

# The `protecteddef` package

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## Abstract

This package provides `\ProtectedDef` for defining robust macros for both plain  $\text{\TeX}$  and  $\text{\LaTeX}$ . First  $\varepsilon\text{-}\text{\TeX}$ 's `\protected` is tried, then  $\text{\LaTeX}$ 's `\DeclareRobustCommand` is used. Otherwise the macro is not made robust.

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## 1 Documentation

Many of my packages work for both formats plain  $\text{\TeX}$  and  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , even  $\text{\initEX}$  is often supported. It would be nice if fragile macros could be protected and made robust. However the different format worlds offer different solutions.

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\*Please report any issues at <https://github.com/ho-tex/oberdiek/issues>

## 1.1 The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's way

Usually `\newcommand` is used to define macros. It provides a check if the command to be defined is already defined or cannot be defined for other reasons.

For making robust macros L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X provides `\DeclareRobustCommand`. It shares the syntax with `\newcommand`. However it does not provide latter's check. Internally the check is available via `\@ifdefinable`.

Internally the robust macro is using `\protect` with a nested macro definition. The `\protect` infrastructure is a feature of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and usually not available in other formats.

## 1.2 The ε-T<sub>E</sub>X's way

The need for robust macros is addressed in `\eTeX`. It provides `\protected` that modifies the behaviour of `\def` in a similar way as `\long`. A protected macro does not expand in some expandable contexts like writing to a file or `\edef`.

## 1.3 The way of this package

The package tries to find the available protection mechanism. First it looks for `\eTeX`'s `\protected`, then it uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's `\DeclareRobustCommand`. If both fails, then the macro remains unprotected.

Additionally, `\LaTeX`'s check, if a macro is already defined is added in all cases. First L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's `\@ifdefinable` is tried to be compatible with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. If `\@ifdefinable` is not available, then the test is implemented by asserting that the macro is undefined or has the meaning of `\relax`. If the test fails, then in all cases the macro is not defined and an error is thrown.

## 1.4 Usage

`\ProtectedDef * {<cmd>} [<num>] {<definition text>}`

Macro `\ProtectedDef` follows the syntax of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's `\newcommand` with the exception that an optional argument is not supported. Macro `<cmd>` is to be defined as `\long` macro without star with `<num>` arguments.

The number of arguments `<num>` must be given as explicit digit 0 upto 9. Otherwise the part between the argument `<cmd>` and the `<definition text>` is taken as parameter text in the syntax of vanilla T<sub>E</sub>X. Examples (with `\protected`):

```
\ProtectedDef*\foo}[1]{\message{#1}}
⇒ \protected\def\foo#1{\message{#1}}

\ProtectedDef\foo{abc}
⇒ \protected\def\foo{abc}

\ProtectedDef*\foo(#1)<#2>{#1/#2}
⇒ \protected\def\foo(#1)<#2>{#1/#2}
```

## 2 Implementation

<sup>1</sup> `<*package>`

### 2.1 Reload check and package identification

Reload check, especially if the package is not used with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

```

2 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
3 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
4 \endlinechar=13 %
5 \catcode35=6 % #
6 \catcode39=12 % '
7 \catcode44=12 % ,
8 \catcode45=12 % -
9 \catcode46=12 % .
10 \catcode58=12 % :
11 \catcode64=11 % @
12 \catcode123=1 % {
13 \catcode125=2 % }
14 \expandafter\let\expandafter\x\csname ver@protecteddef.sty\endcsname
15 \ifx\x\relax % plain-TeX, first loading
16 \else
17 \def\empty{}%
18 \ifx\x\empty % LaTeX, first loading,
19 % variable is initialized, but \ProvidesPackage not yet seen
20 \else
21 \expandafter\ifx\csname PackageInfo\endcsname\relax
22 \def\x#1#2{%
23 \immediate\write-1{Package #1 Info: #2.}%
24 }%
25 \else
26 \def\x#1#2{\PackageInfo{#1}{#2, stopped}}%
27 \fi
28 \x{protecteddef}{The package is already loaded}%
29 \aftergroup\endinput
30 \fi
31 \fi
32 \endgroup%

```

Package identification:

```

33 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
34 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
35 \endlinechar=13 %
36 \catcode35=6 % #
37 \catcode39=12 % '
38 \catcode40=12 % (
39 \catcode41=12 % )
40 \catcode44=12 % ,
41 \catcode45=12 % -
42 \catcode46=12 % .
43 \catcode47=12 % /
44 \catcode58=12 % :
45 \catcode64=11 % @
46 \catcode91=12 % [
47 \catcode93=12 % ]
48 \catcode123=1 % {
49 \catcode125=2 % }
50 \expandafter\ifx\csname ProvidesPackage\endcsname\relax
51 \def\x#1#2#3[#4]{\endgroup
52 \immediate\write-1{Package: #3 #4}%
53 \xdef#1{#4}%
54 }%
55 \else
56 \def\x#1#2[#3]{\endgroup
57 #2[#{#3}]%
58 \ifx#1\@undefined

```

```

59     \xdef#1{#3}%
60     \fi
61     \ifx#1\relax
62     \xdef#1{#3}%
63     \fi
64 }%
65 \fi
66 \expandafter\x\csname ver@protecteddef.sty\endcsname
67 \ProvidesPackage{protecteddef}%
68 [2016/05/16 v1.1 Define protected commands (H0)]%

```

## 2.2 Catcodes

```

69 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
70 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
71 \endlinechar=13 %
72 \catcode123=1 % {
73 \catcode125=2 % }
74 \catcode64=11 % @
75 \def\x{\endgroup
76   \expandafter\edef\csname ProDef@AtEnd\endcsname{%
77     \endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
78     \catcode13=\the\catcode13\relax
79     \catcode32=\the\catcode32\relax
80     \catcode35=\the\catcode35\relax
81     \catcode61=\the\catcode61\relax
82     \catcode64=\the\catcode64\relax
83     \catcode123=\the\catcode123\relax
84     \catcode125=\the\catcode125\relax
85   }%
86 }%
87 \x\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
88 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
89 \endlinechar=13 %
90 \catcode35=6 % #
91 \catcode64=11 % @
92 \catcode123=1 % {
93 \catcode125=2 % }
94 \def\TMP@EnsureCode#1#2{%
95   \edef\ProDef@AtEnd{%
96     \ProDef@AtEnd
97     \catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
98   }%
99   \catcode#1=#2\relax
100 }
101 \TMP@EnsureCode{38}{4}% &
102 \TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12}% (
103 \TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12}% )
104 \TMP@EnsureCode{42}{12}% *
105 \TMP@EnsureCode{45}{12}% -
106 \TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12}% .
107 \TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12}% /
108 \TMP@EnsureCode{91}{12}% [
109 \TMP@EnsureCode{93}{12}% ]
110 \TMP@EnsureCode{96}{12}% `
111 \edef\ProDef@AtEnd{\ProDef@AtEnd\noexpand\endinput}

```

## 2.3 Resources

```

112 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
113 \expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
114   \def\TMP@RequirePackage#1[#2]{%
115     \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
116     \expandafter\ifx\csname ver@#1.sty\endcsname\relax
117       \input #1.sty\relax
118     \fi
119   }%
120 \else
121   \let\TMP@RequirePackage\RequirePackage
122 \fi
123 \TMP@RequirePackage{ltxcmds}[2010/12/12]%
124 \TMP@RequirePackage{infwarerr}[2010/04/08]%

125 \def\ProDef@temp#1{%
126   \expandafter\def\csname ProDef@param[#1]\endcsname % hash-ok
127 }
128 \expandafter\def\csname ProDef@param\endcsname{}
129 \ProDef@temp0{}
130 \ProDef@temp1{##1}
131 \ProDef@temp2{##1##2}
132 \ProDef@temp3{##1##2##3}
133 \ProDef@temp4{##1##2##3##4}
134 \ProDef@temp5{##1##2##3##4##5}
135 \ProDef@temp6{##1##2##3##4##5##6}
136 \ProDef@temp7{##1##2##3##4##5##7}
137 \ProDef@temp8{##1##2##3##4##5##7##8}
138 \ProDef@temp9{##1##2##3##4##5##7##8##9}

```

\ProDef@IfDefinable

```

139 \ltx@ifundefined{@ifdefinable}{%
140   \long\def\ProDef@IfDefinable#1{%
141     \begingroup
142     \escapechar=-1 %
143     \ltx@ifundefined{\string#1}{%
144       \endgroup
145       \ltx@firstofone
146     }{%
147       \expandafter\endgroup
148       \expandafter
149       \edef\expandafter\ProDef@temp\expandafter{\string#1 }%
150       \@PackageError{protecteddef}{%
151         Command \ltx@backslashchar\ProDef@temp already defined%
152       }\@ehc
153       \ltx@gobbletwo
154     }%
155   }%
156 }{%
157   \long\def\ProDef@IfDefinable#1{%
158     \let\ProDef@next\ltx@gobbletwo
159     \@ifdefinable{#1}{%
160       \let\ProDef@next\ltx@firstofone
161     }%
162     \ProDef@next
163   }%
164 }

```

```

165 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
166 \expandafter\ifx\csname protected\endcsname\relax

```

```

167 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
168 \expandafter\ifx\csname DeclareRobustCommand\endcsname\relax
169 \catcode`\&=14 % comment
170 \else
171 \newcommand*{\ProtectedDef}{%
172 \ltx@ifnextchar*{%
173 \ProDef@ProtectedDef
174 }{%
175 \ProDef@ProtectedDef{}%
176 }%
177 }%
178 \long\def\ProDef@ProtectedDef#1#2#3#{%
179 \ProDef@IfDefinable{#2}{%
180 \ltx@ifundefined{ProDef@param#3}{%
181 \DeclareRobustCommand*{#2}{}%
182 \begingroup
183 \escapechar=-1 %
184 \def\ProDef@temp{#1}%
185 \edef\x{\endgroup
186 \ifx\ProDef@temp\ltx@empty
187 \noexpand\long
188 \fi
189 \noexpand\def
190 \expandafter\noexpand\csname\string#2 \endcsname
191 }%
192 \x#3%
193 }{%
194 \DeclareRobustCommand#1{#2}#3%
195 }%
196 }%
197 }%
198 \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\ProDef@AtEnd
199 \fi
200 \else
201 \catcode`\&=9 % ignore
202 \fi%
203 \ProDef@IfDefinable\ProtectedDef{%
204 & \protected
205 \def\ProtectedDef%
206 }{%
207 \ltx@ifnextchar*{%
208 \let\ProDef@long\ltx@empty
209 \expandafter\ProDef@ProtectedDef\ltx@gobble
210 }{%
211 \let\ProDef@long\long
212 \ProDef@ProtectedDef
213 }%
214 }
215 \long\def\ProDef@ProtectedDef#1#2#{%
216 \ProDef@IfDefinable{#1}{%
217 \ltx@ifundefined{ProDef@param#2}{%
218 & \protected
219 \ProDef@long
220 \def#1#2%
221 }{%
222 & \protected
223 \ProDef@long
224 \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\def

```

```

225     \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter#1%
226     \csname ProDef@param#2\endcsname
227   }%
228 }%
229 }

230 \ProDef@AtEnd%
231 \</package>

```

## 3 Test

### 3.1 Catcode checks for loading

```

232 \<{*test1}

233 \catcode`\{=1 %
234 \catcode`\}=2 %
235 \catcode`\#=6 %
236 \catcode`\@=11 %
237 \expandafter\ifx\csname count@\endcsname\relax
238   \countdef\count@=255 %
239 \fi
240 \expandafter\ifx\csname @gobble\endcsname\relax
241   \long\def\@gobble#1{}%
242 \fi
243 \expandafter\ifx\csname @firstofone\endcsname\relax
244   \long\def\@firstofone#1{#1}%
245 \fi
246 \expandafter\ifx\csname loop\endcsname\relax
247   \expandafter\@firstofone
248 \else
249   \expandafter\@gobble
250 \fi
251 {%
252   \def\loop#1\repeat{%
253     \def\body{#1}%
254     \iterate
255   }%
256   \def\iterate{%
257     \body
258     \let\next\iterate
259   \else
260     \let\next\relax
261   \fi
262   \next
263 }%
264 \let\repeat=\fi
265 }%
266 \def\RestoreCatcodes{}
267 \count@=0 %
268 \loop
269   \edef\RestoreCatcodes{%
270     \RestoreCatcodes
271     \catcode\the\count@=\the\catcode\count@\relax
272   }%
273   \ifnum\count@<255 %
274     \advance\count@ 1 %
275   \repeat

```

```

276
277 \def\RangeCatcodeInvalid#1#2{%
278   \count@=#1\relax
279   \loop
280     \catcode\count@=15 %
281     \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
282       \advance\count@ 1 %
283     \repeat
284 }
285 \def\RangeCatcodeCheck#1#2#3{%
286   \count@=#1\relax
287   \loop
288     \ifnum#3=\catcode\count@
289     \else
290       \errmessage{%
291         Character \the\count@\space
292         with wrong catcode \the\catcode\count@\space
293         instead of \number#3%
294       }%
295     \fi
296     \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
297       \advance\count@ 1 %
298     \repeat
299 }
300 \def\space{ }
301 \expandafter\ifx\csname LoadCommand\endcsname\relax
302   \def\LoadCommand{\input protecteddef.sty\relax}%
303 \fi
304 \def\Test{%
305   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{0}{47}%
306   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{58}{64}%
307   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{91}{96}%
308   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{123}{255}%
309   \catcode`\@=12 %
310   \catcode`\|=0 %
311   \catcode`\%=14 %
312   \LoadCommand
313   \RangeCatcodeCheck{0}{36}{15}%
314   \RangeCatcodeCheck{37}{37}{14}%
315   \RangeCatcodeCheck{38}{47}{15}%
316   \RangeCatcodeCheck{48}{57}{12}%
317   \RangeCatcodeCheck{58}{63}{15}%
318   \RangeCatcodeCheck{64}{64}{12}%
319   \RangeCatcodeCheck{65}{90}{11}%
320   \RangeCatcodeCheck{91}{91}{15}%
321   \RangeCatcodeCheck{92}{92}{0}%
322   \RangeCatcodeCheck{93}{96}{15}%
323   \RangeCatcodeCheck{97}{122}{11}%
324   \RangeCatcodeCheck{123}{255}{15}%
325   \RestoreCatcodes
326 }
327 \Test
328 \csname @@end\endcsname
329 \end
330 </test1>

```

### 3.2 Test without L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and \protected

```

331 (*test2)

```



```

332 \errorcontextlines=10000 %
333 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
334 \expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
335   \input protecteddef.sty\relax
336   \catcode`\{=1 %
337   \catcode`\}=2 %
338   \catcode`\#=6 %
339 \else
340   \RequirePackage{protecteddef}[2016/05/16]%
341 \fi
342 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
343 \expandafter\ifx\csname protected\endcsname\relax
344   \let\pdef\def
345 \else
346   \def\pdef{\protected\def}%
347 \fi
348 \def\msg#{\immediate\write16}
349 \countdef\errcount=2 %
350 \long\def\BeginCheck#1\ProtectedDef#2\EndCheck{%
351   \begingroup
352     \toks0={\ProtectedDef#2}%
353     \msg{<<\the\toks0>>}%
354   \endgroup
355   \setbox0=\hbox{%
356     #1%
357     \ProtectedDef#2%
358     \check\foo
359   }%
360   \ifdim\wd0=0pt\relax
361   \else
362     \errmessage{[Definition] Unwanted spaces?!}%
363   \fi
364   \setbox0=\hbox{%
365     \def\fooinitial{XYZ}%
366     \let\foo\fooinitial
367     \errcount=0 %
368     \expandafter\def\csname @PackageError\endcsname##1##2##3{%
369       \advance\errcount by 1 %
370     }%
371     \expandafter\def\csname @notdefinable\endcsname{%
372       \advance\errcount by 1 %
373     }%
374     \ProtectedDef#2%
375     \ifnum\errcount=1 %
376     \else
377       \errmessage{1 error expected, but found: \the\errcount}%
378     \fi
379     \ifx\foo\fooinitial
380     \else
381       \def\space{ }%
382       \errmessage{\string\foo\space is overwritten}%
383     \fi
384   }%
385   \ifdim\wd0=0pt\relax
386   \else
387     \errmessage{[Error] Unwanted spaces?!}%
388   \fi
389 }

```

```

390 \chardef\DeclareVersion=0 %
391 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
392 \expandafter\ifx\csname protected\endcsname\relax
393 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
394 \expandafter\ifx\csname DeclareRobustCommand\endcsname\relax
395 \else
396 \chardef\DeclareVersion=1 %
397 \fi
398 \fi
399 \ifnum\DeclareVersion=0 %
400 \def\check#1{%
401 \ifx\cmp#1%
402 \msg{* Test passed.}%
403 \else
404 \msg{}%
405 \msg{[\meaning#1]}%
406 \msg{[\meaning\cmp]}%
407 \errmessage{Test failed!}%
408 \fi
409 }%
410 \else
411 \def\check#1{%
412 \begingroup
413 \escapechar=-1 %
414 \edef\x{\endgroup
415 \def\noexpand\cs/{\string#1}%
416 }\x
417 \edef\CMP{%
418 \noexpand\protect
419 \expandafter\noexpand\csname\cs/ \endcsname
420 }%
421 \ifx\CMP#1%
422 \expandafter\ifx\csname\cs/ \endcsname\cmp
423 \msg{Test passed.}%
424 \else
425 \msg{}%
426 \msg{[\expandafter\meaning\csname\cs/ \endcsname]}%
427 \msg{[\meaning\cmp]}%
428 \errmessage{Test failed!}%
429 \fi
430 \else
431 \msg{}%
432 \msg{[\meaning#1]}%
433 \msg{[\meaning\CMP]}%
434 \errmessage{Test failed!}%
435 \fi
436 }%
437 \fi
438
439 \tracingmacros=1
440
441 \BeginCheck
442 \pdef\cmp{}%
443 \ProtectedDef*\foo{}%
444 \EndCheck
445
446 \BeginCheck
447 \pdef\cmp{}%

```

```

448 \ProtectedDef*\foo[0]{}%
449 \EndCheck
450
451 \BeginCheck
452 \pdef\cmp#1{<#1>}%
453 \ProtectedDef*\foo[1]{<#1>}%
454 \EndCheck
455
456 \BeginCheck
457 \pdef\cmp(#1){<#1>}%
458 \ProtectedDef*\foo(#1){<#1>}%
459 \EndCheck
460
461 \BeginCheck
462 \long\pdef\cmp{}%
463 \ProtectedDef\foo{}%
464 \EndCheck
465
466 \BeginCheck
467 \long\pdef\cmp{}%
468 \ProtectedDef\foo[0]{}%
469 \EndCheck
470
471 \BeginCheck
472 \long\pdef\cmp#1{<#1>}%
473 \ProtectedDef\foo[1]{<#1>}%
474 \EndCheck
475
476 \BeginCheck
477 \long\pdef\cmp(#1){<#1>}%
478 \ProtectedDef\foo(#1){<#1>}%
479 \EndCheck
480
481 \csname @@end\endcsname\end
482 </test2>

```

## 4 Installation

### 4.1 Download

**Package.** This package is available on CTAN<sup>1</sup>:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/protecteddef.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/protecteddef.pdf](#) Documentation.

**Bundle.** All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

[CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip](#)

*TDS* refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for  $\text{\TeX}$  Files” ([CTAN:pkg/tds](#)). Directories with `texmf` in their name are usually organized this way.

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<sup>1</sup>[CTAN:pkg/protecteddef](#)

## 4.2 Bundle installation

**Unpacking.** Unpack the `oberdiek.tds.zip` in the TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip oberdiek.tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

## 4.3 Package installation

**Unpacking.** The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain `TEX`:

```
tex protecteddef.dtx
```

**TDS.** Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

```
protecteddef.sty      → tex/generic/oberdiek/protecteddef.sty
protecteddef.pdf      → doc/latex/oberdiek/protecteddef.pdf
test/protecteddef-test1.tex → doc/latex/oberdiek/test/protecteddef-test1.tex
test/protecteddef-test2.tex → doc/latex/oberdiek/test/protecteddef-test2.tex
protecteddef.dtx      → source/latex/oberdiek/protecteddef.dtx
```

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`'s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

## 4.4 Refresh file name databases

If your `TEX` distribution (`TEX Live`, `mikTEX`, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, `TEX Live` users run `texhash` or `mktexlsr`.

## 4.5 Some details for the interested

**Unpacking with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.** The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

**plain T<sub>E</sub>X:** Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:** Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using `LATEX` for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need `LATEX`), then inform the `autodetect` routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{protecteddef.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

**Generating the documentation.** You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with `pdfLATEX`:

```
pdflatex protecteddef.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist protecteddef.idx
pdflatex protecteddef.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist protecteddef.idx
pdflatex protecteddef.dtx
```

## 5 History

[2011/01/31 v1.0]

- First public version.

[2016/05/16 v1.1]

- Documentation updates.

## 6 Index

Numbers written in *italic* refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; plain numbers refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

Symbols	
<code>\#</code> .....	235, 338
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