TOM BANCROFT CREATING CHARACTERS WITH PERSONALITY Full Version

tom bancroft creating characters with personality is a fundamental aspect of compelling storytelling and character design. As an acclaimed artist and veteran animator, Tom Bancroft has dedicated his career to understanding what makes characters resonate with audiences. His approach to creating characters with distinct personalities involves a combination of artistic skill, psychological insight, and storytelling expertise. Whether working in animation, comics, or concept art, Bancroft emphasizes that memorable characters are those who possess depth, quirks, and a sense of authenticity that makes them relatable and engaging. In this article, we delve into Bancroft's methods, principles, and tips for creating characters with vivid personalities that leave a lasting impression.

Understanding the Importance of Character Personality in Art and Storytelling

Why Personality Matters

Creating characters with compelling personalities is essential because:

- It drives the narrative forward and creates emotional connections.
- It differentiates characters within a story or universe.
- It provides opportunities for character growth and development.
- It helps audiences identify with and remember characters.

Bancroft advocates that a character?s personality should be evident through their visual design, gestures, expressions, and backstory. This holistic approach ensures that each character feels like a real individual, with motivations that influence their appearance and behavior.

Foundational Principles in Creating Characters with Personality

1. Know Your Character Inside and Out

Bancroft emphasizes that understanding your character's background, goals, fears, and quirks is vital. This knowledge informs every aspect of their visual design and behavior.

Key points include:

- Developing a detailed character biography.
- Identifying their core desires and conflicts.
- Understanding their relationships with other characters.
- Recognizing their habits and mannerisms.

2. Use Visual Cues to Communicate Personality

Visual design is a powerful tool to reveal a character?s personality without words.

Strategies involve:

- Exaggerating certain features (e.g., big eyes for innocence, sharp angles for edginess).
- Employing color psychology (e.g., bright colors for energetic characters, muted tones for somber ones).
- Incorporating unique accessories or clothing that reflect personality traits.
- Designing expressive facial features and gestures.

3. Develop Distinct Gestures and Expressions

Gestures and facial expressions are the language of personality. Bancroft encourages artists to create a library of characteristic poses and expressions that can be used consistently.

Examples include:

- A confident character standing with hands on hips.
- A nervous character fidgeting or avoiding eye contact.
- An optimistic character smiling broadly and gesturing animatedly.

4. Incorporate Quirks and Flaws

Perfect characters are boring. Bancroft believes adding imperfections or eccentricities makes characters more human and relatable.

Possible quirks:

- A habit of twirling hair when nervous.
- An unusual hobby or obsession.
- A distinctive walk or speech pattern.

Practical Techniques for Developing Character Personalities

Storytelling Through Design

Bancroft recommends beginning with a clear character concept that aligns with the story. Sketches should explore various personality traits and how they manifest visually.

Steps include:

- Brainstorm personality traits and how they influence appearance.
- Create multiple thumbnail sketches exploring different visual interpretations.
- Select the design that best captures the intended personality.

Using Silhouettes to Establish Readability

Strong silhouettes help communicate a character?s personality instantly. For instance, a broad-shouldered figure suggests strength, while a slender, hunched posture might imply timidity.

Tips:

- Focus on dramatic shapes that are easy to read.
- Use silhouette variations to test different personality archetypes.

Color and Costume Design

Colors and clothing choices reinforce personality traits.

Considerations:

- Bright, saturated colors for lively characters.
- Dark, muted tones for mysterious or serious characters.
- Costumes that reflect personality (e.g., a whimsical hat for a playful character).

Case Studies: Examples of Bancroft?s Character Creation Techniques

The Disney Characters

Bancroft?s work on Disney characters showcases his mastery in designing characters with distinct personalities. For example:

- Mickey Mouse: Simple shapes and expressive eyes communicate friendliness and optimism.
- Donald Duck: Slightly hunched posture, expressive beak, and costume choices emphasize a fiery, impatient personality.

Personal Projects and Concept Art

In his personal projects, Bancroft experiments with blending exaggerated features and subtle details to evoke specific traits, demonstrating that personality can be communicated through both bold and nuanced design choices.

Tips from Tom Bancroft for Aspiring Character Designers

- **Start with a strong concept:** Know who your character is before refining their design.
- **Focus on silhouette:** Make sure your character?s outline is distinctive and readable.
- **Use color intentionally:** Colors should support personality traits and story context.
- **Include quirks and flaws:** Imperfections add depth and relatability.
- **Practice gesture drawing:** Capturing dynamic poses enhances personality expression.
- **Tell a story visually:** Every element of the design should reflect who the character is.

Conclusion: Creating Characters with Personality That Resonates

Tom Bancroft?s approach to creating characters with personality combines artistic mastery with psychological insight. By understanding your character?s background, emphasizing visual cues, developing expressive gestures, and incorporating quirks, you can craft characters that are memorable, relatable, and full of life. Whether working in animation, comics, or concept art, applying Bancroft?s principles will elevate your character designs and help you tell richer stories through your art.

Final Thoughts

Creating characters with vibrant personalities is both an art and a science. It requires empathy, observation, and creativity?all qualities that Tom Bancroft exemplifies in his work. By studying his techniques and applying his advice, aspiring artists and storytellers can develop characters that not only look unique but also feel authentic and engaging. Remember, the key to memorable characters is that they feel real?warts and all?and that their personalities shine through every line, color, and pose.

This comprehensive guide aims to provide valuable insights into Tom Bancroft?s philosophy and techniques for creating characters with personality, optimized for SEO to help artists, animators, and storytellers find the inspiration and tools they need to craft unforgettable characters.

Tom Bancroft Creating Characters with Personality: A Deep Dive into Character Design Mastery

Designing memorable characters is both an art and a science, and few artists have mastered this craft like Tom Bancroft. As a veteran animator and character designer, Bancroft?s approach to creating characters with personality is rooted in a profound understanding of human (and non-human) behavior, storytelling, and visual storytelling techniques. When we talk about Tom Bancroft creating characters with personality, we're exploring a process that transforms simple sketches into living, breathing characters that resonate emotionally with audiences. This guide will walk you through Bancroft?s principles, methods, and insights for infusing characters with compelling personality.

Understanding the Foundations of Character Personality

Before delving into specific techniques, it?s crucial to understand what constitutes personality in character design. Personality is the set of traits, behaviors, and quirks that make a character unique and relatable. Bancroft emphasizes that personality should be evident visually?through posture, facial expressions, accessories, and environment?so that viewers can instantly grasp who the character is.

Key aspects of personality in character design:

- Visual silhouette: A distinctive shape that hints at personality traits.
- Facial expressions: Convey emotions and attitude.
- Posture and body language: Indicate confidence, shyness, arrogance, or vulnerability.
- Color palette: Evokes mood and personality nuances.
- Costume and accessories: Suggest backstory, occupation, or personality quirks.

The Process of Creating Characters with Personality (Step-by-Step)

Tom Bancroft?s approach involves a structured yet flexible process that ensures each character?s personality shines through. Here?s a detailed breakdown:

- Define the Character?s Role and Backstory

Start by understanding who your character is within the story. Is this character a hero, villain, comic

relief, or sidekick? What motivates them? What are their fears, desires, and quirks?

Questions to consider:

- What is their personality type (e.g., optimistic, grumpy, rebellious)?
- What are their strengths and weaknesses?
- How do they interact with others?

This foundation informs visual choices, aligning design elements with personality traits.

- Develop a Visual Silhouette

A strong silhouette makes a character instantly recognizable and hints at personality. Bancroft often sketches multiple silhouettes to explore different shapes and forms.

Tips for silhouette design:

- Use exaggerated shapes to emphasize traits (e.g., broad shoulders for strength, a tiny frame for shyness).
- Incorporate unique features (big ears, long limbs, distinctive hats).
- Ensure the silhouette reads clearly even at small sizes.

- Focus on Facial Expressions and Features

Facial expressions are the most direct way to communicate personality. Bancroft stresses designing a flexible face that can express a range of emotions.

Techniques:

- Design key expressions that define the character (happy, angry, surprised).
- Use exaggerated features to emphasize traits (e.g., large eyes for innocence, a sharp jaw for toughness).
- Consider asymmetry to add personality quirks.

- Use Body Language and Posture

Posture communicates attitude and emotional states. Bancroft advises experimenting with different poses to see how they reflect personality.

Posture cues:

- Upright, open posture for confident characters.
- Slouched, closed stance for shy or insecure characters.
- Dynamic poses for energetic personalities.
- Relaxed, languid gestures for laid-back characters.

- Select a Color Palette

Colors evoke emotional responses and can reinforce personality. Bancroft recommends choosing palettes that complement the character?s traits.

Color strategies:

- Bright, vibrant colors for lively, optimistic characters.
- Darker, muted tones for mysterious or serious characters.
- Contrasting colors to highlight certain features or traits.

- Design Costumes and Accessories

Clothing and accessories should reflect the character?s backstory, occupation, and personality. Bancroft emphasizes that these elements should be purposeful, not just decorative.

Considerations:

- Practicality versus flamboyance.
- Personal quirks (a lucky charm, a signature hat).
- Cultural influences or period styles that add depth.

Infusing Characters with Personality: Bancroft?s Signature Techniques

Beyond the initial design, Bancroft employs specific techniques to deepen a character?s personality:

Exaggeration and Caricature

Bancroft believes exaggeration is key to making characters memorable. Amplifying certain features or expressions emphasizes personality traits and makes characters more expressive.

Examples:

- An overly large nose for comic effect.
- Tiny eyes to suggest shyness.
- An exaggerated grin for mischievousness.

Incorporate Quirks and Flaws

Adding imperfections and quirks makes characters feel real and relatable. Bancroft suggests giving each character unique mannerisms, habits, or physical quirks.

Examples:

- Nervous tic.
- Habit of adjusting a hat.
- An awkward gait.

Use Visual Metaphors

Sometimes, visual metaphors or symbols can encapsulate personality traits. Bancroft advocates integrating these subtly into the design.

Examples:

- A character with a cracked badge indicating a rebellious streak.
- Wearing mismatched shoes to show eccentricity.

Iterative Refinement

Bancroft emphasizes that character creation is an iterative process. Sketch multiple versions, test how they read from different angles and in various expressions, then refine based on what best communicates personality.

Case Studies: Bancroft?s Iconic Characters

Examining Bancroft?s work reveals his mastery in creating characters with distinct personalities:

- Tigger from Winnie the Pooh: Exaggerated, energetic pose, wide grin, vibrant orange and black stripes?visually communicates exuberance.
- Aurora from Sleeping Beauty (Disney): Elegant silhouette, soft facial features, delicate color palette?emphasizes grace and kindness.
- The villain in "The Iron Giant": Menacing posture, sharp features, darker tones?conveys threat and menace.

These examples underscore how visual choices directly support personality storytelling.

Practical Tips for Aspiring Character Designers

If you want to emulate Bancroft?s success in creating characters with personality, consider these actionable tips:

- Start with a character worksheet: Write down traits, backstory, and personality quirks.
- Create multiple silhouettes: Experiment boldly with shapes.
- Design key expressions early: Sketch happy, angry, sad versions.
- Use color meaningfully: Choose palettes that reinforce traits.
- Add details purposefully: Every accessory or clothing choice should tell a story.
- Iterate relentlessly: Don?t settle on your first design; refine until the personality shines.

Final Thoughts

Tom Bancroft creating characters with personality is about understanding that visual storytelling is paramount. It?s not enough for a character to look interesting; they must feel like a living, breathing personality. Bancroft?s method combines disciplined process with creative exaggeration, ensuring each character is unique, expressive, and memorable. By studying his techniques?focusing on silhouette, expression, posture, color, and details?you can learn to craft characters that truly stand out and resonate with audiences. Remember, the most compelling characters are those whose visual design instantly communicates their inner world, inviting viewers to connect and empathize from the very first glance.

QuestionAnswer What techniques does Tom Bancroft use to give characters distinct personalities during creation? Tom Bancroft employs techniques such as developing detailed backstories, emphasizing unique visual traits, and incorporating specific personality traits into

character design to make each character feel alive and authentic. How does Tom Bancroft?s approach to character creation influence the storytelling process? By creating characters with strong personalities, Tom Bancroft ensures that each character contributes meaningfully to the story, making narratives more engaging and relatable for the audience. What role does personality play in Tom Bancroft?s character design process? Personality guides the visual and behavioral traits that Bancroft integrates into his characters, helping to communicate their role, emotions, and relationships clearly to viewers. Can you share tips from Tom Bancroft on creating memorable characters with compelling personalities? Bancroft suggests focusing on defining clear motivations, giving characters distinctive visual features, and understanding their emotional arcs to craft memorable and relatable personalities. How has Tom Bancroft?s experience influenced his ability to craft characters with authentic personalities? With extensive experience in animation and character design, Bancroft has honed his understanding of human behavior and storytelling, enabling him to create characters that resonate deeply through their authentic personalities.

Related keywords: character development, personality traits, animation design, character creation process, storytelling, character illustration, personality mapping, animation techniques, character backstory, visual storytelling

Be with

be with is a phrase that resonates deeply across different aspects of life?whether in relationships, personal growth, or day-to-day interactions. It encapsulates the idea of presence, companionship, and emotional connection. Understanding the multifaceted meaning of "be with" can help individuals foster stronger relationships, improve their mental well-being, and cultivate a more mindful approach to life. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the various dimensions of "be with," including its significance in relationships, its role in self-awareness, and practical ways to embody this concept in everyday life.

Understanding the Meaning of "Be With"

The phrase "be with" is versatile and context-dependent. At its core, it signifies being present, sharing experiences, and forming bonds with others or oneself. It can imply:

- Emotional connection: Being emotionally available and attentive.
- Physical presence: Spending time together in person.
- Mindfulness: Being fully present in the moment.
- Supportiveness: Offering companionship during difficult times.

- Acceptance: Embracing oneself or others without judgment.

Recognizing these facets helps to appreciate the depth and importance of "be with" in fostering meaningful relationships.

The Significance of "Be With" in Relationships

Relationships are the foundation of human experience, and "being with" someone is central to creating trust, intimacy, and mutual understanding. Whether romantic, familial, or friendship-based, the act of simply being with another person can have profound effects.

Emotional Presence and Connection

Being with someone emotionally involves more than just physical proximity. It requires active listening, empathy, and genuine interest. When you "be with" someone emotionally, you:

- Validate their feelings.
- Offer a safe space for expression.
- Demonstrate understanding and compassion.

This emotional presence strengthens bonds and fosters a sense of security.

Physical Presence and Quality Time

Spending quality time together is essential in nurturing relationships. Being with someone physically can involve:

- Sharing meals.
- Going for walks.
- Engaging in shared hobbies.
- Simply sitting in silence, appreciating each other's company.

These moments create memories and deepen connections.

The Role of "Be With" in Building Trust

Trust develops when individuals feel genuinely "with" each other. Consistency, attentiveness, and authenticity are key. When you show up for someone consistently and are present in their life, you cultivate a foundation of trust and reliability.

Practicing "Be With" in Your Daily Life

Integrating the concept of "be with" into daily routines can enhance your relationships and personal well-being. Here are practical ways to embody this idea:

Mindfulness and Presence

- Practice mindfulness meditation to increase your awareness of the present moment.
- During conversations, focus fully on the speaker without distractions.
- Limit multitasking when spending time with others.

Active Listening

- Listen attentively without planning your response.
- Nod or provide affirmations to show engagement.
- Reflect back what you've heard to ensure understanding.

Offering Support and Compassion

- Be available during others? challenging times.
- Show empathy through words and actions.
- Avoid judgment or unsolicited advice; sometimes, just being there is enough.

Self-Reflection and Self-Compassion

- Be with yourself by practicing self-awareness.
- Acknowledge your feelings without suppression.
- Engage in self-care routines that nourish your mind and body.

The Spiritual and Philosophical Aspects of "Be With"

Beyond relationships, "be with" also has spiritual and philosophical connotations. It emphasizes unity, presence, and acceptance of the flow of life.

Being Present in the Moment

Practicing presence aligns with mindfulness philosophies. It encourages individuals to:

- Let go of past regrets and future anxieties.
- Embrace the current experience fully.
- Cultivate gratitude for the present.

Acceptance and Non-Judgment

"Be with" entails accepting situations and people as they are, fostering a sense of peace and understanding.

Unity and Connection

Recognizing that we are interconnected encourages compassion and empathy, emphasizing that "being with" others is part of the human experience.

Common Challenges in Practicing "Be With"

While the concept is simple in theory, it can be challenging to embody consistently. Common obstacles include:

- Distractions and digital interruptions.
- Emotional barriers like fear, mistrust, or past hurt.
- Time constraints and busy schedules.
- Personal insecurities or self-doubt.

Overcoming these challenges requires intentional effort and practice.

Tips to Enhance Your Ability to "Be With" Others and Yourself

- Set boundaries to ensure quality interactions.
- Practice active mindfulness in daily activities.
- Engage in reflective journaling to understand your feelings.
- Prioritize quality over quantity in relationships.
- Learn to listen without judgment and offer genuine support.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of "Be With"

"Be with" is more than just a phrase; it embodies a philosophy of presence, connection, and acceptance. Whether in nurturing intimate relationships, supporting friends and family, or fostering a healthier relationship with oneself, embodying "be with" can lead to more meaningful, fulfilling

experiences. By cultivating mindfulness, compassion, and genuine engagement, you can enrich your life and the lives of those around you. Remember, at its heart, "be with" reminds us that true connection begins with being fully present?an act that has the power to transform relationships and inner peace alike.

Be With: An In-Depth Exploration of Connection, Presence, and Meaning

In an era defined by rapid technological change, social upheaval, and shifting cultural norms, the concept of "be with" has taken on profound significance. Far beyond its simple grammatical structure, "be with" encompasses themes of companionship, mindfulness, emotional intimacy, and existential presence. This long-form exploration aims to dissect the multifaceted nature of "be with", examining its psychological, philosophical, and cultural dimensions, and offering insights into how this phrase influences human experience.

Understanding the Phrase "Be With": Definitions and Variations

At its core, "be with" is a versatile phrase whose meaning shifts depending on context. It can denote:

- Presence and companionship: Being physically or emotionally alongside someone.
- Acceptance and mindfulness: Embracing the present moment or one's current state.
- Relationship commitment: The act of being in a romantic, familial, or platonic partnership.
- Alignment and harmony: Living in accordance with one's values or the natural flow of life.

These variations reveal that "be with" is less about a static state and more about a dynamic process of engagement, connection, and authentic existence.

The Psychological Dimension of "Be With"

Presence and Mindfulness

One of the most profound interpretations of "be with" is rooted in mindfulness practices. To be with oneself or others in the present moment fosters emotional resilience, reduces stress, and enhances well-being. Mindfulness-based therapies encourage individuals to be with their thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgment, cultivating a sense of inner peace.

Key aspects include:

- Acceptance: Allowing emotions to be present without suppression or avoidance.
- Non-attachment: Recognizing transient thoughts and feelings without clinging.

- Compassion: Extending kindness inwardly and outwardly.

Research indicates that practicing "being with" one's emotions can improve mental health, bolster emotional intelligence, and deepen interpersonal relationships.

Attachment and Connection in Relationships

In romantic and platonic contexts, "be with" signifies emotional availability and genuine connection. Healthy relationships often hinge on the ability to be with another person authentically?listening, empathizing, and sharing vulnerabilities.

Studies in attachment theory reveal that individuals who are comfortable being with their partner's emotions tend to report higher relationship satisfaction. Conversely, avoidance of being with difficult feelings or conflicts can erode intimacy.

Common themes include:

- Empathy: Truly listening and understanding the other.
- Presence: Giving undivided attention.
- Mutual vulnerability: Sharing fears, hopes, and insecurities.

Philosophical and Cultural Perspectives on "Be With"

Existential Philosophy and the Art of "Being"

Existential philosophers like Jean-Paul Sartre and Martin Heidegger emphasize the importance of authentic existence?being with oneself and the world in a genuine manner. Heidegger's concept of Dasein ("being there") underscores the necessity of authentic presence and awareness.

In this context, "be with" involves:

- Living intentionally.
- Facing mortality and the transient nature of life.
- Cultivating a sense of connectedness with existence itself.

This philosophical outlook encourages individuals to be with their authentic selves, embracing both their limitations and potentials.

Cross-Cultural Interpretations

Different cultures have unique perspectives on "be with":

- Japanese: The concept of "wa" emphasizes harmony and being with others in a way that fosters social cohesion.
- African: The idea of Ubuntu ? "I am because we are" ? highlights communal existence and interconnectedness.
- Indigenous Cultures: Often stress living in harmony with nature and the community, embodying the essence of being with the environment and others.

These cultural paradigms show that "be with" is integral to collective identity and societal functioning.

The Role of "Be With" in Modern Society

Digital Age and the Challenge of Connection

In a world saturated with social media, the act of being with has transformed dramatically. Virtual interactions can create a paradoxical sense of loneliness amid connectivity. The superficiality of online engagements can hinder genuine presence and authentic connection.

Challenges include:

- Superficial interactions: Likes and comments replacing meaningful conversations.
- Distraction: Constant notifications preventing mindfulness.
- Emotional disconnection: An inability to be with difficult feelings or conflicts.

However, the digital realm also offers opportunities for deeper being with others through virtual support groups, mindfulness apps, and online communities that encourage authentic sharing.

Therapeutic and Wellness Practices Centered on "Being With"

Contemporary therapeutic approaches increasingly emphasize "being with" as a foundational principle:

- Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR): Encourages participants to be with their sensations and thoughts.
- Compassion-Focused Therapy: Teaches clients to be with their emotional vulnerabilities.
- Somatic therapies: Focus on bodily awareness, fostering a sense of being with one's physical

experience.

These practices aim to cultivate acceptance, resilience, and emotional depth.

Practical Applications and Exercises to Cultivate "Be With"

To integrate "be with" into daily life, consider the following exercises:

- Mindful Breathing

Focus on your breath for five minutes, observing sensations without judgment.

- Emotion Journaling

Write down feelings as they arise, allowing yourself to be with each emotion fully.

- Active Listening

When engaging with others, practice silent presence, resisting the urge to interrupt or judge.

- Nature Immersion

Spend time outdoors, consciously observing your surroundings to be with the natural world.

- Body Scan Meditation

Systematically bring awareness to different parts of your body, fostering physical and emotional presence.

Consistent practice of these exercises can deepen your capacity to be with yourself and others authentically.

Critiques and Limitations of "Be With"

While "be with" offers numerous benefits, it is not without challenges:

- Emotional Overwhelm: Fully being with difficult feelings can be distressing without adequate support.
- Cultural Variability: Not all cultures prioritize or interpret "be with" similarly, influencing its applicability.
- Misinterpretation: Overemphasis on being with can lead to avoidance of necessary action or change.

Balancing being with and proactive engagement is essential for healthy functioning.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of "Be With"

The phrase "be with" encapsulates a profound approach to life?one rooted in presence, connection, acceptance, and authenticity. Whether viewed through psychological, philosophical, or cultural lenses, "be with" invites us to slow down, embrace the moment, and cultivate genuine relationships with ourselves, others, and the world.

In a society often driven by speed and superficiality, mastering the art of "being with" can serve as a pathway to deeper fulfillment, resilience, and meaningful existence. It challenges us to confront our inner landscapes and external realities with honesty and compassion, ultimately fostering a richer, more connected human experience.

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In embracing "be with", we open ourselves to a richer, more authentic existence?one that celebrates presence over perfection, connection over distraction, and being over doing.

QuestionAnswer What does it mean to be with someone in a relationship? Being with someone in a relationship typically means sharing a committed, mutual connection, often involving emotional intimacy, support, and companionship. How can I be with someone who lives far away? To be with someone long-distance, focus on regular communication, trust, setting shared goals, and planning visits to maintain your bond despite the physical distance. What are some ways to be with yourself and practice self-love? Being with yourself involves self-reflection, engaging in activities you enjoy, practicing mindfulness, and prioritizing your well-being to foster self-love and acceptance. How does

being with family influence our mental health? Being with family provides emotional support, a sense of belonging, and stability, which can positively impact mental health, though unhealthy dynamics may have adverse effects. What does it mean to be with someone in a supportive way? Being with someone supportively involves listening, understanding their feelings, offering help when needed, and being present during both good and challenging times. How can I be with my friends more meaningfully? To be with friends meaningfully, prioritize quality time, active listening, sharing experiences, and showing genuine care and interest in their lives. What are some signs that someone truly wants to be with you? Signs include consistent communication, making time for you, showing interest in your life, supporting you, and demonstrating trust and respect in the relationship.

Related keywords: companionship, presence, together, accompany, stay, unite, connect, associate, link, join

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