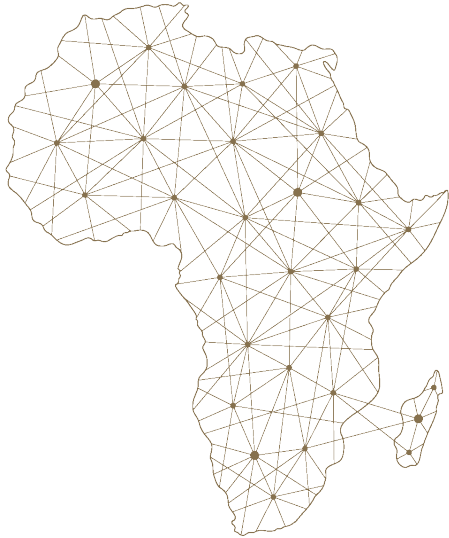




AFRICAN DATA SCIENCE CONFERENCE

24-26 JUNE 2026

WITS UNIVERSITY

Sponsorship Prospectus

African Data Science Conference 2026

Wits Science Stadium, University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa

24–26 June 2026

Optional workshops: 23 June 2026

Conference theme: African Data Science, for Africa

ADSC 2026 invites organisations to partner in strengthening Africa's data science ecosystem, supporting postgraduate and early-career researchers, connecting academia and industry, and advancing responsible innovation in data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistics, analytics, and digital transformation.

Conference website: <https://www.wits.ac.za/adsc2026/>

Registration: <https://adsconference.witsevents.co.za/register>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/african-data-science-conference/>

Enquiries: adsc2026@easychair.org

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ADSC 2026 Sponsorship Prospectus

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ADSC 2026 at a Glance

MAIN CONFERENCE
24–26 June 2026

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS
23 June 2026

HOST INSTITUTION
Wits University

VENUE
Wits Science Stadium

THEME
African Data Science, for Africa

FORMAT
In-person conference

Key Contacts

General enquiries

adsc2026@easychair.org

Conference & Programme Chair

Dr Farai Mlambo, University of the Witwatersrand
farai.mlambo@wits.ac.za

Scientific Committee Chair

Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli, University of Pretoria
inger.fabris-rotelli@up.ac.za

Organising Committee Chair

Dr Taariq Surtee, University of the Witwatersrand
taariq.surtee@wits.ac.za

Fundraising Committee Chair

Dr Isaac Nyambiya, Great Zimbabwe University
inyambiya@gzu.ac.zw

Message from the Conference Chair

The African Data Science Conference 2026 is convened under the theme **African Data Science, for Africa**. This theme reflects both a scholarly commitment and a developmental responsibility: to build platforms through which African researchers, students, institutions, industries, and public-sector actors can shape the future of data science in ways that respond meaningfully to African realities, aspirations, and opportunities. ADSC 2026 will bring together postgraduate students, academics, researchers, data scientists, industry practitioners, policy-makers, innovators, technology leaders, development partners, and institutional executives. The conference is intended to provide a space for rigorous research exchange, practical knowledge sharing, responsible AI dialogue, postgraduate development, and cross-sector collaboration. We invite your organisation to sponsor or partner with ADSC 2026. Your support will contribute directly to strengthening the African data science ecosystem, expanding access for students and early-career researchers, enabling high-quality workshops and programme activities, and deepening the interface between academia, industry, policy, and society.

Dr Farai Mlambo, PhD (Mathematical Statistics)

Conference Chair, ADSC 2026, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Senior Lecturer, Digital Business, Wits Business School

Fellow: Machine Intelligence and Neural Discovery Institute, University of the Witwatersrand
Associate (Statistics): The National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences

About ADSC 2026

The **African Data Science Conference 2026 (ADSC 2026)** is a scholarly and professional platform for engagement across data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistics, analytics, and related interdisciplinary domains. Hosted by the **University of the Witwatersrand** at the **Wits Science Stadium**, the conference is designed to stimulate high-quality research exchange, industry collaboration, methodological innovation, and responsible data-driven practice in African and globally relevant contexts. ADSC 2026 will bring together researchers, postgraduate students, academics, industry practitioners, policymakers, innovators, institutional leaders, and development partners. Its intellectual scope spans both technical and applied dimensions of data science, including responsible AI, statistical learning, business analytics, health analytics, geospatial data science, climate and sustainability analytics, fintech, digital transformation, data governance, data science education, and African-centred applications of intelligent systems. The conference has already attracted strong continental and cross-sector interest. To date, ADSC 2026 has received approximately **225 abstracts**, reflecting a vibrant response from contributors working across universities, research institutes, public institutions, and industry-facing environments. Following peer review and programme curation, the conference has accepted approximately **150 submissions for oral presentation**, with additional high-quality contributions accommodated as **poster presentations**. This response points not only to the scale of interest in the conference, but also to the growing maturity and breadth of the African data science ecosystem. The current profile of submissions suggests a geographically and institutionally diverse gathering, with participation expected from multiple parts of Africa and beyond, and with contributions spanning theoretical, methodological, applied, and policy-oriented work. ADSC 2026 is therefore positioned not merely as a technical meeting, but as a broader platform for dialogue across research, implementation, governance, and social impact.

Conference profile

Abstracts received: Approximately 225

Oral presentations accepted: Approximately 150

Additional presentations: Poster presentations included to accommodate further strong submissions

Participant base: Researchers, students, industry practitioners, policymakers, innovators, and institutional leaders

Core themes: Responsible AI, machine learning, statistics, analytics, digital transformation, governance, health, climate, fintech, education, and African-centred innovation

Strategic purpose

ADSC 2026 seeks to strengthen Africa's data science ecosystem by creating a high-quality platform for research presentation, postgraduate development, industry engagement, responsible AI dialogue, and collaboration across universities, industry, government, and development institutions.

Why Sponsor ADSC 2026?

Sponsoring ADSC 2026 positions your organisation within a growing African ecosystem of data science, artificial intelligence, analytics, and digital innovation. It provides visibility among highly engaged academic, institutional, industry, and policy audiences while contributing to research capacity, skills development, and responsible innovation.

Strategic visibility

Position your organisation among leading universities, researchers, practitioners, students, and institutional decision-makers.

Talent pipeline

Engage postgraduate students, early-career researchers, emerging data scientists, and analytics professionals.

Industry relevance

Showcase real-world use cases, tools, platforms, services, and strategic initiatives to a specialised audience.

Thought leadership

Associate your brand with responsible AI, data science excellence, digital transformation, and African innovation.

Research collaboration

Create pathways for collaboration with academics, research groups, laboratories, and applied data science teams.

Social impact

Support student participation, postgraduate development, African capacity building, and inclusive knowledge exchange.

Sponsorship Impact Areas

Sponsorship contributions will help ADSC 2026 deliver a stronger, more inclusive, and more impactful conference. Support may be directed towards the following areas:

Student participation

Registration support, student access, and participation by delegates from under-resourced institutions.

Registration waivers

Targeted support for postgraduate students, early-career researchers, and selected delegates.

Postgraduate development

Skills-building activities, mentorship, research presentation opportunities, and networking.

Workshops

Practical training in data science, LLM agents, spatial data science, publishing, and industry practice.

Keynote and panel sessions

High-level scholarly, policy, industry, and governance conversations.

Industry engagement

Lightning talks, exhibitions, applied sessions, and practice-oriented knowledge exchange.

Prizes and awards

Recognition of outstanding student, early-career, and applied research contributions.

Conference materials

Delegate materials, conference bags, branded assets, communication material, and programme support.

Exhibition activities

Sponsor showcases, institutional visibility, and engagement with participants.

Responsible AI capacity building

Support for ethical, accountable, inclusive, and context-sensitive data science practice.

Sponsorship Packages

The following sponsorship packages are available for organisations wishing to support ADSC 2026. Tailored arrangements may also be discussed with the organising committee.

Bronze Sponsor

R15 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Logo placement on the conference website.
- Acknowledgement in the conference programme.
- Recognition during the opening session.
- One complimentary full conference registration.

An entry-level partnership for institutions and organisations wishing to support the conference and gain formal recognition.

Silver Sponsor

R30 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- All Bronze Sponsor benefits.
- Two complimentary full conference registrations.
- Exhibition space.
- Recognition on selected conference communication material.

A strong visibility package for organisations seeking direct engagement with conference delegates and institutional partners.

Gold Sponsor

R50 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- All Silver Sponsor benefits.
- Three complimentary full conference registrations.
- Premium logo placement.
- Promotional insert in conference bags.
- Sponsorship of a themed session, panel, or student activity.

A high-impact partnership for organisations seeking deeper association with conference themes and participant engagement.

Platinum Sponsor

R75 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- All Gold Sponsor benefits.
- Four complimentary full conference registrations.
- Premium recognition across conference branding.
- Brief speaking opportunity during a high-visibility session.

- Enhanced visibility across conference media platforms.
- Priority exhibition presence.

A premier sponsorship category for organisations seeking leadership-level visibility and strategic association with ADSC 2026.

Conference Bag Sponsor

R40 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Logo branding on official conference bags.
- Exhibition presence.
- Promotional inserts in conference bags.
- Acknowledgement on the conference website and in the official conference programme.
- Two complimentary full conference registrations.

A highly visible branding opportunity connected directly to the delegate experience.

Workshop Sponsor

R45 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Sponsorship of up to three workshop sessions.
- Acknowledgement in the workshop programme.
- Branding on selected workshop communication material.
- Two complimentary full conference registrations.

An ideal package for organisations interested in skills development, practical training, and knowledge transfer.

Tailored Partnership Opportunities

ADSC 2026 welcomes customised sponsorship and partnership arrangements aligned with organisational priorities. These may include support for student scholarships, registration waivers, workshop sponsorship, industry panels, thematic sessions, exhibition activities, research showcases, prizes and awards, postgraduate development, or sector-specific engagement.

Examples of tailored partnerships

- Student participation fund or postgraduate scholarship support.
- Sponsorship of a panel on AI governance, data science education, or responsible AI.
- Industry-hosted lightning talk session or applied data science showcase.
- Exhibition partnership for tools, platforms, programmes, or research initiatives.
- Support for awards recognising outstanding student or early-career research.
- Custom support for workshops, skills development, and professional training.

Programme Highlights

ADSC 2026 will feature a rich and carefully curated programme designed to combine scholarly rigour, professional relevance, interdisciplinary exchange, and strategic dialogue. The conference structure has been developed to create meaningful opportunities for research presentation, institutional engagement, industry participation, postgraduate development, and networking across the African data science ecosystem.

A major highlight of the conference will be a distinguished keynote platform featuring leading academic, research, and industry voices. Confirmed keynote speakers include **Prof. Loyiso Nongxa**, **Prof. Maurice Radebe**, **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli**, **Prof. Vukosi Marivate**, **Prof. Karin-Therese Howell**, and **Prof. Benjamin Rosman**. Together, these speakers reflect the conference's commitment to intellectual excellence, African relevance, methodological depth, and high-level engagement across science, technology, innovation, and leadership.

The broader programme will include keynote addresses, industry lightning talks, panel discussions, workshops, technical paper sessions, exhibitions, and networking opportunities. It is intentionally designed to balance scholarly depth, practical application, and forward-looking discussion on the future of data science and artificial intelligence in Africa.

Confirmed keynote speakers

- **Prof. Loyiso Nongxa**
- **Prof. Maurice Radebe**
- **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli**
- **Prof. Vukosi Marivate**
- **Prof. Karin-Therese Howell**
- **Prof. Benjamin Rosman**

Prof. Loyiso Nongxa

Professor Loyiso Nongxa is an eminent South African mathematician, Professor Emeritus at the University of the Witwatersrand, Honorary Professor at the University of Pretoria, and Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape. He served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research at Wits and later as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University from 2003 to 2013. A Rhodes Scholar, he obtained his doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Oxford in 1982, after completing his earlier studies at the University of Fort Hare. His academic work has included group theory, while his more recent scholarly interests include the mathematical foundations of data science and machine learning. He has also served as Chairperson of the National Research Foundation and as one of the Vice-Presidents of the International Mathematical Union.

Prof. Maurice Radebe

Professor Maurice Radebe is Faculty Director in Commerce, Law and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand and an Adjunct Professor at Wits Business School. He previously served as Head and Director of Wits Business School and as Executive Vice President responsible for Sasol's global Energy Business. His executive career spans more than three decades in the energy sector, including senior leadership roles at Shell, Exel, and Sasol, with extensive experience in strategy, operations, market development, restructuring, and major energy projects across Africa and internationally. He is also the Founder and Chairman of the Unleashing Leadership Potential Foundation in South Africa. Since joining Wits Business School as an Executive in Residence in 2013, he has contributed significantly to bringing real-world business and energy-sector leadership experience into the academic environment.

Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli

Professor Inger Fabris-Rotelli is a Professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Pretoria. She is the immediate past President of the South African Statistical Association, co-chair of the SASA Data Science Group, and is active in the broader mathematical sciences and data science community, including NITheCS-related activities. She has made significant contributions to postgraduate supervision and research development in statistics and data science, and has supervised many honours, master's, and doctoral students. Her research interests include spatial statistics, GIS, remote sensing, image processing, spatial epidemiology, and criminology. She is an NRF-rated researcher and has served in several professional leadership roles nationally and internationally.

Prof. Vukosi Marivate

Professor Vukosi Marivate is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Pretoria, Director of the African Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and holder of the ABSA UP Chair of Data Science. He also serves on the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence. His work focuses on machine learning, artificial intelligence, and natural language processing, with a strong emphasis on local and low-resource African languages. He leads the Data Science for Social Impact research group and has worked on projects in science, energy, public safety, and utilities. He is also a co-founder of Lelapa AI, the Masakhane Research Foundation, and the Deep Learning Indaba.

Prof. Karin-Therese Howell

Professor Karin-Therese Howell is the Executive Director of AIMS South Africa and holds the academic rank of Associate Professor in Mathematics at Stellenbosch University. She holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of the Free State and has published in international peer-reviewed journals. Her research focuses on abstract algebra, particularly near-vector spaces, and extends into algebraic biology, where biological problems are studied through algebraic structures and methods. She is also deeply committed to mathematics education, having received multiple Vice-Rector's Awards for Excellence in First-Year Teaching at Stellenbosch University. Her broader academic leadership includes advancing mathematics in Africa, supporting women in mathematics, and promoting greater inclusivity in the mathematical sciences.

Prof. Benjamin Rosman

Professor Benjamin Rosman is a Professor in the School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand, founding Director of the Machine Intelligence and Neural Discovery Institute, and head of the Robotics, Autonomous Intelligence and Learning Laboratory. He was also named in *TIME* magazine's TIME100 AI 2025 list, in the Thinkers category, in recognition of his contribution to artificial intelligence and the growth of Africa's AI ecosystem.

Planned themes and programme elements include:

- keynote addresses by leading scholars, institutional leaders, and data science experts;
- industry lightning talks showcasing applied data science, artificial intelligence, and innovation in practice;
- panel discussions on **AI Governance**, **Data Science Education**, and **Advances in Data Science**;
- technical sessions covering data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence, statistics, analytics, and interdisciplinary applications;
- thematic conversations on responsible AI, data governance, digital transformation, and African-centred innovation;

- exhibitions and partner visibility opportunities for institutions, sponsors, and technology stakeholders;
- networking opportunities for researchers, students, practitioners, policymakers, funders, and sponsors.

In keeping with the broader objectives of ADSC 2026, the programme is intended not only to showcase excellent work, but also to strengthen collaboration across universities, industry, government, and development institutions, while creating a strong platform for emerging scholars and next-generation African data science leadership.

Lightning Panel Discussions

ADSC 2026 will feature three lightning panel discussions, bringing together thought leaders from academia, industry, policy, law, education, and innovation. The panels will provide focused, high-impact conversations on key issues shaping the future of data science, artificial intelligence, governance, education, and research in Africa.

Featured lightning panels

1. AI Governance

Chair: **Dr Nomalanga Mashinini**, Senior Lecturer in Cyber Law, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand.

Date and time: Day 1, **24 June 2026**, 14:45–16:00.

Dr Mashinini specialises in image rights, social media law, artificial intelligence law, deepfakes, platform governance, and AI regulation. She is the founder and project lead of Wits Image Rights Engagement (WIRE) and chairs the African Cyber Law Conference.

2. Data Science Education

Chair: **Dr Pravesh Ranchod**, Academic, University of the Witwatersrand.

Date and time: Day 2, **25 June 2026**, 14:45–16:00.

Dr Ranchod is an experienced computer science academic whose work spans teaching, research, curriculum development, artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, programming, and mobile computing. He is also the Postgraduate Coordinator for the Postgraduate Diploma in Data Science at Wits and a MIND Fellow.

3. Advances in Data Science

Chair: **Prof Daniel Nicolas Wilke**, Head: School of Mechanical, Industrial and Aeronautical Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand.

Date and time: Day 3, **26 June 2026**, 11:45–13:00.

Prof Wilke is a full professor with expertise in optimisation, generative modelling, computational mechanics, machine learning, deep learning, surrogate modelling, interpretable latent spaces, and mathematical optimisation. He is also the author of *The Lost Art of Learning* and Springer's *Practical Mathematical Optimization*.

Panel members will be announced soon. Delegates are encouraged to stay connected for updates as the conference programme develops.

Workshops

Optional pre-conference workshops are scheduled for **23 June 2026**, ahead of the main conference programme on **24–26 June 2026**. These half-day workshops are designed to provide practical learning, research development, industry insight, and networking opportunities for delegates, students, researchers,

practitioners, and institutional partners.

Featured workshops

1. **Quantum Machine Learning and Data Science**
Dr Isaac Nape, University of the Witwatersrand.
2. **Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**
Prof. Innocent Maposa, Stellenbosch University.
3. **Beyond Vibe Coding: Building Trustworthy Data Science with LLM Agents**
Naweed Khan and **Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo**, IBM Research.
4. **Introduction to Spatial Data Science**
Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli, University of Pretoria.
5. **Publishing in Top-Tier Journals**
Prof. Moinak Maiti, University of the Witwatersrand.
6. **Data Science in Industry**
Adri van Nieuwkerk and **Prof. Charis Harley**, University of Johannesburg.

Audience and Reach

ADSC 2026 is expected to attract a diverse and influential audience across academia, industry, government, development organisations, and professional communities. The conference is particularly relevant to:

Postgraduate students

Emerging researchers in data science, AI, statistics, analytics, business, health, climate, finance, and related fields.

Academics and researchers

Scholars working across machine learning, statistics, AI, analytics, digital transformation, and applied domains.

Industry practitioners

Data scientists, AI professionals, analytics leaders, consultants, technology teams, and business executives.

Policymakers

Public-sector actors and institutional leaders concerned with data governance, responsible AI, and evidence-based decision-making.

Institutional executives

University, research, industry, professional body, and development-sector leaders.

Development partners

Foundations, agencies, and organisations supporting African capacity, research, innovation, and digital transformation.

Governance and Credibility

ADSC 2026 is supported by a formal governance structure designed to ensure academic quality, operational accountability, programme coherence, and institutional credibility.

The governance framework includes the **Advisors**, **Scientific Committee**, **Programme Committee**, **Conference Proceedings Editors**, **Organising Committee**, and **Fundraising Committee**. These structures support strategic guidance, scientific oversight, programme development, proceedings quality, operational delivery, and sponsorship engagement.

The Scientific Committee provides academic oversight, peer review guidance, and scholarly direction. The Organising Committee supports practical planning, administration, venue coordination, communication, and delivery. The Fundraising Committee supports sponsorship development, donor engagement, and institutional partnerships.

Advisors

- **Prof. Kanshukan Rajaratnam**, Stellenbosch University
- **Prof. Paida Mhangara**, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Prof. Thokozani Majozi**, University of Cape Town
- **Prof. Costa Hofisi**, North-West University
- **Prof. Charis Harley**, University of Johannesburg
- **Dr. Sibusisiwe Khuluse Makhanya**, IBM Research

Scientific Committee

Chair: **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli**, University of Pretoria

- **Dr Farai Mlambo**, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Dr Taariq Surtee**, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Prof. Innocent Maposa**, Stellenbosch University
- **Dr Isaac Nyambiya**, Great Zimbabwe University
- **Dr Sunday Oladejo**, Stellenbosch University
- **Dr Humphrey Brydon**, University of the Western Cape
- **Dr Peter Olukanmi**, University of Johannesburg
- **Dr Nomalanga Mashinini**, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Dr Louise De Koker**, Nelson Mandela University
- **Prof. James Cochran**, The University of Alabama
- **Dr Moses Phiri**, NIQ Company
- **Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo**, IBM Research Africa
- **Prof. David Mhlanga**, North-West University
- **Dr Tsitsi Zengeya**, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Organising Committee

Chair: **Dr Taariq Surtee**, University of the Witwatersrand

- **Dr Farai Mlambo**, University of the Witwatersrand

- **Dr Isaac Nyambiya**, Great Zimbabwe University
- **Ms Eleni Flack-Davison**, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Mr Lazarus Matizirofa**, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Ms Kagiso Modise**, University of the Witwatersrand

Additional governance structures

Programme Committee: Dr Farai Mlambo (Chair), Dr Taariq Surtee, Dr Isaac Nyambiya, Dr Nomalanga Mashinini, and Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo.

Conference Proceedings Editors: Dr Farai Mlambo, Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli, Prof. David Mhlanga, Dr Nomalanga Mashinini, and Dr Peter Olukanmi.

Fundraising Committee: Dr Isaac Nyambiya (Chair), Dr Farai Mlambo, Ms Eleni Flack-Davison, and Mr Lazarus Matizirofa.

How to Become a Sponsor

Organisations interested in sponsoring, exhibiting, supporting student participation, facilitating workshops, supporting prizes and awards, or entering into a tailored partnership with ADSC 2026 are invited to contact the organising committee.

Sponsorship enquiries

Email: adsc2026@easychair.org

Conference Chair: Dr Farai Mlambo, University of the Witwatersrand

Fundraising Committee Chair: Dr Isaac Nyambiya, Great Zimbabwe University

Wits Enterprise Contact Person: Ms Sibongile Horo, University of the Witwatersrand

Wits Enterprise Email: Sibongile.Horo@wits.ac.za

Payment and invoicing details

Sponsoring organisations may request an institutional invoice or payment guidance from the organising committee. Payment for sponsorships and related conference support should be made to the designated **Wits Enterprise** account reflected below.

Institution / Payee	<i>WITS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE (PTY) LTD</i>
Bank	First National Bank (FNB)
Account type	Public Sector Business Account
Account number	62053727304
Branch code	251905
Branch name	Braamfontein
SWIFT code	FIRNZAJJ
Invoice contact	Ms Sibongile Horo, Wits Enterprise
Reference	EUD006 + Company Name

Current Sponsors and Partners

ADSC 2026 gratefully acknowledges the support of its confirmed sponsors, partners, and institutional collaborators. Their contributions help strengthen the conference's mission while supporting research engagement, postgraduate development, industry collaboration, student participation, and responsible data science innovation across the continent.



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M a S S

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