

Citation Search

Is someone seeking protection in your field?

In a search for citations the result lists inventions considered to consist of close or similar technology to the original patent. Citation searches are a fast and easy way to access technical information on a subject.

In our report we refer to both the cited and citing documents.

- Cited documents are the documents listed by the applicant when the patent was filed or the documents listed in the search report issued by the patent examiner.
- Citing documents are new patents that cite existing technology. A search based on patent X will retrieve the newly filed patents that cite patent X. Consequently patent X becomes a citing patent.

A citing patent reveals the information that someone is seeking protection within the same technical field. This search is a quick and easy way of finding infringing technology. A Citation Search can be done once or on a regular basis, as an alert.

How often patent X is cited will give you an indication of the strength of the patent.

Citations are also included for patent family members.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Citation Search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of a Citation Search is by quotation and is calculated based on the estimated time required to carry out particular search.

DELIVERY

Delivery is by agreement with you. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website

CONTACT

PRV InterPat
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Website: www.prv.se/ip

PRV InterPat aims to carry out all requests accurately and thoroughly, but due to the extensive amount of information involved we cannot guarantee that the results are always exhaustive. PRV InterPat is bound to observe professional secrecy with regard to every search request, as well as the search result. This directive is supported by chapter 31, §12 of the Swedish Secrecy Act (2009:400). Documentation is delivered exclusively to the client, and may not be cited as a hindrance to novelty in a subsequent application. Please note that PRV retains all material sent in, including model.

Freedom to Operate Search

We provide you with qualitative information

Minimize the risk of infringement

When launching a new product on the market, it is important to first investigate whether the product risks infringing existing patents. In an FTO-search PRV provides you with qualitative information that gives you a good indication of the risk of infringement. An FTO search carried out by PRV InterPat primarily focuses on patents in Europe and the United States.

The FTO search

Your FTO search request should include a clear and complete description of all the technicalities of the product. The search is carried out by one or more patent examiners, specialized in that technical field. Prior to the search, a patent examiner will contact you to confirm the scope of the search, the cost and the delivery time. Using our advanced search tools, we have access to all major patent databases. However, PRV InterPat reserves the right to decline a search request, in such cases as the product's market is insufficiently covered by our databases. For example, we cannot accept requests linked to the Asian market at present.

How to interpret the results

The results of an FTO search are presented in a report that helps you identify the risk of infringement. The report contains categorized citations and comments over the parts that the patent examiner finds relevant. PRV does not, however, state an opinion regarding the risk of infringement.

Current status counts

The existence of a similar patent does not, in itself, mean a hindrance to a new product. An important part of the evaluation process of a patent is to be able to secure the legal status and the geographical area. As a support in this work you can order an Excel-file for your FTO-result. In the Excel-file we have linked the patent numbers to the Espacenet database from where the information can be retrieved.

Patent Family Search – additional service

There is also a possibility to use our Information specialists to make the Patent Family Search for you. You will get a report showing a clear overview of the status and geographical coverage over the patent in question and where obvious information is missing the legal status will, if possible, be confirmed. To perform this search as cost effectively as possible you choose the patents that are of particular interest to you and then order a Patent Family Search on these. If you wish to complement an FTO search with a Patent Family Search, reduced rates are available.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of an FTO search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of an FTO search is by quotation based on an hourly rate.

DELIVERY

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Monitoring Services

Keep updated

Do you need to be up to date with what is happening around the world within your technical field or among your competitors? With monitoring services, you get continuous information about what is published in your technical field or what is published by your competitors. We offer monitoring services within patents and articles.

Patents

The patent monitoring service includes:

- A clear index giving you a quick overview of the new technology,
- Abstracts, including figures, in english of all relevant patent documents,
- Patent documentation giving you a complete picture of the protected technology.

We have access to international and relevant databases from almost all industrialized countries around the world. We use databases like Derwent's World Patents Index (WPI). WPI is one of the best patent databases available, with comprehensive international coverage and *all abstracts in english*.

If you are interested in a specific patent and need to know whether an opposition has been filed, if the patent has been granted or what the legal status of the patent is, we can help you.

Articles

We access a wide variety of databases for technical literature. Through them we can perform alerts in your area of technology.

Starting package

We offer a starting package to help you get started. We use your areas of interest to create a search profile that matches your needs. In order to check the profile, we carry out a search of the 30 most recently published patent documents. These documents are sent to you, to check and comment on their relevance. After this, the patent monitoring service is set up. The starting package costs 3,900 SEK (excluding VAT).

HOW TO REQUEST AN ALERT

You can request a Monitoring Service using our secure online service, PRV InterPat Secure (PIS). This service can be found on our website. We will contact you to discuss the alert.

COSTS

The cost of a Monitoring Service depends on its scope and is by quotation. An advanced search profile, providing very comprehensive results, costs more than a basic search profile. Payment is debited in advance, on a quarterly basis.

DELIVERY

Monthly reporting is most common, but frequency of delivery can be discussed.

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Novelty Search

-at fixed price

High quality at a reasonable cost

Making the right decisions is easier if you understand the novelty of your invention. We offer you a novelty search at a reasonable cost.

As a part of the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, an international PCT authority, PRV InterPat has many years of experience searching patent documentation. We offer searches carried out by patent examiners in all technical fields, using international patent databases. Our experts also have access to PRV's collection of older patent documents, as well as a large number of scientific and technical publications. All this constitutes a source of knowledge and information that is hard to match.

The Novelty search is based on your description of an independent patent claim or a definition of the problem including the solution. The aim with the search is to find any hindrance questioning the novelty or the inventive step, as found in the described invention.

Express Delivery

Some questions need prompt answers. With our express delivery service you can get your answer tomorrow. If you send us your search request before 09.00 CET, we will send you the report within 48 hours on working days. Please mark your request "Express delivery" and your choice of PRV InterPat Secure or email delivery. PRV InterPat reserves the right to decline an express search request under certain circumstances. In such cases, the customer will be promptly notified.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Novelty search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

A novelty search is carried out at the fixed cost of 11,200 SEK and includes documentation and internal database fees. This fixed price saves you the time taken to get a quotation and allows you to easily calculate your costs. Express delivery costs 4 000 SEK extra. Charges are also subject to VAT and a postage fee.

DELIVERY

We deliver the result within 12 working days, unless otherwise agreed with the customer. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website.

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Patent Family Search

with Legal Status Information

Patent family

With the same patent application as priority, it is possible to get patent protection in many countries, all the patent applications and granted patents form a patent family. In our Patent family search we find out in which countries a patent is protected. To get as much information as possible about the patent family we use different databases.

Why a patent family?

There are many reasons for carrying out a Patent Family Search. One reason is that the search is important so that you do not infringe on another company's patent protection. It is cost-efficient and time-saving to take advantage of technology that is already known during product development. Another reason can be that it is a requirement for a good business deal, for example when you buy patent rights, or when there is merger or takeover of companies with patent rights. A Patent Family Search with Legal Status gives you the answer if you without hindrance can use an already known invention. For Swedish patent rights, we can even find out about registered pledges.

The report from a Patent Family Search is supplemented with legal status information. When possible and desirable, we can supplement the legal status information with the latest information from the respective national patent office. This legal status gives you important information about the patent's geographical coverage. You can get information about when/where the patent application has been granted a patent and if the patent is still valid. You also get information about the publication stage of the application in each country. Are there any oppositions?

Basic information

A Patent Family Search is based on a publication number. If you do not know that number, we can help you to find it out using the Patent Portfolio Search. The report is ordered separately and detailed information can be found in the Patent Portfolio Search leaflet.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Patent Family Search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

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DELIVERY

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Patent mapping

Thousands of patents are granted around the world every day, making it impossible to grasp the full extent of the flow in information regarding new advances in technology.

In these situations, *Patent mapping* can provide your company with a customised comprehensible visualisation of your technical field, based on specific needs and interests. It gives you a valuable picture of developments, trends and competitors' activities within a technical area – an efficient and helpful indicator for analysing aspects of the innovative performance and technological progress of other actors.

Patent mapping, as a part of your Business Intelligence tool box, identifies:

- A competitor's patent portfolio over time
- Players within a technical field
- New techniques
- Competitors' markets
- Research teams for collaboration
- License opportunities
- Established inventors for recruitment purposes
- Innovation activity within a geographical area over time
- Collaborative connections between companies
- The strongest patents
- A picture of the patent landscape

Access to global databases

The Swedish Patent and Registration Office has access to the major patent databases in the world. This gives you the opportunity to follow developments in patent documentation globally as well as in detail down to specific geographical areas in Sweden.

Target groups

Patent mapping provides useful information to everyone working within the IP-business as well as corporate decision makers, investors and management teams.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Patent mapping report. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of Patent mapping is by quotation based on an hourly rate.

DELIVERY

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Patent Portfolio

Patent Portfolio Search will give you the answer to which patents a particular company or an inventor has filed.

A search for a company name provides you with details of the technological development within the company and the size of their patent portfolio. In business deals, such as mergers, takeovers or investments in companies, it is important to know all the IP rights filed in the company name.

The results of a search for an inventor name show who has invented the technical solutions. They also show who are the trendsetters and the key people within a specific technical field.

Basic information

The information required for this service is as full a name as possible. When a company has changed its name, for example at a takeover or merger, it can also be relevant to perform a search for both company names to get a complete picture of the company's patent rights.

Are you interested in other literature for example articles, that an inventor has written, we help you find them too.

Results

In the report, all the references are presented in a comprehensive table followed by bibliographic data and the abstract, as well as the full patent documents.

If you find an important patent application and want to know the status of a patent application and in what geographical area it is valid, the search request can be extended to include a Patent Family Search including legal status information. The report is ordered separately and detailed information can be found in the Patent Family Search leaflet.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Patent Portfolio Search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of a Patent Portfolio is 1,200 SEK per name, including 50 references. For a more extensive search request the cost is by quotation. All charges are subject to VAT.

DELIVERY

We deliver the result within 7 working days, unless otherwise agreed with the customer. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website.

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PCT Commission

The concept behind the service PCT commission is that the customer, who filed a national application at another authority than the Swedish Patent & Registration Office (PRV), can get a quick response, corresponding to a PCT search report, by filing the corresponding documents to PRV InterPat. This report can later be used in the PCT-application on the condition that the PCT-application is filed at PRV. Discounts are then applicable to the PCT search fee according to the principles that apply for refunds to a PCT-application when a national application with ITS is invoked. The maximum discount is equal to the sum of the fees paid for the national application + ITS. The discount (50% or 100%) is determined by the extent to which the search may be based, entirely or in part, on the previous search.

When the PCT commission reaches PRV InterPat, a search is planned in the same way as if an application had been filed at PRV. The search is carried out approximately 5-7 months after the application date, with the same time aspect as for a national application where the search is planned with respect to the updating of our databases.

In a PCT commission, the customer always has contact with the patent examiner at PRV. In those cases where the basic information (application) lacks unity, is complex or contains other formal flaws, this contact will be used. In a PCT commission, there is also the possibility for the customer to decide how the search will be set up. When an application contains more than one invention, the customer can decide which one of the inventions should be searched. Other inventions can also be searched on payment of a supplementary fee, based on our standard quotation procedure.

The applicant

In order to make full use of this service and the opportunity of a discounted PCT search fee, the PCT application must be filed at PRV. In order for this to be possible, the applicant must have Swedish citizenship or be resident in Sweden. If none of the applicants have Swedish citizenship or live in Sweden, but one of them has another Nordic citizenship or lives in another Nordic country, the application can be filed at the International Bureau (IB) and state PRV as the ISA authority.

Basic information

The information required for this service should be based on an application with a priority date from another authority. PRV carries out searches according to the European patent practice.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a PCT Commission. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

A PCT Commission is carried out at the fixed cost of 22 500 SEK and includes documentation and internal database fees. Charges are also subject to VAT and a postage fee.

DELIVERY

We appreciate commissions as early as possible after the filing date, but can also carry out other occasional commissions with our standard delivery time of 12 working days. Note, however, that the dates for updating our databases are set and this can affect our ability to use search results in the PCT phase.

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Preliminary Patentability Report

Do you understand the result?

Successful companies today use the results of novelty searches as an important tool when making strategic decisions. Therefore, it is important to correctly analyse and fully understand search results. We suggest that you make use of the knowledge and experience of our patent examiners. PRV can offer a preliminary patentability report based on a search result from a search made by us or a search result provided by you.

In order to make a Preliminary patentability report, we need a search result made either by PRV, or provided by you. When the result is provided by you we need, in addition to the search result, a fully description of the invention, preferably stated as a patent claim.

The Preliminary patentability report is done according to the Swedish and European patent law practice, when applicable the problem/solution method is used.

Please note that this report is not binding, nor can it be used as a hindrance to novelty in any future patent application. Non-public documentation is not taken into consideration during a search.

HOW TO REQUEST A REPORT

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Preliminary Patentability Report. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of an Preliminary Patentability Report search is by quotation and is calculated based on the estimated time required to carry out a particular search.

DELIVERY TERMS

We deliver the result within 7 working days from the acceptance date of quotation, unless otherwise agreed with the customer. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website.

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Prior Art

- *extended search*

All development projects should start with an analysis of the technical area, using a prior art search. Successful companies plan ahead by first getting a clear picture of the technical solutions of today before starting the development of new technology. With this knowledge you are more likely to use your resources in a more efficient way, giving you an advantage when priorities have to be made.

A prior art search is the most extensive of the novelty searches. It presents the known technology relating to the described innovation in regards to novelty and inventive step. The search is performed by the Swedish Patent Office's experienced examiners, who access the same advanced search tools as the EPO, including all major patent databases as well as a considerable amount of non-patent literature. The extent of the search varies depending on the technical area and is discussed beforehand with the examiner. The report contains citations, including the examiner's comments, together with full documentation.

Preliminary Patentability Report

Use our experienced patent examiners to get clarity regarding the patentability of an invention. From the result of the prior art search, we assess the patentability and when applicable the problem/solution method is used. The report is ordered separately and detailed information can be found in the Preliminary Patentability Report leaflet.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Prior Art. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of a Prior Art search is by quotation and is calculated based on the estimated time required to carry out a particular search.

DELIVERY

We deliver the result within 12 working days from the acceptance date of quotation, unless otherwise agreed with the customer. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website.

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Sequence Search

In many of the services that can be commissioned from PRV InterPat, it may be of interest to include searches for protein and/or nucleotide sequences.

The search

The commission is carried out by one or more of PRV's patent examiners who are specialized within the areas of biotechnology and sequence searches. The search is carried out with the help of the search tool STN. Via STN, we have for example, access to CA registry, DGENE, USGENE and PCTGENE for sequence searches. This gives us access to both patent and non-patent literature, including articles from periodicals. All of our searches are carried out with a secure connection.

Basic information

In order to carry out sequence searches, we need the sequences that are to be searched in electronic form.

The result

In our Sequence Search, as in most of our search services, we provide you with an evaluation of the results.

Depending on the type of service commissioned, the presentation of the result varies. In all services where it is considered suitable, a comparison is given between the sequence that was searched for and the sequence in the reference. This is done in order to display the degree of similarity between the sequences and where possible differences between them are.

HOW TO REQUEST A REPORT

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Sequence search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The price depends on what type of service is commissioned and is calculated based on the estimated time required to carry it out.

DELIVERY

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Supplementary International Search, SIS

PRV is an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the PCT since the start, 1978. PRV is a competent ISA/IPEA for applicants from the Nordic countries as well as for some developing countries and Member States of ARIPO and OAPI.

PRV will accept applications in Swedish, English, Danish and Norwegian.

Requested service

This service has been introduced at the request of applicants. Some applicants have experienced that the ISR provided by an ISA does not always cover all documentation completely due to imperfections as to access to databases, available search tools, language skills etc.

An applicant, who has filed a PCT application with another International Searching Authority (ISA) than PRV, may file a request for a SIS to the International Bureau (IB) with an indication that PRV shall perform the SIS. The request shall be submitted to the IB within 19 months from the priority date.

Why choose the PRV for performing the SIS?

- We have a long experience from providing our customers with high quality searches and our staff possesses competences covering all technical fields.
- Quality is of the highest priority to us. Our dedication to quality resulted in an ISO 9001 certification for the entire organisation in October 2007.
- We have access to all major commercial databases as well as to those provided by the EPO. In addition we also have access to the genuine Nordic patent documentation.
- When you enter the regional phase in the EPO you will receive a reduction in the search fee.
- We deliver our products and services on time!

COSTS

The fee will be the same as for an ordinary international search (PCT).

CONTACT

For more information please contact Marie Eriksson, Director Legal Affairs,
marie.eriksson@prv.se

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Technical Search

Patent information

A Technical search can provide relevant answers to a broad range of questions. It can also save you time and money. You can get answers to the problem that you are facing with the help of a Technical Search, by finding out how others have solved your problem.

You can use the search to gain an overview of the technical development before starting a new project, so you know what the technical area looks like and who the actors are. You will get a picture of where you should focus your technical development, saving both time and money.

Get a statistical overview of patenting activity by Patent Mapping, see the information leaflet.

We help you find the answers:

- Where is the state of the art?
- Who are your competitors?
- Develop the technology yourself or license?
- Who are possible business partners?
- How have other solved my problem?
- Am I infringing a patent?
- Is someone infringing my patent?

The searches are performed in a variety of databases covering patents, scientific and technical literature worldwide. Our patent examiners understand the strengths, weaknesses and nuances of searching in them. Our experts also have access to PRV's collection of older patent documents as well as a large number of scientific and technical publications. We tailor our searches to meet each customer's needs and wishes.

Patent family search

There are several reasons to perform a Patent Family Search. In some cases it is important to ascertain if the patent is valid and if so, in which countries; particularly if you want to use an existing solution in a non-protected market. Family searches can be ordered separately, more detailed information can be found in the Patent Family information leaflet.

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Technical Survey

A Technical Survey is a cost effective way of briefly examining a technical idea. The survey request concerning a new idea should consist of a written technical description, maximum two pages, except possibly drawings. The limited search time, is time well spent, the experienced patent examiner's competence is well utilized in the choice of databases and search strategies.

Up to the four most relevant documents are commented.

If, after the limited time search, the patent examiner considers there are additional areas to be searched, the examiner can recommend an Additional Search when presenting the report.

Certain technical ideas are not suitable for Technical Surveys. In these cases, we will contact you.

Consultation

To gain the best possible result a good search query is required, this is achieved with a thorough description of the invention. In order that the time set aside for searching can be used to the maximum and focused on the invention a consultation is offered. Together with the patent examiner, responsible for that particular search, you draw up the extent of the search and specify the required technology. A simple description of your invention is all that is needed to book a consultation with a patent examiner specialized within a technical field.

The Consultation Service is ordered together with the Technical Survey.

Additional Search

An Additional Search is a continuation of a Technical Survey that has previously been performed by us. This commission can either be done on the recommendation of the patent examiner who performed the Technical Survey, or it can be done on your own initiative. You may file the request within three weeks of receiving the result of the Technical Survey. The object of this service is to extend the search time, in order to improve the possibility of identifying documents which question the novelty and/or inventive step of your invention. The search is based upon the material you have already provided us with. Possibly, you may supplement the Technical Survey with clarifications.

HOW TO REQUEST A SURVEY

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Technical Survey. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

Technical Survey	4 300 SEK
Consultation	800 SEK
Additional search	7 400 SEK

VAT and postage are added to the cost.

DELIVERY

We deliver the result within 7 working days unless otherwise agreed with the customer. The Additional Search is delivered within 12 working days. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website.

CONTACT

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PRV InterPat aims to carry out all requests accurately and thoroughly, but due to the extensive amount of information involved we cannot guarantee that the results are always exhaustive. PRV InterPat is bound to observe professional secrecy with regard to every search request, as well as the search result. This directive is supported by chapter 31, §12 of the Swedish Secrecy Act (2009:400). Documentation is delivered exclusively to the client, and may not be cited as a hindrance to novelty in a subsequent application. Please note that PRV retains all material sent in, including model.

Validity Search

Granted on what basis?

Sometimes a supplementary search, of an application that has already been examined or a patent that has already been granted, is necessary. The aim can be to check on what basis a patent was granted. A validity search focuses on patent documentation filed before the priority date and Non-Patent Literature (NPL) published before the priority date of the document in question. Please note that the validity of a patent is not up for discussion within this search, nor is the patent practice of another country considered.

The search request

A validity search can be carried out for documents published in one of the Nordic languages (Swedish, Finnish, Danish or Norwegian) or in English, German or French. If you would like a validity search for a document published in another language, please contact our customer services for further information. Exceptions to this service are patent documents granted by PRV or patent documents that PRV has, in some respect, already searched for novelty.

High quality

PRV InterPat's strength lies in all the examiners, who work daily with patent applications at PRV. This means we can offer you high quality searches in all technical fields. We also have very sophisticated search tools, as used by the European Patent Office (EPO), which give us access to all the relevant databases. PRV InterPat has, therefore, everything required to carry out your patent searches in the best possible way.

Written Opinion

Use our experienced patent examiners to clarify the result of the Validity Search. From the results of the Validity Search, we assess a written opinion regarding the novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. When applicable the problem/solution method is applied, using Swedish and European patent law practice.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH

Use our online service PRV InterPat Secure (PIS) for secure ordering and delivery of a Validity Search. This service can be found on our website.

COSTS

The cost of a Validity search is by quotation and is calculated based on the estimated time required to carry out a particular search.

DELIVERY

We deliver the result within 12 working days from the acceptance date of quotation, unless otherwise agreed with the customer. You can read about our secure delivery methods on our website.

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