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--- Day 12: Passage Pathing ---
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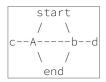
With your submarine's subterranean subsystems subsisting suboptimally, the only way you're getting out of this cave anytime soon is by finding a path yourself. Not just a path - the only way to know if you've found the best path is to find all of them.

Fortunately, the sensors are still mostly working, and so you build a rough map of the remaining caves (your puzzle input). For example:

start-A start-b A-c A-b b-d A-end b-end

This is a list of how all of the caves are connected. You start in the cave named <u>start</u>, and your destination is the cave named <u>end</u>. An entry like <u>b-d</u> means that cave <u>b</u> is connected to cave <u>d</u> - that is, you can move between them.

So, the above cave system looks roughly like this:



Your goal is to find the number of distinct paths that start at start, end at end, and don't visit small caves more than once. There are two types of caves: big caves (written in uppercase, like <a href="https://distince/disti

Given these rules, there are [10] paths through this example cave system:

start,A,b,A,c,A,end start,A,b,A,end start,A,c,A,b,A,end start,A,c,A,b,end start,A,c,A,end start,A,c,A,end start,A,end start,b,A,c,A,end start,b,A,end start,b,A,end

(Each line in the above list corresponds to a single path; the caves visited by that path are listed in the order they are visited and separated by commas.)

Note that in this cave system, cave d is never visited by any path: to do so, cave b would need to be visited twice (once on the way to cave d and a second time when returning from cave d), and since cave b is small, this is not allowed.

Here is a slightly larger example:

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```
dc-end
HN-start
start-kj
dc-start
dc-HN
LN-dc
HN-end
kj-sa
kj-HN
kj-dc
```

The [19] paths through it are as follows:

```
start, HN, dc, HN, end
start,HN,dc,HN,kj,HN,end
start,HN,dc,end
start,HN,dc,kj,HN,end
start,HN,end
start,HN,kj,HN,dc,HN,end
start,HN,kj,HN,dc,end
start,HN,kj,HN,end
start,HN,kj,dc,HN,end
start,HN,kj,dc,end
start,dc,HN,end
start,dc,HN,kj,HN,end
start, dc, end
start,dc,kj,HN,end
start,kj,HN,dc,HN,end
start,kj,HN,dc,end
start,kj,HN,end
start,kj,dc,HN,end
start,kj,dc,end
```

Finally, this even larger example has 226 paths through it:

fs-end he-DX fs-he start-DX pj-DX end-zg zg-sl zg-pj pj-he RW-he fs-DX pj-RW zg-RW start-pj he-WI zg-he pj-fs start-RW

How many paths through this cave system are there that visit small caves at most once?

To begin, get your puzzle input.

Answer: [Submit]

You can also [Share] this puzzle.

2 z 2