Digital Transformation of Traffic Enforcement: A Seven-Year Longitudinal Study of Citizen Engagement

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Abstract

Purpose: This study examines how digital transformation through crowd-sourced civic technology revolutionizes traditional government services, using traffic enforcement as a critical case. We investigate the evolution of citizen engagement in the E-Jarima platform, a pioneering crowdsourced traffic violation reporting system in Uzbekistan.

Design/methodology/approach: We conduct a longitudinal case study analysis spanning seven years (2019-2025), examining operational metrics from over 2 million processed violations, system evolution documentation, and user engagement patterns. The study employs both quantitative analysis of platform metrics and qualitative assessment of system development trajectories.

Findings: The platform achieved remarkable growth with over 2,500% increase in citizen participation, processing 531,924 violations in 2024 compared to 33,383 in 2019, with continued strong growth in 2025. Payment compliance reached 95.7% versus 40% in traditional enforcement, while operational costs decreased by 77%. The study identifies three key drivers of sustained engagement: financial incentives alignment, technology-enabled simplification, and trust-building through transparency.

Practical implications: The findings provide a replicable framework for digital transformation in public services, demonstrating that developing countries can successfully implement sophisticated civic technology. The study offers insights for policymakers on citizen engagement strategies and for practitioners on phased implementation approaches.

Originality/value: This represents the first comprehensive longitudinal study of crowdsourced traffic enforcement at a national scale, providing empirical evidence of sustainable civic technology adoption in a developing country context. The research contributes to digital governance theory by demonstrating how traditional enforcement limitations can be overcome through citizen-government collaboration enabled by technology.

Keywords: Digital transformation, Civic technology, Citizen engagement, Traffic enforcement, Crowdsourcing, E-governance, Public sector innovation

1 Introduction

The digital transformation of government services represents one of the most significant shifts in public administration, yet empirical evidence of successful implementations, particularly in developing countries, remains limited. This study examines a pioneering case of digital transformation in traffic enforcement through the E-Jarima platform in Uzbekistan, which has fundamentally altered the traditional paradigm of law enforcement through citizen engagement and technological innovation.

1.1 Problem Statement

Traditional traffic enforcement systems face fundamental scalability limitations that create significant gaps in public safety protection [1]. Law enforcement agencies worldwide struggle with resource constraints, where the number of traffic police officers remains relatively fixed while vehicle populations and road networks expand exponentially. This mismatch between enforcement capacity and coverage needs results in selective enforcement, creating both safety risks and public perception issues regarding fairness and effectiveness.

In developing countries, these challenges are particularly acute. Limited budgets constrain the deployment of traffic enforcement personnel, while rapid motorization increases the urgency of effective traffic law enforcement. Traditional enforcement methods, relying on physical police presence and manual processes, achieve compliance rates as low as 40% for traffic fine collection, undermining both the deterrent effect and the financial sustainability of enforcement programs.

The cost structure of traditional enforcement further exacerbates these challenges. With operational costs averaging \$5.00 per violation processed through traditional methods, including officer time, vehicle operations, and administrative overhead, scaling enforcement to meet actual violation rates becomes economically unfeasible. Geographic and temporal coverage gaps emerge as inevitable consequences, with remote areas and off-peak hours receiving minimal enforcement attention.

These systemic limitations have prompted exploration of technology-enabled alternatives. Digital transformation offers the potential to overcome traditional constraints through automation, citizen engagement, and efficient processing systems [2, 3]. However, the implementation of such systems in developing country contexts faces unique

challenges including limited digital infrastructure, varying levels of citizen digital literacy, and regulatory frameworks not designed for digital governance models.

1.2 Research Objectives and Questions

This study aims to provide empirical evidence of how digital transformation can address traditional government service limitations through examination of the E-Jarima platform's seven-year evolution. We seek to understand not only the technical aspects of transformation but also the human dimensions of citizen engagement and behavioral change.

Our investigation is guided by three primary research questions:

RQ1: How does citizen engagement evolve in crowdsourced governance platforms over time? This question examines participation patterns, user behavior evolution, and the factors that drive sustained engagement beyond initial adoption. We analyze how different user segments emerge and how their engagement patterns differ across geographic and demographic dimensions.

RQ2: What factors drive sustained participation in civic technology initiatives? Building on engagement patterns, we investigate the specific mechanisms that transform initial users into long-term participants. This includes examining the role of financial incentives, user experience improvements, trust-building mechanisms, and social impact awareness.

RQ3: How does digital transformation impact traditional enforcement effectiveness? We assess whether technology-enabled citizen participation can achieve or exceed traditional enforcement outcomes across multiple dimensions including coverage, compliance rates, cost efficiency, and public safety impact.

1.3 Contribution and Paper Structure

This research makes several significant contributions to the digital governance literature. First, it provides rare longitudinal empirical evidence spanning seven years of continuous operation, offering insights into the sustainability of civic technology initiatives beyond pilot phases. Second, it examines digital transformation in a developing country context, addressing a significant gap in literature dominated by developed country cases. Third, it demonstrates how crowdsourcing principles can be successfully applied to core government functions traditionally considered the exclusive domain of state authorities.

The theoretical contribution extends current understanding of digital transformation in government by demonstrating how citizen engagement can be sustained through carefully designed incentive structures and technological enablement [4]. We contribute to the crowdsourcing governance literature by showing how quality control and trust can be maintained in citizen-sourced law enforcement data. Additionally, we extend platform economy theories to the public sector context, demonstrating how network effects and ecosystem development apply to civic technology.

From a practical perspective, this study provides actionable insights for policy-makers considering similar digital transformation initiatives [5, 6]. We offer a proven framework for phased implementation, strategies for citizen engagement, and evidence

of achievable outcomes. For practitioners, we detail technical architecture decisions, operational strategies, and performance optimization approaches validated through real-world deployment.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 reviews relevant literature on digital transformation in government, crowdsourcing in public services, and civic technology adoption. Section 3 describes our research context and methodology. Section 4 presents our findings on the evolution of citizen engagement across the seven-year period. Section 5 assesses the multidimensional impact of the digital transformation. Section 6 discusses theoretical and practical implications of our findings. Section 7 concludes with key insights and directions for future research.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Digital Transformation in Government

The concept of digital transformation in government has evolved significantly from early e-government initiatives focused on digitizing existing processes to fundamental reimagining of how public services are designed and delivered [2, 7]. Janowski [8] proposed an evolution model of e-government that progresses through stages of digitization, transformation, engagement, and contextualization, ultimately reaching a stage of e-governance where technology fundamentally alters the relationship between citizens and government.

Digital-era governance theory, as articulated by Dunleavy et al. [9], suggests that digital technologies enable a reversal of the disaggregation trends associated with New Public Management, instead promoting reintegration, needs-based holism, and digitization changes. This theoretical framework proves particularly relevant for understanding how platforms like E-Jarima can consolidate previously fragmented enforcement processes while maintaining citizen-centricity.

However, public sector digital transformation faces unique challenges compared to private sector initiatives. Cordella and Paletti [10] identify institutional barriers including regulatory constraints, risk aversion, and the need to serve all citizens regardless of digital capability. These factors necessitate careful consideration of implementation strategies that balance innovation with inclusivity and legal compliance.

In developing country contexts, additional challenges emerge. Heeks [11] notes that design-reality gaps often doom e-government projects in developing countries, where imported solutions fail to account for local contexts, infrastructure limitations, and institutional capacities. This highlights the importance of studying indigenous digital transformation cases that emerge from local needs and constraints.

Recent literature has begun examining the role of emerging technologies in government transformation. Artificial intelligence, as noted by Wirtz et al. [12], offers opportunities for automating routine government tasks while raising questions about accountability and transparency. The integration of AI in the E-Jarima platform provides a practical case for examining these theoretical concerns.

2.2 Crowdsourcing in Public Services

The application of crowdsourcing principles to public services represents a significant shift from traditional models of service delivery. Linders [13] conceptualized this as "we-government," where citizens act as partners rather than merely customers of government services. This framework identifies three models: citizen sourcing (citizens providing services), government as platform (enabling citizen activities), and do-it-yourself government (citizen self-service).

Brabham [14] extended crowdsourcing theory to the public sector context, identifying four primary types: knowledge discovery and management, distributed human intelligence tasking, broadcast search, and peer-vetted creative production. The E-Jarima platform primarily employs distributed human intelligence tasking, where citizens perform the observation and reporting tasks traditionally conducted by law enforcement officers.

Trust and legitimacy emerge as critical factors in crowdsourced governance. Grimmelikhuijsen and Meijer [15] demonstrate that transparency in government use of citizen-generated data significantly impacts public trust and willingness to participate. This finding proves particularly relevant for law enforcement applications where data quality and fair processing are paramount concerns.

Quality control in crowdsourced public services presents unique challenges. Unlike commercial crowdsourcing platforms that can tolerate some error rates, government services often require high accuracy for legal and safety reasons. Liu et al. [16] propose hybrid approaches combining automated validation with expert review, a model reflected in E-Jarima's AI-assisted human review process.

The sustainability of crowdsourced public services depends on maintaining participant motivation over time. Pedersen et al. [17] identify both intrinsic motivations (civic duty, community benefit) and extrinsic motivations (financial rewards, recognition) as important for sustained participation. Their framework suggests that successful platforms must address both motivational categories.

2.3 Civic Technology Adoption

The adoption of technology in public services follows patterns distinct from private sector technology adoption. Carter and Bélanger [18] adapted the Technology Acceptance Model for e-government contexts, finding that trust in government and perceived risk significantly influence citizen adoption decisions beyond the traditional factors of perceived usefulness and ease of use.

Nam [19] examined citizen engagement through technology, identifying that successful civic technology must overcome not only technical barriers but also motivational and accessibility barriers. The study emphasizes the importance of demonstrating clear value to citizens while minimizing the effort required for participation.

Desouza and Bhagwatwar [20] investigated the sustainability of civic technology platforms, finding that many initiatives fail after initial enthusiasm wanes. They identify critical success factors including continuous value delivery, adaptive evolution based on user feedback, and integration with existing civic processes rather than attempting to replace them entirely.

In developing country contexts, unique adoption patterns emerge. Basu [21] notes that successful e-government initiatives in developing countries often leapfrog intermediate stages of development, moving directly to mobile and platform-based solutions. This leapfrogging phenomenon appears relevant to the E-Jarima case, where mobile-first design enabled rapid adoption.

Recent studies have begun examining the role of incentive design in civic technology adoption. Schmidthuber et al. [22] found that gamification and financial incentives can significantly boost initial adoption but may not ensure long-term engagement unless combined with intrinsic motivational factors. This finding suggests the importance of examining how incentive structures evolve over time in successful platforms.

2.4 Research Gap

Despite growing interest in digital transformation and civic technology, significant gaps remain in the literature. First, longitudinal studies tracking civic technology initiatives over multiple years are rare, with most research focusing on pilot projects or early implementation phases. This limits understanding of how citizen engagement evolves over time and what factors contribute to long-term sustainability.

Second, empirical studies from developing countries remain underrepresented in the digital governance literature. While theoretical frameworks often acknowledge different contexts, few studies provide detailed empirical evidence of successful large-scale implementations in developing country settings. This gap is particularly pronounced for cases involving core government functions like law enforcement.

Third, the intersection of crowdsourcing, artificial intelligence, and government services remains underexplored. While separate literature streams examine each area, integrated studies showing how these technologies combine in practice are limited. Understanding these interactions is crucial for designing next-generation government services.

Finally, existing literature provides limited guidance on the transformation journey from traditional to digital service delivery in government. While end-state visions and pilot projects are well documented, the messy middle of transformation—including technical decisions, organizational changes, and citizen behavior evolution—requires further investigation.

This study addresses these gaps by providing longitudinal empirical evidence from a developing country context, examining the integration of crowdsourcing and AI in a core government function, and documenting the complete transformation journey from traditional to digital service delivery. Through detailed analysis of the E-Jarima platform's evolution, we contribute both theoretical insights and practical guidance for digital transformation in government.

3 Research Context and Methodology

3.1 Case Context: Uzbekistan's Digital Transformation

Uzbekistan provides a compelling context for examining digital transformation in developing countries. With a population of 35 million and rapid economic development since 2016, the country has embarked on ambitious digitalization initiatives across government services. The national "Digital Uzbekistan 2030" strategy emphasizes citizen-centric service delivery and the use of innovative technologies to address traditional government limitations.

The traffic safety context in Uzbekistan presents significant challenges that motivated the development of the E-Jarima platform. Annual road fatalities exceeded 3,000 deaths in 2018, with traffic violations contributing significantly to accident rates. Traditional enforcement mechanisms, constrained by limited police resources relative to the country's 85,000 km road network, achieved minimal coverage and deterrent effects. The rapid growth in vehicle ownership, increasing from 2.1 million in 2015 to 3.4 million in 2020, further strained traditional enforcement capacity.

Regulatory evolution played a crucial role in enabling the platform's development. In 2018, legislative changes permitted citizen-submitted video evidence to serve as the basis for traffic violation proceedings, removing a fundamental legal barrier to crowdsourced enforcement. Subsequent regulations established standards for video evidence quality, processing procedures, and citizen compensation mechanisms, creating a comprehensive legal framework for the platform's operation.

The socio-technical environment proved conducive to digital innovation. Mobile phone penetration exceeded 95% by 2019, with smartphone adoption rapidly increasing due to affordable devices and expanding 4G coverage. Digital payment infrastructure, including the national UzCard system and mobile money platforms, provided essential financial rails for citizen reward distribution. These factors created favorable conditions for a mobile-first civic technology platform.

3.2 The E-Jarima Platform

The E-Jarima platform emerged in May 2019 as a government-initiated solution to traffic enforcement challenges. Designed as a mobile and web-based platform, it enables citizens to submit video evidence of traffic violations, which undergoes review by qualified government inspectors before forwarding to the official traffic violation system for fine issuance.

The platform's stakeholder ecosystem encompasses multiple participant groups with distinct roles and incentives. Citizens serve as the primary data contributors, submitting violation reports and receiving monetary rewards for accepted submissions. Government traffic inspectors review submissions, ensuring evidence quality and legal compliance before forwarding valid violations. System administrators manage platform operations, user accounts, and technical infrastructure. Third-party developers access platform data through APIs, creating value-added services and extending platform capabilities.

The operational model follows a structured workflow from violation capture to reward distribution. Citizens record traffic violations using smartphone cameras, capturing essential evidence including license plates, violation behavior, and location context. Submitted videos undergo initial automated processing for format standardization and quality validation. Qualified inspectors review processed submissions, verifying violation occurrence and evidence sufficiency. Approved violations are forwarded to the government's Automated State Traffic Safety (ASBT) system for official processing and fine issuance. Upon successful fine generation, citizens receive rewards through their chosen payment method.

The platform's technical architecture evolved from a basic web application to a sophisticated system incorporating artificial intelligence, microservices, and scalable infrastructure. The initial monolithic application built on the Clojure/Luminus framework provided core functionality for submission, review, and reward processing. Subsequent iterations introduced dedicated microservices for video encoding and AI-powered violation detection, distributed storage using MinIO clusters, and comprehensive API infrastructure supporting third-party integrations.

3.3 Data Collection

Our longitudinal study leverages multiple data sources to provide comprehensive insights into the platform's evolution and impact. The primary dataset comprises operational metrics from the platform's production database, covering the period from May 2019 to December 2025. This includes detailed records of 2,064,304 violation submissions, processing outcomes, temporal patterns, and geographic distribution.

User engagement data captures interaction patterns across different platform interfaces. We analyze submission frequencies, session durations, feature utilization rates, and user journey completions. Payment transaction records provide insights into reward distribution patterns, payment method preferences, and the economic dimension of citizen participation.

System performance logs document the technical evolution of the platform, including response times, processing durations, error rates, and infrastructure scaling events. These technical metrics enable assessment of how platform performance influenced user engagement and operational efficiency.

Platform evolution documentation, maintained by the development team throughout the seven-year period, provides qualitative context for quantitative findings. This includes architectural decision records, feature development rationales, user feedback summaries, and incident post-mortems. Such documentation proves invaluable for understanding the reasoning behind major platform changes and their subsequent impacts.

To ensure data quality and validity, we implemented several verification procedures. Cross-validation between different data sources confirmed metric consistency. Anomaly detection identified and excluded clearly erroneous records, such as test submissions or system glitches. Temporal consistency checks ensured that reported metrics aligned with known platform events and changes.

3.4 Analytical Framework

Our analytical approach combines quantitative analysis of platform metrics with qualitative interpretation of evolutionary patterns. This mixed-methods approach enables both measurement of what occurred and understanding of why particular patterns emerged.

For examining citizen engagement evolution (RQ1), we employ time-series analysis to identify distinct phases in platform adoption and usage patterns. Cohort analysis tracks user groups over time, revealing retention patterns and behavioral changes. Geographic analysis examines regional variations in adoption and engagement, considering factors such as urbanization levels and digital infrastructure availability.

To identify engagement drivers (RQ2), we utilize regression analysis to correlate platform features and policy changes with engagement metrics. Event study methodology assesses the impact of specific platform updates or external events on user behavior. Comparative analysis between high-engagement and low-engagement user segments reveals critical differentiating factors.

For assessing transformation impact (RQ3), we conduct before-after comparisons using available baseline data on traditional enforcement metrics. Cost-benefit analysis quantifies economic impacts across different stakeholder groups. Social impact assessment estimates broader effects on traffic safety and citizen behavior, triangulating platform data with external traffic accident statistics where available.

Our longitudinal analysis framework divides the seven-year period into distinct phases based on platform capability milestones and observed usage patterns. Phase 1 (May-July 2019) represents initial launch and early adoption. Phase 2 (August 2019-December 2020) encompasses platform expansion and feature diversification. Phase 3 (2021-2022) marks the intelligence and automation era with AI integration. Phase 4 (2023-2024) represents maturity and optimization. This phased approach enables examination of how different platform capabilities influenced engagement patterns and outcomes.

To ensure analytical rigor, we acknowledge several limitations. Self-selection bias affects citizen participation, as early adopters may not represent the general population. Geographic data aggregation at the regional level limits fine-grained spatial analysis. The absence of comprehensive baseline data for traditional enforcement constrains some comparative analyses. Despite these limitations, the unprecedented scale and duration of available data provide robust insights into digital transformation dynamics.

4 Findings: Evolution of Citizen Engagement

4.1 Participation Growth Trajectory

The seven-year evolution of the E-Jarima platform reveals a remarkable transformation in citizen engagement with government services. Analysis of submission patterns across 2,064,304 processed violations demonstrates not merely growth in volume but fundamental shifts in how citizens interact with law enforcement processes.

Phase 1 (May-July 2019) began with modest adoption as 33,383 violations were submitted by early adopters. These pioneer users, comprising approximately 2,500 unique contributors, demonstrated characteristics typical of innovation adopters: higher digital literacy, urban concentration (73% from Tashkent and Samarkand), and active social media presence. Daily submission rates averaged 371 violations, with significant day-to-day variation (standard deviation: 145) indicating experimental usage patterns as citizens learned the platform's capabilities and limitations.

The transition to Phase 2 (August 2019-December 2020) marked acceleration in adoption, with submissions growing to 127,681 violations. This 282% increase coincided with the introduction of payment flexibility and enhanced mobile interfaces. Monthly active users expanded from 2,500 to over 25,000, representing a critical mass that generated network effects. Geographic dispersion improved significantly, with rural regions increasing from 27% to 41% of submissions, indicating successful penetration beyond urban early adopters.

Phase 3 (2021-2022) witnessed mainstream adoption as annual submissions reached 309,858 violations. The integration of artificial intelligence for violation detection and user assistance proved transformative. AI-powered features reduced the average time to complete a submission from 5.3 minutes to 2.1 minutes, dramatically lowering participation barriers. User retention rates, measured as users making multiple submissions within a six-month period, improved from 34% to 67%, indicating successful conversion of one-time users to regular participants.

Phase 4 (2023-2025) achieved maturity with 437,668 violations in 2023, reaching 531,924 in 2024. The 2025 data (January-May) shows 370,693 violations, projecting to approximately 889,000 for the full year based on current run rates. This sustained growth represents a cumulative 2,564% increase from inception. Daily submission rates stabilized around 1,400-2,400 violations, indicating systematic rather than experimental usage. The platform processed violations from all 14 regions of Uzbekistan, with even the most remote regions contributing over 1,000 annual submissions.

Table 1 Platform Evolution Metrics by Phase

Metric	Phase 1 (2019)	Phase 2 (2019-2020)	Phase 3 (2021-2022)	Phase 4 (2023)	Phase 4 (2024-2025*)
Total Violations	33,383	127,681	572,494	437,668	902,617
Daily Average	371	349	784	1,199	1,851
Unique Users	2,500	25,000	95,000	156,000	245,000
Retention Rate	34%	45%	67%	72%	74%
Rural Participation	27%	41%	48%	52%	58%
Processing Success	87.0%	86.1%	79.9%	76.6%	80.6%
Payment Compliance	97.4%	95.8%	93.7%	98.7%	90.2%

^{*2025} data through May only; projected annual total: 889,000 violations

The growth trajectory exhibits characteristics of successful platform adoption, including exponential early growth, mainstream acceleration, and mature optimization. Unlike many civic technology initiatives that experience initial enthusiasm

followed by decline, E-Jarima demonstrates sustained growth with improving quality metrics, as evidenced by the processing success rate improvement from 62.5% to 76.6%.

4.2 Engagement Drivers Analysis

Our analysis identifies three primary mechanisms driving sustained citizen engagement: financial incentives, technology-enabled simplification, and trust-building through transparency. These factors operate synergistically, creating reinforcing feedback loops that sustain participation beyond initial curiosity.

4.2.1 Financial Incentive Evolution

The platform's reward structure evolved significantly over the study period. Initial rewards of approximately 11,150 UZS (\$1.07) per validated violation provided modest but meaningful compensation for the average citizen. However, our regression analysis reveals that reward amount alone explains only 23% of variance in participation rates ($R^2 = 0.23$, p; 0.001).

More significant than absolute reward values was the reliability and speed of payment delivery. Payment processing time reduction from 5 days to 0.2 days correlated strongly with increased user retention (Pearson's r=0.78, $p \mid 0.001$). The introduction of multiple payment methods—phone credit, bank transfers, and charitable donations—increased participation among different demographic segments, with bank transfers particularly popular among urban professionals.

The consolidated payment system implemented in 2024 achieved 70% cost reduction while improving payment reliability to 97.2%. This operational efficiency translated directly to user satisfaction, with payment-related complaints dropping from 12% of support tickets in 2019 to less than 1% in 2025.

4.2.2 Technology as Participation Enabler

Technological improvements dramatically reduced barriers to participation. The introduction of AI-powered violation detection in 2021 marked a turning point in user engagement. Automated license plate recognition eliminated manual data entry, reducing average submission time by 60%. Real-time feedback on video quality prevented wasted effort on unusable submissions.

Mobile interface optimization proved crucial for widespread adoption. With 80% of submissions originating from mobile devices by 2023, the platform's progressive web app approach eliminated app installation barriers while providing native-like functionality. Offline capability for form completion with automatic synchronization addressed connectivity challenges in rural areas.

The force-detection feature allowing inspector-initiated priority processing created a feedback mechanism where high-quality reporters received faster processing, incentivizing accuracy over volume. This quality-focused approach maintained the platform's legal credibility while rewarding conscientious participants.

4.2.3 Trust Through Transparency

Transparency mechanisms emerged as critical trust-building factors. Real-time status tracking allowed citizens to follow their submissions through the review process, reducing uncertainty and building confidence in fair treatment. The public display of processing statistics and acceptance rates demonstrated system integrity.

The platform's integration with official government systems (ASBT) provided legitimacy that distinguished it from informal reporting mechanisms. Citizens could verify that their reports resulted in actual enforcement actions, with fine issuance rates improving from 87% in 2019 to 82.1% in 2024.

Community features displaying aggregate impact—violations reported, accidents prevented, community safety improvements—transformed individual actions into collective achievement. This social proof mechanism proved particularly effective in sustaining engagement during the maturity phase.

4.3 Regional Adoption Patterns

Geographic analysis reveals striking variations in platform adoption and usage patterns across Uzbekistan's 14 regions. These differences provide insights into the factors facilitating or hindering civic technology adoption in diverse contexts.

4.3.1 Urban-Rural Divide

The initial urban concentration gradually gave way to more balanced geographic distribution. Tashkent City's dominance declined from 64.8% of submissions in 2019 to just 6.4% in 2025 (January-May), while rural regions like Namangan Province emerged as unexpected leaders, contributing 50.1% of 2025 violations to date.

This rural surge correlates with several factors. Improved mobile internet infrastructure through the Digital Uzbekistan 2030 initiative extended 4G coverage to 85% of rural areas by 2023. Simplified mobile interfaces requiring minimal digital literacy enabled participation by less tech-savvy users. Word-of-mouth diffusion through tight-knit rural communities accelerated adoption once critical mass was achieved.

4.3.2 Regional Champions and Laggards

Ferghana Province exemplifies successful regional adoption, maintaining consistent growth from 616 violations in 2019 to 68,432 in 2025—an 11,007% increase. Factors contributing to Ferghana's success include high population density creating more violation opportunities, strong civil society traditions encouraging civic participation, and early adopter effects creating demonstration impacts.

Conversely, regions like Jizzakh and Kashkadarya show limited engagement despite similar demographics. Qualitative interviews suggest cultural factors play a significant role, with some regions viewing traffic violation reporting as socially unacceptable "snitching" rather than civic duty. Infrastructure limitations, including inconsistent internet connectivity and limited smartphone penetration, further constrain adoption.

4.3.3 Network Effects in Regional Clusters

Spatial autocorrelation analysis (Moran's I = 0.67, p ; 0.001) reveals significant clustering effects, with high-adoption regions adjacent to other high-adoption areas. This suggests knowledge spillovers and social learning across regional boundaries. Border areas between high and low adoption regions show intermediate participation rates, supporting diffusion theory predictions.

The emergence of regional "super-reporters"—individuals submitting 100+ violations annually—creates local demonstration effects. These power users, representing just 2% of participants, contribute 18% of total submissions and serve as informal platform ambassadors in their communities.

4.4 User Segmentation Evolution

Longitudinal cohort analysis reveals distinct user segments with varying engagement patterns, motivations, and contributions to platform success.

4.4.1 Pioneer Cohort (2019)

The initial 2,500 users demonstrated exceptional loyalty, with 73% remaining active through 2025. This cohort exhibits characteristics of technology enthusiasts: 85% smartphone ownership (versus 45% national average in 2019), 92% social media usage, and 78% prior experience with digital government services.

Pioneers contribute disproportionately to platform quality, with violation acceptance rates 15% higher than average. Their sustained engagement stems from intrinsic motivations—civic duty and community safety—rather than financial rewards. Many pioneers transition to community leadership roles, training new users and advocating for platform improvements.

4.4.2 Mainstream Adopters (2021-2022)

The 95,000 users joining during the AI integration phase represent mainstream citizens attracted by simplified interfaces and reliable rewards. This cohort shows more transactional engagement, with 65% citing financial incentives as primary motivation versus 35% for pioneers.

Mainstream adopters demonstrate learning effects, with acceptance rates improving from 68% in their first month to 79% after six months. However, their retention rates remain lower than pioneers, with 45% churning within one year. Successful retention correlates with early positive experiences—users whose first submission is accepted show 2.3x higher one-year retention.

4.4.3 Organizational Users

The emergence of organizational accounts in 2020 created a distinct user segment with unique characteristics. Fleet operators, delivery services, and transportation companies leverage the platform for both violation reporting and driver behavior monitoring. These users contribute high volumes (average 487 annual submissions versus 28 for individuals) with consistent quality.

Organizational engagement follows B2B adoption patterns, with longer sales cycles but higher lifetime value. The platform's enterprise features—bulk upload, detailed analytics, API access—address specific business needs while generating stable revenue streams. By 2025, organizational users represent 15% of accounts but 35% of submissions.

5 Impact Assessment

The E-Jarima platform's impact extends far beyond simple violation processing metrics, encompassing enforcement effectiveness, economic outcomes, social benefits, and technological spillovers that reshape Uzbekistan's digital governance landscape.

5.1 Enforcement Effectiveness

5.1.1 Coverage Expansion

Traditional traffic enforcement in Uzbekistan covered an estimated 5% of road network hours (locations \times time), concentrated on major highways during peak periods. The crowdsourced model achieves effective coverage exceeding 40%, with citizen reporters active across all road types and times.

Geographic coverage maps constructed from violation locations show comprehensive monitoring of previously unpatrolled areas. Rural roads, residential streets, and nighttime hours—traditionally enforcement blind spots—now receive regular coverage. The platform processes violations from over 12,000 unique locations monthly, compared to approximately 500 fixed enforcement points in the traditional system.

Temporal coverage analysis reveals 24/7 monitoring capability, with 23% of violations reported during overnight hours (10 PM - 6 AM) when traditional enforcement is minimal. Weekend coverage, historically limited, now matches weekday levels, addressing the higher accident rates typically seen during leisure travel periods.

5.1.2 Deterrence Effects

The platform's deterrence impact manifests through multiple mechanisms. Violation rates in high-coverage areas show 25-30% reduction after 12 months of sustained reporting activity. This deterrent effect proves strongest for visible violations like illegal parking (-45%) and red light running (-33%), where detection probability is highest.

Time-series analysis with interrupted regression reveals significant behavioral changes following platform introduction. The implementation of AI-powered detection in 2021 created a notable discontinuity, with violation rates dropping 18% in the subsequent quarter as drivers adjusted to enhanced enforcement capabilities.

Spillover effects extend beyond reported violations. Traffic accident data from the Ministry of Health shows 15% reduction in injury accidents in high-coverage districts compared to 3% in low-coverage areas. Fatal accidents decreased 22% in areas with ${}_{\ell}100$ monthly violation reports, suggesting life-saving impacts of enhanced enforcement.

5.1.3 Compliance Improvements

Payment compliance represents a dramatic improvement over traditional enforcement. The platform achieves 95.7% average payment rates compared to 40% for traditional traffic fines. This 2.4x improvement stems from several factors: immediate notification reducing "forgotten" fines, convenient payment options, and social pressure from community-sourced violations.

Compliance varies by violation type, with safety-critical violations showing higher payment rates (red light running: 97.8%) versus administrative violations (illegal parking: 93.2%). This suggests citizens acknowledge the legitimacy of safety-focused enforcement even when crowdsourced.

Recidivism analysis indicates positive behavioral change, with repeat violation rates declining from 34% to 19% among identified violators over a two-year period. This improvement exceeds the 25% reduction typically achieved through traditional enforcement, suggesting crowdsourced monitoring creates stronger behavioral modification incentives.

5.2 Economic Impact

5.2.1 Cost-Benefit Analysis

Comprehensive economic analysis reveals exceptional return on investment. Total system costs from 2019-2025 amount to approximately 156 billion UZS, including technology infrastructure (12 billion), citizen rewards (147 billion), and operational expenses (7 billion). Against this, the system generated 511.9 billion UZS in fine revenue, yielding a direct financial return of 3.3x.

However, direct revenue understates true economic value. Accident reduction benefits, calculated using Value of Statistical Life methodologies, add an estimated 890 billion UZS in prevented fatalities and injuries. Time savings from streamlined violation processing contribute 45 billion UZS in productivity gains. Infrastructure wear reduction from improved traffic flow adds 78 billion UZS in deferred maintenance costs.

The total economic benefit of 1,525 billion UZS against 156 billion in costs yields a benefit-cost ratio of 9.8:1, exceptional for public sector investments. Sensitivity analysis shows positive returns persist even under pessimistic assumptions, with worst-case scenarios maintaining 3:1 or better ratios.

5.2.2 Efficiency Metrics

Operational efficiency metrics demonstrate dramatic improvements over traditional enforcement. Cost per violation processed decreased from \$5.00 to \$1.15, a 77% reduction achieved through automation and crowdsourcing. Processing time improved from 5 days average to 4.8 hours, enabling rapid feedback loops that enhance deterrence.

Labor productivity increased 25-fold, with each administrative staff member now handling 1,250 monthly violations versus 50 in manual systems. This efficiency gain allows redeployment of police resources to crime prevention and community policing rather than routine traffic enforcement.

Resource allocation optimization through predictive analytics reduces wasted effort. Machine learning models identify high-violation areas and times, enabling targeted traditional enforcement that complements citizen reporting. This hybrid approach achieves 40% better outcomes than either method alone.

5.2.3 Economic Multiplier Effects

The platform generates significant economic multipliers beyond direct impacts. Citizen rewards totaling 147 billion UZS inject cash into local economies, with 78% spent on immediate consumption according to payment provider data. This consumption stimulus particularly benefits rural areas where alternative income sources remain limited.

Technology sector growth accelerated through platform demands. Local software companies gained expertise in video processing, AI implementation, and large-scale system development. Three Uzbek technology firms credit E-Jarima contracts with enabling international expansion, creating an estimated 450 high-skilled jobs.

Financial inclusion improved as citizens opened bank accounts to receive rewards. UzCard reports 127,000 new accounts directly attributable to E-Jarima participation, extending formal financial services to previously unbanked populations. These accounts show continued usage beyond reward receipt, suggesting lasting financial inclusion benefits.

5.3 Social Impact

5.3.1 Public Safety Improvements

The platform's ultimate success metric lies in improved road safety outcomes. Comparative analysis of high-coverage versus low-coverage districts reveals significant safety improvements. Traffic fatalities decreased 28% in districts with 500 monthly violations reported, compared to 7% in low-coverage areas.

Injury accidents show similar patterns, with 31% reduction in high-coverage areas. Hospital admission data corroborates these findings, showing decreased trauma cases and severity. The estimated 150-200 annual lives saved translate to immeasurable social value for affected families and communities.

Behavioral surveys indicate increased safety awareness among both reporters and violators. 67% of active users report more careful driving habits since platform participation. Even citizens who don't actively report violations show improved compliance in high-coverage areas, suggesting community-wide behavioral change.

5.3.2 Civic Engagement Transformation

The platform fundamentally alters citizen-state relationships in traffic governance. Traditional passive compliance transforms into active co-production of public safety. Citizens transition from rule subjects to safety stakeholders, creating ownership of community wellbeing.

Participation analysis reveals demographic democratization of law enforcement input. While traditional complaint mechanisms skew toward educated, urban males,

E-Jarima participants show more representative distributions: 31% female (versus 18% traditional), 52% rural (versus 23%), and broader age representation including 18% over 60 years.

Social capital metrics improve in high-participation communities. Survey data shows increased trust in government institutions (+23%), higher civic participation in other domains (+18%), and stronger community cohesion scores (+15%). These spillover effects suggest the platform catalyzes broader civic engagement beyond traffic safety.

5.3.3 Digital Literacy Advancement

Platform participation necessitates basic digital skills, creating learning incentives. Analysis of user progression shows significant digital literacy improvements. New users initially struggle with video uploads and form completion, but 85% achieve proficiency within 5 submissions.

Rural users particularly benefit from digital skill development. Qualitative interviews reveal E-Jarima participation often represents first meaningful digital government interaction. Skills gained transfer to other digital services, with 45% of rural users subsequently adopting online banking, e-government services, or e-commerce.

Intergenerational knowledge transfer occurs as younger family members assist elderly relatives with platform usage. This collaborative learning strengthens family bonds while distributing digital skills across age groups. Community training sessions organized by power users further amplify digital literacy impacts.

5.4 Technological Spillovers

5.4.1 Innovation Ecosystem Development

The platform catalyzed broader technology innovation in Uzbekistan. The initial development team of 5 engineers expanded to over 50 direct employees plus 200+ in supporting companies. Technical challenges in video processing, AI implementation, and scale management created expertise now applied to other domains.

API ecosystem growth demonstrates platform thinking adoption. With 500+ registered developers and 15+ third-party applications, E-Jarima established Uzbekistan's first successful government API program. Applications range from insurance companies using violation data for risk assessment to navigation apps warning about high-violation areas.

Open source contributions from platform development benefit the global community. The development team released multiple libraries for video processing, violation detection, and large-scale data management. These contributions position Uzbekistan as a technology contributor rather than just consumer.

5.4.2 Government Digital Transformation

Jarima's success accelerated broader government digitalization. Other agencies now pursue similar crowdsourcing models for service delivery. The Ministry of Housing launched apartment violation reporting, while the Tax Committee explores crowdsourced business compliance monitoring.

Technical standards established for E-Jarima—API design, security protocols, user experience patterns—became de facto government standards. This standardization reduces development costs and citizen learning curves for new digital services. The platform's architecture serves as a reference implementation for modern government systems.

Cultural change within government proves equally significant. E-Jarima demonstrated that citizens can be trusted partners in governance, shifting bureaucratic mindsets from control to collaboration. Young technologists attracted to government service by E-Jarima's innovation culture transform organizational dynamics.

5.4.3 International Recognition and Replication

The platform gained significant international attention as a model for developing country digital transformation. UN recognition through the World Summit on the Information Society Award validated the approach. Study delegations from 15 countries examined the platform for potential replication.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan initiated pilot programs based on E-Jarima's model, with Uzbek technical assistance. These regional replications create knowledge exchange networks and potential standardization opportunities. Central Asian regional integration could enable cross-border violation reporting for international road safety.

Academic research interest generated 30+ published papers analyzing various platform aspects. This research attention benefits Uzbekistan through international collaboration, visiting researchers, and global best practice integration. The platform established Uzbekistan as a civic technology innovation leader among developing nations.

6 Discussion

Our longitudinal analysis of the E-Jarima platform provides empirical evidence addressing critical questions in digital governance literature while revealing new insights about crowdsourced public services in developing countries. The findings challenge conventional wisdom about civic technology sustainability and demonstrate pathways for successful digital transformation beyond pilot phases.

6.1 Theoretical Implications

6.1.1 Digital Transformation Theory Advancement

The E-Jarima case extends Janowski's [8] e-government evolution model by demonstrating a compressed transformation timeline in developing countries. Rather than

progressing linearly through digitization, transformation, engagement, and contextualization stages, Uzbekistan leapfrogged directly to engagement-focused design. This leapfrogging aligns with Basu's [21] predictions but reveals additional complexity: successful leapfrogging requires simultaneous development of technical infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and citizen digital literacy.

The platform's evolution validates aspects of digital-era governance theory [9] while revealing limitations. The predicted reintegration of fragmented services occurred, but not through centralization. Instead, a distributed model emerged where citizens, government, and technology providers collaborate through platform-mediated interactions. This suggests digital transformation may enable new organizational forms beyond the centralization-decentralization dichotomy.

Our findings contribute to understanding design-reality gaps in developing countries [11]. The platform's success stemmed from indigenous development addressing local needs rather than importing foreign solutions. Critical success factors included iterative development based on user feedback, gradual feature introduction aligned with digital literacy growth, and hybrid approaches combining high-tech (AI) with accessible interfaces. This suggests successful digital transformation requires cultural adaptation beyond mere technical localization.

6.1.2 Crowdsourcing Governance Insights

The platform exemplifies Linders' [13] citizen sourcing model while revealing additional dynamics. Beyond simple task distribution, successful crowdsourced governance requires sophisticated quality control mechanisms, incentive alignment across multiple stakeholders, and trust-building through transparency. The AI-human hybrid approach addresses quality concerns raised by Liu et al. [16] while maintaining scalability.

Our analysis extends understanding of participant motivation in crowdsourced public services. While Pedersen et al. [17] emphasized balancing intrinsic and extrinsic motivations, we find temporal evolution: extrinsic motivations dominate initial adoption, but sustained participation requires intrinsic motivation development. The platform successfully facilitated this transition through community features and impact visualization.

Trust emerges as more complex than suggested by Grimmelikhuijsen and Meijer [15]. Beyond transparency, trust development requires consistent service delivery, fair treatment perception, and visible impact demonstration. The platform's 95.7% payment compliance rate indicates successful trust establishment, contrasting with many government digital initiatives struggling with citizen confidence.

6.1.3 Platform Economy in Public Sector

The E-Jarima ecosystem demonstrates that platform economy principles apply to public services, but with important modifications. Network effects operate differently than in commercial platforms: value derives from collective safety improvement rather than user connections. This public good characteristic requires different strategies for achieving critical mass and sustaining participation.

Multi-sided platform dynamics emerge with citizens, government, developers, and service providers. However, unlike commercial platforms focusing on profit maximization, public platforms must balance multiple objectives including service quality, equity, and social impact [4]. The platform's success in serving diverse stakeholders while maintaining public service mission provides a model for public sector platform design.

The emergence of a developer ecosystem around government APIs represents significant innovation in public sector technology strategy [1, 6]. Traditional government systems rarely achieve third-party innovation, but E-Jarima's 500+ developers and 15+ applications demonstrate viable approaches. Success factors include comprehensive documentation, stable APIs, and clear value propositions for developers.

6.2 Practical Implications

6.2.1 Policy Design Recommendations

Our findings offer concrete guidance for policymakers considering similar initiatives. First, phased implementation proves critical—attempting full-featured launch risks overwhelming users and systems. The platform's four-phase evolution provides a replicable template: establish core functionality, diversify engagement mechanisms, integrate advanced technology, and optimize operations.

Regulatory adaptation must precede or accompany technical implementation. Uzbekistan's 2018 legislative changes enabling citizen video evidence proved foundational. Policymakers should audit existing regulations for digital incompatibilities and create frameworks balancing innovation with citizen protection. Privacy concerns require particular attention given increasing surveillance anxieties.

Sustainability planning from inception prevents common civic technology failures. While donor funding enabled initial development, the platform's self-sustaining revenue model through fine collection ensures longevity. Policymakers should design revenue mechanisms aligned with public value creation rather than relying on continued subsidies.

6.2.2 Implementation Strategy Guidance

Practitioners can learn from the platform's technical evolution. Starting with proven technology (monolithic architecture) while planning for scale (microservices migration) balances immediate delivery with future needs. The progressive enhancement approach—basic functionality accessible to all, advanced features for capable devices—ensures inclusive access.

User experience design for diverse digital literacy levels proves crucial. The platform's success in achieving 58% rural participation by 2025 resulted from deliberate simplification and mobile-first design. Practitioners should prioritize accessibility over feature richness, using techniques like progressive disclosure and contextual help.

Performance monitoring from day one enables data-driven iteration. The platform's comprehensive metrics allowed rapid identification of bottlenecks and user pain points. Practitioners should instrument systems for both technical performance and user behavior analysis, creating feedback loops for continuous improvement.

6.2.3 Scaling and Replication Considerations

The platform's regional variation within Uzbekistan previews international replication challenges. Success requires adapting to local contexts including digital infrastructure availability, cultural attitudes toward authority, and existing civic participation patterns. One-size-fits-all approaches will likely fail.

Technology transfer should emphasize knowledge over code. While the platform's architecture provides reference implementation, successful replication requires understanding design decisions and trade-offs. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan's pilots benefit more from Uzbek expertise than software copying.

Regional collaboration opportunities exist for standardization and interoperability. Common violation taxonomies, compatible evidence standards, and cross-border information sharing could amplify individual country efforts. International bodies could facilitate standard development while respecting sovereignty.

6.3 Limitations and Future Research

Despite comprehensive data access, our study faces several limitations that suggest future research directions. The single-country focus limits generalizability, though the detailed analysis enables deeper understanding than multi-country surveys. Future research should examine replication attempts in other contexts to identify universal versus context-specific success factors.

Lack of demographic data prevents analysis of digital divide impacts. While we observe aggregate rural participation increases, individual-level factors remain opaque. Future studies should collect demographic information to understand how age, gender, income, and education affect participation patterns and benefits distribution.

Long-term behavioral change measurement requires extended observation beyond our seven-year window. While violation rates decreased in high-coverage areas, determining permanent versus temporary effects needs decade-long analysis. Longitudinal studies tracking cohorts over extended periods could reveal sustained impact.

The absence of randomized controlled trials limits causal inference. While our observational data suggests platform effectiveness, experimental designs could provide stronger evidence. Future implementations should consider randomized rollouts enabling rigorous impact evaluation.

7 Conclusion

This longitudinal study of Uzbekistan's E-Jarima platform provides compelling evidence that sustainable digital transformation of government services is achievable in developing countries. Through detailed analysis of seven years of operational data encompassing over 2 million violations, we demonstrate how thoughtful design, phased implementation, and continuous iteration can create lasting public value.

7.1 Key Findings Summary

The platform's evolution from 33,383 violations in 2019 to 531,924 in 2024, with continued strong performance in 2025 (370,693 in just five months, projecting to

889,000 annually), represents more than simple growth—it demonstrates fundamental transformation in citizen-government interaction. Citizens became active partners in public safety governance rather than passive regulation subjects. This partnership model achieved remarkable results: 95.7% payment compliance versus 40% traditional enforcement, 77% cost reduction per violation processed, and an estimated 150-200 lives saved annually through improved traffic safety.

Our analysis reveals three critical factors for sustained civic technology success. First, aligned incentives across all stakeholders create self-reinforcing participation. Citizens receive fair compensation, government improves enforcement efficiency, and society benefits from safer roads. Second, technology serves as enabler rather than solution—success stems from solving real problems, not implementing advanced technology. Third, trust through transparency and reliable service delivery proves essential for maintaining citizen engagement beyond initial enthusiasm.

The platform's impact extends far beyond traffic enforcement. Digital literacy improved as citizens learned new skills. Financial inclusion expanded through digital payment adoption. Government digital transformation accelerated as success demonstrated possibilities. An innovation ecosystem emerged with 500+ developers creating value-added services. These spillover effects multiply the platform's social return on investment.

7.2 Contributions to Knowledge

This research makes several significant contributions to academic understanding. We provide rare longitudinal evidence of civic technology evolution through multiple phases, addressing literature gaps in sustainability studies. The detailed single-country analysis reveals implementation complexities obscured in cross-national comparisons. Documentation of the complete transformation journey offers insights into the "messy middle" between pilot and scale.

Theoretically, we extend digital governance frameworks by demonstrating leapfrogging possibilities and limitations. The platform's hybrid crowdsourcing-AI model suggests new approaches to quality-quantity trade-offs in citizen-sourced data. Evidence of platform economy principles operating in public sector contexts opens research avenues for public value creation through multi-sided markets.

Methodologically, the study demonstrates mixed-methods value in digital governance research. Quantitative metrics reveal what happened, while qualitative analysis explains why. This comprehensive approach should inform future civic technology evaluations.

7.3 Implications for Practice

The E-Jarima experience offers actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners globally. Digital transformation requires more than technology implementation—it demands regulatory adaptation, cultural change, and sustained political commitment. Success comes from solving real citizen problems rather than digitizing existing processes. Phased implementation allowing learning and adaptation proves superior to big-bang approaches.

For developing countries, the platform demonstrates that world-class digital governance is achievable without massive resources [11, 21]. Indigenous development addressing local needs succeeds where imported solutions fail. Leapfrogging remains possible but requires simultaneous development of technology, regulations, and human capacity.

The platform's evolution from government initiative to ecosystem catalyst illustrates digital transformation's potential. Rather than simply improving service delivery, transformation can reshape state-society relationships, create economic opportunities, and strengthen democratic participation.

7.4 Future Directions

As the platform enters its eighth year, new challenges and opportunities emerge. The strong 2025 performance (370,693 violations in just January-May, on track for 889,000 annually) demonstrates continued growth momentum. Expanding to adjacent domains—parking, public transport, pedestrian safety—could leverage existing infrastructure and user base. Integration with smart city initiatives and IoT sensors could automate detection while maintaining citizen engagement.

International expansion through Central Asian cooperation offers scaling opportunities. Shared Soviet heritage and similar traffic cultures facilitate replication. Regional standardization could enable cross-border functionality while promoting road safety across the region.

Technological evolution continues with artificial intelligence advancement enabling more sophisticated violation detection and predictive analytics. Blockchain could enhance transparency and evidence integrity. However, technology adoption must balance innovation with accessibility to avoid excluding digitally disadvantaged populations.

7.5 Final Reflections

The E-Jarima platform represents more than successful digital governance—it demonstrates possibilities for reimagining state-society relationships in the digital age. By empowering citizens as partners in public service delivery, the platform creates new forms of democratic participation beyond traditional voting and consultation.

This transformation particularly matters for developing countries seeking to build effective governance with limited resources [11]. The platform shows that constraints can drive innovation, creating solutions surpassing developed country approaches. Success requires believing in citizen capacity and designing systems that channel civic energy toward public good [23].

As governments worldwide grapple with digital transformation, the E-Jarima experience provides both inspiration and practical guidance [3, 8]. The journey from simple violation reporting to comprehensive civic technology ecosystem illustrates digital transformation's true potential: not merely digitizing government but fundamentally reimagining how societies address collective challenges through technology-enabled collaboration.

The platform's continuing evolution reminds us that digital transformation is not a destination but an ongoing process of adaptation and improvement [2, 24]. As technology capabilities expand and citizen expectations evolve, successful digital governance requires continuous innovation grounded in public service values. The E-Jarima platform demonstrates that with vision, commitment, and citizen partnership, transformative digital governance is not only possible but sustainable and impactful.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to express sincere gratitude to Dr. Orif Qudratovich Makhmanov, D.Sc., for his invaluable guidance, continuous support, and insightful supervision throughout this research. His expertise and mentorship have been instrumental in shaping this work.

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