

Merriam-Webster Accessibility Conformance Report

International Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: Merriam-Webster's® Unabridged Dictionary (MWU)

Report Date: April 17, 2025

Product Description: Merriam-Webster, Incorporated's subscription-based digital dictionary and comprehensive source of information on the English language. This VPAT covers use of this Merriam-Webster's Unabridged Dictionary in connection with browsers set to the English language.

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Notes: This report supersedes any and all earlier versions of the MWU VPAT.

Evaluation Methods Used: Testing is based on knowledge of general product functionality in addition to the use of both (1) Tool-based testing: Deque Axe; and (2) Manual Accessibility Testing.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A (Yes)

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
	Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018	(Yes)

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation,
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can only be used in WCAG Level AAA criteria.

WCAG 2.1 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with:

- Revised Section 508: Chapter 5 – 501.1 Scope, 504.2 Content Creation or Editing, and Chapter 6 – 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation.

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.1 Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508	Web: Partially Supports	Web: Text alternatives are provided for most non-text content such as images and icons (see below). Images

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)		that are decorative are given the aria-hidden data attribute. Exception: A known issue currently exists: Some images within the product lack appropriate alternative text. While most images include an alt attribute, there are instances where the alt attribute is either missing or contains non-descriptive text (e.g., a file name instead of a description of the image's content). We are working to ensure this issue is fixed no later than June 30, 2025.
<u>1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>1.3.1 Info and Relationships</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Partially Supports	Web: With the exception noted below, assistive technologies can programmatically determine the information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation. Titles, tab lists, and ARIA landmarks are used to help convey presentation. Links and images are unique and contextual making it possible for users to navigate options. Exception: A known issue currently exists: The screen reader is announcing something a sighted user cannot see. Screen

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		readers provide information about the structure and relationships between elements on a web page. The screen reader is announcing “to get missing image descriptions open the Context menu” while this is not visible on the screen itself or without direction of where to review. We are working to ensure this issue is fixed no later than June 30, 2025.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: The content is created to be understood by assistive technologies and to be presented in different ways. Headings and ARIA landmarks are used to help convey relationships between content. Pages are organized logically and can be read without style sheets.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Concepts suggested through shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound are also communicated through language. Textual equivalents may be visible or hidden (alt text, titles, ARIA alerts, etc.).
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Information conveyed through font styling or color is also communicated through language. Meaning conveyed through color is also suggested through shape, size, visual location, orientation, sound or language.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: All pages, content, navigation, menus, and functions are accessible by keyboard and assistive technologies.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Web: Supports	Web: No keyboard traps.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)		
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Web: Supports	Web: Content pages present a table of contents to skip to relevant areas. The product does have a mechanism to skip over navigational elements.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Web pages have titles that describe topic or purpose.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<u>2.4.3 Focus Order</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Each page has a logical tab order and visible focus stops.
<u>2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Links are unique and contextual, usually in the format [action] [applicable item], or [topic]
<u>2.5.1 Pointer Gestures</u> (Level A 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation</u> (Level A 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>2.5.3 Label in Name</u> (Level A 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Visible and accessible labels match and any controls that use icons or symbols are given consistent accessible labels.
<u>2.5.4 Motion Actuation</u> (Level A 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>3.1.1 Language of Page</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Language of content is notified at the start of page.
<u>3.2.1 On Focus</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no change of context when an element receives focus. There are visible focus states that use a combination of color and border effect to highlight the focused elements.
<u>3.2.2 On Input</u> (Level A) Also applies to:	Web: Supports	Web: All user input happens with buttons, links, and menus, and none initiate change of context.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)		
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Input fields are properly labeled using text and error messages provide context. Browsers provide system and network error messaging.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Labels or instructions are provided when user input is needed for buttons, links, drag and drop, and menus.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) Applies to: WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: For WCAG 2.0, 2.1, and Revised 508 Standards, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata and the WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata .
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Partially Supports	Web: With the exception noted below, controls are developed and validated against HTML specifications and standards, including ARIA. Exception: A known issue currently exists: The product provides interactive elements for users to trigger actions, such as playing audio pronunciations. However, some of these elements are not consistently and correctly labeled. We are working to ensure this issue is fixed no later than June 30, 2025.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<u>1.2.4 Captions (Live)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
<u>1.3.4 Orientation</u> (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Content does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation, such as portrait or landscape.
<u>1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose</u> (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: The input field serves a purpose identified in the Input Purposes for User Interface Components section; and the content is implemented using technologies with support for identifying the expected meaning for form input data.
<u>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1, except for the following: Large Text: Large-scale text and images of large-scale text have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1; Incidental: Text or images of text that are part of an inactive user interface component, that are pure decoration, that are not visible to anyone, or that are part of a picture that contains significant other visual content, have no contrast requirement. Logotypes: Text that is part of a logo or brand name has no contrast requirement.
<u>1.4.4 Resize text</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508	Web: Supports	Web: Icons and text resize with browser (and other technology)scaling/zooming options up to 200%.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)		
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Images of text are not used for any page elements. Acceptable exceptions are: the product logotype, which has alt text; and certain infographic images that contain significant other visual content.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Pages can be presented at 320x256 resolution or viewport width of 1280 CSS pixels wide at 400% zoom without loss of information or functionality.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Graphical objects and user interface elements meet or exceed minimum 3:1 contrast when the High Contrast UI feature option is enabled. This feature option overrides all custom styling, ensuring a compliant experience for all users.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Users can change text spacing without loss of content or functionality.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Content is dismissible via the escape key and persistent while hovered.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Web: Supports	Web: Headings, ARIA landmarks (such as navigation landmarks) and unique link and button names help users navigate pages quickly. Pages have consistent navigation areas.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Pages have descriptive headings and labels. Labels are unique and contextual.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508	Web: Partially Supports	Web: With the exception noted below, each page has a logical tab order, visible tab stops and keyboard

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
• 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)		navigation. Focus style is amplified beyond browser defaults. Exception: A know issue currently exists: The product provides a visible focus indicator for some keyboard-operable user interface elements, enhancing navigation for users who rely on keyboard input. However, some of the navigational buttons for browsing, searching, etc. lack a consistently visible or sufficiently distinguishable focus indicator. We are working to ensure this issue is fixed no later than June 30, 2025.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Web: Supports	Web: Navigation models are consistent across tools and use headings and ARIA navigation landmarks to orient users.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Web: Supports	Web: Components that have the same functionality within a set of Web pages are identified consistently. Icons use an icon grammar to facilitate learning. The same icon is used for the same action across all tools.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports	Web: Error messages are provided for a specific input, button, or form with contextual information. Browsers provide system and network error messaging.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs)		
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web: Updates to content, status changes, and notifications that display visually have corresponding audio announcements for screen readers.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes: Table deleted because this Product is not being evaluated for Level AAA of the Criteria.

Revised Section 508 Report

Notes:

Chapter 3: [Functional Performance Criteria](#) (FPC)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	Web: Supports	Web: All interfaces are designed according to HTML5 standards. Images and icons are assigned contextual and meaningful text alternatives that can be announced by a screen reader. Images of text are not used in place of text, with the exception of homepage and site logo which have ARIA labels for visibility. Controls such as buttons are labeled to indicate their function. Links are assigned meaningful texts that clearly indicate the link destination. Controls are assigned appropriate labels that allow perception of their function. ARIA attributes are used to make states of dynamic elements perceivable. Standard interface elements

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		are made evident through proper HTML markup.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Web: Supports	Web: All product functionalities perform at increased zoom level. All pages are designed to resize when zoomed. Icons and text resize with browser (and other technology) scaling/zooming options. Most pages have relative column widths. System text does not use full justification. Color contrast of text with background is maintained according to standard specifications. Where possible SVG images are used to prevent pixelation upon magnification.
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Web: Supports	Web: Color alone is not used to convey information.
302.4 Without Hearing	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
302.6 Without Speech	Web: Supports	Web: There is no content to which this success Criterion applies.
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Web: Supports	Web: Keyboard-accessible alternatives are provided for all inputs. Current focus location is made clearly visible. Click target size is large and can be controlled through browser zoom preferences. Time-based media have controls to pause, replay, rewind and fast forward.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	Web: Supports	Web: Large target sizes, no timeout times, time based media controls, and clear tab focus reduce unintended or incomplete interactions.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Web: Supports	Web: Simple language is used for text content. Visual illustrations are often used along with text. Interface navigation is made simple through use of hierarchical headings and icons.

Chapter 4: [Hardware](#)

Notes: Table deleted because not applicable to this Product.

Chapter 5: [Software](#)

Notes: These Success Criteria are Not Applicable as Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary is a web application that does not directly access platform accessibility services. However, notable criteria are briefly discussed in the Remarks and Explanations.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501.1 Scope – Incorporation of WCAG 2.1 AA	See 2.1 section	See information in WCAG 2.1 section
502 Interoperability with Assistive Technology	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
502.2.1 User Control of Accessibility Features	Web: Supports	Accessibility features native to the Browser or Operating System can be used with the product. When major version changes happen, Britannica tests with OS and browser accessibility features.
502.2.2 No Disruption of Accessibility Features	Web: Supports	The product does not disrupt any Browser or OS accessibility features.
502.3 Accessibility Services	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
502.3.1 Object Information	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.2 Modification of Object Information	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.3 Row, Column, and Headers	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.4 Values	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.5 Modification of Values	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.6 Label Relationships	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.7 Hierarchical Relationships	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.8 Text	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.9 Modification of Text	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.10 List of Actions	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.11 Actions on Objects	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.12 Focus Cursor	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.13 Modification of Focus Cursor	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.3.14 Event Notification	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
502.4 Platform Accessibility Features	Not Applicable	Not a platform or software tool
503 Applications	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
503.2 User Preferences	Web: Not Applicable	This product being a web application is not required to conform to 503.2.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
503.3 Alternative User Interfaces	Web: Supports	No alternative user interface is provided but as a web application accessibility features native to the Browser or Operating System can be used with the product.
503.4 User Controls for Captions and Audio Description	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
503.4.1 Caption Controls	Web: Not Applicable	
503.4.2 Audio Description Controls	Web: Not Applicable	
504 Authoring Tools	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
504.2 Content Creation or Editing (if not authoring tool, enter “not applicable”)	See WCAG 2.1 section	See information in WCAG 2.1 section
504.2.1 Preservation of Information Provided for Accessibility in Format Conversion	Not Applicable	The product is not an authoring tool.
504.2.2 PDF Export	Not Applicable	The product is not an authoring tool.
504.3 Prompts	Not Applicable	The product is not an authoring tool.
504.4 Templates	Not Applicable	The product is not an authoring tool.

Chapter 6: [Support Documentation and Services](#)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
601.1 Scope	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602 Support Documentation	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Web: Supports	Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary accessibility and compatibility documentation and details can be found on the Britannica Education platform at https://britannicaeducation.com/faq/
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	Web: Supports	Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary digital electronic support documentation is hosted on the Britannica Education platform at https://britannicaeducation.com/ .
602.4 Alternate Formats for Non-Electronic Support Documentation	Not applicable	Support documentation is provided electronically.
603 Support Services	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Web: Supports	Britannica accessibility policy and details can Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary can be found on the Britannica Education platform at https://britannicaeducation.com/ .
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Web: Supports	Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary digital product support is provided electronically by Britannica Education at https://britannicaeducation.com/access-and-integration/ and with communication needs as required.

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