Digital Telecom. Infra. Fund (DIF TB)

TP: Bt 14.50

Upside: 3.6%

Fairly priced

We downgrade DIF to HOLD as we see now the stock as fairly valued, based on its expiring rental contract lives. Our numbers factor in lower rental income from 2033F along with the assumption of no new demand to improve its occupancy rate.



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Downgrading to HOLD

We downgrade DIF to HOLD (from Buy) as we see limited potential upside to our new DDM-derived 12-month TP (rolled over to 2023F) of Bt14.5 (from Bt15). Our lower TP after the rollover is because of the diminishing number of years of its telecomtower and fiber-optic-cable rental contracts (Exhibit 3). We see 3 key prospects for DIF. First, backed by secured rental contracts with fixed prices and volumes, we believe DIF can pay a stable annual dividend of Bt1.04/unit until 2033F. Second, we assume DIF is able to renew tower rental contracts (42% of revenue) in 2033F but only at a half of the current price to attract its major tenant, True Corporation (TRUE TB, Bt4.52, SELL), to renew. Third, we don't expect additional rental demand for DIF's assets.

Sustainable dividends

DIF has two major groups of rental contracts. The first comprises telecom towers plus some fiber-optic systems (42% of revenue) which end in 2033. We expect TRUE to renew those rents but at half the price it is now paying as the current price is very high. The second is a group of fiber-optic cable rental contracts (58% of revenue) which also ends in 2033, but with a 10-year renewal clause to 2043. We thus expect DIF to be able to pay a stable 7% annual dividend yield (Bt0.26 per quarter) until the contracts expire in 2033. We don't expect DIF's growing earnings from falling interest expenses to result in higher dividend payments because that larger operating cash flow is for debt repayment. Rather, we expect its dividend to drop in 2033F from lower rental rates, and fall again when its fiber-optic contracts end in 2043.

Likely no additional demand

We expect neither 5G mass adoption nor consolidation in the Thai telecom sector to result in additional rental demand for DIF's telecom assets. 1) The three telecom operators now have sufficient capability to invest in their own networks, which is cheaper and more flexible than renting from DIF. 2) TRUE rents DIF's assets on a fixed-volume basis and that volume is not yet fully utilized. 3) We believe the "merged-co" will sit on redundant network assets after consolidation rather than renting more.

More potential upside with CPNREIT

We prefer CPN Retail Growth Leasehold REIT (CPNREIT TB, Bt19.00, BUY) to DIF for its earnings turnaround story and greater potential upside to our TP of Bt22. Despite CPNREIT offering a slightly lower dividend yield of 6.0% in 2022F, we expect its earnings to improve, thus offering a rising dividend story. CPNREIT owns shopping malls which are recovering fast with the pandemic's end and the country's tourism reopening. Please refer to Rata Limsuthiwanpoom's CPNREIT - On a recovery path, dated 26 May 2022.

COMPANY VALUATION

Y/E Dec (Bt m)	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Sales	14,726	14,506	14,565	14,626
Net profit	12,888	12,556	12,666	12,786
Consensus NP	_	12,115	12,013	12,104
Diff frm cons (%)	_	3.6	5.4	5.6
Norm profit	12,669	12,556	12,666	12,786
Prev. Norm profit	_	12,687	12,829	12,971
Chg frm prev (%)	_	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.4)
Norm EPS (Bt)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Norm EPS grw (%)	2.1	(0.9)	0.9	0.9
Norm PE (x)	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.9	12.1	12.0	11.8
P/NAV (x)	8.0	8.0	0.8	0.8
Cash div yield (%)*	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
Effective yield (%)**	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
ROE (%)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1
Net D/E (%)	13.0	12.3	11.7	11.0

PRICE PERFORMANCE

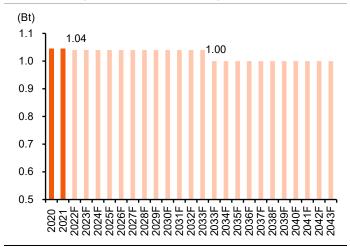


COMPANY INFORMATION

Price as of 26-May-22 (Bt)	14.00
Market Cap (US\$ m)	4,356.5
Listed Shares (m shares)	10,631.7
Free Float (%)	76.3
Avg Daily Turnover (US\$ r	m) 4.3
12M Price H/L (Bt)	14.50/12.10
Sector	Telecom
Major Shareholder	TRUE Corporation 23.38%

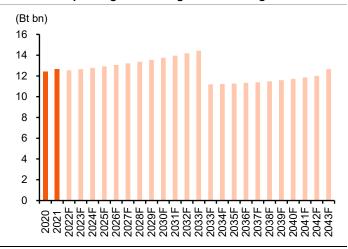
Sources: Bloomberg, Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 1: We Project Stable Dividend Payments...



Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 2: ...Despite Higher Earnings From Falling Interest



Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 3: DIF's Network Asset Rental Contracts

Structure	_	hts to net - Call option	Ownership			Long-term lea	Total		
Assets / Entity	AWC	BFKT	TRUE	тісс	TUC	тм∨	AWC	TICC	
Tow ers	4,847 tow ers	1,485 tow ers	6,000 towers		2,939 towers				15,271 tow ers
Fiber-optic cables (FOC) and transmission system equipment		9,169 links and 47,250km of FOC (680,400 core km)		5,112km of FOC (122,974 core km)	9,130km of FOC (314,600 core km)	542km (117,147 core km) + 6,479km of FOC (338,299 core km)	7,981km of FOC (303,453 core km)	670km (80,014 core km) + 12,872km of FOC (619,986 core km)	9,169 links and 90,036km of FOC (2,576,873 core km)
Upcountry broadband system				1.2 million ports encompassing 6,114 km of FOC (198,085 core km)					1.2 million ports encompassing 6,114km of FOC (198,085 core km)
Leaseback contract terms	20	33	2033	2033 + 10 Yrs	2033 (tow er) 2033 + 10 Yrs (FOC)	2033 + 10 Yrs	2033 + 10 Yrs	2033 + 10 Yrs	
		Group 1				Group 2			

Source: Company data

Ex 4: 12-month DDM-based Valuation Using A Base Year Of 2023F

(Bt m)		2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F
Dividend of common stock		11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090
Dividend from capital reduct	ion	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Dividend payment		11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090	11,090
Cost of equity (%)	8.6											
Terminal growth (%)	2.0											
PV of dividend		10,307	9,576	8,775	8,117	7,508	6,943	6,422	5,940	5,270	4,851	4,466
Equity value (m)	154,233											
No. of units (m)	10,663											
Equity value / unit (Bt)	14.5											

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Valuation Comparison

			EPU g	rowth	—— PE ——		— P/N	IAV —	EV/EBITDA		Div yield	
Name	BBG Code	Country	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F
			(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%
Link REIT/The	823 HK	Hong Kong	444.9	3.9	22.5	21.7	0.9	0.9	21.7	20.3	4.5	4.0
Yuexiu Real Estate	405 HK	Hong Kong	(38.2)	(0.5)	16.6	16.7	0.5	0.5	18.8	18.5	6.1	6.
Fortune Real Estate	778 HK	Hong Kong	(7.9)	5.7	17.6	16.6	8.0	8.0	22.1	21.6	7.0	7.
CapitaLand Mall Trust	CT SP	Singapore	na	8.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	n
Frasers Centrepoint Trust	FCT SP	Singapore	23.8	3.2	18.2	17.7	1.0	1.0	24.5	23.8	5.6	5.
Mapletree Commercial	MCT SP	Singapore	(19.6)	13.1	20.7	18.3	1.0	1.0	24.6	20.0	5.3	5.
Suntec Real Estate	SUN SP	Singapore	(51.7)	1.3	21.1	20.9	8.0	8.0	35.5	34.1	5.6	5.
Starhill Global REIT	SGREIT SP	Singapore	66.0	2.4	13.9	13.6	0.7	0.7	17.9	17.2	6.8	7.
CapitaLand Commercial	CCT SP	Singapore	(24.0)	14.9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	n
Keppel REIT	KREIT SP	Singapore	(18.4)	1.9	22.1	21.7	0.9	0.9	48.2	45.1	5.2	5.3
CapitaLand Retail China	CRCT SP	Singapore	na	43.1	na	na	na	na	15.3	14.3	na	n
Ascendas Real Estate	AREIT SP	Singapore	(30.3)	3.8	16.8	16.1	1.1	1.1	20.7	19.7	6.0	6.
Mapletree Industrial Trust	MINT SP	Singapore	(17.0)	(10.7)	17.2	19.3	1.3	1.3	22.2	20.7	5.7	5.
Mapletree Logistics Trust	MLT SP	Singapore	(55.3)	9.1	20.6	18.9	1.2	1.1	25.7	22.7	5.5	5.
Ascott Residence Trust	ART SP	Singapore	(67.9)	53.3	37.3	24.3	1.0	1.0	29.3	23.2	4.9	5.
CDL Hospitality Trusts	CDREIT SP	Singapore	(0.5)	20.0	22.5	18.8	0.9	0.9	29.4	22.8	4.6	5.
Axis Real Estate	AXRB MK	Malaysia	(29.7)	7.2	19.6	18.3	1.2	1.2	19.5	18.2	5.0	5.
Sunway Real Estate	SREIT MK	Malaysia	170.4	10.8	18.8	17.0	1.0	1.0	20.8	19.3	4.9	5.
KLCCP Stapled Group	KLCCSS MK	Malaysia	431.1	7.3	18.3	17.0	0.9	0.9	23.9	22.8	5.1	5.
IGB Real Estate	IGBREIT MK	Malaysia	49.7	8.3	19.4	17.9	1.5	1.5	19.6	18.3	5.0	5.
Pavilion Real Estate	PREIT MK	Malaysia	77.6	6.8	18.8	17.6	1.1	1.1	20.0	19.0	5.3	5.
BTS Rail Mass Transit **	BTSGIF TB	Thailand	186.9	27.4	6.5	5.1	0.6	0.6	6.5	5.1	15.4	19.
Digital Telecom Int. *	DIF TB	Thailand	(0.9)	0.9	11.9	11.8	8.0	0.8	12.1	12.0	7.4	7.
Jasmine Broadband Int. *	JASIF TB	Thailand	(1.2)	1.1	10.1	10.0	0.9	0.9	10.1	10.1	9.1	9.
IMPACT Growth REIT **	IMPACT TB	Thailand	558.4	14.4	23.0	20.1	1.5	1.5	23.3	20.7	4.2	4.
Frasers Property Thailand *	FTREIT TB	Thailand	(7.3)	3.2	14.5	14.1	1.0	1.0	17.4	17.0	6.4	7.
WHA Premium Growth *	WHART TB	Thailand	13.4	0.9	14.3	14.2	1.1	1.0	18.4	17.9	6.4	6.
CPN Retail Growth *	CPNREIT TB	Thailand	68.6	30.2	15.2	11.7	1.4	1.4	18.7	14.9	6.0	7.
Lotus's Retail Growth**	LPF TB	Thailand	15.5	14.8	15.9	13.9	1.1	1.1	16.5	14.3	5.6	6.

Source: Bloomberg

Average

64.3

Based on 26 May 2022 closing prices

THANACHART RESEARCH

10.6

18.2

16.7

1.0

21.6

19.8

6.7

6.1

Note: * Thanachart estimates, using Thanachart normalized EPS,

** Fiscal year ends in February for LPF, March for IMPACT and BTSGIF, and we use one-year forward numbers for 23-24F.

FUND DETAILS

Name : Digital Telecommunication Infrastructure Fund

Ticker : DIF TB

Listed date : 27 December 2013

Fund size : Bt58bn (58,000 units @ par Bt10/unit)

Type : Closed-end retail infrastructure fund

Investment A/S : Telecom towers and optical fiber cable

Project life : No specific term

Sponsor : True Corporation (TRUE TB)
Fund manager : SCB Asset Management

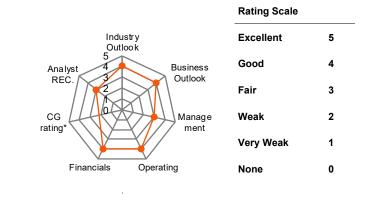
Dividend policy : No less than 90% of adjusted net profit

Payment date : Quarterly basis

Foreign limit : No more than 49% of total units

Source: SET

COMPANY RATING



Source: Thanachart; * No CG Rating

THANACHART'S SWOT ANALYSIS

S — Strength

- Top infrastructure fund in the growing mobile business.
- Solid underlying assets.
- Strong financial position of its main sponsor, TRUE.

O — Opportunity

- Increased leasing opportunities from third parties.
- Acquiring more assets from TRUE and other telecom operators.

W — Weakness

 Income guaranteed for only a certain period, until 2025-2035.

T — Threat

- More new telecoms infrastructure funds potentially being listed.
- Regulatory changes.
- The imposition of any taxes.

CONSENSUS COMPARISON

	Consensus	Thanachart	Diff
Target price (Bt)	16.37	14.50	-11%
Net profit 22F (Bt m)	12,115	12,556	4%
Net profit 23F (Bt m)	12,013	12,666	5%
Consensus REC	BUY: 6	HOLD: 3	SELL: 1

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT FROM THE STREET?

- Our earnings in 2022-23F are 4-5% above the Bloomberg consensus numbers, which we believe is because we assume lower interest costs for DIF in the near term.
- However, our DDM-based TP is 11% lower, which we attribute to us having a bearish view on DIF's prospects after its first lot of contracts expire in 2033.

RISKS TO OUR INVESTMENT CASE

- Our forecast yield is based on guaranteed minimum income from its rental contracts with TRUE. More secured rental contracts from higher-than-expected demand for telecom infrastructure assets represent the key upside risk to our investment case.
- If, for whatever reason, TRUE cannot commit to the minimum income guarantee and the fund is unable to sell capacity to other third parties, this would present the key downside risk to our numbers and investment case.

Sources: Bloomberg consensus, Thanachart estimates

Source: Thanachart

INCOME STATEMENT

Stable rental revenues over the next 10 years

2023F	2024F
14,565	14,626
324	331
14,241	14,295
97.8%	97.7%
0	0
14,241	14,295
97.8%	97.7%
23	23
(45)	(46)
(1,552)	(1,485)
12,667	12,787
1	1
12,666	12,786
87.0%	87.4%
0	0
0	0
0	0
12,666	12,786
12,666	12,786
1.2	1.2
1.2	1.2
1.2	
	14,565 324 14,241 97.8% 0 14,241 97.8% 23 (45) (1,552) 12,666 87.0% 0 0 12,666 12,666 1.2

We expect no dividend lifts as DIF still has to repay debt

BALANCE SHEET					
FY ending Dec (Bt m)	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
ASSETS:					
Current assets:	7,233	7,959	8,140	8,154	8,170
Cash & cash equivalent	4,034	4,397	4,500	4,500	4,500
Account receivables	3,092	3,499	3,577	3,591	3,607
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Others	107	63	63	63	63
Investments & loans	215,752	215,927	215,927	215,927	215,927
Net fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	222,984	223,886	224,067	224,081	224,097
LIABILITIES:					
Current liabilities:	8,139	8,245	8,214	8,321	8,430
Account payables	663	663	626	630	634
Bank overdraft & ST loans	0	0	0	0	0
Current LT debt	0	0	0	0	0
Others current liabilities	7,477	7,583	7,588	7,691	7,796
Total LT debt	27,586	27,267	26,409	25,440	24,350
Others LT liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	48,557	47,670	46,079	44,518	42,837
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Preferreds shares	0	0	0	0	0
Paid-up capital	106,317	106,317	106,633	106,633	106,633
Share premium	20,800	20,800	20,800	20,800	20,800
Warrants	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0
Retained earnings	47,311	49,100	50,555	52,131	53,827
Net Assets	174,427	176,216	177,987	179,564	181,259
Sources: Company data Thanachart estir	mates				

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FY ending Dec (Bt m) 2020A 2021A 2022F 2023F 2024F 12,407 12,671 12,557 12,667 12,787 Earnings before tax Tax paid 75 61 (64)21 22 0 0 0 0 Depreciation & amortization 0 Chg In working capital (437)(407)(114)(11)(11)Chg In other CA & CL / minorities (4,607)35 68 80 82 Cash flow from operations 7,439 12,359 12,420 12,729 12,846 0 0 0 Capex 9.405 44 0 0 0 ST loans & investments LT loans & investments (2,309)(176)0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Adj for asset revaluation 0 Chg In other assets & liabilities 412 (448)(700)(700)(700)Cash flow from investments 7,508 (579)(700)(700)(700)(968)(1,090)Debt financing (294)(319)(859)Capital increase 0 0 316 0 (11,090) (11,099)(11,099)(11,100)(11,090)Dividends paid 0 Warrants & other surplus 0 Cash flow from financing (11,393)(11,418)(11,643)(12,058)(12,180)Free cash flow 7,439 12,359 12,420 12,729 12,846

Stable cash flows, thus sustainable dividends

VALUATION

TALOATION					
FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Normalized PE (x)	12.0	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.7
Normalized PE - at target price (x)	12.5	12.2	12.3	12.2	12.1
PE(x)	11.1	11.6	11.9	11.8	11.7
PE - at target price (x)	11.5	12.0	12.3	12.2	12.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.0	11.9	12.1	12.0	11.8
EV/EBITDA - at target price (x)	12.4	12.3	12.4	12.3	12.2
P/NAV (x)	0.9	0.8	8.0	8.0	0.8
P/NAV - at target price (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
P/CFO (x)	20.1	12.1	12.0	11.7	11.6
Price/sales (x)	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.2	10.2
Effective dividend yield (%)	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
Capital reduction yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash dividend yield (%)	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
FCF Yield (%)	5.0	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.6
(Bt)					
Normalized EPS	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
EPS	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Effective dividend *	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Capital reduction dividend	-	-	-	-	-
Cash dividend **	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
NAV/unit	16.4	16.5	16.7	16.8	17.0
CFO/unit	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
FCF/unit	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

A high-yield play may be pressured by the rising interest-rate trend

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

FINANCIAL RATIOS

FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Growth Rate					
Sales (%)	6.0	0.3	(1.5)	0.4	0.4
Net profit (%)	(29.0)	(4.0)	(2.6)	0.9	0.9
EPS (%)	(34.1)	(4.0)	(2.6)	0.9	0.9
Normalized profit (%)	8.9	2.1	(0.9)	0.9	0.9
Normalized EPS (%)	1.1	2.1	(0.9)	0.9	0.9
Dividend payout ratio (%)***	82.9	86.4	88.3	87.6	86.7
Operating performance					
Gross margin (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Operating margin (%)	98.0	97.9	97.8	97.8	97.7
EBITDA margin (%)	98.0	97.9	97.8	97.8	97.7
Net margin (%)	84.5	86.0	86.6	87.0	87.4
D/E (incl. minor) (x)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Net D/E (incl. minor) (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Interest coverage - EBIT (x)	7.4	8.4	8.8	9.2	9.6
Interest coverage - EBITDA (x)	7.4	8.4	8.8	9.2	9.6
ROA - using norm profit (%)	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7
ROE - using norm profit (%)	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1
DuPont					
ROE - using after tax profit (%)	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1
- asset turnover (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
- operating margin (%)	97.8	97.7	97.7	97.6	97.6
- leverage (x)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
- interest burden (%)	86.4	88.1	88.6	89.1	89.6
- tax burden (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cost of equity (%)	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
ROIC (%)	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1
NOPAT (Bt m)	14,387	14,416	14,188	14,240	14,294

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

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Note: Thanachart Securities Public Company Limited act as a Market Maker and Derivative Warrants Issuer. At present, TNS has issued 78 Derivative Warrants which are AMAT16C2206A, AOT16C2206A, AWC16C2207A, BAM16C2206A, BAM16C2207A, BAM16C2207A, BCH16C2207A, BCH16C2205A, BLA16C2207A, BLA16C2207A, COM716C2205A, COM716C2208A, COM716C2209A, CPF16C2205A, DOHO16C2207A, EA16C2205A, EA16C2205A, EA16C2205A, GPSC16C2207A, GPSC16C2207

Note: Our major shareholder TCAP (Thanachart Capital Pcl) which holding 50.96% of Thanachart Securities and also TCAP holding 100% of Thanachart SPV1 Co. Ltd. TCAP and Thanachart SPV1 Co. Ltd has stake in THANI for 60% and being the major shareholder of THANI.

Note: Thanachart Capital Public Company Limited (TCAP), TMBThanachart Bank Public Company Limited (TTB), are related companies to Thanachart Securities Public Company Limited (TNS). Thanachart Securities Pcl is a subsidiary of Thanachart Capital Pcl (TCAP) which holds 23% of the shareholding in TMBThanachart Bank Pcl.

Thanachart Capital Public Company Limited (TCAP), Ratchthani Leasing Public Company Limited (THANI), MBK PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED (MBK) and PATUM RICE MILL AND GRANARY PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED (PRG) are related companies to Thanachart Securities Public Company Limited (TNS). Since TNS covers those securities in research report, consequently TNS incurs conflicts of interest.

Disclosure of Interest of Thanachart Securities

Investment Banking Relationship

Within the preceding 12 months, Thanachart Securities has lead-managed public offerings and/or secondary offerings (excluding straight bonds) of the securities of the following companies: SCG Packaging Pcl (SCGP TB)

Recommendation Structure:

Recommendations are based on absolute upside or downside, which is the difference between the target price and the current market price. If the upside is 10% or more, the recommendation is BUY. If the downside is 10% or more, the recommendation is SELL. For stocks where the upside or downside is less than 10%, the recommendation is HOLD. Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on the market price and the formal recommendation

For sectors, an "Overweight" sector weighting is used when we have BUYs on majority of the stocks under our coverage by market cap. "Underweight" is used when we have SELLs on majority of the stocks we cover by market cap. "Neutral" is used when there are relatively equal weightings of BUYs and SELLs.

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