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**Jackson et al.**

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT TO A DEVICE**

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(73) Assignee: **elata Limited**, Dorset (GB)

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 643 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/460,450**

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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

*Primary Examiner*—Thuy N. Pardo

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Sep. 21, 1999 (GB) ..... 9922348  
Oct. 6, 1999 (GB) ..... 9923640

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 17/30**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **707/104; 707/1; 707/10; 707/6; 707/102; 710/8**

The present invention provides a system and method for managing distribution of content to a device, the system comprising a database for storing a number of elements as a hierarchical structure, content identifiers being able to be associated with elements in the hierarchical structure, and one of the elements representing the device, and a server for referencing the hierarchical structure in the database to generate a profile for the device, the profile containing a number of content identifiers indicating content to be provided to the device. A device manager is associated with the device and arranged to receive the profile from the server and to use the content identifiers in the profile to cause the content indicated by the profile to be provided to the device, a record being kept identifying the content provided to the device in accordance with the profile. The device manager is arranged upon receipt of a subsequent profile from the server to compare the content identifiers in the subsequent profile with the record to determine new content not yet provided on the device and old content no longer to be provided on the device, the device manager being arranged to use the relevant content identifiers to cause the new content to be provided to the device, and to cause the old content to be removed. This approach facilitates the efficient management of distribution of content to devices.

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 707/1, 10, 201, 707/6, 102, 104; 709/206; 705/26; 710/8; 715/500

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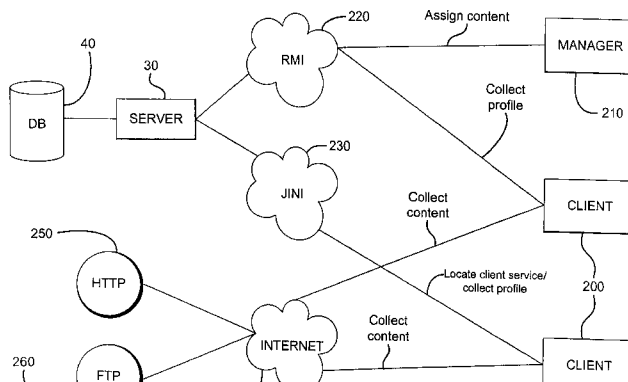
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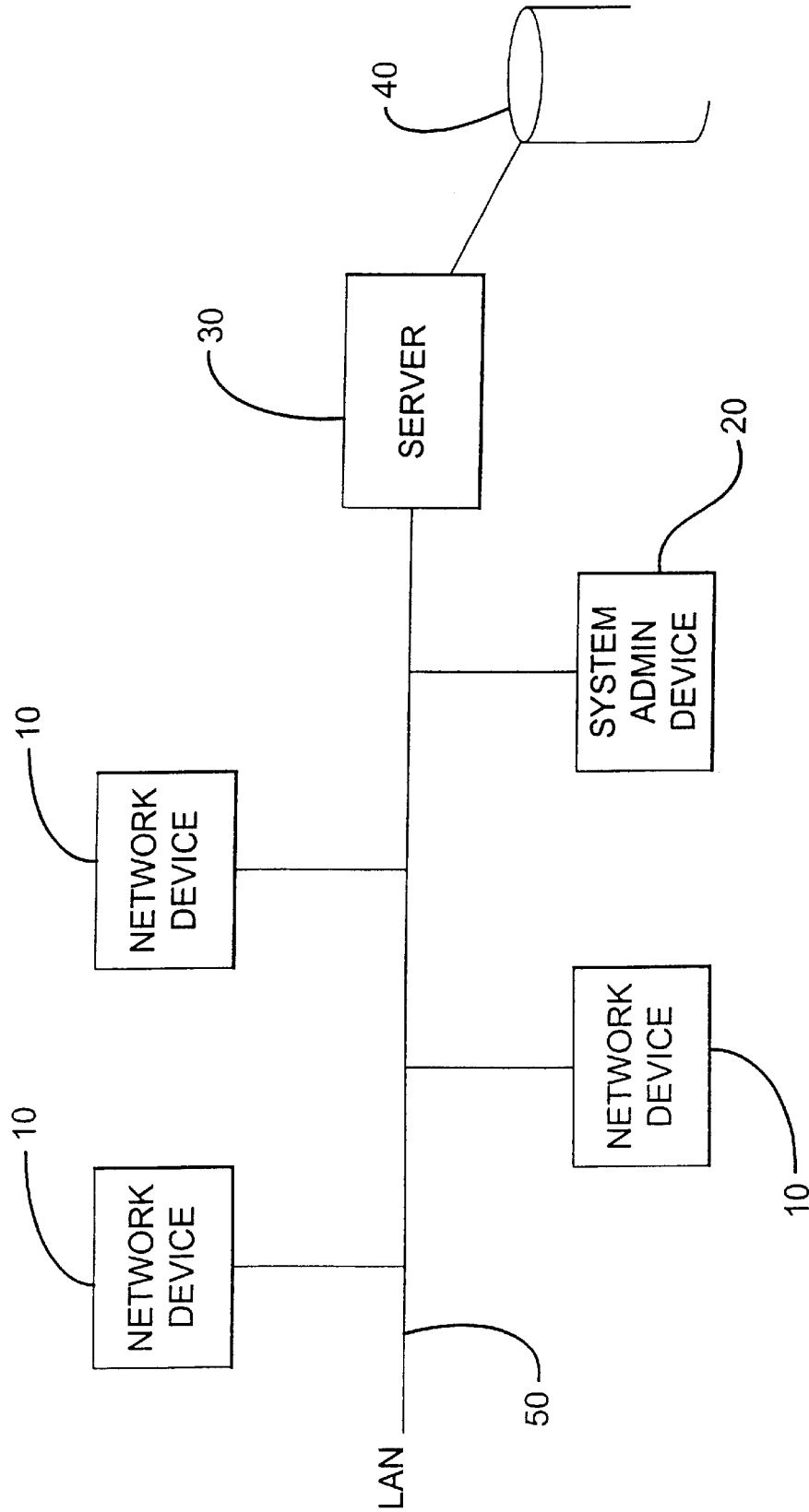
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**24 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets**





*Fig. 1A*

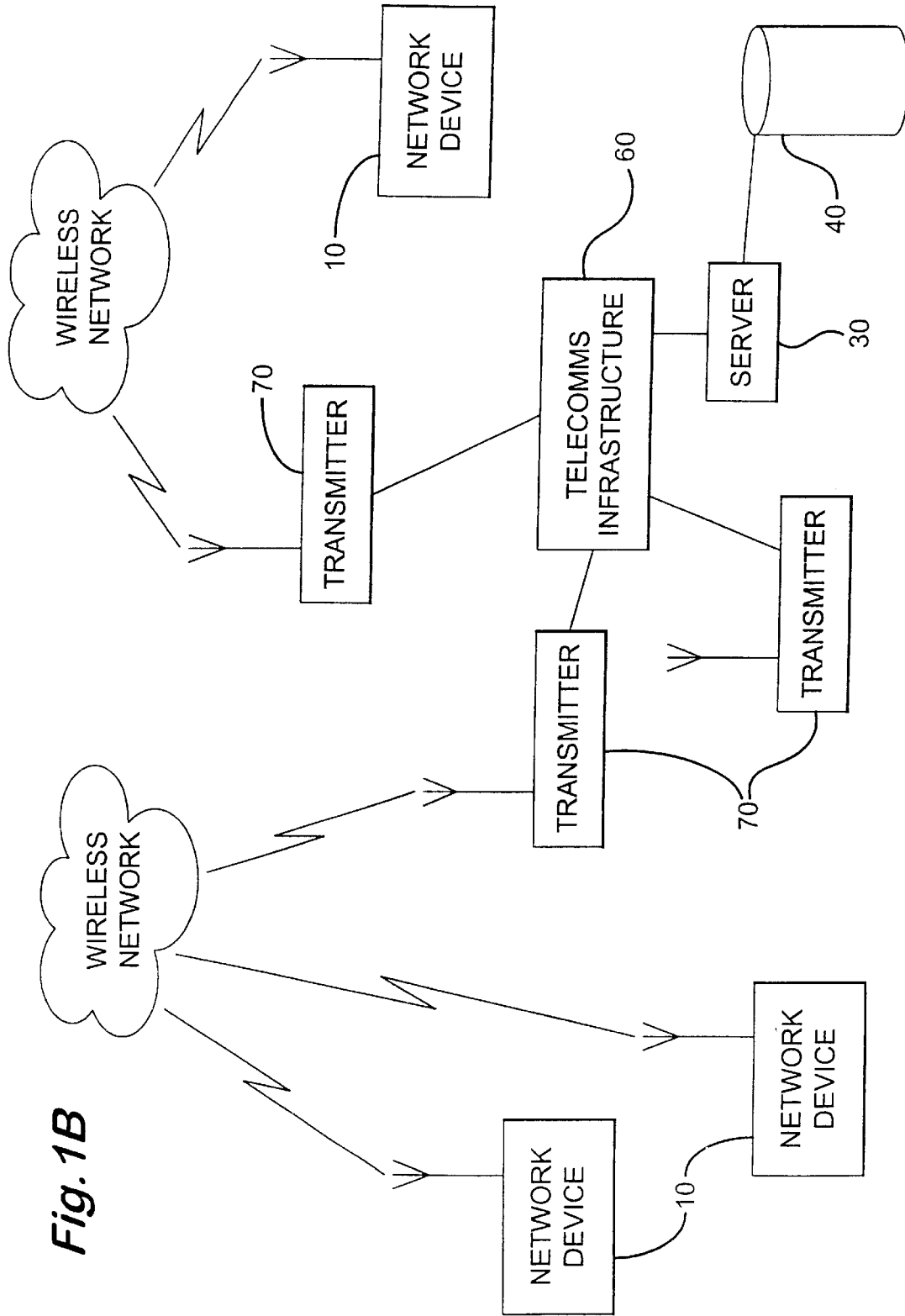


Fig. 1B

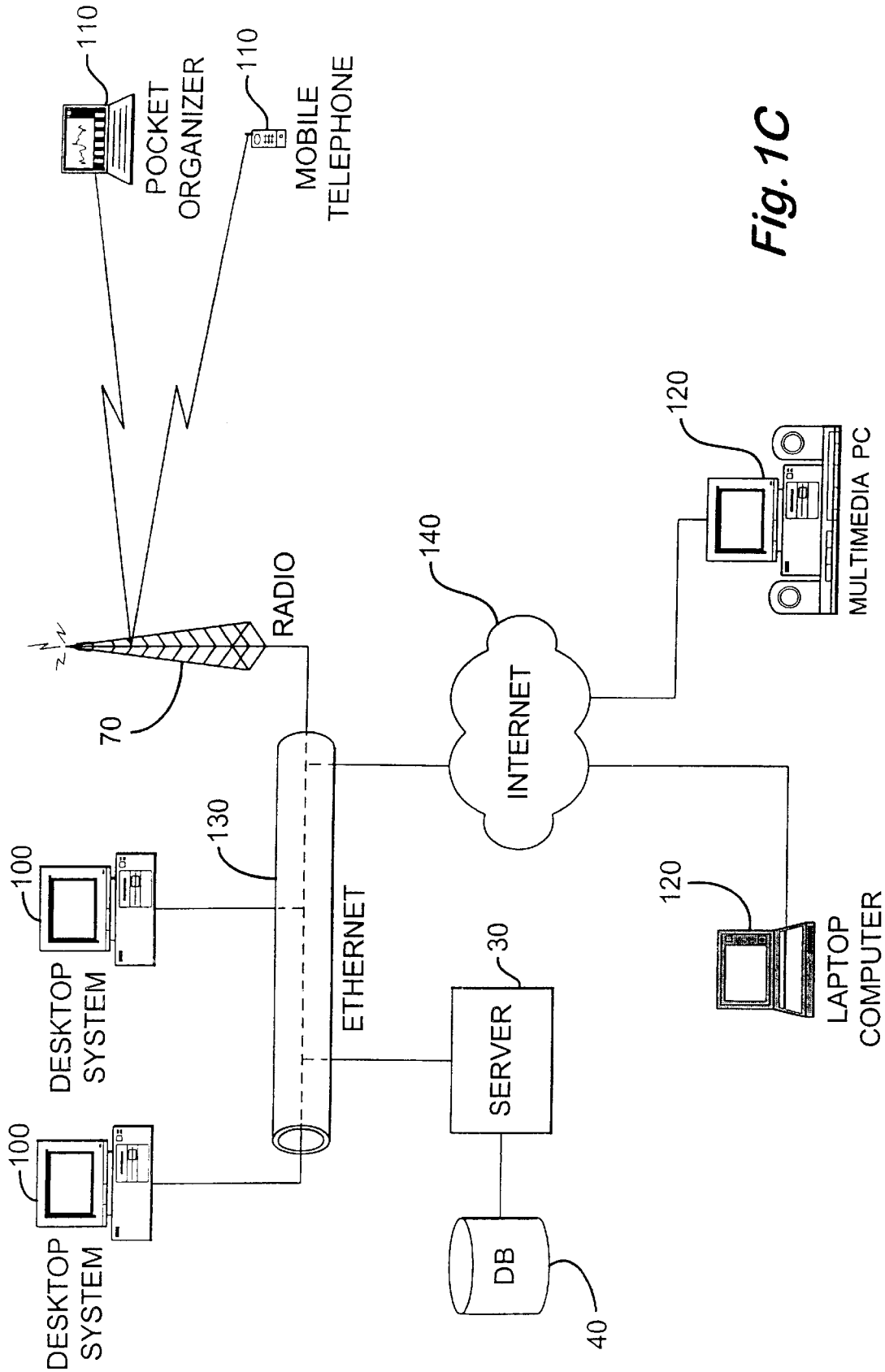


Fig. 1C

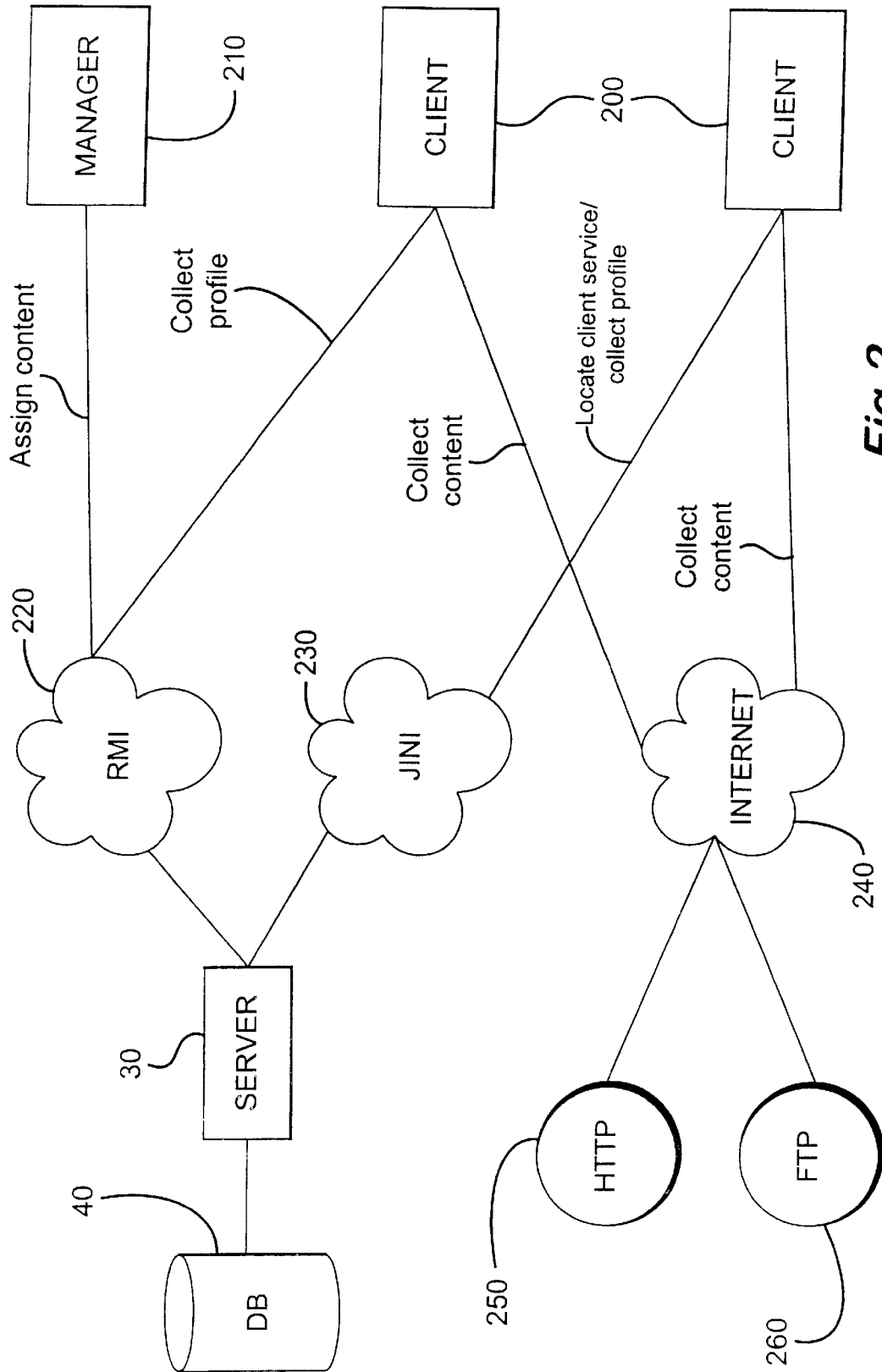


Fig. 2

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