

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

**Mark Glinoga v. Sullivan Entertainment Inc., Sullivan Home
Entertainment Limited, Sullivan Entertainment International Inc.,
and Sullivan Entertainment Group Inc.**

Glinoga · No. 25CV0707-GPC(SBC); 3:25-cv-00707 · Decided October 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California granted Defendants’ factual motion to dismiss for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction based on Plaintiff’s failure to establish Article III standing. The court relied on uncontroverted evidence that Plaintiff did not view videos, enter search terms, or access pages associated with specific video content on Defendants’ website. The dismissal was with leave to amend, and the motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim was denied as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	October 30, 2025
DOCKET	25CV0707-GPC(SBC); 3:25-cv-00707
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought a purported class action alleging that defendants' website tracking tools intercepted and disclosed consumers' video-viewing information, search terms, and personally identifiable information. Defendants moved to dismiss under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a factual Rule 12(b)(1) challenge, the court may consider evidence outside the complaint without converting the motion into one for summary judgment and need not presume the truth of the complaint's jurisdictional allegations. The plaintiff bears the burden of establishing subject matter jurisdiction and, after the defendant presents evidence challenging standing, must submit competent evidence establishing Article III standing. Factual disputes concerning standing may be resolved by the court unless the jurisdictional issue is so intertwined

	with the merits that resolution depends on genuinely disputed merits-related facts.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; precedential status unknown
PARTIES	Mark Glinoga, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. Sullivan Entertainment Inc., Sullivan Home Entertainment Limited, Sullivan Entertainment International Inc., Sullivan Entertainment Group Inc.

TOPICS

subject matter jurisdiction

standing

motions to dismiss

civil procedure

consumer protection

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

constitutional law

consumer protection

torts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether defendants' factual challenge established that plaintiff lacked Article III standing because he could not show a concrete injury in fact.
2. Whether the court should resolve the Rule 12(b)(6) motion after dismissing the action for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

HOLDINGS

1. When a defendant presents evidence challenging a plaintiff's jurisdictional allegations, the plaintiff must respond with competent evidence establishing Article III standing and may not rely solely on the complaint's allegations. Because plaintiff submitted no evidence contradicting defendants' records showing that he did not view videos, enter search terms, or visit pages associated with specific content, he failed to establish a concrete injury in fact and the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction.
2. The Rule 12(b)(6) motion was denied as moot because the court dismissed the action for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Article III standing requires that a plaintiff show that he has (1) “suffered an injury in fact” that is “concrete and particularized” and “actual or imminent” (2) “that is fairly traceable to the challenged conduct of the defendant,” and (3) “that is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision.”” (Opinion at 3)

“Because Plaintiff has not presented any evidence challenging Defendant’s evidence, the issue whether Plaintiff suffered a concrete injury is not disputed.” (Opinion at 7)

“Without jurisdiction the court cannot proceed at all in any cause. Jurisdiction is power to declare the law, and when it ceases to exist, the only function remaining to the court is that of announcing the fact and dismissing the cause.” (Opinion at 9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff alleged that he used defendants' GazeboTV website and that tracking tools disclosed his search terms, video-viewing information, and Facebook identifier to third parties, including Meta, without consent. He alleged that he received targeted advertisements after visiting the website and would not have used it had he known of the disclosures. Defendants submitted platform records and declarations showing that plaintiff created and logged into an account on December 28, 2024, but did not view videos, enter search terms, or visit pages associated with specific films, series, or other video content. Plaintiff submitted no evidence contradicting those records.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the complaint on March 26, 2025. Defendants submitted a factual challenge to subject matter jurisdiction, supported by declarations and platform records, asserting that plaintiff had not viewed videos, entered search terms, or visited pages associated with specific video content. Plaintiff submitted no competing evidence. The court dismissed for lack of Article III standing with leave to amend and denied the Rule 12(b)(6) motion as moot; plaintiff was later granted leave to file an amended complaint correcting scrivener's errors, but the court evaluated the motion against the original complaint because the substance remained unchanged.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand. Plaintiff was granted leave to amend and ordered to file an amended complaint on or before November 21, 2025. The November 7, 2025 hearing was vacated.

CASES CITED

- Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004)
- Chandler v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co., 598 F.3d 1115, 1122 (9th Cir. 2010)
- Savage v. Glendale Union High School, 343 F.3d 1036, 1039 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003)
- St. Clair v. City of Chico, 880 F.2d 199, 201 (9th Cir. 1989)
- Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992)
- Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins, 578 U.S. 330, 338-39 (2016)
- Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil Co., 526 U.S. 574, 583 (1999)
- Kohler v. CJP, Ltd., 818 F. Supp. 2d 1169, 1172 (C.D. Cal. 2011)
- Roberts v. Corrothers, 812 F.2d 1173, 1177 (9th Cir. 1987)
- Mecinas v. Hobbs, 30 F.4th 890, 896 (9th Cir. 2022)
- Johnson v. Oishi, 362 F. Supp. 3d 843, 847 (E.D. Cal. 2019)
- Burns v. Mammoth Media, Inc., 2021 WL 3500964, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 6, 2021)
- Foster v. Essex Property, Inc., 2017 WL 264390, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 20, 2017)

- Swartz v. KPMG LLP, 476 F.3d 756, 761 (9th Cir. 2007)
- Steel Co. v. Citizens for a Better Environment, 523 U.S. 83, 94 (1998)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 MARK GLINOCA, on behalf of himself Case No.: 25CV0707-GPC(SBC)
and all others similarly situated, 12 ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT’S Plaintiff, 13 MOTION
TO DISMISS FOR LACK v. OF SUBJECT MATTER 14 JURISDICTION AND DENYING
SULLIVAN ENTERTAINMENT INC., 15 DEFENDANT’S MOTION TO SULLIVAN HOME
ENTERTAINMENT DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO STATE 16 LIMITED, SULLIVAN A CLAIM
AS MOOT ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL 17 INC., AND SULLIVAN [Dkt.

No. 5.] 18 ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC., 19 Defendants. 20 21 Before the Court is
Defendants’ motion to dismiss the complaint pursuant to 22 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)
(1) and 12(b)(6). (Dkt. No. 5.) An opposition was 23 filed on September 26, 2025. (Dkt. No. 9.) A
reply was filed on October 10, 2025. (Dkt. 24 No. 10.) Based on the reasoning below, the Court
GRANTS Defendant’s motion to 25 26 27 28 1 dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction with
leave to amend and DENIES 2 Defendant’s motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim as
MOOT.¹ 3 Background 4 On March 26, 2025, Plaintiff Mark Glinoga (“Plaintiff”) filed a
purported class 5 action complaint against Defendants Sullivan Entertainment Inc., Sullivan Home
6 Entertainment Limited, Sullivan Entertainment International Inc, and Sullivan 7 Entertainment
Group Inc. (collectively “Defendants”) claiming that their GazeboTV 8 website utilizes tracking
tools to intercept and disclose consumers’ search terms, video 9 watching information, and
personally identifiable information without consumers’ 10 consent.² (Dkt.

No. 1, Compl.) Plaintiff asserts five causes of action for (1) violation of 11 the Video Privacy
Protection Act (“VPPA”), 18 U.S.C. § 2710, et seq.; (2) violation of 12 the Federal Wiretap Act, 18
U.S.C. § 2510, et seq.; (3) intrusion upon seclusion; (4) 13 violation of California’s Invasion of
Privacy Act (“CIPA”), Cal. Penal Code section 631; 14 and (5)³ violation of CIPA, Cal. Penal
Code section 638.

(Dkt. No. 1, Compl. ¶¶ 219- 15 83.) 16 Defendants d/b/a Gazebo TV has been in the business of
writing, producing and 17 directing films and television series for over thirty years and is the
home for classic 18 movies and series from Sullivan Entertainment focusing on digital content and
direct-to- 19 consumer services. (Id. ¶ 28.) Defendants own, manage and operate Gazebo TV,
which 20 offers services to buy or rent live and on-demand digital movies and TV series.

(Id.) 21 22 23 1 Defendant filed a request for judicial notice of state court minute orders
concerning the fifth cause of action alleging a trap and trace claim. (Dkt. No. 5-4, RJN.) Because
the Court dismisses the complaint 24 for lack of Article III standing, the Court denies Defendant’s

request for judicial notice as moot. 25 2 On October 17, 2025, the Court granted Plaintiff leave to file an amended complaint to correct the scrivener errors in the complaint concerning jurisdiction and venue.

(Dkt. No. 13.) On October 21, 26 2025, Plaintiff filed a first amended complaint. (Dkt. No. 14.) Because the substance of the complaint remains the same, the Court considers Defendant's motion to dismiss based on the original complaint. 27 3 The complaint contains a scrivener error as to the numbering of the causes of action.

The numbering of the counts skips from the fourth cause of action to the sixth cause of action. In total, there are five 28 1 Plaintiff, a resident of Los Angeles, California, alleges that he used Defendants' 2 website, <https://www.gazebotv.com>, to access video content, and as such, his sensitive 3 information was disclosed to third parties, including Meta, when Defendants placed 4 Tracking Tools, including the Pixel, on the webpages he visited on Defendants' website.

5 (Id. ¶ 27.) The sensitive information disclosed to third parties included his search terms, 6 the titles or descriptions of videos he watched and his unique Facebook ID. (Id.) Shortly 7 after visiting Defendants' website to view video content, he began receiving unsolicited 8 advertisements relating to the videos he had watched. (Id.) He claims he did not see 9 anything on the website that his sensitive information would be disclosed to unauthorized 10 third parties and did not consent to such disclosure of his sensitive information to Meta or 11 any other third party.

(Id.) The complaint maintains that Plaintiff would not have used 12 the website if he had known that his sensitive information would be disclosed to 13 unauthorized third parties. (Id.) 14 The VPPA protects personally identifiable information such as "information which 15 identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services 16 from a video service provider." (Id. ¶ 43.)

As such, the VPPA regulates the disclosure of 17 information about consumers' consumption of video content and requires consumers' 18 consent for the disclosures. (Id. ¶ 37.) Consumers are defined as renters, purchasers or 19 subscribers of any of the provider's goods or services, audiovisual or not. (Id. ¶¶ 47, 48.) 20 The Federal Wiretap Act protects the interception of communications.

(Id. ¶¶ 53. 21 54.) Plaintiff alleges that the content of subscribers' communications with Defendants 22 are intercepted by third parties via Tracking Tools. (Id. ¶ 57.) He asserts Defendants 23 intentionally installed Tracking Tools onto their website to intercept Plaintiff's 24 communications and redirect the content to third parties to improve the effectiveness of 25 advertising and marketing.

(Id. ¶ 58.) Plaintiff claims he did not know or consent to the 26 interception of his legally protected communications with Defendants to third parties. 27 (Id. ¶ 59.) The CIPA, similar to the

Federal Wiretap Act, protects individual's privacy 28 1 and prohibits the intentional wiretapping or willful attempts to learn the contents of wired 2 communications or conspiring with any person to unlawfully wiretap.

(Id. ¶ 62.) 3 Discussion 4 A. Legal Standard on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) 5 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure ("Rule") 12(b)(1) provides for dismissal of a 6 complaint for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1). "A Rule 7 12(b)(1) jurisdictional attack may be facial or factual." *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 8 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir.

2004). In a factual attack, "the challenger disputes the 9 truth of the allegations that, by themselves, would otherwise invoke federal jurisdiction." 10 Id. "In resolving a factual attack on jurisdiction," the Court "may review evidence 11 beyond the complaint without converting the motion to dismiss into a motion for 12 summary judgment." Id. The Court "need not presume the truthfulness of the plaintiff's 13 allegations" in deciding a factual attack.

Id. 14 When subject matter jurisdiction is challenged, the plaintiff bears the burden of 15 establishing the Court's jurisdiction. See *Chandler v. State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co.*, 598 16 F.3d 1115, 1122 (9th Cir. 2010). Once a moving party has converted the motion to 17 dismiss into a factual motion by presenting affidavits or other evidence properly brought 18 before the court, the party opposing the motion must furnish affidavits or other evidence 19 necessary to satisfy its burden of establishing subject matter jurisdiction.

Savage v. 20 *Glendale Union High Sch.*, 343 F.3d 1036, 1039 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *St. Clair v.* 21 *City of Chico*, 880 F.2d 199, 201 (9th Cir. 1989)). 22 Rule 12(b)(1) permits challenges to subject matter jurisdiction based on lack of 23 Article III standing. See *Chandler*, 598 F.3d at 1122. Article III, Section 2 the United 24 States Constitution requires that a plaintiff have standing to bring a claim.

See *Lujan v.* 25 *Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992). Article III standing requires that a 26 plaintiff show that he has (1) "suffered an injury in fact" that is "concrete and 27 particularized" and "actual or imminent" (2) "that is fairly traceable to the challenged 28 conduct of the defendant," and (3) "that is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial 1 decision." *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, 578 U.S. 330, 338-39 (2016) (citing *Lujan v. 2 Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992)).

The plaintiff has the burden to allege 3 Article III standing. See *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 561. "Where, as here, a case is at the 4 pleading stage, the plaintiff must 'clearly... allege facts [taken as true] demonstrating' 5 each element" of Article III standing. *Spokeo, Inc.*, 578 U.S. at 338 (internal quotation 6 marks and citation omitted). If the plaintiff fails to do so, the complaint is subject to 7 dismissal at the outset either upon motion by the defendant under Federal Rule of Civil 8 Procedure 12(b)(1) or upon the court's own inquiry.

See *Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil Co.*, 526 U.S. 574, 583 (1999) (questions concerning subject matter jurisdiction “must be 10 policed by the courts on their own initiative even at the highest level”); see also Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3) (“If the court determines at any time that it lacks subject-matter 12 jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.”). 13 However, “a jurisdictional finding of genuinely disputed facts is inappropriate 14 when the jurisdictional issue and substantive issues are so intertwined that the question of 15 jurisdiction is dependent on the resolution of factual issues going to the merits of the 16 action.” *Safe Air for Everyone*, 373 F.3d at 1039; *Kohler v. CJP, Ltd.*, 818 F. Supp. 2d 17 1169, 1172 (C.D.

Cal. 2011) (on a factual attack, a court may not “resolve genuinely 18 disputed facts where the question of jurisdiction is dependent on the resolution of factual 19 issues going to the merits.”) (citations and quotation marks omitted). If so, the court 20 “assumes the truth of the allegations in a complaint... unless controverted by undisputed 21 facts in the record.” *Roberts v. Corrothers*, 812 F.2d 1173, 1177 (9th Cir.

1987). 22 B. Analysis 23 Defendants raise a factual challenge seeking to dismiss all causes of action on the 24 grounds that Plaintiff lacks Article III standing because he has not shown a concrete harm 25 as required under *Spokeo*. (Dkt. No. 5-1 at 17.4) In support, they present the declaration 26 27 28 1 of Kevin Sullivan, President of Sullivan Entertainment, stating that Gazebo, its video 2 content service, uses Vimeo’s Over the Top (“OTT”) platform to operate its video 3 content service.

(Dkt. No. 5-3, Sullivan Decl. ¶ 2.) Gazebo provides content which is 4 distributed through Vimeo’s platform to account holders. (Id.) In order to rent or buy a 5 video, a visitor must sign up for an account. (Id.) Around February 20, 2025, employees 6 of Sullivan Entertainment searched its records and found one account associated with 7 Plaintiff’s email address with a specific user ID. (Id. ¶ 3.)

Records available to Gazebo 8 through the Vimeo platform show that Plaintiff’s account was created on gazebotv.com 9 via the website on December 28, 2024 at 14:15:17 UTC from Inglewood, CA. (Id. ¶ 4.) 10 According to the records available, Plaintiff’s last login was also on December 28, 2024 11 and the account was not associated with any purchase or renting of videos.

(Id.) Records 12 available through the Google Analytics platform via an integration with Vimeo’s 13 platform indicate the account initiated just one session through the gazebotv.com which 14 occurred on December 28, 2024 at 14:00 UTC and lasted two minutes and eighteen 15 seconds from Inglewood, CA. (Id.) No further sessions on gazebotv.com was initiated 16 after that date.

(Id. ¶ 5.) Data from Google Analytics show that on December 28, 2024, 17 the pages viewed on gazebotv.com did not contain any pages with videos on them, no 18 search terms were entered and

there was no navigation to any pages associated with 19 specific films, series or other content. (Id. ¶ 6.) Six pages were viewed from Inglewood, 20 CA on December 28, 2024.

(Id.) Based on records from Vimeo and Google Analytics, 21 the user associated with the account did not view any videos, did not visit any video 22 pages, and did not enter any search terms while on gazeboTV.com. (Id. ¶ 9.)

The Sullivan 23 declaration is corroborated with the declaration of AJ Pryor, the Vice President of Data 24 Engineering & Automation, at Vimeo where he oversees data and analytics for the OTT 25 platform. (Dkt. No. 5-2, Pryor Decl. ¶ 2.) Based on a search conducted on April 24, 26 2025, a member of Vimeo's data team found that an account associated with Plaintiff's 27 email and user ID was created on December 28, 2024 and was also the last recorded 28 login.

(Id. ¶ 3.) The data team search also revealed that the user associated with the 1 email and account did not view any videos on Vimeo's OTT Enterprise platform. (Id. ¶ 2 4.) 3 In response, Plaintiff does not provide any evidence to challenge Defendant's 4 evidence. (See Dkt. No. 9.) Instead, he argues that extrinsic evidence is not proper on a 5 Rule 12(b)(1) motion when the jurisdictional issue is intertwined with the merits of the 6 case, and in this case, Defendant's evidence attacks his injury, which not only is relevant 7 to his causes of action but also his standing.

(Dkt. No. 9 at 13.) He asks the Court to take 8 the allegations in the complaint as true which are sufficient to allege injury on a Rule 9 12(b)(1) motion. (Id. at 14.) 10 Contrary to Plaintiff's argument, on a factual challenge on a Rule 12(b)(1) motion, 11 the allegations in the complaint are not taken as true as Plaintiff maintains. Instead, once 12 a defendant presents evidence challenging a plaintiff's standing, the plaintiff must present 13 competent evidence establishing standing pursuant to Article III.

See *Savage*, 343 F.3d at 14 1039 n.2; *Mecinas v. Hobbs*, 30 F.4th 890, 896 (9th Cir. 2022) (same); *Johnson v. Oishi*, 15 362 F. Supp. 3d 843, 847 (E.D. Cal. 2019) ("If the plaintiff's allegations of jurisdictional 16 facts are challenged by the adversary in the appropriate manner, the plaintiff cannot rest 17 on the mere assertion that factual issues may exist.").

Once the plaintiff has set forth 18 competing evidence, the court may then resolve any factual disputes concerning Article 19 III standing. See *Mecinas*, 30 F.4th at 896. In other words, it is only when the plaintiff 20 has presented competing evidence creating a factual dispute that the court then considers 21 whether the jurisdictional and substantive issues are intertwined, and if so, the 22 "jurisdictional determination should await a determination of the relevant facts on either a 23 motion going to the merits or at trial." Id. (citation and quotation marks omitted); see 24 *Burns v. Mammoth Media, Inc.*, Case No. CV 20-04855 DDP (SKx), 2021 WL 3500964, 25 at *4 (C.D.

Cal. Aug. 6, 2021) (because the plaintiff has failed to present evidence to 26 respond to the defendant's evidence, the "material facts concerning Article III's causation 27 element are

undisputed since Plaintiffs did not produce evidence to support that issue. 28 1 Consequently, any factual overlap between Plaintiffs' standing and the merits is not an 2 impediment to granting [a] Rule 12(b)(1) motion.”).

3 Here, while there may be overlap of jurisdictional and substantive claims regarding 4 Plaintiff’s concrete harms, there are “no corresponding intertwining of jurisdictional and 5 merits-related, disputed facts.” See Burns, 2021 WL 3500964, at *4 (emphasis added). 6 Because Plaintiff has not presented any evidence challenging Defendant’s evidence, the 7 issue whether Plaintiff suffered a concrete injury is not disputed.

Defendant has 8 presented evidence that Plaintiff did not suffer a concrete injury because he did not view 9 any videos, did not use search terms and was not navigated to any pages associated with 10 specific films, series or other content. 11 Therefore, Plaintiff has failed to allege he has Article III standing and accordingly, 12 the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the case.

See Burns, 2021 WL 3500964, 13 at *4 (dismissing complaint for lack of standing where “Plaintiff has failed to meet his 14 burden to respond to Defendant's evidence with any competent proof”); Foster v. Essex 15 Prop., Inc., No. 5:14-cv-05531-EJD, 2017 WL 264390, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 20, 2017) 16 (concluding that “the material facts concerning Article III's causation element are 17 undisputed since Plaintiffs did not produce evidence to support that issue” and dismissing 18 the cause of action).

Based on this, the Court GRANTS Defendant’s motion to dismiss 19 for lack of Article III standing with leave to amend to correct the deficiencies. See 20 Swartz v. KPMG LLP, 476 F.3d 756, 761 (9th Cir. 2007) (“Assuming a substantive or 21 jurisdictional defect in the pleadings, dismissal without leave to amend is proper only if it 22 is clear, upon de novo review, that the complaint could not be saved by any 23 amendment.”).

24 C. Motion to Dismiss for Failure to State a Claim 25 Defendant also moves to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a claim under 26 Rule 12(b)(6). However, because the Court dismisses the complaint for lack of subject 27 matter jurisdiction, the Court DENIES the motion to dismiss as moot. See Steel Co. v. 28 Citizens for a Better Env’t, 523 U.S. 83, 94 (1998) (“Without jurisdiction the court cannot 1 || proceed at all in any cause.

Jurisdiction is power to declare the law, and when it ceases to 2 exist, the only function remaining to the court is that of announcing the fact and 3 || dismissing the cause.”) 4 Conclusion 5 Based on the above, the Court GRANTS Defendant’s motion to dismiss with leave 6 ||to amend and DENIES Defendant’s motion to dismiss as moot. Plaintiff shall file an 7 ||amended complaint on or before November 21, 2025.

The hearing date set on November 8 ||7, 2025 shall be vacated. 9 IT IS SO ORDERED. 10 Dated: October 30, 2025 <= 12 United States District Judge 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

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