IBM Operational Decision Manager V8.9.1

What's new

November 2017



ODM 8.9.1 new content

- Summary
- New automation support for Decision Center
- Performance and scalability improvements in Decision Center
- Additional features in Business Console
- Targeted improvements in Decision Server Rules
- New sample and tutorial projects
- Enhanced usage metering with Cloud Product Insights
- Platform support updates
- Public contributions to facilitate ODM on Docker and Kubernetes
- Targeted improvements in ODM Standard for z/OS
- Targeted improvements in Decision Server Insights

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ODM 8.9.1 summary

- Electronic delivery on Nov.10, 2017.
- Announcements:
 - ODM 8.9.1
 - ODM Standard for z/OS 8.9.1
- ODM 8.9.1 is a maintenance release for ODM 8.9.
 - Contains fixes, improvements,
 and a few additional features and supported platforms
 - Fully compatible with ODM 8.9 and fix pack 8.9.0.2
- ODM 8.9 users are encouraged to apply ODM 8.9.1.

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New automation support for Decision Center

- REST API to build, test, and deploy decision services
- Simplified decision deployment from Decision Center, with XOMs embedded in RuleApp archives

Decision Center REST API

 Decision Center exposes a REST API that you can use to build, test, and deploy decision services.

- With the relevant permissions, you can use the endpoints provided by the REST API to do the following tasks:
 - Retrieve the decision services of your repository, their branches, deployment configurations, and test suites.
 - Retrieve the list of available servers.
 - Build, download, or deploy a RuleApp for a deployment configuration.
 - Run a test suite.
 - Import and export decision services.
- For more information, see Decision Center REST API



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Use the Decision Center REST API to build, test, and deploy decision services, and to run continuous deployment in the programming language of your choice.

API to support embedded managed Java XOMs

- Embedded managed Java XOMs are managed Java XOM resources (.jar) and libraries that are included in a RuleApp archive.
 - By embedding managed Java XOMs in a RuleApp archive, you can easily maintain the version of the managed Java XOM and the version of the corresponding ruleset together.
- Decision Center API (Java and REST) is now available for you to download RuleApp archives with embedded managed Java XOMs in the Decision Center:
- For more information, see Embedded managed Java XOM in Decision Center

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Performance and scalability improvements in Decision Center

Outcome of major effort and collaboration with customers

- Major performance improvements visible in the Decision Center Business Console:
 - User experience in the Decision Artifacts tab is much better when working with large decision services.
 - Decision table preview and editing are faster and have been validated with large tables.
 - Builds with decision engine are faster by an order of magnitude when compiling 1000+ artifacts.
- Improved Decision Center scalability on the following dimensions:
 - Size of decision tables, with faster preview and editing of large tables
 - Number of artifacts in the repository

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- Number of concurrent users, with no action that could block all users
- Number of decision services and branches
- Validation and collaboration with ODM customers

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Many of these improvements have also been introduced in ODM fix packs 8.9.0.2 and 8.8.1.3.



Additional features in Business Console

- Improved integration with LDAP
- Enhanced interface for managing decision service snapshots
- Improved content display in the Business Console
- Ability to export, import, and delete decision services
- Tool to help migration of rule projects

Improved integration with LDAP

- Decision Center now offers three modes for importing users and groups from LDAP directories: semi-automatic, automatic, and manual.
 - For more information, see Importing users and groups from LDAP directories
- You can now use LDAP query expressions to filter the lists of users and groups that you upload from an LDAP server to Decision Center.
 - For more information, see <u>Establishing an LDAP connection in the Business</u> <u>console</u>

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Automatic import of groups and users

You can now automatically import users based on Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) connection parameters.

There are three possible modes to import groups and users:

- Groups and users are imported manually
 - The modes provides Decision Center with groups and users that can be organized with no restrictions. Group organization in Decision Center does not reflect groups in LDAP directories.
- · Groups and users are automatically imported
 - Group and user organization in Decision Center exactly reflects groups and users in LDAP directories.
- Groups are manually imported, and users are automatically imported for these groups
 - Same as the previous mode but only on selected groups.

Decision Center does not modify the LDAP directories that it is connected to. Importation is unidirectional from LDAP directories to Decision Center repository.

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LDAPv3-style query to retrieve groups and users (RFC2254)

You can now use LDAP query expressions to filter the lists of user groups that you upload from an LDAP server to Decision Center.

This allows complex queries to retrieve groups and users such as (|(cn=*Offering*)(objectCategory=ACME)).

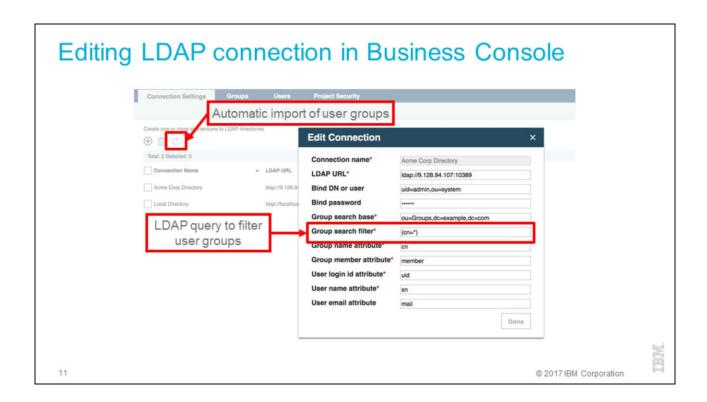
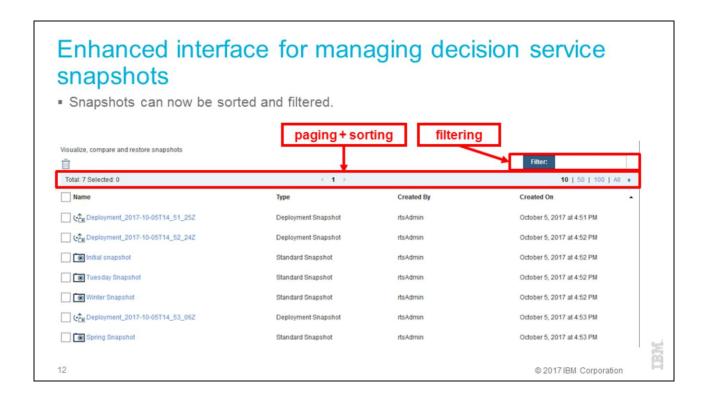
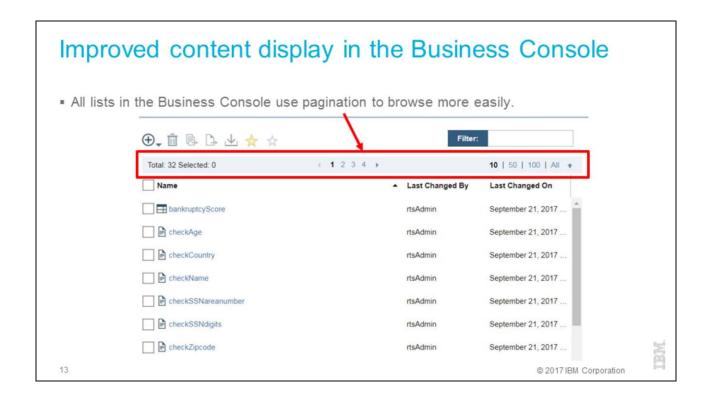


Illustration shows the editing interface for an LDAP connection in the Business Console.



Enhanced interface for managing decision service snapshots

Snapshots play a key role in editing, validating, and deploying decision services. New features for sorting and filtering can shorten your search time for finding snapshots. The enhancement can be very useful when working with numerous versions of a decision service.



Improved content display in the Business Console

The Business Console tabs (Decision Artifacts, Queries, Tests, Simulations, Deployment, and Snapshots) can now display their contents on multiple pages. Previously, each tab had only one page. Now as a tab fills up, its contents are automatically spread to additional pages. The tab sorting and filtering mechanisms work across the pages.



Administrators and configuration managers can now benefit from additional decision service management features to transition from the Enterprise Console to the Business Console.

Exporting and importing decision service projects in the Business Console

In the Business Console, administrators and configuration managers can now use compressed files to import a decision service (one or more projects) or export the working branch of a decision service.

Deleting a decision service in the Business Console

Administrators can now delete decision services from the Business Console. This operation used to be limited to the Enterprise Console, and required administrators to work in two environments.

Tool to help migration of rule projects

- Migrate classic rule projects to decision service projects within Decision Center
 - Business Console manages decision services only.
- Use new Decision Center Ant task for this migration:
 - No need to synchronize and perform migration in Rule Designer
 - Compatible with Decision Governance Framework
- For more information, see <u>Migrating classic rule projects to decision services</u> with Ant tasks

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Migrating classic rule projects to decision services

New Ant tasks let you migrate your classic rule projects to decision services. You can migrate a project to a decision service that is either simple or governed. You can more easily upgrade older business rule solutions to take advantage of the current functionality based on decision services.

Targeted improvements in Decision Server Rules

- Advanced Rule Language
- Improved error reporting in Decision Service execution (HTDS REST)
- Clean delete in Rule Execution Server
- Build command available as CLI

Advanced Rule Language

Advanced Rule Language (ARL) is the decision engine technical language.

- New ARL tab in Rule Designer:
 - Displays generated ARL code for business rules and decision tables
 - Checks and debugs ARL code for the decision engine
- Automatic importation of common packages when editing ARL in BOM to XOM editor

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When you use the decision engine, your action rules and decision tables are compiled into the advanced rule language (ARL). Now you can check the compilation results in the ARL tab. For example, if your project model contains similar objects, you can check that the rules use the correct objects.

Also for ARL editing in BOM to XOM (B2X), these frequently used packages are now automatically imported:

- · java.lang.*
- com.ibm.rules.engine.runtime.*
- · com.ibm.rules.engine.ruledef.runtime.*
- · com.ibm.rules.engine.ruleflow.runtime.*

Improved error reporting in decision service execution (HTDS REST)

· Better error codes and more user friendly messages in addition to exception traces

- Earlier versions:

<data contentType="text/plain;charset=UTF-8" contentLength="160"><![CDATA[Error when extracting the ruleset parameter value from the request.
The element type "par:request" must be terminated by the matching end-tag "</par:request>".
]]></data>

– Now:

<error>
<code>500</code>
<message>An error occurred while interpreting the request: either it contains invalid data, or it does not correctly include the mandatory parameters, or there is a problem with your execution object model.</message>
<message>
cdetails>Error when extracting the ruleset parameter value from the request.
The element type "par:request" must be terminated by the matching end-tag "%lt;/par:request>".</details>
<merrorCode>GBRXH0502E</merrorCode>
</merror</pre>

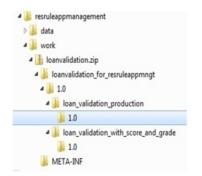
- Consistent error messages across WADL generation, payload generation and execution
- More specific HTTP status codes: Instead of HTTP 500 status code for all errors, you now have more specific error codes such as HTTP 400 and HTTP 404.
- Improved logging: Errors are now systematically logged.

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Clean delete in Rule Execution Server

- Use the RES Console, REST API or Ant tasks to do a clean delete of managed Java XOM resources
 - Delete resources and libraries, and their ties to other artifacts
 - Stop errors resulting from artifacts looking for deleted files
- For more information, see <u>Removing referenced Java XOM</u> resources and libraries



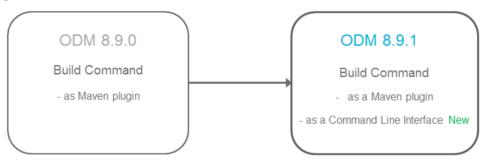
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Your Java™ XOM resource or library might not be alone. It could reference, or be referenced by, other artifacts. Now you can sever all ties in one go by using the Rule Execution Server Console, REST API, or Ant tasks, giving you a clean delete. You reduce the likelihood of errors from artifacts trying to access deleted files.

Build Command with Command Line Interface

• Integrated in ODM since 8.9.0 and enhanced in ODM 8.9.1



- Benefits:
 - Facilitate RuleApp build in a DevOps pipeline, following industry standards.
 - Remove the need to rely on a full Rule Designer installation for each build agent.

Command Line Interface (CLI) CLI and Maven plug-ins are both wrapping the same compiler. CLI can be invoked from anywhere: shell, build tool, Gradle, Jenkins, etc. One-time setup: Just add to your classpath. Usage sample: LoanValidation.properties × # Configuration file to build dep of LoanValidation project Invite de commandes project = ../LoanValidation/Loan Validation Service output = ../LoanValidation/output \$ java -jar rules-compiler.jar -config "../samples/config-files/LoanValidation.properties" dep = test deployment xom-classpath = loan-validation-xom-1.0.0.jar embedded-xom = true Lighter than headless Eclipse config-files Loan Validation Check Loan Validation Determination > | deployment Loan Validation Scoring Loan Validation Service queries Small size (53 MB) reports loan validation xom

rules

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run loan validation launch run production.launch

Build Command – Improvements

- Build Command has been improved with the following features:
 - Value-info support
 - Performance enhancement
 - In-memory cache
 - Only one compilation for shared decision resource
 - Automatic exception handling support

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- Value-info: Properties that you can use (in the POM in Maven, or in the configuration file in CLI) to allow the integration of customer-defined values.
- Cache principle: No longer write to disk, but keep all in memory so to save execution time.
- Automatic exception handling: Functionality that is managed by the engine (starting ODM 8.9.0), and that is now also supported at the CLI level (starting ODM 8.9.1).



Sample and tutorials

Decision Center:

- REST API in Java (sample)
 Learn how to use the Decision Center REST API in Java™ to build, test, and deploy a decision service More...
- Merging branches in the Business Console (tutorial)
 Merge changes between branches in a decision service <u>More...</u>
- Using the REST API tool (tutorial)
 Build, test, and deploy a decision service by using the REST API tool More...

Rule Designer:

Debugging a decision service (tutorial)
 Updated tutorial to debug a decision service in Rule Designer More...

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Operational Decision Manager comes with several samples and tutorials that show you how to create and deploy rule solutions. These include the following new projects:

Decision Center sample: REST API in Java

This sample demonstrates how to use the Decision Center REST API in Java™ to build, test, and deploy a decision service. The REST API in Java allows you to do several operations outside Decision Center.

Decision Center tutorial: Merging branches in the Business Console

This tutorial shows you how to merge changes between branches in a decision service in the Decision Center Business Console. You can work on a decision service in one branch, and then merge selected changes to a decision service in another branch.

Decision Center tutorial: Using the REST API tool

This tutorial shows you how to build, test, and deploy a decision service by using the REST API tool. The REST API tool include many of the primary

operations that are performed in the Business Console.

Rule Designer tutorial: Debugging a decision service

This tutorial shows you how to debug a decision service in Rule Designer. The tutorial takes you through a process for finding and fixing errors in rules and a ruleflow.



Enhanced usage metering with Cloud Product Insights

- Improved metering with support for grouping and aggregates:
 - To browse usage reports at:
 - Server Instance level (cluster node level)
 - Environment level (cluster level)
 - Application level (multi-environment level)
 - Product level (Decision Server or Decision Center)
 - Configurable Instance, Environment and Application levels
 - Aggregated usage to see:

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- In Decision Server, all decisions executed at any level
- In Decision Center, all artifacts managed across any level
- Export in CSV files (for each metric, at each grouping level, for selected time period)
- Support for WAS-ND V8.5.5 and Tomcat 8.x, in addition to WAS Liberty
- Same reporting as in ODM on Cloud, applicable to ODM Hybrid Entitlement
- For more information, see <u>Integrating with IBM Cloud Product Insights</u>

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IBM Cloud Product Insights shows how IBM software is being used across an organization. Product Insights now offers improved metering with support for groupings and aggregates, exportable comma-separated value (CSV) files for metrics, and support for application servers WAS-ND V8.5.5 and Tomcat 8. Also, the same reporting for ODM on Cloud is applicable to ODM Hybrid Entitlement.

You can use IBM Cloud Product Insights with the on-premises and cloud versions of Operational Decision Manager. It helps you optimize usage, reduce waste, and plan projects. By using cloud-based dashboards, administrators and operations staff can review performance metrics on applications to understand how the software is being used. Administrators can optimize efficiency within their environment, and organizations can use the metrics in planning the extension of cloud services to their current products.

You can find information about IBM Cloud Product Insights at https://developer.ibm.com/product-insights/.



Environment leve

Application level

Product level



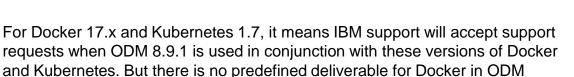
Platform Updates (Decision Server Rules, Decision Center)

8.9.1. Please refer to the next section on public contributions to facilitate ODM

- Added support for:
 - Oracle WebLogic 12.2.1
 - Windows Server 2016
 - Tomcat 8.5
 - MariaDB 10.1.20
 - Docker 17.x
 - Kubernetes 1.7
- Deprecated support:
 - Java 7
 - Windows Server 2008, SP1, SP2 and R2
 - DB2 9.7 FP6 and 10.1
 - Oracle Database 11g Release 2

on Docker and Kubernetes

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Public contributions to facilitate ODM on Docker and Kubernetes

Public contributions to facilitate ODM on Docker and Kubernetes

Parallel to the delivery of ODM V8.9.1, public files to facilitate the creation and the deployment of ODM images on Docker are available and regularly updated on GitHub at https://github.com/ODMDev/odm-ondocker.



- Content:
 - Dockerfiles to build ODM Docker images
 - Tutorial to deploy an ODM topology with Docker Compose
 - Articles and configuration files for Kubernetes
- Content is available under Apache license.
- There are no predefined ODM Docker images.
 - Users must install ODM before building the Docker images.
- The ODM product team is committed to updating this content frequently, and responding to questions and suggestions.

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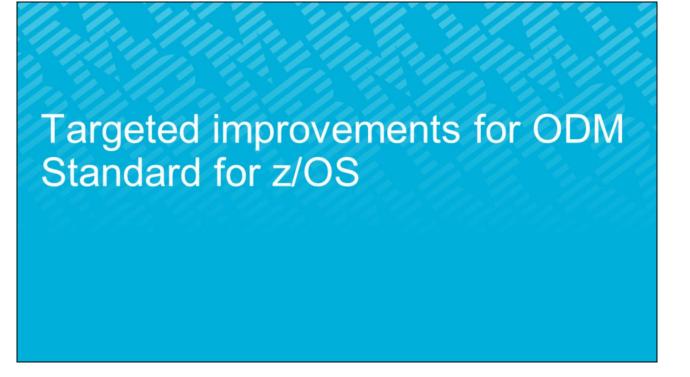
Open contributions

- Contributions available for ODM 8.9.x and ODM 8.8.x
 - Tested with Docker 17 and Kubernetes 1.7
- Latest contributions for Docker (release 1.1):
 - Dockerfile to build a standalone ODM Docker image:
 - All ODM components in one image
 - Easy to use for demos
 - Dockerfiles to build ODM images for production level topologies
 - One image per ODM component
 - Configurable DB datasource (PostgreSQL by default)
 - Deployable in cluster topologies
- Contributions for Kubernetes:
 - Tutorials, helm charts
 - Tested with Minikube for dev purpose and other Kubernetes platforms



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zRule Execution Server for z/OS New Features

Batched request API

You can use the batched request API to send batches of request parameters to zRule Execution Server for z/OS for execution. Introduced with Operational Decision Manager 8.9.0, this API has been further improved and stabilized for greater performance. *More...*

- Enhanced integration with IBM CICS® Transaction Server
 Operational Decision Manager now uses CICS® Link with Liberty to improve performance when running a zRule Execution Server for z/OS in the CICS JVM server.
 The link is available for CICS 5.3 and 5.4. More...
- Improved rule engine management in Liberty
 Now you can enable TCP/IP management, SMF records, file system persistence, and other configuration options for the HTDS, DR, DVS, and WOLA applications running in Liberty. More...

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In this rule execution environment, you offload rule execution from your z/OS applications (COBOL or PL/I applications) to zRule Execution Server for z/OS, where your rules are executed on a server running a JVM.

Batched request API

Instead of sending a single set of parameters, you can send a batch of parameters from a COBOL client application to the zRule Execution Server for z/OS®. Use the HBRA-CONN-AREA data area to pass the RuleApp path and multiple sets of input parameters and to receive the outputs of the ruleset execution for each set of the parameters provided.

Enhanced integration with IBM CICS® Transaction Server

After you configure a zRule Execution Server for z/OS® server group, you can optionally configure the server group to run on a CICS® JVM server. You can configure CICS JVM Server as a highly available, scalable environment by using standard CICSPlex® System Management (CPSM) capabilities.

Improved rule engine management in Liberty

You can enable the SMF recording feature to collect execution data by setting a property. You must be authorized to the BPX.SMF profile of the FACILITY class to write System Management Facility (SMF) records.



Decision Server Insights New Features

These features improve the performance of Decision Server Insights

- Offloading entities to a database to reduce memory requirements
 Entity offloading can be enabled in a cluster to reduce memory usage, shorten load and preload times, and stabilize the grid <u>More...</u>
- Offloading mementos to a database to reduce the memory requirements
 Memento offloading can be enabled in a cluster to reduce memory usage and stabilize the grid <u>More...</u>
- Reducing the size of the memento in a database
 Use a concise JSON format to store the externalized state of rule agents More...
- DDL statements to create indexes on BATCHID columns
 The database tables now have indexes for the BATCHID columns More...

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Decision Server Insights continuously monitors your business to help you respond quickly to risks and opportunities. The following changes improve the performance of Decision Server Insights:

Offloading entities to a database to reduce memory requirements

Entity offloading can be enabled in a cluster to reduce memory usage, shorten load and preload times, and stabilize the grid. When entity offloading is enabled, entities are restored from the database only when they are needed, which can reduce memory requirements. The eviction time (a date and time) is based on the evictor type, which is defined in the objectgrid.xml file.

Offloading mementos to a database to reduce the memory requirements

Memento offloading can be enabled in a cluster to reduce memory usage and stabilize the grid. When memento offloading is enabled, mementos are restored from the database only when they are needed. The eviction is based on the evictor type, which is defined in the objectgrid.xml file.

Reducing the size of the memento in a database

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It is now possible to use a concise JSON format to store the externalized state of rule agents. Switching the format from XML to JSON reduces the size of the data that is communicated between the run time and the database, and the time to load and save the memento.

DDL statements to create indexes on BATCHID columns

The Decision Server Insights database tables now have indexes for the BATCHID columns. Finding data with an index is much faster than reading every row sequentially. The beneficial effect of the indexes is likely to be seen during a cluster startup, especially if your database is large. The new BATCHID indexes are included in the .sql files under </ri>

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