

Smart Manufacturing: Integration of Industry 4.0 Technologies to Enhance Engineering System Productivity

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ABSTRACT — *The transformation of manufacturing systems in the era of Industry 4.0 has led to the emergence of smart manufacturing, which integrates advanced technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), cyber-physical systems (CPS), artificial intelligence (AI), and digital twins to enhance engineering system productivity. This study aims to analyze how the strategic integration of these technologies improves productivity by addressing system complexity, integration challenges, and human factors. The research employs a qualitative approach using a systematic literature review (SLR) method, with data collected from reputable international journals published between 2020 and 2025. The analysis is conducted through thematic and comparative synthesis to identify key patterns and relationships. The findings indicate that the integration of Industry 4.0 technologies significantly improves operational performance, including increased efficiency, reduced downtime, enhanced product quality, and improved system responsiveness. However, challenges such as integration complexity, legacy systems, and workforce skill gaps remain critical barriers. The study concludes that a holistic and strategic integration approach, supported by strong data governance and workforce development, is essential to achieve sustainable productivity improvements in engineering systems.*

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Cyber-Physical Systems, Industry 4.0, Smart Manufacturing, System Productivity

INTRODUCTION

The rapid evolution of industrial systems in the era of Industry 4.0 has fundamentally transformed the structure, operation, and strategic orientation of manufacturing processes across the globe. Unlike previous industrial revolutions that emphasized mechanization, electrification, and automation, Industry 4.0 introduces a paradigm shift toward intelligent, interconnected, and data-driven manufacturing ecosystems. This transformation is characterized by the integration of cyber-physical systems (CPS), Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), big data analytics, cloud computing, advanced robotics, and digital twins, which collectively enable real-time communication, autonomous decision-making, and adaptive system behavior. As a result, manufacturing systems are no longer isolated production units but evolve into highly integrated networks capable of end-to-end digital coordination across the product lifecycle, from design and engineering to production and distribution (Karnik et al., 2021; Javaid et al., 2022; Jiao et al., 2021; Rahman et al., 2022).

This transformation has led to the emergence of smart manufacturing, which emphasizes the seamless integration of physical production systems with digital intelligence to enhance productivity, flexibility, and responsiveness. In this context, engineering systems are increasingly designed to operate under the principles of Design Engineering 4.0, where human, cyber, and physical components interact dynamically to optimize performance. Such systems enable advanced capabilities, including



mass customization, predictive maintenance, real-time monitoring, and modular production configurations. These innovations significantly redefine value creation processes, allowing firms to respond more effectively to market demands while improving operational efficiency and product quality. Consequently, smart manufacturing has become a central pillar in achieving sustainable industrial competitiveness in the digital era (Jiao et al., 2021; Guo et al., 2021; Ryalat et al., 2023).

However, despite the promising potential of Industry 4.0 technologies, the practical implementation of smart manufacturing systems reveals a range of complex challenges that hinder the realization of optimal productivity outcomes. One of the most critical issues is the difficulty of integrating heterogeneous technologies and legacy systems into a unified digital ecosystem. Many existing manufacturing infrastructures were not originally designed to support real-time data exchange or interoperability with advanced digital platforms, resulting in fragmented systems that limit the effectiveness of IoT, AI, and CPS integration. This lack of seamless integration creates inefficiencies in data utilization, delays in decision-making processes, and increased operational complexity, ultimately reducing the expected productivity gains from Industry 4.0 adoption (Elahi et al., 2023; Rai et al., 2021; Oks et al., 2022).

In addition to integration challenges, engineering systems in smart manufacturing environments often face significant constraints related to system complexity and bottleneck management. The increasing interconnectivity of production components leads to highly dynamic and non-linear interactions, making it difficult to identify and resolve bottlenecks using traditional analytical approaches. As production systems become more complex, minor disruptions in one part of the system can propagate across the entire network, causing significant performance degradation. Although technologies such as digital twins have been introduced to simulate and analyze system behavior, their implementation is still limited in many industrial contexts. Empirical evidence suggests that effective use of digital twins can improve system throughput by at least 10%, highlighting the untapped potential of these technologies in addressing productivity challenges (Kumbhar et al., 2023; Afaunova, 2025).

Furthermore, reliability and maintenance management remain critical concerns in modern engineering systems, particularly in multi-product and high-variability manufacturing environments. The integration of advanced technologies increases system complexity, which in turn raises the risk of unexpected failures and downtime. Balancing preventive and corrective maintenance strategies becomes increasingly challenging, as organizations must consider multiple performance indicators such as throughput, work-in-progress (WIP), cost efficiency, and system reliability. Ineffective maintenance planning can lead to suboptimal system performance and reduced productivity, undermining the benefits of Industry 4.0 technologies. Therefore, the development of intelligent maintenance systems that leverage predictive analytics and real-time monitoring is essential to ensure sustainable operational performance (Zhou et al., 2024).

Another significant challenge lies in the human dimension of smart manufacturing transformation. The adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies requires not only technological upgrades but also substantial changes in workforce capabilities and organizational culture. New operational paradigms, such as synchroperation and data-driven decision-making, demand advanced technical skills, interdisciplinary knowledge, and continuous learning. However, many organizations face a skills gap that limits their ability to fully exploit the potential of smart manufacturing systems. Without adequate workforce development and training, the implementation of advanced technologies may lead to inefficiencies, resistance to change, and suboptimal system utilization. This highlights the importance of integrating human factors into the design and management of smart manufacturing systems to achieve holistic productivity improvements (Phan, 2025; Guo et al., 2021; Olodu, 2025).

Despite these challenges, the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies within smart manufacturing systems offers significant opportunities to enhance engineering system productivity. Empirical studies indicate that organizations implementing integrated smart manufacturing solutions can achieve substantial improvements in key performance indicators, including increased efficiency, reduced defect rates, improved on-time delivery, and higher return on investment. For instance, integrated systems combining IoT, AI, robotics, and cloud computing have been shown to increase

operational efficiency by up to 30.8%, reduce defect rates by 62.5%, and improve delivery performance by 46.7%. These findings demonstrate the transformative potential of smart manufacturing when implemented strategically and systematically (Phan, 2025; Olodu, 2025).

Nevertheless, the realization of these benefits is not automatic and requires a well-planned integration strategy that considers technological, organizational, and managerial dimensions. Effective integration involves not only the deployment of advanced technologies but also the establishment of robust data governance frameworks, cybersecurity measures, and cross-functional coordination mechanisms. Without proper planning and execution, the complexity of Industry 4.0 systems may outweigh their benefits, leading to increased costs and operational risks. Therefore, organizations must adopt a holistic approach to smart manufacturing integration, focusing on aligning technological capabilities with business objectives and operational requirements (Elahi et al., 2023; Javaid et al., 2022; Rai et al., 2021).

Based on the above discussion, a critical research gap can be identified in the existing literature. While numerous studies have explored individual aspects of Industry 4.0 technologies, such as IoT, AI, and digital twins, there is still a lack of comprehensive frameworks that integrate these technologies into a unified smart manufacturing system to address productivity challenges in engineering systems. Most prior research tends to focus on technological advancements or isolated applications without adequately considering the interdependencies between system components, human factors, and organizational strategies. As a result, there is limited understanding of how integrated smart manufacturing systems can be designed and managed to achieve optimal productivity outcomes in complex engineering environments (Rahman et al., 2022; Oks et al., 2022; Olodu, 2025).

In response to this gap, the novelty of this study lies in its integrative approach to analyzing smart manufacturing systems as a holistic ecosystem that combines technological, operational, and human dimensions. This study does not merely examine individual technologies but seeks to develop a comprehensive understanding of how the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 components can enhance engineering system productivity. By synthesizing insights from multiple disciplines, including engineering management, data analytics, and industrial systems design, this research aims to provide a more nuanced perspective on the implementation of smart manufacturing in real-world contexts. This integrative perspective represents a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge, particularly in addressing the complexity and interconnectivity of modern manufacturing systems (Javaid et al., 2022; Jiao et al., 2021).

Accordingly, the primary objective of this study is to analyze how the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies within smart manufacturing systems can improve the productivity of engineering systems by addressing integration challenges, system complexity, and human factors. This objective is expected to provide both theoretical and practical insights into the design and management of next-generation manufacturing systems, contributing to the advancement of industrial engineering practices in the era of digital transformation.

METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical design to examine how the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies within smart manufacturing systems enhances engineering system productivity. The research is grounded in a systematic literature review (SLR) framework, which allows for a comprehensive and structured exploration of existing scholarly works related to Industry 4.0, smart manufacturing, and engineering productivity. The data used in this study are secondary data obtained from reputable international journals, conference proceedings, and indexed publications (Scopus and Web of Science) published between 2020 and 2025 to ensure relevance and recency. The data collection technique involves systematic identification, screening, eligibility assessment, and inclusion of literature using predefined keywords such as "Industry 4.0," "smart manufacturing," "engineering productivity," "cyber-physical systems," and "digital integration." Inclusion criteria focus on peer-reviewed articles discussing integration strategies, productivity

performance, and technological implementation, while exclusion criteria eliminate non-scholarly sources, duplicated studies, and publications lacking methodological rigor.

The data analysis technique employs a thematic analysis combined with a comparative synthesis approach to identify patterns, relationships, and key constructs across the selected studies. Initially, all collected literature is categorized based on core themes, including technological enablers, productivity challenges, and integration strategies. Subsequently, a coding process is conducted to extract relevant variables such as system integration, efficiency, reliability, and human factors. The findings are then analyzed using cross-study comparison to identify similarities, differences, and emerging trends in smart manufacturing implementation. To enhance the validity and reliability of the analysis, the study applies data triangulation by comparing findings from multiple sources and ensuring consistency in interpretation. The final stage involves synthesizing the results into an integrative framework that explains how Industry 4.0 technologies can be strategically aligned to improve engineering system productivity, thereby providing both theoretical insights and practical implications for industrial applications.

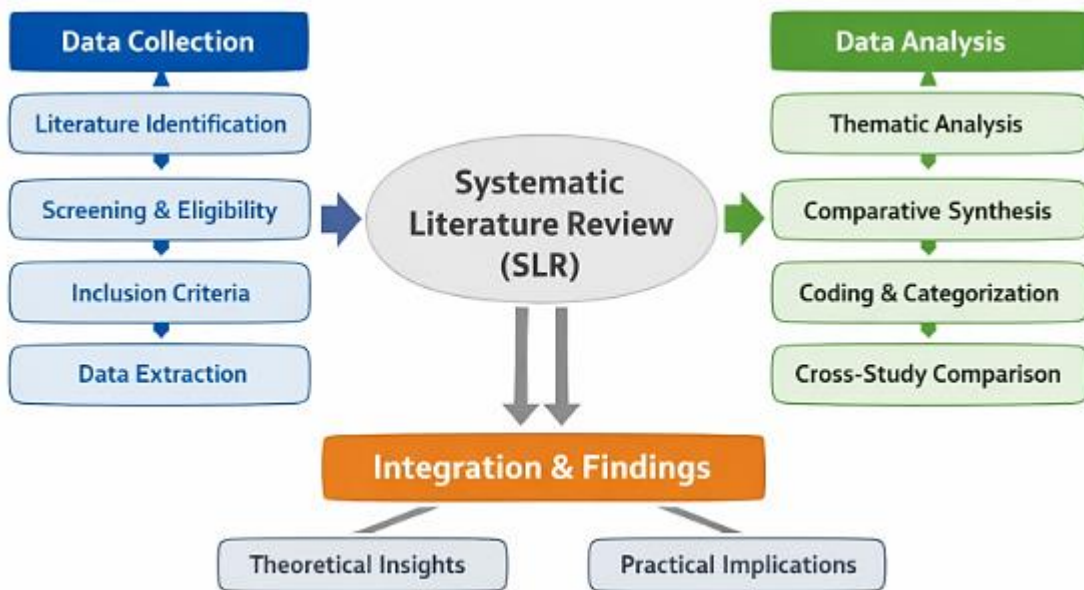


Figure 1. Diagram Conceptual Research

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study were synthesized from selected literature to identify the key dimensions of smart manufacturing integration and their impact on engineering system productivity. The findings are categorized into three main aspects: technological enablers, productivity challenges, and strategic integration outcomes, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Synthesis of Smart Manufacturing Integration and Its Impact on Engineering System Productivity

| No | Aspect | Key Variables | Findings | Impact on Productivity |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Technological Enablers | CPS, IoT, AI, Big Data, Digital Twin | Enable real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and automation | Increased efficiency and system responsiveness |

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|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 2 | System Integration | Interoperability, Data Integration, Legacy Systems | Integration complexity remains a major barrier | Delays decision-making and reduces optimization |
| 3 | Production System Performance | Bottleneck Detection, Throughput Optimization | Digital twin improves throughput $\geq 10\%$ | Enhanced production flow and reduced downtime |
| 4 | Maintenance Management | Predictive Maintenance, Reliability Systems | AI-based maintenance reduces unexpected failures | Improved system reliability and cost efficiency |
| 5 | Human Factors | Skills, Training, Human–Machine Interaction | Skill gaps limit effective technology utilization | Affects operational efficiency |
| 6 | Strategic Integration Outcomes | Smart Factory, Automation, Data Governance | Integrated systems improve KPI (efficiency +30.8%, defect –62.5%) | Significant productivity improvement |

Based on Table 1, it can be interpreted that the integration of Industry 4.0 technologies into smart manufacturing systems provides substantial opportunities to enhance engineering system productivity. Technological enablers such as CPS, IoT, and AI play a crucial role in enabling real-time data processing and intelligent decision-making, which directly contributes to improved efficiency and operational performance. However, the findings also reveal that integration complexity, particularly in aligning legacy systems with modern digital platforms, remains a significant challenge that can hinder productivity gains. Furthermore, the role of digital twin technology in optimizing production systems demonstrates its effectiveness in identifying bottlenecks and improving throughput, indicating its importance in advanced manufacturing environments.

In addition, maintenance management and human factors emerge as critical determinants of system performance. The adoption of predictive maintenance strategies enhances system reliability and reduces operational disruptions, while workforce competency significantly influences the successful implementation of smart manufacturing technologies. Finally, the strategic integration of all these components results in measurable improvements in key performance indicators, confirming that a holistic and well-coordinated approach is essential to fully realize the benefits of Industry 4.0 in engineering systems.

Discussion

The findings of this study, as presented in Table 1, demonstrate that the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies within smart manufacturing systems significantly contributes to enhancing engineering system productivity. This result aligns with the central objective of this research, which aims to analyze how the integration of advanced digital technologies—such as Internet of Things (IoT), cyber-physical systems (CPS), artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, big data analytics, cloud computing, and digital twins—can address productivity challenges in engineering systems. The discussion highlights that productivity improvement is not solely driven by technological adoption but by the degree of integration, coordination, and alignment between technological, operational, and human dimensions. In this context, smart manufacturing emerges as a holistic system that transforms traditional engineering processes into adaptive, data-driven, and interconnected production ecosystems capable of achieving higher efficiency, quality, and responsiveness (Çelik, 2025; Ryalat et al., 2023; Olodu, 2025).

One of the most critical contributions of Industry 4.0 technologies lies in their ability to create real-time connectivity and synchronization across manufacturing systems. The integration of IoT and

CPS enables seamless communication between machines, sensors, and enterprise systems such as ERP, thereby forming the foundation of smart factories. This interconnected infrastructure allows for continuous monitoring, real-time data exchange, and automated control, which significantly improves system transparency and decision-making speed. As indicated in the results, such connectivity enhances system responsiveness and reduces delays in production processes. This finding is consistent with prior studies emphasizing that IoT-driven smart factories can dynamically adjust operations based on real-time data, leading to improved operational efficiency and reduced system downtime (Çelik, 2025; Singh et al., 2022; Zulfadlillah et al., 2024).

Furthermore, the integration of AI and big data analytics plays a pivotal role in optimizing engineering system performance. AI-based algorithms enable predictive maintenance, intelligent quality control, and process optimization, which collectively contribute to increased productivity. The results in Table 1 highlight that predictive maintenance significantly reduces unexpected failures and enhances system reliability. Empirical evidence supports this finding, showing that the implementation of AI-driven maintenance systems can reduce downtime by up to 30% and maintenance costs by approximately 20%. Additionally, the ability to analyze large volumes of production data in real time allows organizations to identify inefficiencies, predict system failures, and implement corrective actions proactively. This demonstrates that data-driven decision-making is a key driver of productivity improvement in smart manufacturing environments (Ryalat et al., 2024; Ahmmed et al., 2024; Olodu, 2025).

In addition to predictive capabilities, the role of intelligent robotics and advanced mechatronics systems further enhances the flexibility and adaptability of manufacturing processes. The findings indicate that automation supported by robotics enables faster production cycles, reduced human error, and improved consistency in product quality. Unlike traditional automation systems, which are often rigid and task-specific, Industry 4.0-based robotic systems are designed to be flexible and reconfigurable, allowing them to adapt to changing production requirements. This capability is particularly important in environments characterized by high product variability and demand uncertainty. Studies confirm that the integration of autonomous robotic systems and soft robotics technologies significantly improves operational efficiency and supports mass customization, thereby enhancing overall engineering system productivity (Nagy et al., 2023; Ryalat et al., 2024).

Moreover, the implementation of digital twin technology provides a powerful tool for system simulation, performance analysis, and decision support. As shown in the results, digital twins enable organizations to identify bottlenecks, simulate production scenarios, and optimize system configurations before implementing changes in real-world environments. This capability reduces operational risks and improves system performance by enabling data-driven experimentation and optimization. Empirical studies indicate that the use of digital twin technology can increase system throughput by at least 10%, demonstrating its effectiveness in improving production efficiency. Additionally, digital twins support continuous system improvement by providing real-time insights into system behavior, which is essential for maintaining high levels of productivity in complex manufacturing systems (Çelik, 2025; Zulfadlillah et al., 2024; Ryalat et al., 2024).

Despite these technological advantages, the discussion also reveals that integration complexity remains a significant challenge in achieving optimal productivity outcomes. The findings highlight that many organizations struggle to integrate legacy systems with modern Industry 4.0 technologies, resulting in fragmented data and inefficient system coordination. This issue is particularly prevalent in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which often lack the resources and technical expertise required for large-scale digital transformation. The inability to achieve seamless interoperability between different systems limits the effectiveness of smart manufacturing initiatives and reduces the potential productivity gains. Previous studies emphasize that addressing integration challenges requires the adoption of standardized communication protocols, such as OPC UA and MQTT, as well as the implementation of edge computing solutions to reduce latency and improve system scalability (Zulfadlillah et al., 2024; Maarif & Saputra, 2021; Singh et al., 2022).

Another critical aspect influencing engineering system productivity is maintenance management and system reliability. The results indicate that predictive maintenance strategies significantly enhance system performance by minimizing downtime and optimizing maintenance schedules. However, implementing such strategies requires advanced data analytics capabilities and reliable sensor infrastructure, which may not be readily available in all industrial contexts. Furthermore, the complexity of modern manufacturing systems increases the difficulty of balancing preventive and corrective maintenance activities. Ineffective maintenance planning can lead to increased operational costs and reduced system efficiency, highlighting the need for integrated maintenance management systems that leverage AI and real-time data monitoring. This finding is consistent with previous research emphasizing the importance of intelligent maintenance systems in achieving sustainable productivity improvements in Industry 4.0 environments (Zulfadlillah et al., 2024; Olodu, 2025).

The human factor also plays a crucial role in determining the success of smart manufacturing implementation. The findings suggest that workforce competency and skills development are essential for maximizing the benefits of Industry 4.0 technologies. The transition to smart manufacturing requires workers to possess advanced technical skills, including data analysis, system integration, and digital literacy. However, many organizations face a significant skills gap, which limits their ability to effectively utilize advanced technologies. This challenge underscores the importance of developing Operator 4.0 concepts, where human operators are supported by digital tools such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to enhance their capabilities. Studies show that integrating human-centric technologies into smart manufacturing systems can improve operational efficiency and reduce errors, thereby contributing to overall productivity improvement (Çelik, 2025; Ahmmed et al., 2024; Fatkhulloh et al., 2023).

In terms of productivity outcomes, the findings clearly indicate that the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies leads to substantial improvements in key performance indicators. The reported increases in efficiency (up to 30.8%), asset utilization (approximately 30%), and on-time delivery (up to 46.7%) demonstrate the significant impact of smart manufacturing on operational performance. Additionally, the reduction in defect rates (up to 62.5%) and near-zero production errors highlights the effectiveness of advanced quality control systems in ensuring high product standards. These improvements not only enhance productivity but also contribute to increased customer satisfaction and competitive advantage in global markets. This is consistent with previous studies that emphasize the role of smart manufacturing in achieving sustainable industrial growth and innovation (Ryalat et al., 2024; Sahoo & Lo, 2022; Rahardjo et al., 2023).

From a system design perspective, the integration of CPS and IoT within smart factory architectures enables the creation of highly adaptive and autonomous production systems. These systems are capable of self-optimization, real-time decision-making, and dynamic reconfiguration, which are essential for responding to changing market demands. The integration of operational technology (OT) and information technology (IT) further enhances system performance by enabling seamless data exchange across different organizational levels. This integration reduces latency, improves system scalability, and supports the implementation of autonomous control systems. As a result, smart factories can achieve higher levels of productivity, flexibility, and sustainability compared to traditional manufacturing systems (Çelik, 2025; Singh et al., 2022; Ryalat et al., 2023).

However, the implementation of smart manufacturing is not without challenges. High initial investment costs, cybersecurity risks, and organizational resistance to change are among the key barriers identified in the literature. These challenges highlight the need for a strategic and phased approach to Industry 4.0 implementation, where organizations gradually adopt advanced technologies based on their readiness and capabilities. Additionally, the establishment of robust data governance frameworks and cybersecurity measures is essential to protect sensitive information and ensure system reliability. Without proper management, the risks associated with digital transformation may outweigh the potential benefits, leading to suboptimal outcomes (Ahmmed et al., 2024; Nagy et al., 2023; Agusti et al., 2023).

To address these challenges, several strategic approaches can be adopted to facilitate the successful implementation of smart manufacturing systems. These include the development of modular system architectures, the adoption of standardized communication protocols, and the implementation of workforce training programs to enhance digital competencies. Furthermore, the integration of lean manufacturing principles with Industry 4.0 technologies, as demonstrated in the Smart and Sustainable Manufacturing System (SSMS) framework, provides a comprehensive approach to improving productivity while reducing waste and enhancing sustainability. This integrative approach ensures that technological advancements are aligned with organizational goals and operational requirements, thereby maximizing the benefits of smart manufacturing (Rahardjo et al., 2023; Çelik, 2025).

In conclusion, the discussion confirms that the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies within smart manufacturing systems has a significant positive impact on engineering system productivity. The findings demonstrate that while technological advancements provide powerful tools for improving efficiency, quality, and flexibility, their effectiveness depends on the extent to which they are integrated and aligned with organizational processes and human capabilities. By addressing integration challenges, enhancing system reliability, and investing in workforce development, organizations can fully realize the potential of smart manufacturing and achieve sustainable productivity improvements in the era of digital transformation

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the strategic integration of Industry 4.0 technologies within smart manufacturing systems significantly enhances engineering system productivity by enabling real-time connectivity, data-driven decision-making, and adaptive production processes. The findings demonstrate that technologies such as IoT, CPS, AI, robotics, and digital twins collectively improve efficiency, reduce downtime, enhance product quality, and increase system responsiveness. However, the effectiveness of these technologies is highly dependent on the level of system integration, the ability to overcome legacy system constraints, and the readiness of human resources to adapt to digital transformation. Therefore, achieving optimal productivity requires not only technological implementation but also a holistic approach that integrates system architecture, maintenance strategies, and workforce development. In this context, smart manufacturing serves as a comprehensive framework that aligns technological innovation with operational and human factors, ultimately enabling sustainable and competitive engineering system performance in the Industry 4.0 era.

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