood Canal, about 4 miles west of the map area, elevated terraces that Polenz and others (2009) interpreted as probable relict marine terraces

(mostly mapped as unit Qob) are about 25 to 35 ft above the top of the modern beach terrace surface. In all cases, the elevation of emergent coastal features appears to be at grade with relict fluvial terraces (included with unit Qoa) and alluvial fans (unit Qoa) in the lower portions of nearby drainages, thus providing another indirect (and largely unexplored) record of the tectonic activity in the area. That record can be difficult to separate from glacioisostatic terracing and the potentially complex incision history of post-glacial terraces.

**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

Surficial deposits in the map area generally consist of a diverse mix of glacially derived, pluvial, volcanic, and metamorphic tillite fragments, indicative of glacioisostatic and tectonic deformation, formed in the presence of meltwater alongside ice, generally toward the end of the glaciation, and is thus commonly accompanied by stagnant-ice features, such as kettles and less-ordered hummocky topography, eskers (also separately mapped as subunit Qge), and subglacial or subareal outwash channels. Deposits and morphologies that support conceptual association with both ice and meltwater are common in the map area and suggest that where unit Qge is mapped in the presence of fluvial topography, it is commonly only a few feet thick and locally could have been mapped as undifferentiated drift (unit Qgd). Elsewhere, the unit may be over 100 ft thick. Unit Qge also includes poorly consolidated till commonly accompanied by underlying, angular sand and noted as "sub-glacially reworked till" by Laprade (2003) (see Geologic Setting), especially in fluted areas that lack dead-ice features. See unit Qgo and fig. 4 of Polenz and others (2009) for discussion of similarities between units Qge and Qgo (and its subunits Qgs, Qsa, and Qsb). A discrepancy between this map and the Fox Island quadrangle to the south resulted where dead-ice topography north of the boundary reveals sandy deposits mapped as unit Qgo by Logan and others (2006) to be a facies within unit Qge. Several additional discrepancies resulted where subglacially reworked till was included with unit Qge on this map but mapped as till (unit Qgt) by Logan and others. Locally divided into:

**Qge** **Vashon glacial eskers**—Sand and gravel; tan to brown; loose; moderately to well sorted; moderately to well rounded with good primary and secondary sorting; typically unstratified. By Vashon meltwater along side seen by stagnant ice; forms low, elongate, sinuous hills that are tied to relict slugs on fluvial uplands or subglacial outwash channels and locally can be seen to merge into channel incisions (fig. 1 in Polenz and others, 2009).

**Qgd** **Vashon till**—Unsorted, unstratified but locally banded mix of clay, silt, sand, and gravel; typically supported by a sandy matrix, gray but locally silty; matrix light brown, or orange typically unweathered. Judgment till compact, with well-developed facies conforming, but near the surface commonly lacy and (or) looser and covered by a 1 to 6 ft of loose alluvium till deposited directly by glacial ice and commonly includes clasts or clumps packed from underlying units. Clasts are commonly striated and flattened, with angular or rounded edges. Boulders are generally sparse within the till but large (erratics) boulders of quartzite or metamorphic rock are common on till surfaces. Some exposures include interbeds and lenses of sand and gravel, locally with shales and joints. Till forms a lacy patchy and seemingly randomly distributed cover up to several tens of feet thick, with a thickness of 5 to 20 ft most common. It typically dominates, but is also locally discontinuous on, fluted surfaces, with individual drumlins measuring 0.1 to 0.2 mi wide by 0.1 to 1.3 mi long and the long axis aligned with the direction of ice flow. Till typically is in sharp, unconformable contact with underlying units, but is stratigraphically below unit Qgo. It may include unrecognized exposures of older till.

**Qgo** **Vashon advance outwash**—Pebble to cobble gravel, sand, and layers and lenses of silt and clay; gray to tan; typically stratified, well rounded, well sorted, and clean (<5% silt or clay in matrix), except in less-sorted and more angular ice-proximal deposits (see fig. 4 of Polenz and others, 2009) and resistant to erosion, except where well sorted and well rounded; very thin to very thickly bedded; contains planar and graded beds, cut-and-fill structures, trough and ripple cross-beds, and foresets; thickness not well constrained by this mapping but ranges from a few feet to more than 7 ft (100 ft); deposited as proglacial fluvial and debris fan sediment during Vashon glacial advance and typically overlies unit Qgt along a sharp, unconformable contact. Locally divided into:

**Qgos** **Vashon advance outwash sand**—Fluvial facies may include minor lenses and lenses of gravel; lacustrine facies may include lenses and layers of silt; tan to gray; typically well rounded, well sorted, and clean (<5% silt or clay in matrix) and generally compact but due to lack of cohesion locally appears loose to rapidly well sorted and well rounded; generally porous and permeable; deposited during Vashon glacial advance and typically overlies unit Qgt along a sharp, unconformable contact. Locally divided into:

**Qgob** **Undifferentiated glacial drift**—Heterogeneous patchwork of stratified and unstratified sand, silt, clay, gravel, and diamicton; may locally include till, subglacial outwash, advance outwash, proglacial recessional outwash, and ice-dammed lake sediment; gray to tan; loose to compact; typically forms geomorphologically complex patchwork of mounds, terraces, escarpment to fully developed channels, closed depressions, and erosional exposures of older units, predominantly Vashon Drift but may also include older drift, shown where map scale or exposure do not support stratigraphic division.

**Pre-Vashon Glacial Deposits**

**Qgs** **Pre-Vashon drift, undivided**—Till and compact clay, silt, sand, and gravel deposited prior to the Vashon Stage, shown where map scale or exposure do not support distinction among subunits of drift. This unit is clearly identified in the map area at Henderson Bay 1.3 mi west of the southeast corner of the map, where it consists of compact glacioisostatic clay underlain by lodgment till and appears to be stratigraphically below exposures of deeply weathered sand. Identification of this unit is more speculative farther east but supported by its apparent presence in nearby well records, where comparable deposits are noted at similar elevations beneath weathered sand and gravel. It is also supported by presence of a well-developed lodgment till near beach level along the Henderson Bay shore that contrasts with the typically thin and softer diamicton mapped as unit Qgs on nearby upland surfaces. Compact clay on the west shore of Burley Lagoon is also included with this unit based on the above-mentioned well records and pre-Vashon lodgment till.

**Undifferentiated Deposits Older than Vashon Till**

**Qgu** **Undifferentiated sediment older than Vashon till**—Gravel, sand, fines, and diamicton older than Vashon till; compact, may include any pre-Vashon unit and units Qgo and Qgs where those could not be differentiated from pre-Vashon outwash. A map boundary minimum with the Fox Island quadrangle to the south resulted where Logan and others (2006) included narrow exposures of pre-Vashon deposits along steep valley walls within unit Qgt.

**Qgv** **Pre-Vashon sand**—Compact sand, locally with layers and lenses of silt, clay, peat, and minor gravel; moderately oxidized, poorly to well bedded; locally iron-oxide cemented; organized to be nonglacial based on the grain size, common presence of organic-rich layers, and sedimentary characteristics (suggestive of slower sedimentation rates and relative paucity of lacustrine settings when compared to sandy glacial deposits), but could locally include glacial deposits. This unit is shown on the map only as a single polygon along the west shore of Henderson Bay but is also locally exposed in deeply incised valleys such as in interstream, often, informally known as "Dry Rocky Creek"; this creek exits the southwest corner of the map area about 1 mi west of Doyle Pond. The unit is also exposed along the bluff's face in Henderson Bay, where the radiocarbon dated detrital wood from a silt bed at the base of the exposure is <43,000 14C yr B.P. (see Table 1, Beta 25253). A map boundary minimum with the Fox Island quadrangle to the south resulted where Logan and others (2006) included narrow exposures of pre-Vashon deposits along steep valley walls within unit Qgt.

**GEOLOGIC SYMBOLS**

--- Contact—long dashed where approximately located, short dashed where inferred.

--- Fault—unknown offset.

R Fault—reverse offset, R on upthrown side.

--- Scarp—hachures point downslope.

--- Lineament.

▲ Age-date sample site, 14C

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Loc	Age estimate (14C yr B.P.)	14C (‰)	Analytical method	Material	Geologic unit	Lab no.	Ref.	Notes
1	>48,000	-28.4	AMS	organic sediment	Qgs*	Beta 21879	305*	Station E-P4 exploration boring (Jenny Saltonstall, AESI, Inc., written communication, Apr. 1, 2009) suggests that elevation estimate for NAD 27 map projection is 302 ft. AESI interpreted sample site as pre-Vashon (AESI, Inc., written communication, Apr. 1, 2009) sand (unit Qgs).
2	>43,400	-26.5	AMS	wood	Qgs	Beta 25253	7	Sampled from flattened wood in stiff clay exposed by erosion at top of beach, overlain by sand.

\*Sample collected from exposure of unit Qgs 15 ft below surface in an exploration pit. Surface at site consists of sand mapped as unit Qgs, thus resulting in mismatch between sample unit and surface unit on map.

systematic lake-marginal detrital assemblage of fluvial beds near the forest floor in the center, and quiet-water lake-bottom beds at the base, fines typically limited to the bottom bed, where the unit grades laterally into unit Qgo. See Geologic Setting for notes on unit thickness and distribution.

**Vashon glacial ice-contact deposits**—Sand, gravel, lodgment till, and flow till; matrix silt and clay beds; tan to gray; variably sorted; loose to compact; massive to well stratified; locally includes over-stepped beds that typically reflect sub-ice flow, but their dip may, along with small-scale shears, also have developed an collapse features or due to glacioisostatic and tectonic deformation, formed in the presence of meltwater alongside ice, generally toward the end of the glaciation, and is thus commonly accompanied by stagnant-ice features, such as kettles and less-ordered hummocky topography, eskers (also separately mapped as subunit Qge), and subglacial or subareal outwash channels. Deposits and morphologies that support conceptual association with both ice and meltwater are common in the map area and suggest that where unit Qge is mapped in the presence of fluvial topography, it is commonly only a few feet thick and locally could have been mapped as undifferentiated drift (unit Qgd). Elsewhere, the unit may be over 100 ft thick. Unit Qge also includes poorly consolidated till commonly accompanied by underlying, angular sand and noted as "sub-glacially reworked till" by Laprade (2003) (see Geologic Setting), especially in fluted areas that lack dead-ice features. See unit Qgo and fig. 4 of Polenz and others (2009) for discussion of similarities between units Qge and Qgo (and its subunits Qgs, Qsa, and Qsb). A discrepancy between this map and the Fox Island quadrangle to the south resulted where dead-ice topography north of the boundary reveals sandy deposits mapped as unit Qgo by Logan and others (2006) to be a facies within unit Qge. Several additional discrepancies resulted where subglacially reworked till was included with unit Qge on this map but mapped as till (unit Qgt) by Logan and others. Locally divided into:

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This report was produced in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey's Geologic Mapping Program, Agreement No. 08HQAO104, which partially supported our mapping. We thank Jerry Dexter (Kitsap County) for geologic insights, Kitap, Mason and Pierce Counties for sharing geographic information systems (GIS) addressing and other records, Curtis Roger and Jenny Saltonstall (AESI, Inc.) and Kathy Trost and Aaron Walker (Univ. of Wash.) for unpublished age control data. Tim Walsh and Josh Logan (Wash. Div. of Geology and Earth Resources) for technical reviews and interpretive assistance, and Josh Logan for assistance with this section topography and interpretation. Last, but not least, thanks to the many people who permitted us to study and sample geologic exposures on their land and provided site-specific records and local expertise.

Loc	Age estimate (14C yr B.P.)	14C (‰)	Analytical method	Material	Geologic unit	Lab no.	Ref.	Notes
1	>48,000	-28.4	AMS	organic sediment	Qgs*	Beta 21879	305*	Station E-P4 exploration boring (Jenny Saltonstall, AESI, Inc., written communication, Apr. 1, 2009) suggests that elevation estimate for NAD 27 map projection is 302 ft. AESI interpreted sample site as pre-Vashon (AESI, Inc., written communication, Apr. 1, 2009) sand (unit Qgs).
2	>43,400	-26.5	AMS	wood	Qgs	Beta 25253	7	Sampled from flattened wood in stiff clay exposed by erosion at top of beach, overlain by sand.

\*Sample collected from exposure of unit Qgs 15 ft below surface in an exploration pit. Surface at site consists of sand mapped as unit Qgs, thus resulting in mismatch between sample unit and surface unit on map.

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