

# Package ‘europepmc’

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**Title** R Interface to the Europe PubMed Central RESTful Web Service

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**URL** <https://docs.ropensci.org/europepmc/>,  
<https://github.com/ropensci/europepmc/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/ropensci/europepmc/issues>

**Description** An R Client for the Europe PubMed Central RESTful Web Service (see <<https://europepmc.org/RestfulWebService>> for more information). It gives access to both metadata on life science literature and open access full texts. Europe PMC indexes all PubMed content and other literature sources including Agricola, a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature, or Biological Patents. In addition to bibliographic metadata, the client allows users to fetch citations and reference lists. Links between life-science literature and other EBI databases, including ENA, PDB or ChEMBL are also accessible. No registration or API key is required. See the vignettes for usage examples.

**LazyLoad** yes

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Depends** R (>= 3.00)

**Imports** httr, jsonlite, plyr, dplyr, progress, urltools, purrr, xml2,  
tibble, tidyr, rlang

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**Suggests** testthat, knitr, rmarkdown, ggplot2

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**R topics documented:**

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---

epmc\_annotations\_by\_id

*Get annotations by article*

---

**Description**

Retrieve text-mined annotations contained in abstracts and open access full-text articles.

**Usage**

```
epmc_annotations_by_id(ids = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

`ids`, character vector with publication identifiers following the structure "source:ext\_id", e.g. "MED:28585529"

**Value**

returns text-mined annotations in a tidy format with the following variables

**source** Publication data source

**ext\_id** Article Identifier

**pmcid** PMCID that locates full-text in Pubmed Central

**prefix** Text snippet found before the annotation

**exact** Annotated entity  
**postfix** Text snipped found after the annotation  
**name** Targeted entity  
**uri** Uniform link dictionary entry for targeted entity  
**id** URL to full-text occurrence of the annotation  
**type** Type of annotation like Chemicals  
**section** Article section mentioning the annotation like Methods  
**provider** Annotation data provider  
**subtype** Sub-data provider

### Examples

```
## Not run:
  annotations_by_id("MED:28585529")
# multiple ids
  annotations_by_id(c("MED:28585529", "PMC:PMC1664601"))

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_citations      *Get citations for a given publication*

---

### Description

Finds works that cite a given publication.

### Usage

```
epmc_citations(ext_id = NULL, data_src = "med", limit = 100, verbose = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

<code>ext_id</code>	character, publication identifier
<code>data_src</code>	character, data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched. The following three letter codes represent the sources Europe PubMed Central supports: <b>agr</b> Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators. <b>cba</b> Chinese Biological Abstracts <b>ctx</b> CiteXplore <b>eth</b> EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library) <b>hir</b> NHS Evidence <b>med</b> PubMed/Medline NLM <b>nbk</b> Europe PMC Book metadata

**pat** Biological Patents  
**pmc** PubMed Central

limit integer, number of results. By default, this function returns 100 records.  
 verbose logical, print some information on what is going on.

### Value

Metadata of citing documents as data.frame

### Examples

```
## Not run:
epmc_citations("PMC3166943", data_src = "pmc")
epmc_citations("9338777")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_db	<i>Retrieve external database entities referenced in a given publication</i>
---------	--

---

### Description

This function returns EBI database entities referenced in a publication from Europe PMC RESTful Web Service.

### Usage

```
epmc_db(
  ext_id = NULL,
  data_src = "med",
  db = NULL,
  limit = 100,
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

### Arguments

**ext\_id** character, publication identifier

**data\_src** character, data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched. The following three letter codes represent the sources Europe PubMed Central supports:

**agr** Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators.

**cba** Chinese Biological Abstracts

**ctx** CiteXplore

**eth** EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library)

	<b>hir</b> NHS Evidence
	<b>med</b> PubMed/Medline NLM
	<b>nbk</b> Europe PMC Book metadata
	<b>pat</b> Biological Patents
	<b>pmc</b> PubMed Central
db	character, specify database:  ' <b>ARXPR</b> ' Array Express, a database of functional genomics experiments ' <b>CHEBI</b> ' a database and ontology of chemical entities of biological interest ' <b>CHEMBL</b> ' a database of bioactive drug-like small molecules ' <b>EMBL</b> ' now ENA, provides a comprehensive record of the world's nucleotide sequencing information ' <b>INTACT</b> ' provides a freely available, open source database system and analysis tools for molecular interaction data ' <b>INTERPRO</b> ' provides functional analysis of proteins by classifying them into families and predicting domains and important sites ' <b>OMIM</b> ' a comprehensive and authoritative compendium of human genes and genetic phenotypes ' <b>PDB</b> ' European resource for the collection, organisation and dissemination of data on biological macromolecular structures ' <b>UNIPROT</b> ' comprehensive and freely accessible resource of protein sequence and functional information ' <b>PRIDE</b> ' PRIDE Archive - proteomics data repository
limit	integer, number of results. By default, this function returns 100 records.
verbose	logical, print some information on what is going on.

**Value**

Cross-references as data.frame

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
epmc_db("12368864", db = "uniprot", limit = 150)
epmc_db("25249410", db = "embl")
epmc_db("14756321", db = "uniprot")
epmc_db("11805837", db = "pride")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_db_count	<i>Retrieve the number of database links from Europe PMC publication database</i>
---------------	---

---

### Description

This function returns the number of EBI database links associated with a publication.

### Usage

```
epmc_db_count(ext_id = NULL, data_src = "med")
```

### Arguments

ext_id	character, publication identifier
data_src	character, data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched.

### Details

Europe PMC supports cross-references between literature and the following databases:

- '**ARXPR**' Array Express, a database of functional genomics experiments
- '**CHEBI**' a database and ontology of chemical entities of biological interest
- '**CHEMBL**' a database of bioactive drug-like small molecules
- '**EMBL**' now ENA, provides a comprehensive record of the world's nucleotide sequencing information
- '**INTACT**' provides a freely available, open source database system and analysis tools for molecular interaction data
- '**INTERPRO**' provides functional analysis of proteins by classifying them into families and predicting domains and important sites
- '**OMIM**' a comprehensive and authoritative compendium of human genes and genetic phenotypes
- '**PDB**' European resource for the collection, organisation and dissemination of data on biological macromolecular structures
- '**UNIPROT**' comprehensive and freely accessible resource of protein sequence and functional information
- '**PRIDE**' PRIDE Archive - proteomics data repository

### Value

data.frame with counts for each database

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
epmc_db_count(ext_id = "10779411")
epmc_db_count(ext_id = "PMC3245140", data_src = "PMC")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_details

*Get details for individual records*


---

**Description**

This function returns parsed metadata for a given publication ID including abstract, full text links, author details including ORCID and affiliation, MeSH terms, chemicals, grants.

**Usage**

```
epmc_details(ext_id = NULL, data_src = "med")
```

**Arguments**

<code>ext_id</code>	character, publication identifier
<code>data_src</code>	character, data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched. Other sources Europe PubMed Central supports are: <b>agr</b> Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators. <b>cba</b> Chinese Biological Abstracts <b>ctx</b> CiteXplore <b>eth</b> EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library) <b>hir</b> NHS Evidence <b>med</b> PubMed/Medline NLM <b>pat</b> Biological Patents <b>pmc</b> PubMed Central <b>ppr</b> Preprint records

**Value**

list of data frames

## Examples

```
## Not run:
epmc_details(ext_id = "26980001")
epmc_details(ext_id = "24270414")

# PMC record
epmc_details(ext_id = "PMC4747116", data_src = "pmc")

# Other sources:
# Agricolo
epmc_details("IND43783977", data_src = "agr")
# Biological Patents
epmc_details("EP2412369", data_src = "pat")
# Chinese Biological Abstracts
epmc_details("583843", data_src = "cba")
# CiteXplore
epmc_details("C6802", data_src = "ctx")
# NHS Evidence
epmc_details("338638", data_src = "hir")
# Theses
epmc_details("409323", data_src = "eth")
# Preprint
epmc_details("PPR158112", data_src = "ppr")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_ftxt

*Fetch Europe PMC full texts*

---

## Description

This function loads full texts into R. Full texts are in XML format and are only provided for the Open Access subset of Europe PMC.

## Usage

```
epmc_ftxt(ext_id = NULL)
```

## Arguments

`ext_id` character, PMCID. All full text publications have external IDs starting 'PMC\_'

## Value

xml\_document



**Examples**

```
## Not run:
epmc_ftxt("PMC3257301")
epmc_ftxt("PMC3639880")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_ftxt_book	<i>Fetch Europe PMC books</i>
----------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

Use this function to retrieve book XML formatted full text for the Open Access subset of the Europe PMC bookshelf.

**Usage**

```
epmc_ftxt_book(ext_id = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

`ext_id` character, publication identifier. All book full texts are accessible either by the PMID or the 'NBK' book number.

**Value**

xml\_document

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
epmc_ftxt_book("NBK32884")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_hits	<i>Get search result count</i>
-----------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Search over Europe PMC and retrieve the number of results found

**Usage**

```
epmc_hits(query = NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

query            query in the Europe PMC syntax  
 ...             add query parameters from 'epmc\_search()', e.g. synonym=true

**See Also**

[epmc\\_search](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
epmc_hits('abstract:"burkholderia pseudomallei"')
epmc_hits('AUTHORID:"0000-0002-7635-3473"')

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_hits_trend	<i>Get the yearly number of hits for a query and the total yearly number of hits for a given period</i>
-----------------	---

---

**Description**

Get the yearly number of hits for a query and the total yearly number of hits for a given period

**Usage**

```
epmc_hits_trend(query, synonym = TRUE, data_src = "med", period = 1975:2016)
```

**Arguments**

query            query in the Europe PMC syntax

synonym         logical, synonym search. If TRUE, synonym terms from MeSH terminology and the UniProt synonym list are queried, too. Disabled by default.

data\_src        character, data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index (med) will be searched. The following three letter codes represent the sources, which are currently supported

**agr** Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators.

**cba** Chinese Biological Abstracts

**ctx** CiteXplore

**eth** EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library)

**hir** NHS Evidence

**med** PubMed/Medline NLM

**nbk** Europe PMC Book metadata

**pat** Biological Patents

**pmc** PubMed Central  
**ppr** Preprint records

period a vector of years (numeric) over which to perform the search

### Details

A similar function was used in <https://masalmon.eu/2017/05/14/evergreenreviewgraph/> where it was advised to not plot no. of hits over time for a query, but to normalize it by the total no. of hits.

### Value

a data.frame (dplyr tbl\_df) with year, total number of hits (all\_hits) and number of hits for the query (query\_hits)

### Examples

```
## Not run:
# aspirin as query
epmc_hits_trend('aspirin', period = 2006:2016, synonym = FALSE)
# link to cran packages in reference lists
epmc_hits_trend('REF:"cran.r-project.org*', period = 2006:2016, synonym = FALSE)
# more complex with publication type review
epmc_hits_trend('(REF:"cran.r-project.org*") AND (PUB_TYPE:"Review" OR PUB_TYPE:"review-article")',
period = 2006:2016, synonym = FALSE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_lablinks *Get links to external sources*

---

### Description

With the External Link services, Europe PMC allows third parties to publish links from Europe PMC to other webpages or tools. Current External Link providers, which can be selected through Europe PMC's advanced search, include Wikipedia, Dryad Digital Repository or other open services. For more information, see <https://europepmc.org/labslink>.

### Usage

```
epmc_lablinks(
  ext_id = NULL,
  data_src = "med",
  lab_id = NULL,
  limit = 100,
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>ext_id</code>	publication identifier
<code>data_src</code>	data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched. The following three letter codes represents the sources Europe PubMed Central supports:  <b>agr</b> Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators. <b>cba</b> Chinese Biological Abstracts <b>ctx</b> CiteXplore <b>eth</b> EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library) <b>hir</b> NHS Evidence <b>med</b> PubMed/Medline NLM <b>nbk</b> Europe PMC Book metadata <b>pat</b> Biological Patents <b>pmc</b> PubMed Central
<code>lab_id</code>	character vector, identifiers of the external link service. Use Europe PMC's advanced search form to find ids.
<code>limit</code>	Number of records to be returned. By default, this function returns 100 records.
<code>verbose</code>	print information about what's going on

**Value**

Links found as nested `data_frame`

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# Fetch links
epmc_lablinks("24007304")
# Link to Altmetric (lab_id = "1562")
epmc_lablinks("25389392", lab_id = "1562")

# Links to Wikipedia
epmc_lablinks("24007304", lab_id = "1507")

# Link to full text copy archived through the institutional repo of
Bielefeld University
epmc_lablinks("12736239", lab_id = "1056")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_lablinks\_count     *Summarise links to external sources*

---

## Description

With the External Link services, Europe PMC allows third parties to publish links from Europe PMC to other webpages or tools. Current External Link providers, which can be selected through Europe PMC's advanced search, include Wikipedia, Dryad Digital Repository or the institutional repo of Bielefeld University. For more information, see <https://europepmc.org/labslink>.

## Usage

```
epmc_lablinks_count(ext_id = NULL, data_src = "med")
```

## Arguments

<code>ext_id</code>	publication identifier
<code>data_src</code>	data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched. The following three letter codes represents the sources Europe PubMed Central supports: <b>agr</b> Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators. <b>cba</b> Chinese Biological Abstracts <b>ctx</b> CiteXplore <b>eth</b> EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library) <b>hir</b> NHS Evidence <b>med</b> PubMed/Medline NLM <b>nbk</b> Europe PMC Book metadata <b>pat</b> Biological Patents <b>pmc</b> PubMed Central

## Value

data.frame with counts for each database

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
epmc_lablinks_count("24023770")  
epmc_lablinks_count("PMC3986813", data_src = "pmc")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_profile	<i>Obtain a summary of hit counts</i>
--------------	---------------------------------------

---

### Description

This functions returns the number of results found for your query, and breaks it down to the various publication types, data sources, and subsets Europe PMC provides.

### Usage

```
epmc_profile(query = NULL, synonym = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

query	character, search query. For more information on how to build a search query, see <a href="https://europepmc.org/Help">https://europepmc.org/Help</a>
synonym	logical, synonym search. If TRUE, synonym terms from MeSH terminology and the UniProt synonym list are queried, too. Enabled by default.

### Examples

```
## Not run:  
epmc_profile('malaria')  
# use field search, e.g. query materials and reference section for  
# mentions of "ropensci"  
epmc_profile('(METHODS:"ropensci")')  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc_refs	<i>Get references for a given publication</i>
-----------	---

---

### Description

This function retrieves all the works listed in the bibliography of a given article.

### Usage

```
epmc_refs(ext_id = NULL, data_src = "med", limit = 100, verbose = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>ext_id</code>	character, publication identifier
<code>data_src</code>	character, data source, by default Pubmed/MedLine index will be searched. The following three letter codes represent the sources Europe PubMed Central supports: <b>agr</b> Agricola is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the US National Agricultural Library and its co-operators. <b>cba</b> Chinese Biological Abstracts <b>ctx</b> CiteXplore <b>eth</b> EthOs Theses, i.e. PhD theses (British Library) <b>hir</b> NHS Evidence <b>med</b> PubMed/Medline NLM <b>nbk</b> Europe PMC Book metadata <b>pat</b> Biological Patents <b>pmc</b> PubMed Central
<code>limit</code>	integer, number of results. By default, this function returns 100 records.
<code>verbose</code>	logical, print some information on what is going on.

**Value**

returns reference section as tibble

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
epmc_refs("PMC3166943", data_src = "pmc")
epmc_refs("25378340")
epmc_refs("21753913")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_search

*Search Europe PMC publication database*


---

**Description**

This is the main function to search Europe PMC RESTful Web Service (<https://europepmc.org/RestfulWebService>). It fully supports the comprehensive Europe PMC query language. Simply copy & paste your query terms to R. To get familiar with the Europe PMC query syntax, check the Advanced Search Query Builder <https://europepmc.org/advancesearch>.

## Usage

```
epmc_search(  
  query = NULL,  
  output = "parsed",  
  synonym = TRUE,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  limit = 100,  
  sort = NULL  
)
```

## Arguments

query	character, search query. For more information on how to build a search query, see <a href="https://europepmc.org/Help">https://europepmc.org/Help</a>
output	character, what kind of output should be returned. One of 'parsed', 'id_list' or 'raw' As default, parsed key metadata will be returned as data.frame. 'id_list' returns a list of IDs and sources. Use 'raw' to get full metadata as list. Please be aware that these lists can become very large.
synonym	logical, synonym search. If TRUE, synonym terms from MeSH terminology and the UniProt synonym list are queried, too. In order to replicate results from the website, with the Rest API you need to turn synonyms ON!
verbose	logical, print progress bar. Activated by default.
limit	integer, limit the number of records you wish to retrieve. By default, 100 are returned.
sort	character, relevance ranking is used by default. Use sort = 'cited' for sorting by the number of citations, or sort = 'date' by the most recent publications.

## Value

tibble

## See Also

<https://europepmc.org/Help>

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
#Search articles for 'Gabi-Kat'  
my.data <- epmc_search(query='Gabi-Kat')  
  
#Get article metadata by DOI  
my.data <- epmc_search(query = 'DOI:10.1007/bf00197367')  
  
#Get article metadata by PubMed ID (PMID)  
my.data <- epmc_search(query = 'EXT_ID:22246381')  
  
#Get only PLOS Genetics article with EMBL database references
```



```

my.data <- epmc_search(query = 'ISSN:1553-7404 HAS_EMBL:y')
#Limit search to 250 PLOS Genetics articles
my.data <- epmc_search(query = 'ISSN:1553-7404', limit = 250)

# exclude MeSH synonyms in search
my.data <- epmc_search(query = 'aspirin', synonym = FALSE)

# get 100 most cited articles from PLOS ONE published in 2014
epmc_search(query = '(ISSN:1932-6203) AND FIRST_PDATE:2014', sort = 'cited')

# print number of records found
attr(my.data, "hit_count")

# change output

## End(Not run)

```

---

epmc\_search\_

*Get one page of results when searching Europe PubMed Central*


---

## Description

In general, use [epmc\\_search](#) instead. It calls this function, calling all pages within the defined limit.

## Usage

```

epmc_search_(
  query = NULL,
  limit = 100,
  output = "parsed",
  page_token = NULL,
  ...
)

```

## Arguments

query	character, search query. For more information on how to build a search query, see <a href="https://europepmc.org/Help">https://europepmc.org/Help</a>
limit	integer, limit the number of records you wish to retrieve. By default, 25 are returned.
output	character, what kind of output should be returned. One of 'parsed', 'id_list' or 'raw' As default, parsed key metadata will be returned as data.frame. 'id_list' returns a list of IDs and sources. Use 'raw' to get full metadata as list. Please be aware that these lists can become very large.
page_token	cursor marking the page
...	further params from <a href="#">epmc_search</a>

**See Also**

[epmc\\_search](#)

---

epmc\_search\_by\_doi      *Search Europe PMC by DOIs*

---

**Description**

Look up DOIs indexed in Europe PMC and get metadata back.

**Usage**

```
epmc_search_by_doi(doi = NULL, output = "parsed")
```

**Arguments**

`doi`,                    character vector containing DOI names.

`output`                character, what kind of output should be returned. One of 'parsed', 'id\_list' or 'raw' As default, parsed key metadata will be returned as data.frame. 'id\_list' returns a list of IDs and sources. Use 'raw' to get full metadata as list. Please be aware that these lists can become very large.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# single DOI name
epmc_search_by_doi(doi = "10.1161/strokeaha.117.018077")
# multiple DOIname in a vector
my_dois <- c(
  "10.1159/000479962",
  "10.1002/sctm.17-0081",
  "10.1161/strokeaha.117.018077",
  "10.1007/s12017-017-8447-9")
epmc_search_by_doi(doi = my_dois)
# full metadata
epmc_search_by_doi(doi = my_dois, output = "raw")

## End(Not run)
```

---

epmc\_search\_by\_doi\_     *Search Europe PMC by a DOI name*

---

### Description

Please use [epmc\\_search\\_by\\_doi](#) instead. It calls this method, returning open access status information from all your requests.

### Usage

```
epmc_search_by_doi_(doi, .pb = NULL, output = NULL)
```

### Arguments

doi	character vector containing DOI names.
.pb	progress bar object
output	character, what kind of output should be returned. One of 'parsed', 'id_list' or 'raw' As default, parsed key metadata will be returned as data.frame. 'id_list' returns a list of IDs and sources. Use 'raw' to get full metadata as list. Please be aware that these lists can become very large.

### Examples

```
## Not run:
  epmc_search_by_doi_("10.1159/000479962")

## End(Not run)
```

---

europemc     *europemc - an R client for the Europe PMC RESTful article API*

---

### Description

What is europemc?:

europemc facilitates access to Europe PMC RESTful Web Service. Europe PMC covers life science literature and gives access to open access full texts. Coverage is not only restricted to Europe, but articles and abstracts are indexed from all over the world. Europe PMC ingests all PubMed content and extends its index with other sources, including Agricola, a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature, or Biological Patents.

Besides searching abstracts and full text, europemc can be used to retrieve reference sections and citations, text-mined terms or cross-links to other databases hosted by the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI).

For more information about Europe PMC, see their current paper: Ferguson, C., Araújo, D., Faulk, L., Gou, Y., Hamelers, A., Huang, Z., Ide-Smith, M., Levchenko, M., Marinos, N., Nambiar, R., Nassar, M., Parkin, M., Pi, X., Rahman, F., Rogers, F., Roochun, Y., Saha, S., Selim, M., Shafique, Z., ... McEntyre, J. (2020). Europe PMC in 2020. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 49(D1), D1507–D1514. [doi:10.1093/nar/gkaa994](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkaa994).

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**See Also**

Useful links:

- <https://docs.ropensci.org/europepmc/>
- <https://github.com/ropensci/europepmc/>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/ropensci/europepmc/issues>

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