

# Craft a great Teams and SharePoint Online user experience

A Gravity Union Webinar

www.gravityunion.com

## Housekeeping

- 1. Use the Q/A panel to ask questions or share comments
- 2. The recording will be posted on our YouTube channel: (Gravity Union YouTube)



## What we'll cover today

- A brief history of User Experience (UX) in SharePoint
- Why the UX in SharePoint (and Teams) is important
- Fundamentals of creating a good user experience
- Examples
- Creating a good UX in Teams



## Introductions





## Jas Shukla

**Director of Business Development** 

- 15 years experience in enterprise technology consulting
- Previously with Microsoft on the SharePoint product team
- UX designer in a previous life





## Michael Schweitzer

**President and CEO** 

- 20 years of enterprise technology experience
- Microsoft and Collabware certified
- Collabware MVP recipient
- Vancouver Office 365 user group board member
- ARMA Canada guest speaker
- Collabware User Group Board Member
- SharePoint Saturdays guest speaker
- Over 100 SharePoint ECM projects completed



### Who we are

A boutique compliance-inspired services firm helping organization in their digital transformation journey

Gold

Microsoft Partner



**Gold Certified** 

Collabware Partner











# **Content Services Microsoft Partner**

- Recognized by Microsoft for the success we deliver to customers with Microsoft Content Services technology
- Partner with Microsoft, providing feedback on the product functionality and roadmap
- Special support from Microsoft for our project work



Content Services Partner Program Charter Member

## **Experience Overview**

**50**+

Years of combined Collabware experience 10,000+

Users using our SharePoint and M365 solutions 40+

Microsoft certifications

**25**+

Collabware and Collabspace projects

250+

Years of SharePoint experience across our team

18

Collabware certified consultants

**50**+

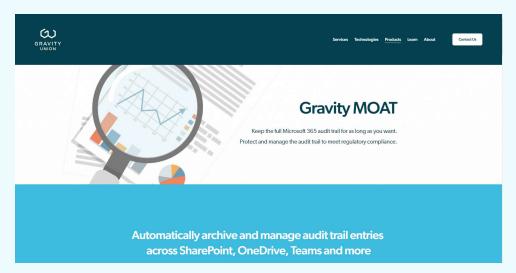
Million documents migrated and managed in our solutions 100%

Project success rate



### **Makers of MOAT**

World's first compliance-based audit trail back-up for Office 365



https://www.gravityunion.com/moat



# A Brief history of UX in SharePoint

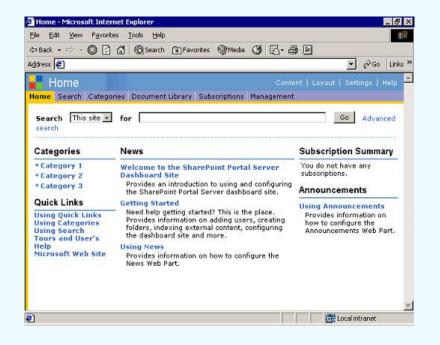


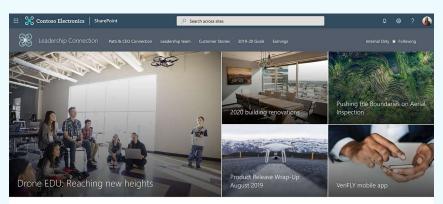
### **UX in SharePoint**

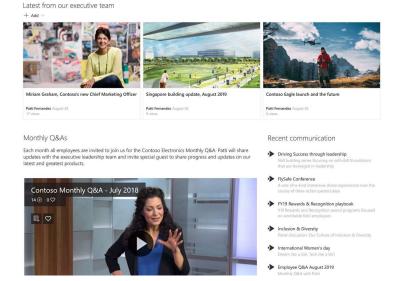
- Used to be pretty bad!
- Used to require a lot of custom effort (css, HTML)
- Often included changing OOTB behaviour (caused issues with migrating between version of SharePoint)



## We've come along way in 20 years!









# Why focusing on the UX is important

Let's level set!









So the obvious question is: What are the key causes of such high failure rates? The other side of that question, of course, is: What can be done by organizations to avoid them? A more fundamental question is whether ECM is even worth pursuing, given the

5. Failure to Stay within budget. Ecivi implementations tend to miss the mark on staying within the initially agreed-upon

odds of success - which, for purposes of this discussion, I am going to assume is not worth debating, since many organizations have in fact been successful at it; it's just that certain proactive measures that are critical to ensuring success need to be addressed.

budgets.

But before we do any of it, I think we need to understand the key reasons ECM implementations fail.

#### Why ECM Implementations Experience High Failure Rates

#### 1. Disregard for Adoption.

Most organizations are so focused on trying to get something in production, that they tend to disregard the simplicity and fluidity of user experience that is required to garner the appropriate adoption rates. Adoption is a two-dimensional problem. The first dimension is making sure that a critical mass of users is enabled to access and use the ECM system. The second dimension is that a critical mass of content be available through the system. If either of these conditions doesn't hold true, overall system adoption suffers. However, for both the number of users and amount of content, simplicity of user experience is the most critical dimension. If a user has to perform additional work to use the ECM system, that he/she didn't have to do in their old world, more than likely than not, they will bypass the ECM system. Not placing sufficient emphasis on both of these dimensions of user adoption is one of the biggest reasons ECM implementations fail.

Recommendation: Focus on scaling the number of users and the amount of content with an acute emphasis on simplicity of user experience. Integrate ECM's back end with social computing front ends.

Get Your Free eBook: From ECM to Intelligent Information Management

#### 2. Picking the Wrong Business Scenarios.

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Decline













J. Lack of rocus of rroving business justification.

A big reason why ECM implementations fail is a lack of focus around quantifying the ROI for ECM. Defining concrete and credible benefit streams and tracking against the model to ensure that the implementations produce those results is the only way to obtain sustained executive support and funding. Most business justifications tend to be either too optimistic to be taken seriously, or too generic to be applicable to an organization.

Recommendation: Develop specific business justifications with organization-specific data and a defensible heuristic model, showing peer group benchmark data that can be demonstrated to an executive in 10 minutes or less, but with rigor in the back end to be able to support the conclusions. (See Doculabs' white paper for more details.)

#### 6. Ignoring the Impact of User Experience.

Eventually a system either succeeds or fails based on how it appeals to the user emotionally and whether the user is able to imagine the possibilities of a better world as a result of sustained use of a system. Since ECM has such a huge platform component to it, many organizations fail to get clarity in how "a day in the life of" a user will be impacted a result of ECM.

Recommendation: Build out storyboards or prototypes depicting how a user's life would be materially impacted for the better as a result of using ECM capabilities.

#### 7. Lack of an Overall Vision for ECM.

Most organizations don't tend to have a <u>sufficiently comprehensive vision of ECM</u> to be able to determine whether their efforts are a success or a failure. A strategy for information management within an organization is largely absent in most places.

Recommendation: Either develop an ECM strategy, or dust off and refine your existing ECM strategy, especially in light of the rapidly changing landscape of social computing, information governance, and cloud-based computing models.

#### 8. Underestimation of Cultural and Change Management Implications.

Last but not least, most failures aren't the result of technology issues. ECM is a mature technology; most ECM suppliers are in their tenth and eleventh major versions of their products. The primary reason for failure is that organizations grossly

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Decline

## **Improves Adoption**

> User experience = less friction = greater adoption



It was so unusable. Eleven metadata fields! We just stopped using it altogether and started managing our documents on our workstations, another file share, anything to avoid having to use this system."

— Forrester Research



## **Improves Search**

Improves the **findability** of content

- Less likely to cache locally (out of date copies of content)
- Less likely to make decisions based on erroneous data
- Less likely to recreate documents that can't be found
- More likely to find required information that the need to support work, decisions and processes



## **Improves Compliance**

Improves the **organization's ability to manage records** of content

- Higher adoption means increased ability to find, identify, classify and manage records in the organization
- Meaningful solutions that support a good user experience almost always support records management activities like auto classification, auto archiving etc.



### **Increased ROI**

- Improved search, adoption and compliance ROI!
- Long term shift away from **fixing** SharePoint to focussing on **added-value** activities like custom solutions (Power Apps) workflows, automation, artificial intelligence etc.
- It takes more effort to rearrange SharePoint than it does to get it right the first time
- It takes more effort to untrain poor habits than to train on good habits from the start



# Controlling the User Experience

What can and what can't we do?



## What can we control vs. what we can't control?

#### What can we control?

Naming

Metadata

**Ordering** 

Organizing

Visibility (show vs. hide)

**Content Types** 

Search

Page Layouts

## What we can't (shouldn't try) control

Upload\download

Sharing

Check in check\out

Authoring experience (pages)

Versioning

All that core OOTB functionality



# Fundamentals of User Experience

Let's level set!



# Main factors that go into the user experience

- Visual appeal (making it nice to look at)
- Mental effort (cognitive load)
- Physical effort (how many clicks, actions, etc.)



## Visual appeal

Make it nice!



## Visual appeal

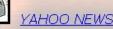
- Consistent use of colors, fonts, style that make the site attractive, eases user frustration
- Strategic use of visual design to draw the eye where we want it go
- Good use of white space to not overload the end user

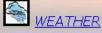


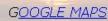








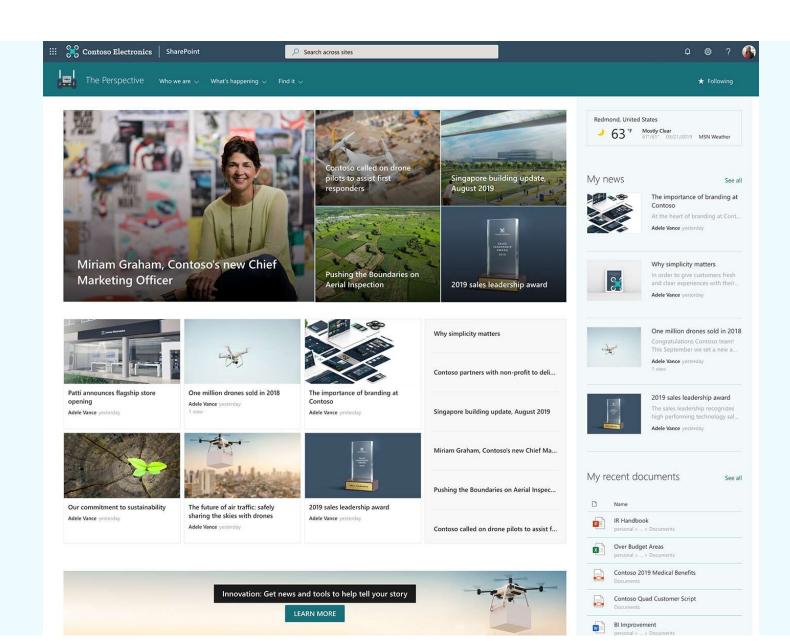




ABOUT TWWWE VISIT KENTUCKY LAKE! SHOCKING PICTURES!

AMAZING COLOURS

URS SMOKY MOUNTAINS!



GRAVITY

UNION

## How can we address visual appeal

- Create a branding standard for SharePoint
- Engage with your local "Brand Police"
- Govern the look and feel
- Hire a designer?



## Mental Effort (Cognitive Load)

Don't make them think too hard!



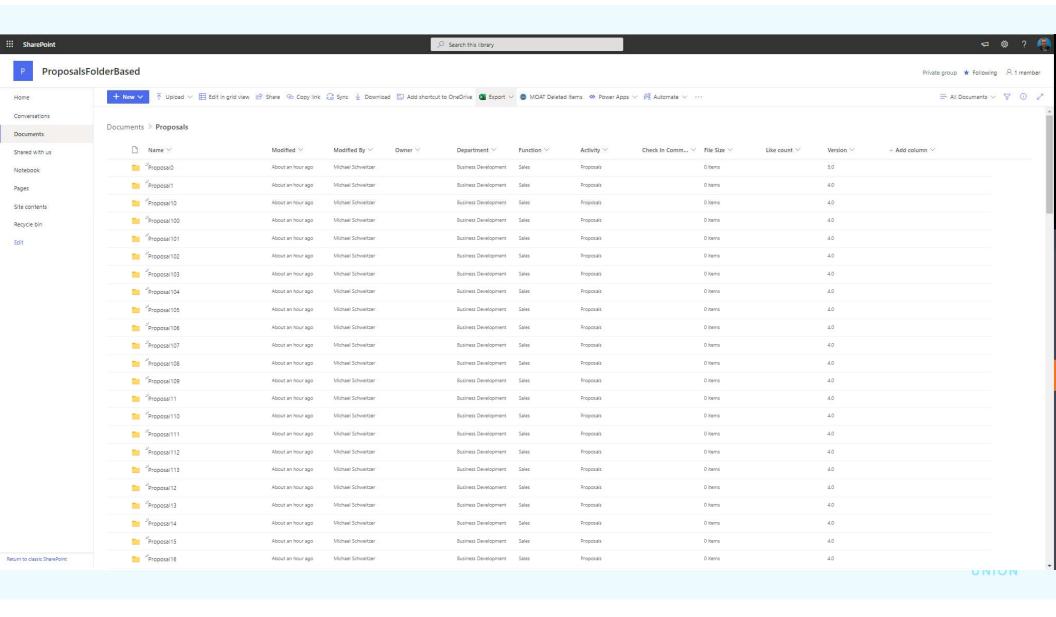
## **Cognitive load**

- The amount of mental effort we expend to understand what we're looking at
- The more **complex** a system is the **higher** the **workload** it is for people find what they're looking for and can slow productivity down
- The **higher** the cognitive load the **less** adoption we get (especially at the onset)
- Training needs increase exponentially









## How we can control cognitive load?

- Minimizing the volume of content being shown
- Minimizing the number of **options** a user has for a given scenario
- Minimizing the information we **ask** from users
- Being mindful how we **name** things
- Mindful how we organize things



#### **Naming Conventions**

- Avoid being "creative" with names of sites, columns, content types. All of these play a role in search and are read by end users
- Avoid:
  - ALL CAPSO
  - Underscores and special characters
    - \_\$taxAmount
  - "Disemvoweling"
    - (Mmbrmngmnt vs. Member Management)
  - placingwordstogether



### **Ordering**

The order of navigation elements is important

- Order by **popularity** (the likelihood of being clicked), not necessarily alphabetical
- We typically scan from left to right and from top to bottom
- So, placing more popular items in the **upper left** means we spend less time searching for our desired items



#### Recycle Bin



Site Collection Administration

Recycle bin

Search Result Sources

Search Result Types

Search Query Rules

Search Schema

Search Settings

Search Configuration Import

Search Configuration Export

Site collection features

Site hierarchy

Site collection audit settings

Portal site connection

Content Type Policy Templates

Site collection app permissions

Storage Metrics

Content type publishing

HTML Field Security

Site collection health checks

Site collection upgrade

Microsoft Search Configure search settings User alerts

RSS

Sites and workspaces

Workflow settings

Term store management

Search

Result Sources

Result Types

Query Rules

Schema

Search Settings

Search and offline availability

Configuration Import

Configuration Export



# Physical Effort

Don't make them work too hard!



### **Physical Effort**

- How much effort it takes to accomplish tasks in the system
- How many steps, clicks, hopping back and forth between areas





It was so unusable. Eleven metadata fields! We just stopped using it altogether and started managing our documents on our workstations, another file share, anything to avoid having to use this system."

#### - Forrester Research



#### How we can control physical effort?

- Co-locate related items (physically or through search)
- Avoid **noisy** metadata
  - Example: Original Author, Original Document Date, Document Owner
  - Focus on **two to three** important pieces of metadata
- Automate the collection of metadata (AI, Default Values, Power Automate)
- Avoid folders (increases number of clicks, hides information increases back and forth)
- Ensure Document Libraries have a single purpose



### **Example too many metadata fields!**

Name	Туре	Status	Source
Name	File	Required	Document
Contributor	Multiple lines of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Coverage	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Creator	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Date Created	Date and Time	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Date Modified	Date and Time	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Description	Multiple lines of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Format	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Resource Identifier	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Language	Choice	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Publisher	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Relation	Multiple lines of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Rights Management	Multiple lines of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Source	Multiple lines of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Keywords	Multiple lines of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Subject	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Title	Single line of text	Optional	Item
Resource Type	Single line of text	Optional	<b>Dublin Core Columns</b>
Add from existing site or list columns			



# Crafting a great user experience

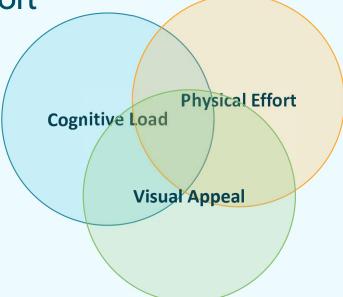
Dozens, hundreds of micro decisions



#### All three are important, overlapping

A great user experience is the combination dozens of decisions around visual appeal, cognitive load and

physical effort





# Examples

Let's look at some real world examples

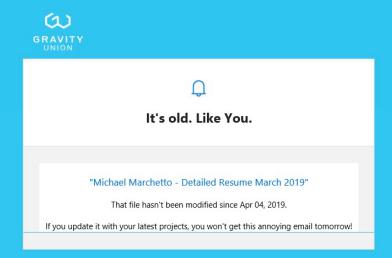


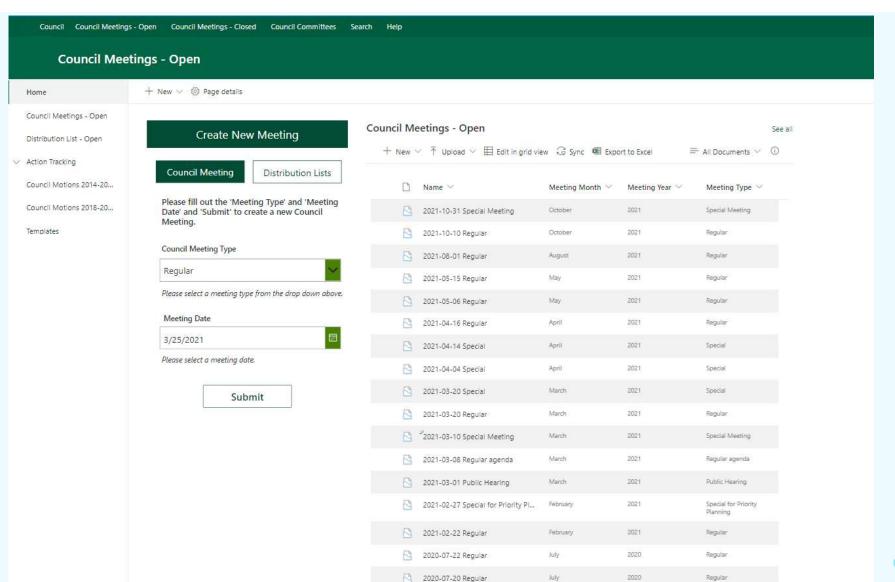


#### FW: Fun Fact About Your Resume!



← Reply ← Reply All → Forward · · · · Mon 2019-04-08 4:01 PM





2020-05-30 Regular

May

2020

Regular



# Teams

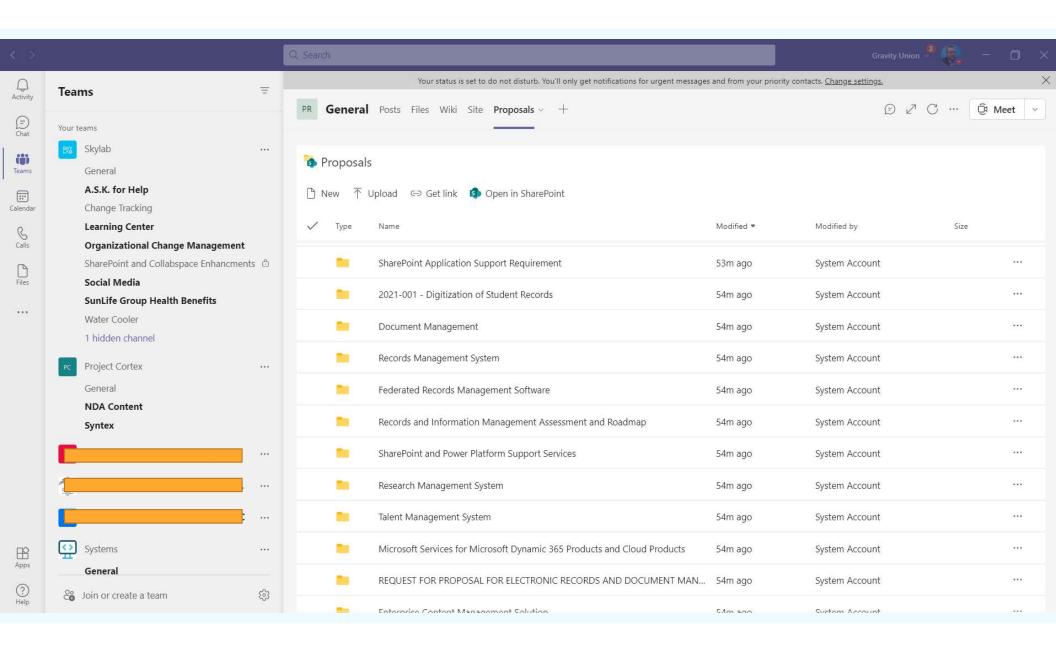
Not all your work is throw away!

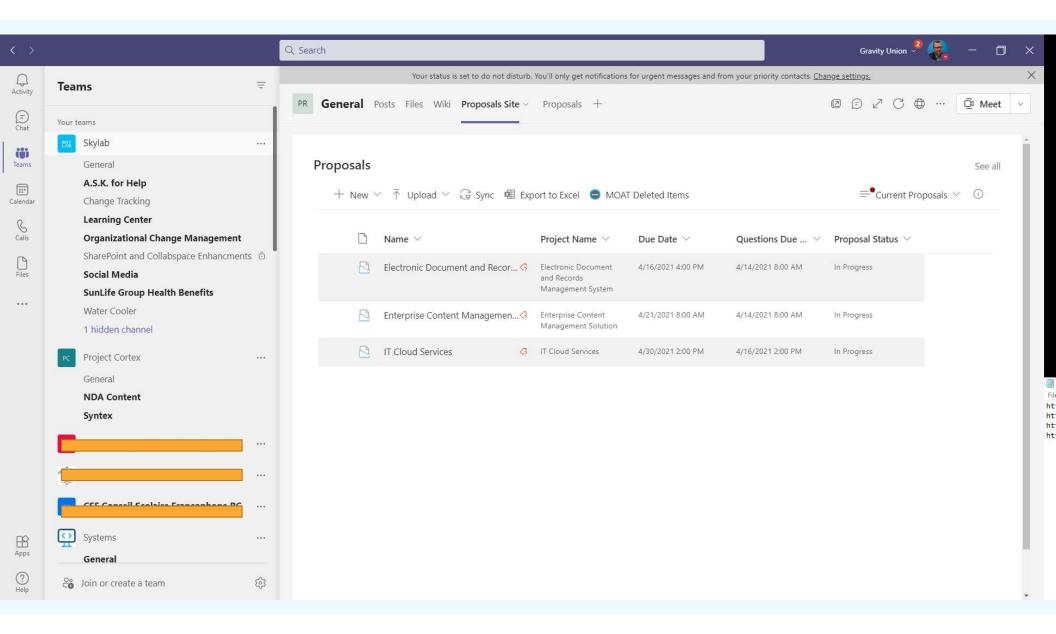


#### **Teams**

- A big problem we see right now is the quick adoption of teams relying on folders etc.
  - Spend some time designing for use in both SharePoint and Teams
- Govern Teams' Teams (get rid of the old and unused)
- Leverage SharePoint Pages instead of Document Libraries for full control







## **Designing for Teams**

Surface in Teams



Design in SharePoint







#### **Next webinar**

https://go.gravityunion.com/roadmap







# Thank you for joining!

mschweitzer@gravityunion.com

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