

User Guide

Unlimited Cities Digital Platform

Multigation Research Project | Version 1

Overview

The **Unlimited Cities** digital platform enables participants to create in-situ photomontage collages of public spaces. This guide is intended for two audiences:

- **Mediators** - facilitators who engage residents directly in public spaces as part of the Multigation research process
- **Independent users** - individuals or organizations (schools, companies, collectives, NGOs) who wish to use the platform with a shared link from the project organizers

Note: This guide covers the digital platform only. The upstream facilitation process, in-situ workshop methodology, and downstream analysis phases are described in the separate Multigation Open Guides.



Context of Use

Mediators bring the Unlimited Cities tool into public spaces, inviting residents to:

1. Learn about the Multigeneration research approach
2. Create a collage of a public space viewpoint
3. Comment on their collage and complete a short survey
4. Stay informed through online project documentation and upcoming restitution events

A Note on Data from Independent Mediators

Only collages made from **geolocated devices** will be validated for the Winterthur research phase. Geolocation allows researchers to confirm that contributions were made on-site, and to distinguish in-situ contributions from remote ones.

Getting Started

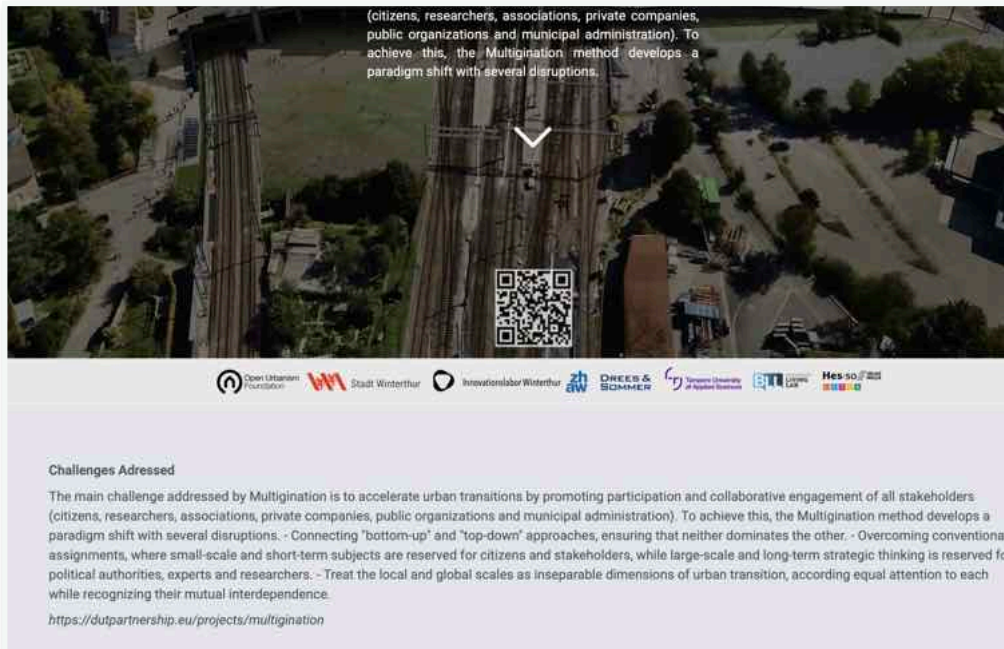
The best way to learn the platform is simply to use it. Your actions are **non-destructive**: you can start from an existing collage and modify it freely - the original will never be altered. A tutorial video is also available on the platform.



In Winterthur the 21 Mays 2026.

Homepage

- **No login or registration required**
- Language selection is available at the top of the homepage



- A **QR code** at the bottom of the homepage links to the full project documentation, including information on the research approach, previous phases, initiatives, and upcoming events:
<https://openurbanism.ch/en/group/17/about>

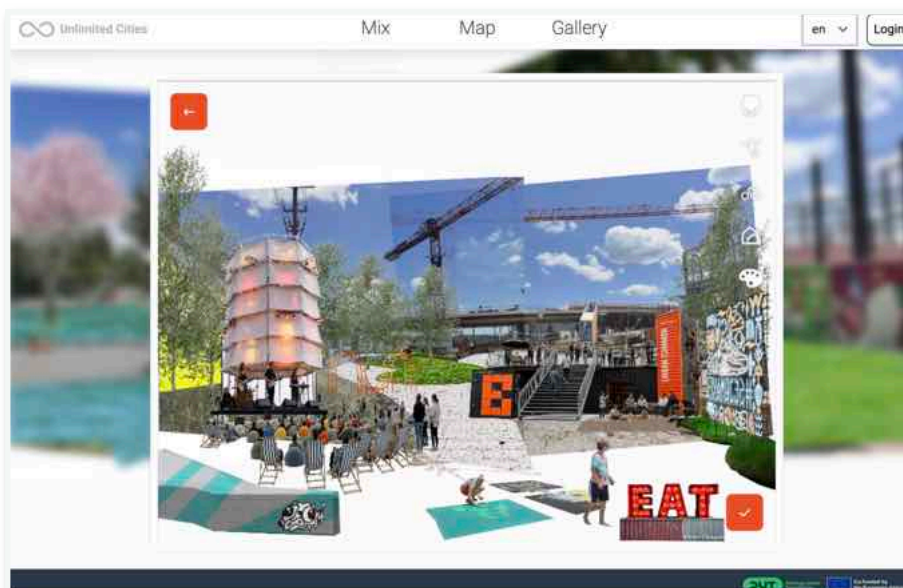




Step 3 - Add Objects

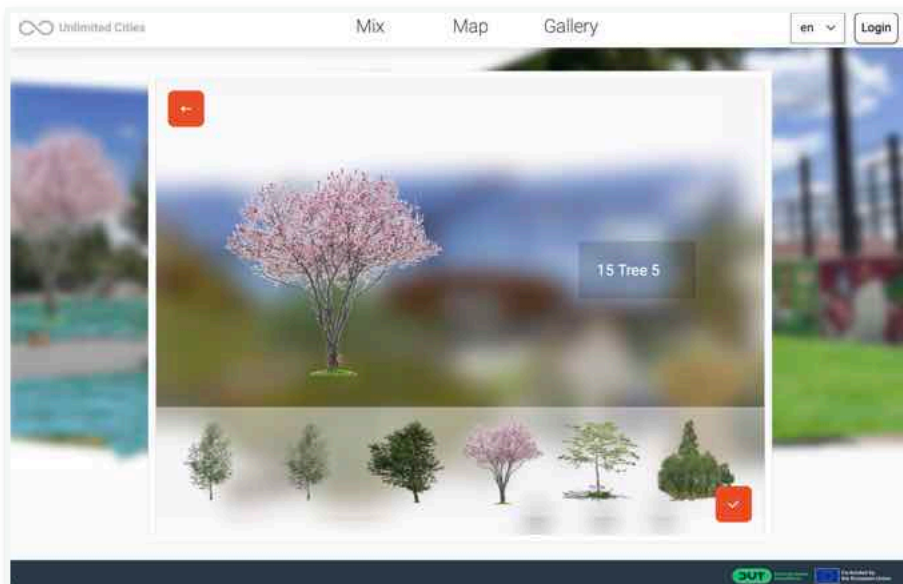
Browse the object library using the category icons on the right-hand panel:

- **Nature**
- **Neighbourhood Life**
- **Mobility**
- **Architecture**



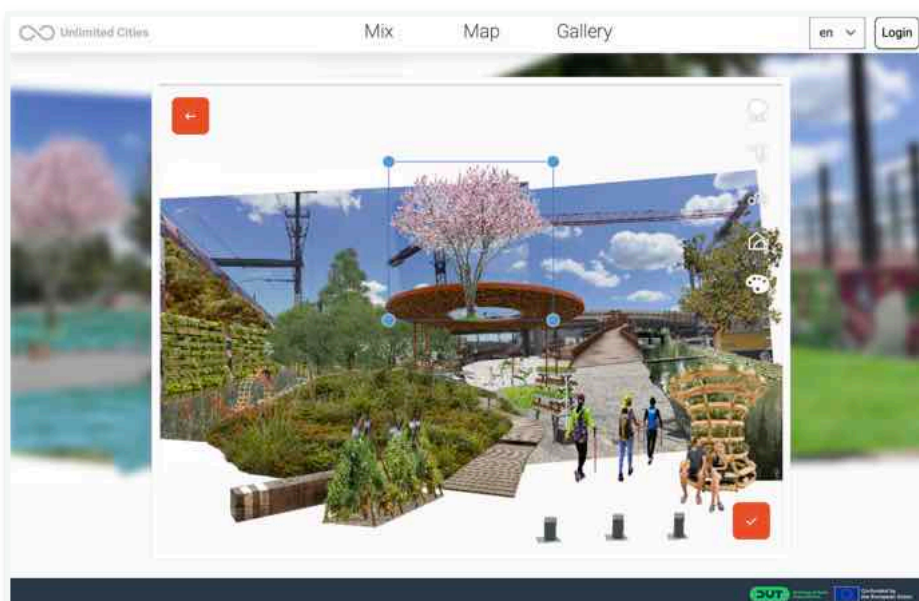
- **Art**

Click a category icon to reveal a scrollable list of objects. Click any object to place it on your image - its title and a short description will appear.



Step 4 - Position and Adjust Objects

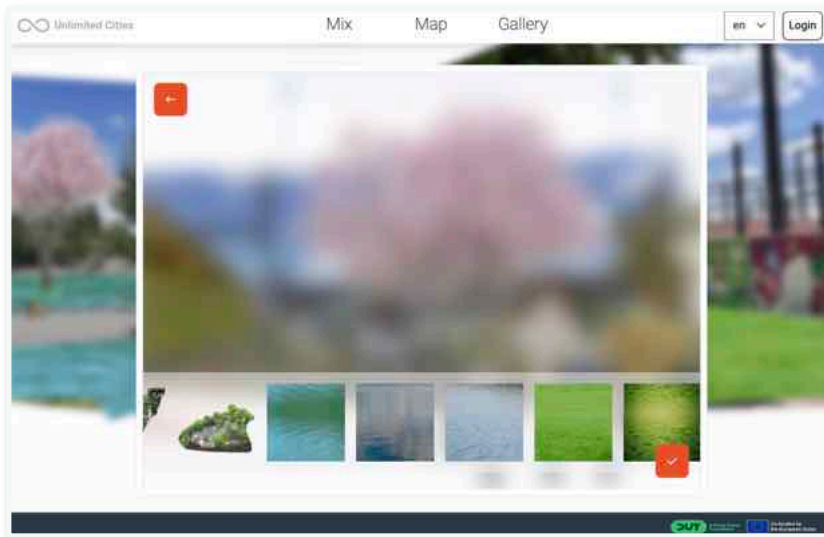
- **Move** an object by dragging it anywhere on the image
- **Resize or flip** it by dragging the corner handles
- **Bring to front** by clicking on the object - each click brings it one layer forward
- **Delete** an object by dragging it outside the image boundary



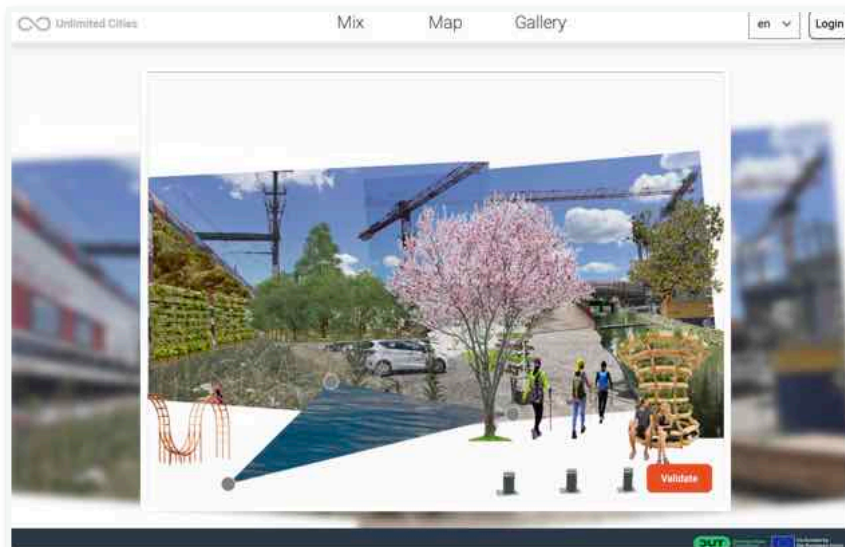
Step 5 - Add Surfaces

Surfaces are polygon shapes available in each category (displayed as a square thumbnail).

1. Select a surface from the category panel



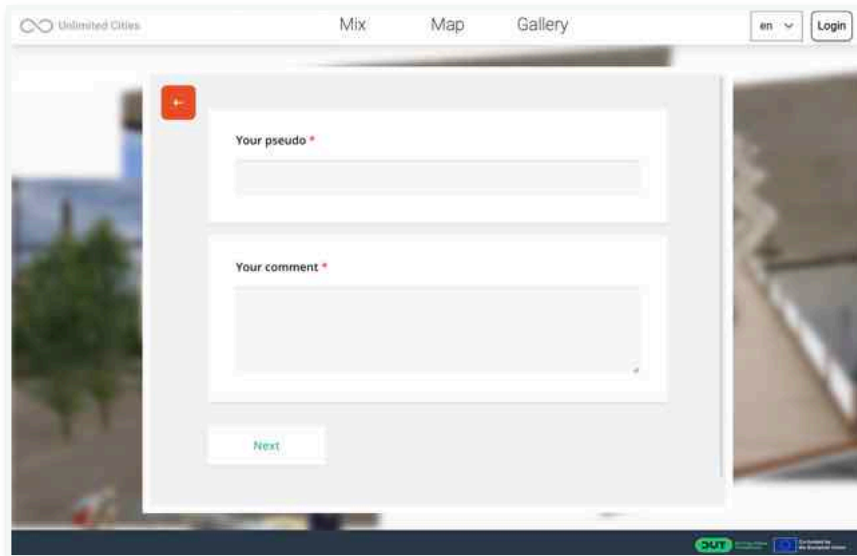
2. Click on the image to begin drawing - each click adds a point
 - 3 points = triangle; 4+ points = any custom shape
3. Click "**Validate**" to confirm the shape
4. Move the surface or adjust it by dragging its anchor points
5. Surfaces automatically appear **beneath objects** in the layer order



6. To delete a surface, drag it outside the image boundary
- Clicking on a surface brings it in front of other surfaces. Clicking on an object brings it in front of other objects.

Step 6 - Validate Your Collage

When satisfied with your composition, click the **checkmark** (bottom right) to confirm. Use the **back arrow** (top left) to undo steps and revise your collage.



The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Unlimited Cities' with a modal form for validation. The form has a red checkmark icon in the top left corner. It contains two text input fields: 'Your pseudo *' and 'Your comment *'. Below the comment field is a 'Next' button. The background shows a collage of images.

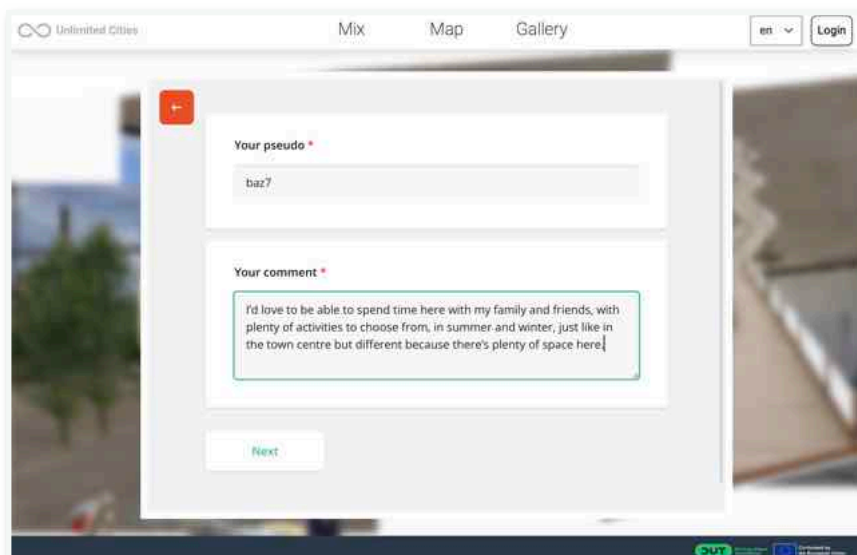
Adding Context to Your Contribution

Nickname

Give your collage a nickname so you can identify it later. Using your real name is optional and entirely your choice.

Comment

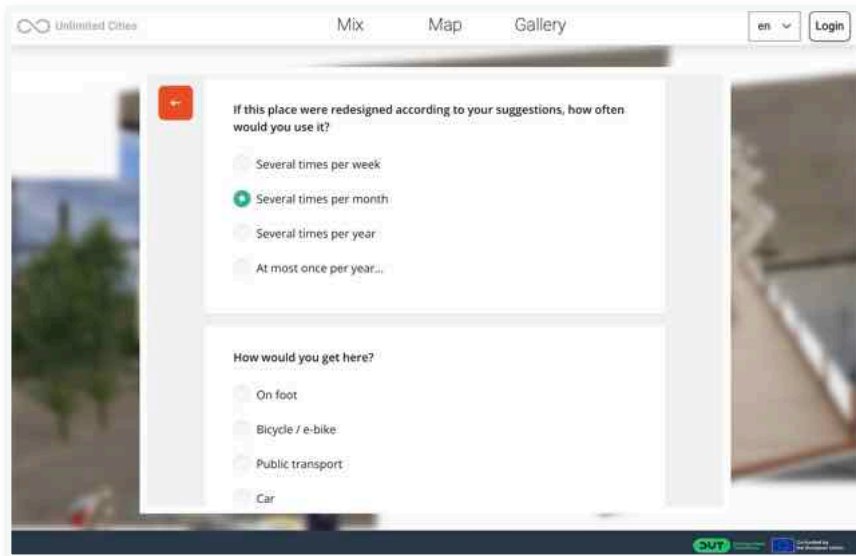
Add a comment describing your choices and intentions. The city and urban planners will use this information to inform and enrich future projects. **Your local knowledge is valuable.**



This screenshot shows the same validation form as above, but with the 'Your pseudo *' field containing the text 'baz?' and the 'Your comment *' field containing the text: 'I'd love to be able to spend time here with my family and friends, with plenty of activities to choose from, in summer and winter, just like in the town centre but different because there's plenty of space here.' The 'Next' button is still visible at the bottom.

Questionnaire

Complete the short survey to contribute to the evaluation of the Multigation research methodology, conducted under the responsibility of ZHAW. Click "**Complete**" when finished.



The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Unlimited Cities'. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Mix', 'Map', and 'Gallery', along with a language dropdown set to 'en' and a 'Login' button. The main content area contains two survey questions:

Question 1: "If this place were redesigned according to your suggestions, how often would you use it?"

- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- Several times per year
- At most once per year...

Question 2: "How would you get here?"

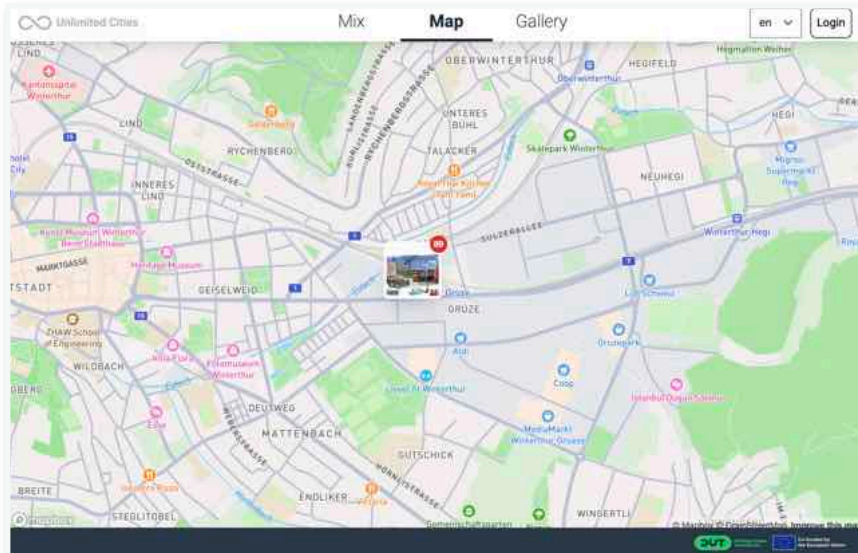
- On foot
- Bicycle / e-bike
- Public transport
- Car

At the bottom of the interface, there is a logo for 'OVI' and a small text indicating 'Supported by the Government of Switzerland'.

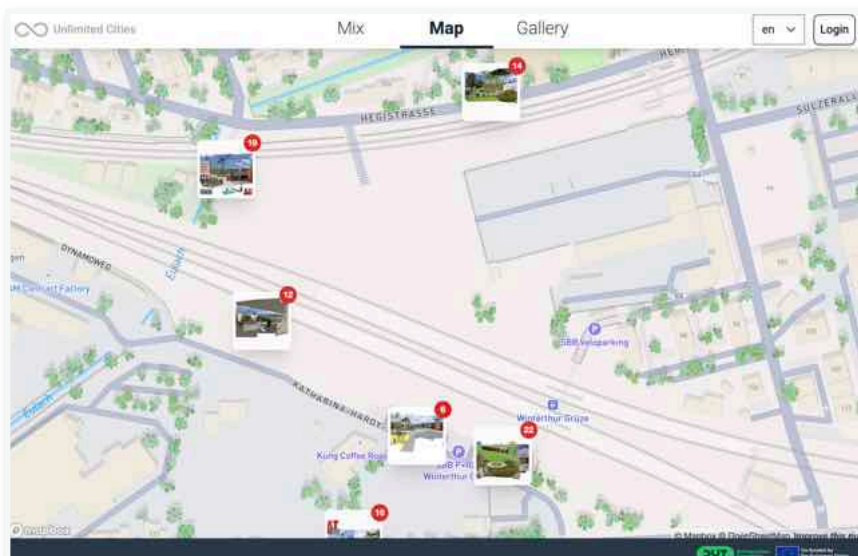
MAP Page

After submitting the questionnaire, you are redirected to the map view. From here you can:

- View the **total number of collages** submitted to date



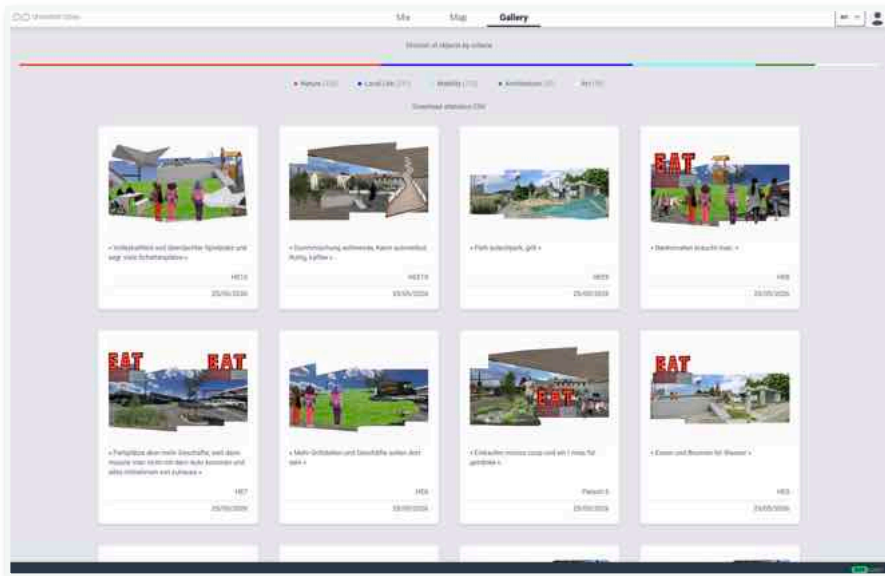
- **Zoom in** to explore collages by viewpoint
- **Browse and select** individual collages of the viewpoint
- Access **object-level details** for any selected collage
- **Start a new collage** from an existing one - the original is always preserved



Gallery Page

The Gallery provides access to **all submitted collages across all viewpoints**. Features include:

- A **colour bar** showing the proportional breakdown of objects by category (indicative)
- **CSV export** for detailed quantitative analysis
- Raw open data used by researchers for analysis and sharing with the city - also available as open data on the project documentation site
- Click any collage thumbnail to enlarge it and view its full details



You're Ready

You can now use the platform confidently and guide others through the experience. When contributors ask about the broader context - how their contribution connects to upcoming urban projects - direct them to the full documentation via the homepage QR code



or this link:

<https://openurbanism.ch/en/group/17/about>

Multigation is a research project supported by the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT). The Unlimited Cities tool is developed in open source by the Open Urbanism Foundation.

Contact

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