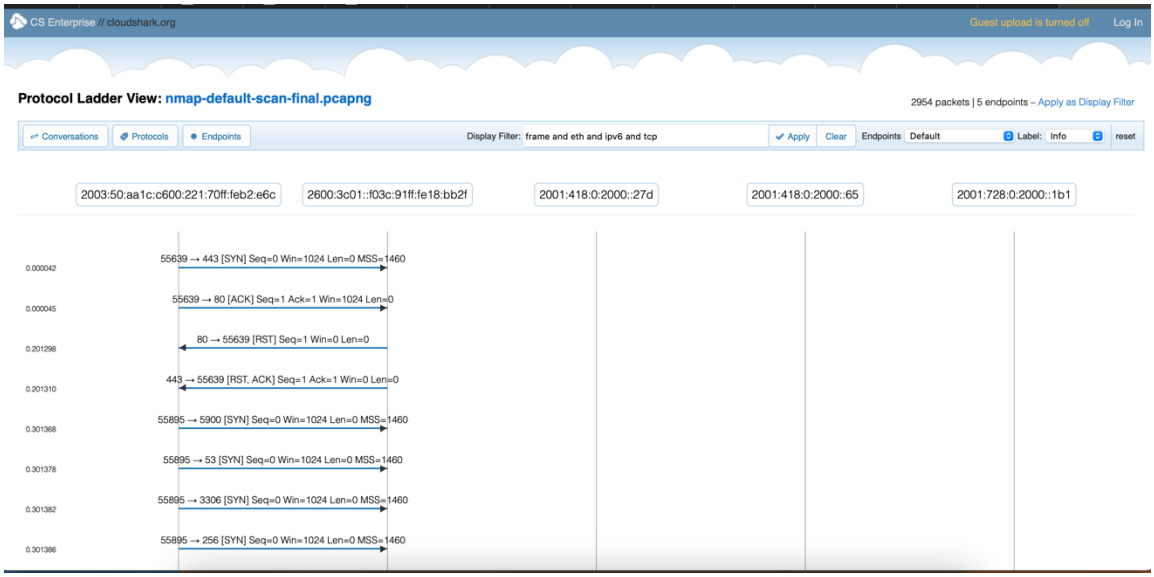
NETWORK INVESTIGATION LAB

STEPHEN MENSAH

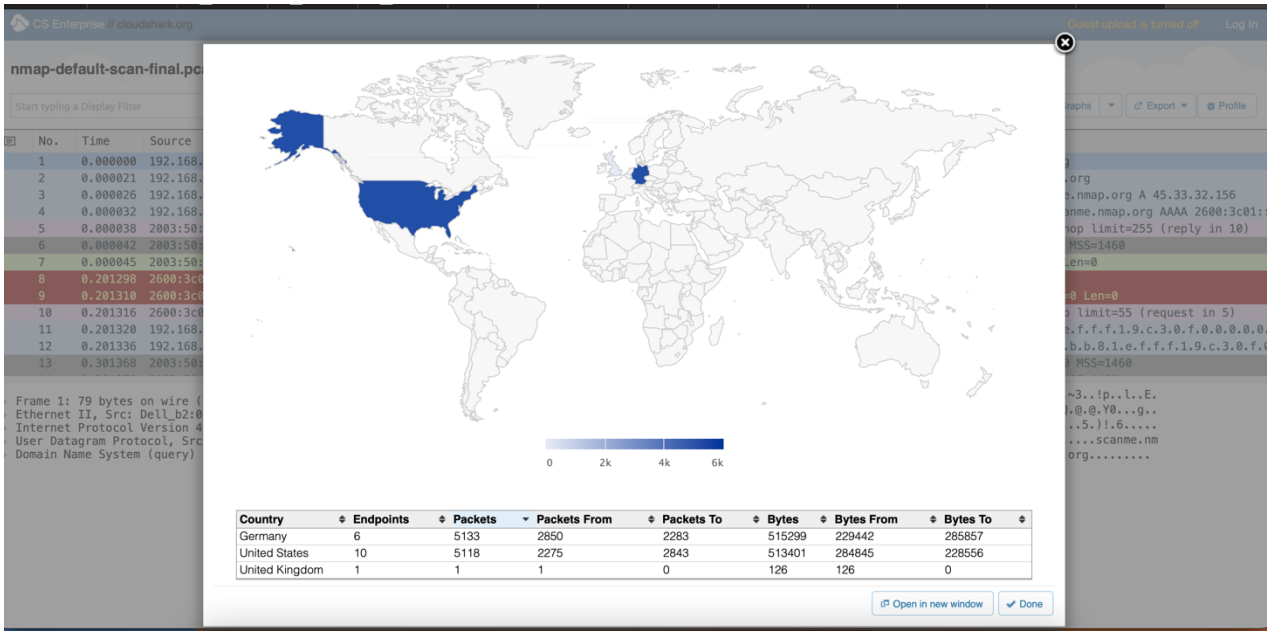
Sample Lab Screenshots

PORT SCAN DETECTION

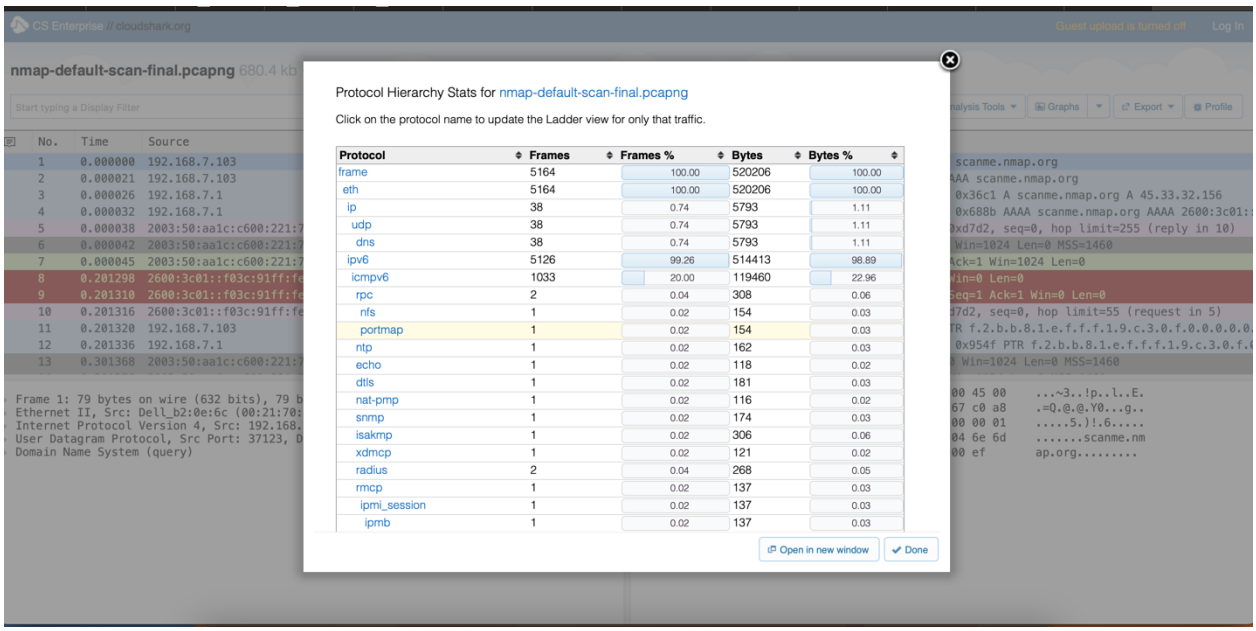
TCP Communications between IP addresses



GeoIP World Map Dashboard displaying source and destinations of TCP packets

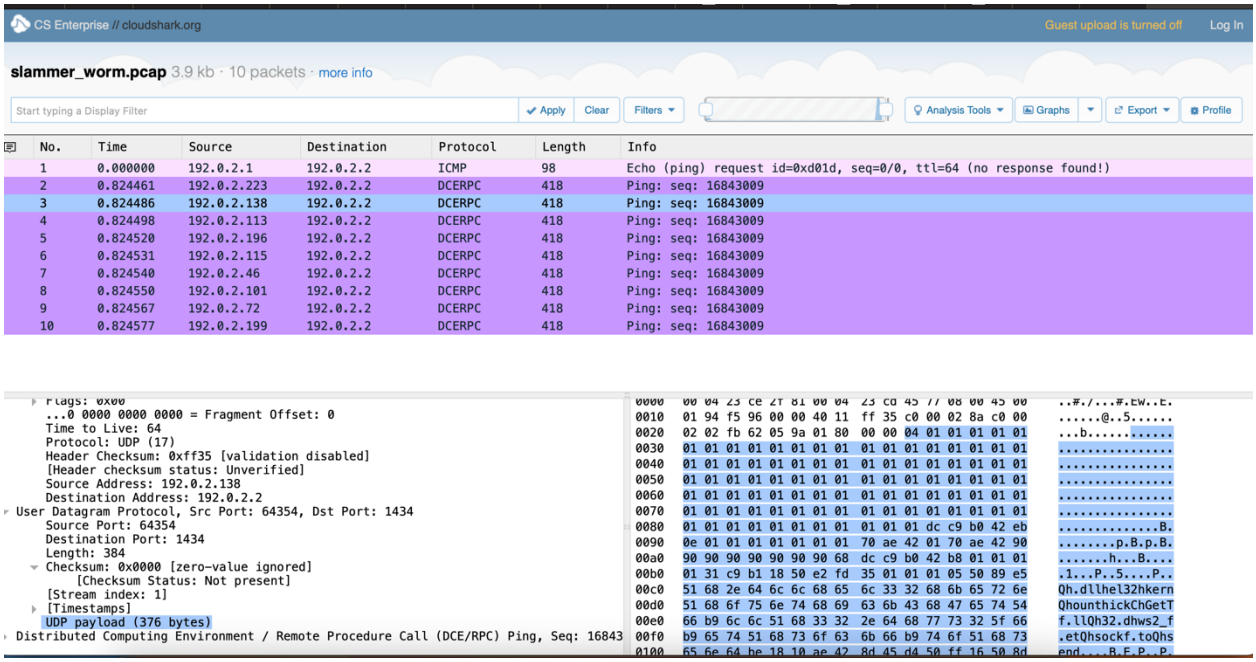


Protocol Hierarchy dashboard showing the number of packet per each protocol

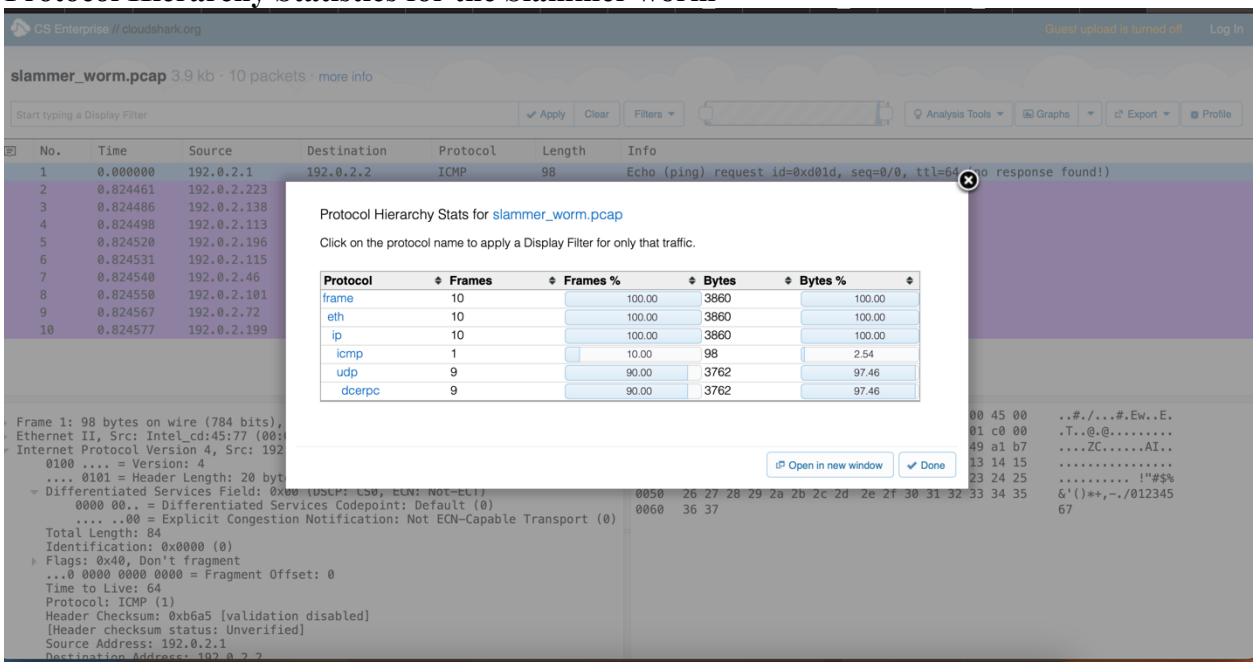


SLAMMER WORM

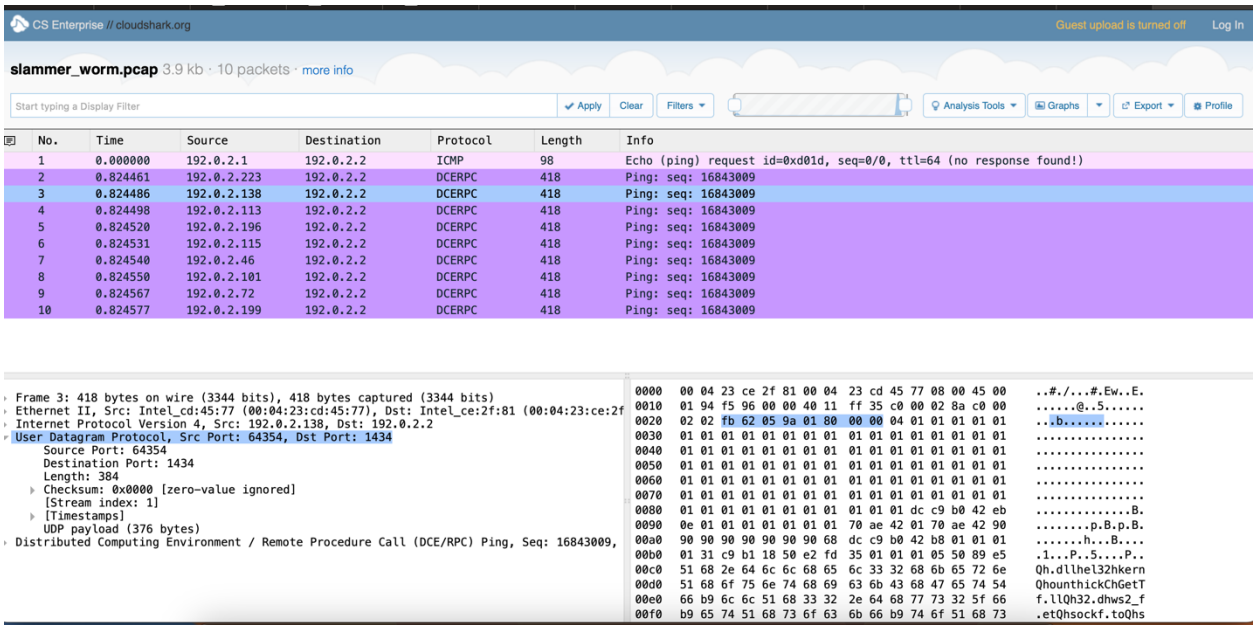
The contents of one UDP payload from Slammer



Protocol Hierarchy Statistics for the Slammer worm

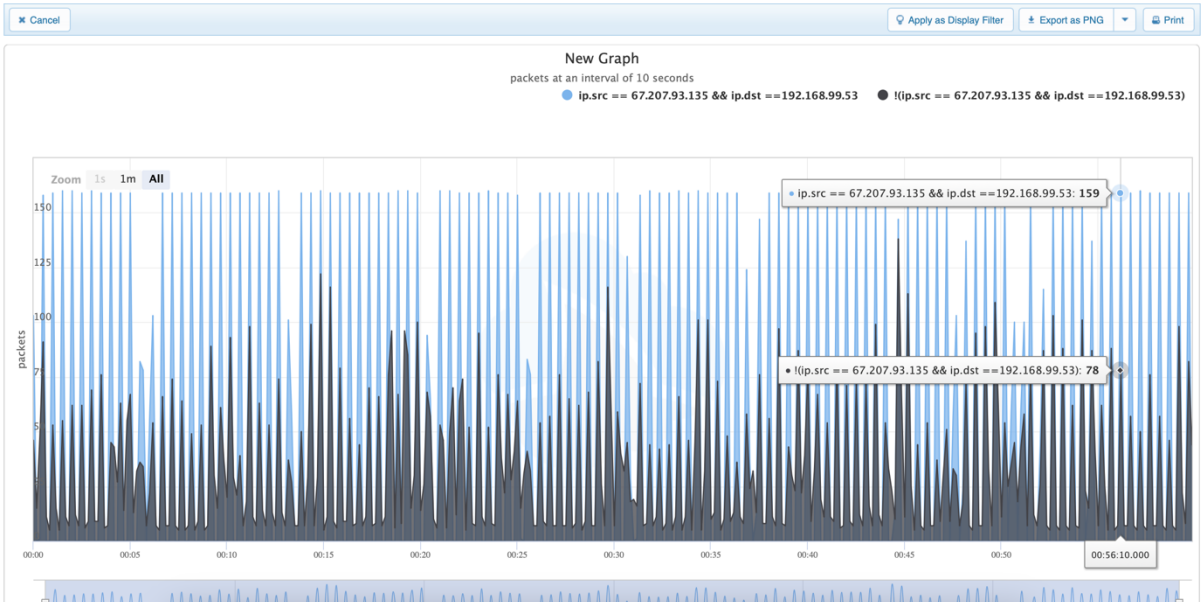


Details of a header of a selected packet from the slammer worm capture

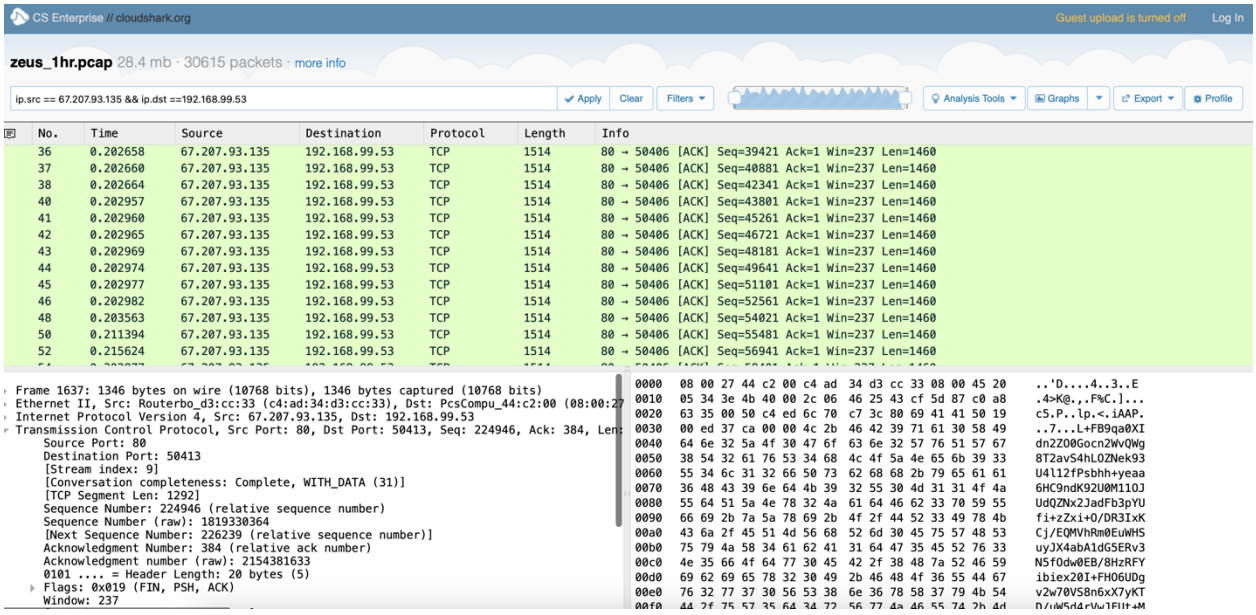


ZEUS

Cloudshark inbuilt graph dashboard showing the consistent connections between two IP addresses at a 10-second interval.



Filtered Packets



Exercise
Scenario 1: Port Scan Detection

1. Threat Simulation

To investigate a malicious port scanning activity, it is essential that I apply filters to the captured packets. Most communications used ipv6 address. However, since clowdshark only supports filtering with ipv4, I will filter based on the protocol used. By using the protocol ladder button, I will be able to determine the number of TCP packets (which was 2968), the source of each request, and visualize all the communications that took place between IP addresses. From the capture, I saw that most TCP requests (a total of 2951) originated from an ipv6 address to another ipv6 address on different ports within a period of 2 minutes and 27 seconds. But most of these connection requests were blocked (either by a firewall or the ports were closed). By establishing the number of port requests from a source IP address in each period, I will be able to detect a port scan and take the necessary measures to address the threat. I will use the threat assessment and protocol ladder dashboard to assess the severity levels, the number of frames per each protocol and IP address, the locations of each request, and generate additional packet insights. I will assign a low criticality level. The firewall signatures and threat intel will be updated, and an incident report will be written after the analysis.

2. Business Impacts

Port scan techniques are used to learn more about a network and identify vulnerable ports that can be used as attack vectors. If such weaknesses are not resolved on time, attackers can send massive port scans which can lead to a Dos attack and disrupt business activities. Short-term risks are disruption of business activities and loss of productivity. Long-term risks are financial loss from DoS attacks and loss of business revenue.

3. Remediation.

To prevent attackers from conducting port scanning on my network, I will employ strong firewall protection and define ACLs to block any request from the identified source IP address, conduct regular vulnerability scans, and close all unused ports.

Worms – Slammer

1. Threat Simulation

Patterns or features will be used to perform the analysis. Slammer is very robust and uses UDP to propagate very fast and the program payload is 376 bytes. After affecting a computer that has Microsoft SQL Server 2000 running on it, it generates a random IP address and a source port and tries to replicate itself to other devices by repeatedly sending UDP packets to a randomly selected IP address with UDP port 1434 as the destination port. As such, I will set a display filter to retrieve all packets that have UDP port 1434, analyze the UDP headers for packets with a payload size of 376 bytes, and examine the binary code in the payload for buffer overflow exploitation. Since the slammer generates random source IP addresses to send UDP packets to random destination addresses, I will trace all unique source and destination addresses to learn about the propagation rate. From the capture, 9 UDP packets were sent by 9 unique IP addresses to the same destination IP address on UDP port 1434 with a payload of 376 bytes. Worms pose a great threat, as such, I will assign a high severity level. The protocol conversation and protocol hierarchy panels will be used to monitor conversations between nodes and the number of packets communicated per protocol. An incident response report will be written to document the investigation and the threat intelligence will equally be updated.

2. Business Impacts

The slammer worm generates massive packets that can overload servers. Short-term risks are; it slows network and server performance, causes a denial of service, and disrupts business operations. Huge financial losses from downtime and expensive business recovery are long-term risks.

3. Remediation

The address the incident, I will implement both ingress and egress filters on the company's firewalls and routers to block outbound and inbound UDP packets with 1434 as the destination port. This will prevent infected packets from leaving or entering the network. I will also harden the company's systems to block all unsolicited services and unused ports like port 1434.

Command and Control (C2) – Zeus

1. Threat Simulation

To analyze the incident, I will look out for patterns and behaviors for any beacon activity – connections between two nodes at regular intervals. Compromised host devices communicate with the C2 server for matching orders to be executed and both parties communicate consistently. I will filter the packets using source and destination IPs to analyze the traffic between such addresses. Regular connections will indicate a C2 session. From the packet capture, there were multiple ACK flags without initial SYN flags. Most HTTP and TCP packets had the same payload size of 1460 bytes. 159 connections at a 5-second interval, 159 at a 10-second interval, and 159 at a 15-second interval. This pattern indicates that IP 192.168.99.53 and IP 67.207.93.135 were consistently communicating. I will an in-built graph dashboard to visualize the traffic between the two IP addresses and detect the connection interval. Zeus poses a great threat to the business and will be assigned a high criticality level. An incident response report will be written to document the incident and update the business' threat intelligence.

2. Business Impacts

The Zeus worm impacts businesses based on its payload. Short-term risks include unauthorized access to business resources, stealing sensitive data, disrupting business activities, causing DoS attacks, and huge financial loss. Zeus worm attacks can have long-term impacts on the business. These include shutting down the business network, legal actions against the business, damaging the company's brand, and opening the business to ransomware attacks.

3. Remediation

The remediation process will include both human and technological measures. Educate employees on online safety and security practices, conduct regular beacon analysis, regularly patch computing systems, and update software in a timely fashion.

References

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