

Using R:BASE PDF Form Controls





Using R:BASE PDF Form Controls

by R:BASE Technologies, Inc.

PDF Form Controls allow for PDF output to be provided to others so data can be inserted into the fields. Users can fill, save, distribute, submit, and add digital signatures to the form.

Using R:BASE PDF Form Controls

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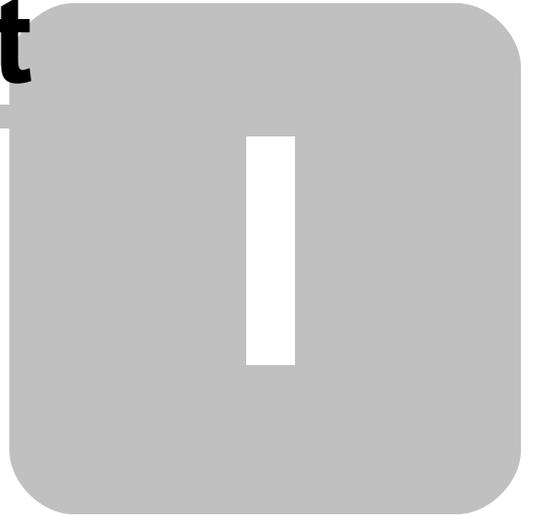
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First Edition

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Part



1 PDF Form Controls

There are eight different form controls. Each tool is used to create the respective field type.



Icon	Function
	PDF Annotation
	PDF Push Button
	PDF Text Field
	PDF Check Box
	PDF Radio Button
	PDF Combo Box
	PDF List Box
	PDF Signature Field

1.1 PDF Annotation



The PDF Annotation control places an object on the PDF output which is used to display a hint and/or message that appears expanded.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Border Color** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Contents** - Specifies the text contents of the annotation
- **Subject** - Specifies the object's subject within the PDF output properties
- **Title** - Specifies the text title on the PDF output
- **Annotation Type** - Specifies the annotation type
 - Comment
 - Key
 - Note
 - Help
 - New Paragraph
 - Paragraph
 - Insert
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Reprint On Overflow** - Reprint On Overflow applies to situations where a Stretchable component is stretching across pages. If the text overflows onto a new page, any components that are on the same band will reprint on the new page (if Reprint On Overflow is checked).
- **Shift With Parent** - Shift With Parent applies to situations where a Stretchable component is stretching. If Shift With Parent is checked, the report component will move based on the amount of stretching the text requires. When you want components to appear at the bottom of a memo, this is a useful feature. If the memo stretches to a new page, the components will print on the next page.
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control

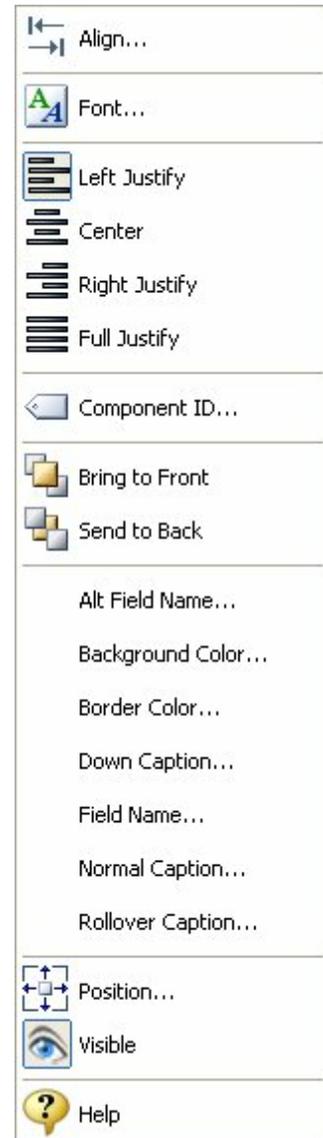


1.2 PDF Push Button



The PDF Push Button control places a button object on the PDF output which can be used to submit data from the form fields to an email or http, reset the form fields to their original state, or start a java script.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Font** - Displays the Font dialog for the font style, size and color of the object
- **Left Justify** - Text is left justified
- **Center** - Text is center justified
- **Right Justify** - Text is right justified
- **Full Justify** - Text is justified to both the left and right margins
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Alt Field Name** - Specifies an alternative field name
- **Background Color** - Specifies the background color for the button
- **Border Color** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Down Caption** - Specifies the caption when the button is clicked on
- **Field Name** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **Normal Caption** - Specifies the button caption
- **Rollover Caption** - Specifies the caption when the mouse cursor hovers over the button
- **Java Script...** - Specifies the java script to run when the button is clicked. This menu option is displayed when the "Java Script" Action is selected from the Edit toolbar.
- **Submit URL...** - Specifies the email or URL for the data submit when the button is clicked. This menu option is displayed when the "Submit" Action is selected from the Edit toolbar.
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control



PDF Actions Include:

- None
- Submit
- Reset
- Java Script

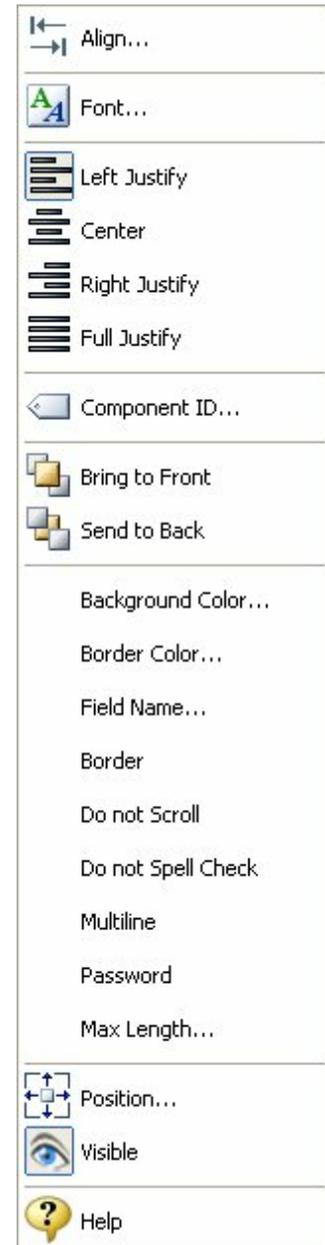
When "Submit" or "Java Script" are selected as the action type, the properties menu, when you right click on the object, will display an additional option to either add a "Submit URL" , or to add a "Java Script."

1.3 PDF Text Field



The PDF Text Field control places field on the PDF output which can used to enter and edit text. The text field data can be accessed by a java script function.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Font** - Displays the Font dialog for the font style, size and color of the object
- **Left Justify** - Text is left justified
- **Center** - Text is center justified
- **Right Justify** - Text is right justified
- **Full Justify** - Text is justified to both the left and right margins
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Background Color** - Specifies the background color for the object
- **Border Color** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Field Name** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **Border** - Specifies if the object will display a border on the PDF output
- **Do not Scroll** - Specifies if the control will allow for scroll bar for multi-line objects when the text length is greater than the size of the control
- **Do not Spell Check** - Specifies if the control will not be subject to spell checking
- **Multiline** - Specifies if the object will support multi-line text
- **Password** - Specifies if the object will display asterisks (*****) when text is entered to protect a password
- **Max Length** - Specifies if the maximum length of text the object will display
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control



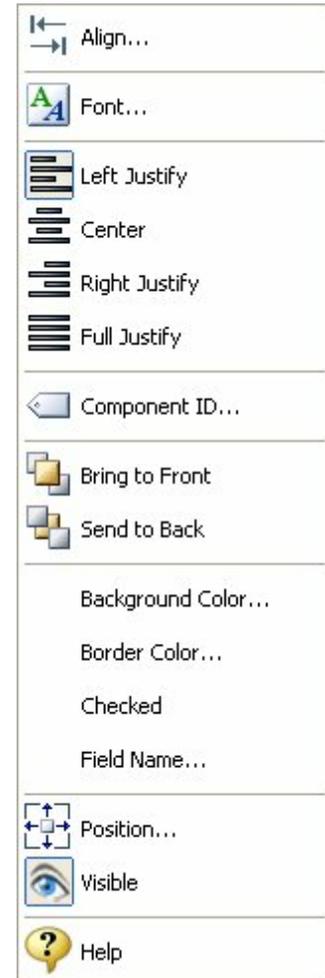
1.4 PDF Check Box



The PDF Form Check Box control places a check box object on the PDF output. The check box

data can be accessed by a java script function.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Font** - Displays the Font dialog for the font style, size and color of the object
- **Left Justify** - Text is left justified
- **Center** - Text is center justified
- **Right Justify** - Text is right justified
- **Full Justify** - Text is justified to both the left and right margins
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Background Color** - Specifies the background color for the object
- **Border Color** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Checked** - Specifies if the check box is checked when the PDF file is launched
- **Field Name** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control

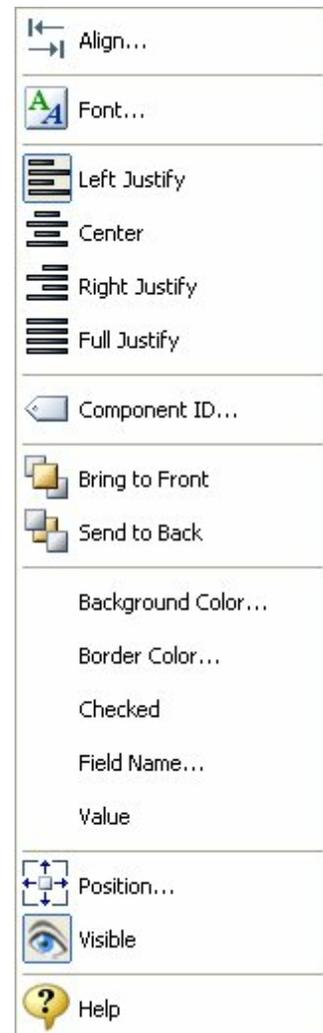


1.5 PDF Radio Button



The PDF Radio Button control places a radio button object on the PDF output that allows the user to choose only one of a predefined set of options. When using PDF Radio Buttons, all buttons which behave as a group must have the same "Field Name" value. The radio button data can be accessed by a java script function.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Font** - Displays the Font dialog for the font style, size and color of the object
- **Left Justify** - Text is left justified
- **Center** - Text is center justified
- **Right Justify** - Text is right justified
- **Full Justify** - Text is justified to both the left and right margins
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Background Color** - Specifies the background color for the object
- **Border Color** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Checked** - Specifies if the radio button is checked when the PDF file is launched
- **Field Name** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **Value** - Specifies the value for the radio button. Each value for a group of radio buttons would be different.
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control

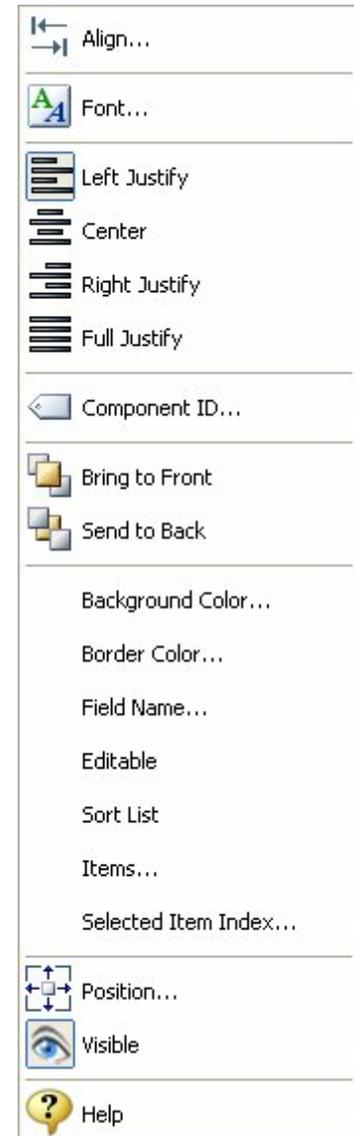


1.6 PDF Combo Box



The PDF Combo Box control places a drop-down combo box object on the PDF output that displays a list of predefined options. The object's list of options can be loaded from an external source into the control. When displayed in the PDF output the combo box values can be set as editable for the user. The combo box data can be accessed by a java script function.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Font** - Displays the Font dialog for the font style, size and color of the object
- **Left Justify** - Text is left justified
- **Center** - Text is center justified
- **Right Justify** - Text is right justified
- **Full Justify** - Text is justified to both the left and right margins
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Background Color...** - Specifies the background color for the object
- **Border Color...** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Field Name...** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **Editable** - Specifies if the combo box values can be editable on the PDF output
- **Sort list** - Specifies if the list of items are automatically arranged in alphabetical order
- **Items...** - Specifies the list of items displayed within the combo box. The items can be loaded from an external source into the control.
- **Selected Item Index...** - Specifies if an item will be displayed by default. Enter a numeric value for the item as it appears in order from top to bottom. The first item starts at zero, then increases by one.
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control

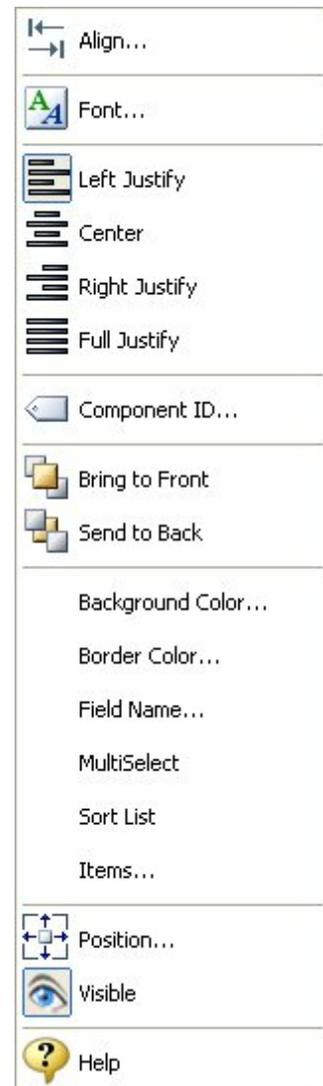


1.7 PDF List Box



The PDF List Box control places a object on the PDF output that allows the user to select one or more items from a list contained within a static, multiple line text box. The object's list of options can be loaded from an external source into the control. When displayed in the PDF output, the user clicks inside the box on an item to select it, where the list box can even be set to accept multiple selected values. The list box data can be accessed by a java script function.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Font** - Displays the Font dialog for the font style, size and color of the object
- **Left Justify** - Text is left justified
- **Center** - Text is center justified
- **Right Justify** - Text is right justified
- **Full Justify** - Text is justified to both the left and right margins
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Background Color** - Specifies the background color for the object
- **Border Color** - Specifies the object's border color on the PDF output
- **Field Name...** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **MultiSelect** - Specifies if multiple values can be selected
- **Sort list** - Specifies if the list of items are automatically arranged in alphabetical order
- **Items...** - Specifies the list of items displayed within the combo box. The items can be loaded from an external source into the control.
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control

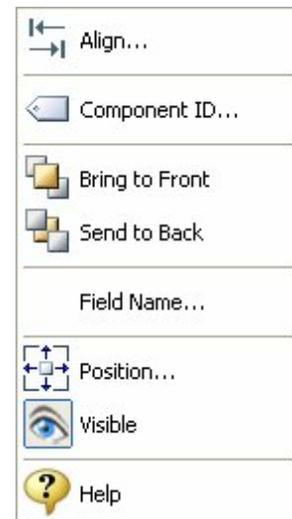


1.8 PDF Signature Field

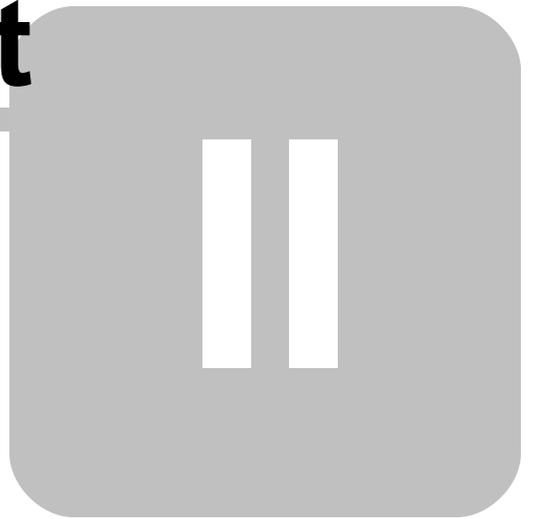


The PDF Signature Field control places a object on the PDF output used for collecting signatures.

- **Align** - Displays the Alignment dialog for adjusting the horizontal and vertical alignment of the selected objects
- **Component ID** - Unique identifier used when passing PROPERTY/GETPROPERTY parameters in statements calling the report
- **Bring to Front** - Places the currently selected object on the foreground of layered objects
- **Send to Back** - Places the currently selected object in the background of layered objects
- **Field Name** - Specifies the object's field name on the PDF output
- **Position** - Opens the Position dialog window for specifying hard-coded coordinates
- **Visible** - The Visible property determines whether a report component will be printed
- **Help** - Launches the Help file chapter for the specific control



Part



2 Understanding PDF Form Controls

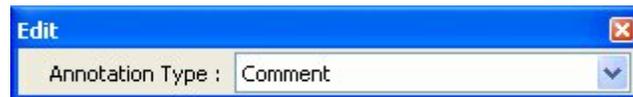
Standard Properties

Once objects are added to the report, standard properties i.e. alignment, resizing, justification, and font, can be altered for the PDF Form Controls.

Available PDF Properties

After creating a PDF Form Control on the report, additional properties are displayed when right clicking on the control.

Some controls also will be recognized within the Edit Toolbar. When adding a PDF Annotation, the toolbar offers the Annotation Types.



When adding a PDF Push Button, the toolbar offers the available Actions.



Submit Data via Email with a Push Button

The PDF output can be set up to email the filled form data. After a PDF Push Button is added to the report, edit the Action to "Submit" within the Edit toolbar. Then, right click on the object, and select "Submit URL" from the properties menu. Here, add the email format:

```
mailto:test@yourmail.com?subject=My Subject&body=Here is my form data.
```

When the button is selected, the end user's default email client will launch with "To:", "Subject" and "Body" filled in with an attachment containing the completed field information.

Run a Java Script

Several functions can be performed with running a Java Script. After a PDF Push Button is added to the report, edit the Action to "Java Script" within the Edit toolbar. Then, right click on the object, and select "Java Script" from the properties menu. The Java Script Editor will appear to place your script.

Java Script	Function
<code>this.print(true);</code>	Print the PDF document
<code>app.alert('Hello!');</code>	Give a message
<code>app.launchURL("http://www.mywebsite.com", true);</code>	Create a link in PDF that will open the URL in new window
<code>this.getField("Text3").value = this.getField("Text1").value + this.getField("Text2").value;</code>	Add Simple Calculation
<code>var f = this.getField("Text1"); f.value = util.printd("mmm/d/yyyy", new Date());</code>	Insert the current date into a Text Field
<code>var url = "mailto:joe@website.net"; this.submitForm(url, true);</code>	Send form data (FDf) to an e-mail address

Notes:

- The order in which PDF Form Controls are added to the Report Designer will be followed as the "tab order" when the user is moving from field to field in the PDF output. Due to the dynamic method in which R:BASE creates reports and how multiple objects may appear within a Detail Band, it is not possible to add a "Tab Order" feature for PDF Form Controls. If there is a need to insert a PDF Form Control object within an existing series of PDF Form Control objects, the recommended steps would be to create a blank report to cut and paste the objects that would follow the new object. Then, move the objects back from the blank report to the original report to use a sequential tab order. When doing so, make sure the blank report bands are set to the same sizes as the original report.
- Please review the "PDFOrderForm" sample report within the RRBYW18 sample database, to see examples of using PDF Form Controls.

Part



3 Useful Resources

- . R:BASE Home Page: <http://www.rbase.com>
- . R:BASE eXtreme Home Page: <http://www.rbaseextreme.com>
- . Up-to-Date R:BASE Updates: <http://www.rupdates.com>
- . Sample Applications: <http://www.rbasecommunity.com>
- . General R:BASE Syntax: <http://www.rsyntax.com>
- . Technical Documents - From The Edge: <http://www.razzak.com/fte>
- . More Sample Applications: <http://www.razzak.com/sampleapplications>
- . Education and Training: <http://www.rbaseuniversity.com>
- . Upcoming Events: <http://www.rbase.com/events>
- . R:BASE Beginners Tutorial: <http://www.rtutorial.com>

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