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MONTREAL – Joint Meeting ICANN Board and ASO
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – 09:45 to 10:45 EDT
ICANN66 | Montréal, Canada

RON DA SILVA: Is this live? Hello hello? This is not live? Knock knock.

Hello, hello, hello. Is it working now? Yay!

Good morning, everybody. I am Ron da Silva from the ICANN Board. This is the meeting between the ICANN Board and the ASO. We have here members of the NRO and members of the ASO at the table and various members of the ICANN Board as well as a bunch of folks here in the audience.

I don't think we need to go around and introduce ourselves. Instead, why don't we jump in.

This format, typically we have a couple discussion items that we either share in advance or ad hoc-ly pull up on the fly while we're sitting here but there were a couple that we had I think prepared to talk about, and then certainly open it up to additional discussions.

But before I do, my other colleague, Akinori, is there anything I'm missing here?

AKINORI MAEMURA: I don't think so. Just go ahead.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

RON DA SILVA:	It's good? Okay. Thank you, Akinori.
	So, first order of business was a discussion about the revision of the ASO MOU. And -- I don't know. Who's on point on the NRO? Is that you, Paul? Paul, your mic's on. Or John? Who is -- no -- Actually, I didn't see you.
AXEL PAWLIK:	It will be a short one. My name is Axel Pawlik. I'm the managing director of RIPE NCC and happen to be the ASO -- NRO chair at this point. The NRO chair.
	Yes, we looked at the MOU, and in the wake of the not-quite-so recent ASO review, we thought we could straighten it out a little bit. Basically, a little bit of housekeeping, really. Minuscule changes. Now AfriNIC is properly part of it. It was sort of adjunct in the previous version. Should be fairly straightforward.
	And on a personal note, I'm quite pleased that we got alignment on this one. I'm happy to sign this later this week because signing the very first MOU was the signature I ever did in the managing director position for the RIPE NCC 20 years ago. So as I'm going out next week, this will be my last one. So looking forward to that.
	[Laughter]
RON DA SILVA:	Yeah, thanks for mentioning that as well, Axel. Exciting news hearing that you are stepping down from the RIPE NCC and moving on to -- well,

I'm saying it's exciting news because I'm presuming you're moving on to doing something more interesting.

[Laughter]

Perhaps not. And thus, my condolences. I don't know which one should it be, but I was trying to be optimistic.

But, yeah, so I realize there are a number of updates to the MOU to reflect the latest review, and looking forward to having that formality later in the week to finalize that.

And speaking of the review, I know the ASO has been implementing a number of things that came out of the last -- out of the recommendations from the last review of the ASO. And I guess there's a number of things that you're going to bring to our attention today. What's the status?

AXEL PAWLIK: I think by now we have gone through the medium-long list of recommended changes and have implemented them. We'll, at the end of the week have an REC meeting to wrap the thing up because it's time for that, too. There are a couple of things that we still need to find closure on, but it's pretty straightforward.

RON DA SILVA: I believe there were some specific potential bylaw changes associated with the changes coming out of the ASO review, and we definitely stand

by ready to direct the organization to work with you in enabling those changes throughout the bylaws when needed.

Akinori.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Yes. I'd like to have the input from the ICANN org later side, but for my understanding, in ICANN bylaws we need to have the quite critical change to it, to the new revised ASO MOU. It's like, you know, change to the 2004 to 2019 or something, but it is on the way. And then it will be done in conjunction with other change elements afterwards. So that's as far as I know.

Thank you.

RON DA SILVA: Okay; good. These are the two items I had for the agenda.

Are we exhausted already?

Ah!

Cherine, you have something you want to add?

CHERINE CHALABY: Let's go back to the previous slide.

So the last time we met, you were doing the ASO organization -- the review of, I suppose, the ASO, and there was a discussion about also improving the effective way you interact with ICANN overall. Where are

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we on this and what changes do you recommend? Or can you give us an update? That would be quite good.

JOHN CURRAN: John Curran, CEO of ARIN.

So there's two activities that we're following because of the last organizational review. One of them is we are busy trying to figure out ourselves how we have an official engagement with ICANN, and that includes -- as it turns out, it includes what mean we use in working with ICANN. You can see the top of the slide says "Discussion Topics from the ASO/NRO." We have a lot of documents that have both ASO and NRO on the same slide. The bylaws basically say -- the ICANN bylaws say the NRO shall fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the ASO. And that's pretty straightforward, but in some cases we've changed the names internally as well. So the ASO -- The NRO Number Council is the ASO Address Council, which makes it particularly interesting. So its NRO-NC becomes ASO-AC.

We'd like to try to simplify the terminology we use, but it turns out we have to understand all the references to the ASO in order to do that because all the occurrences of supporting organization in the bylaws also indirectly reference the ASO.

And so if we were not -- If we use the name NRO, we would be the -- not clearly a supporting organization. We could still be one, but it's not clear a reference to SO in the bylaws of ICANN would reference us.

So we're going through and trying to figure out what name we want to use and what references would change as a result. It turns out to be a nontrivial process.

So we haven't given up on some of the findings. It's just we're working through what the implications are. For example, there's language in the bylaws for supporting organizations that's clearly not applicable to the ASO or the NRO, regardless of what name you use.

But on the other hand, there's language that definitely is under the term "supporting organization."

So we need to -- Before we think about changing the name, we need to go through and figure out which references have to be sustained. And it's just a -- it's work. It takes time.

RON DA SILVA: But I think -- John, so we were just chatting here. There was also the issue of the ASO engagement in the broader empowered community activities and things that are going on within the ICANN space. I think there were some issues raised before about, you know, how the SO would address that. I think that that might be what Cherine was wanting to ask for an update on.

Curran I don't see anyone jumping up so let me.

In the consultations we've done in the regions so far, the community has expressed support for the ICANN relationship, wishes to maintain the ICANN relationship, wishes to make clear the ICANN relationship.

Those are good principles. It's that last one we're working on. We don't envision a significant change in the relationship, but we'd like to have it documented in a way that you don't need a decoder ring to figure out which terms are applicable and which ones aren't.

RON DA SILVA: All right. Thanks, John.

Next slide.

So, Cherine, did you want to touch on this? Yeah?

CHERINE CHALABY: So this is really following from the comment you just mentioned about maintaining the relationship, and this is really a very, very strong and good statement that we really appreciate.

Within that context, we have been, as a community working for the past year, year and a half on developing a strategic plan for the next five years. That's mandated by our bylaws. And we worked with the community -- I don't know to what extent we worked with the -- with the RIRs, but maybe not as extensive as with other groups, but nevertheless, the strategic plan, together with the MOU and together with our bylaws, are the things that kind of bind us together as a community. You see what I mean?

And so we have taken a lot of input from the community in plenary sessions and individual sessions, and we developed a strategic plan.

And the Board adopted that strategic plan in Marrakech when we last met.

Excuse me.

You can't implement the strategic plan on its own, so we had to, through ICANN org, develop an implementation plan. We call that implementation plan the operating and financial plan; right? Because just to say these are the activities without having the financials next to it would be like dreams rather than reality.

Also, one of the five objective of the strategic plan is -- is the second one here on this slide which says we need to improve aspects of our multistakeholder model. We don't say we want to change the model. We say we want to improve aspects of it. So to make it more efficient. And in a way, that is the commitment we made, one of the commitment we made and one of the conditions were of the transition of the IANA stewardship, transition that took place three years ago, is that we need to keep on supporting and enhancing our multistakeholder model.

So by the end of this year -- i.e., by December -- we will have in our hands as a community three plans: the strategic plan that the Board has adopted, the implementation plan which is called operating and financial plan -- right? -- that ICANN org is developing with the community, and a work plan to improve the effectiveness of our multistakeholder model that is currently led by Brian Cute, facilitating a community initiative.

 And just I want to stress a point on that last one. At this stage, this is just a plan that identifies a series of issues and some suggested approaches of how we might come to a solution over the five-year life of the strategic plan.

 So we will have those and out for public comment. The bylaws mandate that these are effective 1st of July next year, because the old strategic plan expires.

 So the question is, to the community, what do we do with all these plans? Who is responsible for implementing them? Do we need to do something to get ready as a community to make sure that the implementation of these plans are successful?

 So we started that dialogue with the community in Kobe, with every stakeholder group. And forgive me if -- I'm sure we've had that dialogue with yourself as well. And you've all given us, individually, within your constituency, some ideas and thoughts. So we've put all of those together, and today we -- we synthesize them, and today we want to just play it back to you and seek your input and say does this make sense or doesn't make sense?

 So in terms of ensuring that we get ready to implement those plans, but also after we start implementing them -- please, can you go back to the previous slide? -- what -- who's responsible for what, what suggested action. So the community, not the Board, the community has come up with five -- five actions suggested that the Board should do. The strategic plan says that we will adopt a new vision of being the champion of the open, interoperable, global Internet and the steward

of its unique identifiers. So you the community is saying, well, okay, the Board, if that's what you really believe, demonstrate how you're going to champion this new vision; right? And we will do it ourself, but you also need to demonstrate that.

Number two, you need to align your work with the strategic objectives. There are five of those. You can't, as a board, go ahead on a separate, on a tangent and do things which are not aligned with the strategic objectives.

And you said -- I'm not saying you particularly, this group, but on the whole, the community said you need to engage everyone in getting ready for successful implementation, the Board, org and committee. Hence, the discussion we're having here with the Board and constituency.

Then you said, well, when we start implementing these plans, you have a responsibility to provide oversight over the implementation. And then finally you said that the new strategic plan has to be a living document and not forgotten in a drawer. And you must find a mechanism for us as a community to review at regular intervals the direction and the objectives of the plan.

Maybe if I can go just a couple of slides before that to remind everybody of the five objectives of this plan. Just one slide, please, backward.

That's it.

The plan has five things. One on security. Collectively we said we need to strengthen the security of the Domain Name System and the DNS

root server. We need to improve the governance model, which I touched upon. We need to evolve the unique identifiers in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties and partners. And we need to address geopolitical issues, and we need to ensure ICANN financial sustainability.

So those are the five things which are sensible and reasonable, but I bet you that in a week's time, each one of us will forget what these five objectives are, because if I ask you now, "Do you remember what are the five objectives or the six objectives of the current strategic plan?" I am sure no one will remember those.

You do, but you are unique; right?

JOHN CURRAN: So you've moved our objective, by the way. What used to be number two was Unique Identifier Systems, and now it's number there.

CHERINE CHALABY: There's no order of importance here.

JOHN CURRAN: Well, in the old plan -- We actually commented on the old plan, the number registry system, and we actually commented on the strategic plan and the budget, and those comments were incorporated. And so we tracked that unique identifier system one because it's the significant part of that where we engage together; okay? More so on the other -- Less so than on the others, because on the others, for example, the

ICANN community, a substantial part of the ICANN community is involved in supporting the policy-making that you need to do for the domain name side.

We, over on the numbers side, aren't heavily involved in that, and the people on the protocol parameters are even less involved. So aspects of your strategic objectives apply differently to the different protocol identifier groups. But we do pay attention, and we have commented in the past. Now you've moved it from number three to number two, and we'll pay attention to it now.

CHERINE CHALABY: I don't mind putting it number one because there's no order on that. It's the five of them are what the community believes are the five important strands. So thank you. I'm delighted that this is from your response.

If we move on -- Just to move quickly so that we open the conversation, so can we move on to the next slide and the next slide?

And then the suggestion for -- So this is -- yeah. So the next one, please. Stop here.

So I talked about what the community suggests the Board action should be. Here are your suggestions for ICANN org.

You said to implement all these plans, we need some function in the middle to be kind of the implementation manager, and you suggested that ICANN org should take the responsibility of being the

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implementation manager working with all of us. They have to develop detailed plans, they have to align their work with the objectives, and engage all of the SOs and ACs and other communities.

One of the objective is to sustain ICANN financial strengths. So the second thing you said, if that's the case, then ICANN org need to tighten its operating expenses to ensure the long-term sustainability.

And, John, this is particularly to the point you make. We said you need to work with the appropriate partners -- right? -- to achieve common goals, like the identifiers, like security, and so on and so forth.

Number 5, you need to provide the resources to anticipate and understand and response to any global regulatory or legislative changes that takes place. So you know how we are occupied with GDPR now and it took a lot of energy and time, and maybe we should have started a long time ago. And here we need to anticipate those.

Number 5 is -- goes without saying, is that the yearly budget has to be consistent with the five-year strategic plan. And 6 is important, is a new one, where the community is saying we want ICANN org, as we implement this plan, to give us a regular progress report so we know how we're doing. For example, like you mentioned, how are you engaging with our partners in this issue about unique identifiers and evolving that? We need a progress report so that there is transparency and we are all aware of what's going on.

So those are the suggestions to ICANN org. And then the next slide are suggestions that you have actioned the community to yourselves, not the Board telling you. It's you telling yourself.

The first thing you said, we need to ensure a community buy-in of the new vision and the strategic objective. It's not sufficient to have a document; that people have to really walk the talk.

That the SOs and ACs are to align their work with the strategic objectives. Again, as you said, not every objective applies to everybody, but if there are things like in your case, the unique identifiers, then we need to work together and align our work so we achieve that objective.

The third one is we need to strive and commit to successfully execute the plan that have yet to be developed to improve the effectiveness of our multistakeholder model.

Also, we need to be current, number 4, with current trends because we want you, the Board, to find the mechanism for us to participate in reviewing the plan on regular basis, but we need ourselves to be current with what's happening in the marketplace and the external forces so that when we review the plan, we provide informed input.

And finally, we need to be more productive in terms of -- and this might not apply to you extensively but increasing the pool of volunteers that do the actual work, delivering timely and effective recommendations, policies and advice, and foster awareness about the efficient use of ICANN's limited resources.

So those are the five things you suggested for yourself, and the others were the things that you suggested for the Board.

So I'm going to stop here and open it up for conversation. So the first, really, question is does it make sense? Do we need to add things? Do you agree? Disagree?

And how do you suggest, for example, the community does -- does those five things? We the Board started applying some of that stuff. For example, aligning our work with the strategic objective. We've already indicated and given instruction to all our committees on the Board, we have about six or seven committees working, is that everything they do has to be aligned with the strategic objective, and so on. One of the other things that were tasked to us is that engage the community in discussion on readiness, which we are doing. But we still have a long way to be ourself ready.

On these issues, does it make sense? How do we get everybody to commit to doing these things and be ready and be part of the implementation of all or part of the strategic plan?

So I'm going to stop here and open up for discussion.

JOHN CURRAN: So just the ICANN five-year strategic plan going forward hasn't been discussed by the RIRs or with our communities. There's nothing on the surface that appears to impact our relationship, and we have a successful relationship. But there's no -- to my knowledge, there's no

opinion from the RIRs yet on -- on pluses, minuses, issues one way or the other.

I don't see any concern, and I think that ICANN is good to take on a strategic vision to help improve the effectiveness of the organization.

We have ourselves been working on a very clear relationship with ICANN, and so it's -- it's unlikely much of your strategic plan work will change what we're doing together, because what you're doing for us is actually we have remarkable success. We work extremely well with the PTI team which is where the registries are operated, we work very effectively with the Office of the CTO on key initiatives in the identifier space like the Internet Identifier Health Initiative, and we look forward to continuing to do that with an increasingly more effective ICANN.

TRIPTI SINHA: So I'd like to make one comment, John, with respect to the five objectives of the plan. If we can go back to the slide that refers to the five objectives, please.

So you were saying it slipped down to position 3 from the past. So as Cherine said earlier, don't ascribe any importance to the order. But the fact remains, having said that, we're here -- the crux of ICANN is there happen to be the Unique Identifier Systems, and security, governance, geopolitics and financials is all in support of that. So whether it sits on top or if it were to fall off the list, ICANN doesn't exist. So that's why we're here. So I just wanted to emphasize that please don't read too much into that.

Yeah, thank you.

JOHN CURRAN: But likewise, regardless of the order, the focus of ICANN on the Domain Name System for much of its activities is perfectly natural. And we still participate in ICANN. We're on the numbers side, and we both participate as one of the parties using PTI services and also we participate as a supporting organization. We are a -- we do cross-community working groups when they're relevant. We're a member of the empowered community helping put a sort of anchor bolt above the hole thing. And then you move on to protocols, and there's even a sort of smaller footprint of engagement with ICANN. And that's not a surprise. The different identifier spaces have different levels. We have one that's in the middle and it's well defined. We don't think we're any less, but we recognize ICANN has got a lot of work to do on that DNS it's working on, and don't want to get in the way.

So the fact that we have a small role doesn't mean it's not an important relationship. Our community just renewed the fact with us in our consultation saying they want to maintain the ICANN relationship.

RON DA SILVA: Any further discussion on this topic?

AFTAB SIDDIQUI: I have a small update as part of the slide deck, if I can. On this topic, no. But on the --

RON DA SILVA: I was going to come to the update from the ASO next, if there's no more input into the strategic plan and what we're doing. Good. Thanks.

Can we bring up the slides from Aftab? We've got some -- I think, some updates from the ASO.

AFTAB SIDDIQUI: While they are updating the slide deck, I'm Aftab Siddiqui. I'm the current ASO AC chair. With me right now we have Kevin Blumberg, the vice chair, and Jorge Villa. If I may request all the ASO AC members present right now stand up for a second just to show who we are. Thank you so much. And on the stage, we have Brajesh and in the audience Jorge and Nurani, Louie Lee with his hat, of course, and Ricardo Patara, and Simon Baroi and Esteban.

This is quite unusual for ASO AC to have that many members in the AGM. Usually you see that many faces in the community forum, which is the first meeting of the year because that's our face-to-face meeting. This is a coincidence. So if you would like to talk to any of our members or us, this is a good chance for the community to have a word.

So the slide deck is here. This is just a quick policy update. I won't take much of the time. I just wanted to make sure to portray to the community how hard we are working back in our RIR communities and how engaged we are with our community.

So next slide, please.

Well, this is not news to anyone. We are 15 members, three from each region and our role is very well-defined.

Next slide, please.

So these are the names and their term limits. This is still not the end of the year, so you might see some members ending their term at the end of this year and new faces will be joining for next year. But this is the list we have until December 2019.

Next slide, please.

So one of the role we have to undertake is the global policy development. As part of that, we create a team of five members, one from each RIR. That is called PPFT, the policy proposal facilitator team, just to make sure that if any global policy comes in, we have people on the ground in every community to help them out.

Next slide, please.

Another role as part of the ICANN bylaws we have to take is elect one -- appoint one person to the NomCom committee. And we do it every year. For the 2020 committee, we have appointed Pankag Chaturvedi from the Asia-Pacific region.

Next slide, please.

So this is the update from every RIR. I'll just go through it quickly. So in the last six months, we had, of course, five meetings in every RIR: RIPE 79, APNIC 48, AfriNIC 30, LACNIC 32, and ARIN 44 that just finished last week in Austin, Texas.

Next slide, please.

So I'm not going to go through each policy. This slide deck will be updated -- uploaded on the ASO website. So, of course, you can get it from there. We do it after every meeting, every presentation.

So if you can slide on and go to the next slide and keep on going.

So you can see the -- there are many policies under discussion. Some are implemented, some are going through the last comment phase. And it is just to show how active the community is in every RIR. And if you go through the policies, you'll find out it is not just IPv4 and IPv6 we are talking about because some people complain that IPv4 is history. We should be talking about other stuff. Well, we are talking about other stuff. So things are moving in the right direction. The discussion is still very much active.

So next slide, please.

Next.

Next. Just come to the last one for me. Just one back. Yeah. So this is an open invitation to everyone that these are the next six meetings happening in the next six months. So the oldest one is AfriNIC 31 which will be happening in Angola from 2nd of December to 6th of December. And the rest of the meetings are in 2020: APNIC 49 in Melbourne, Australia; ARIN in Louisville; LACNIC in Cali, Colombia; and RIPE80 in Berlin, Germany.

Next slide.

So I would just like to give you a very quick update on the ASO review, which the ASO AC are looking after. These are two of the major things which we have implemented quite recently. As part of the recommendation, it was suggested that our meetings should be open. The ASO AC has monthly meetings. So we started with our face-to-face meeting and we opened it up last year. And because there were some logistics requirement to open up the meetings, that's why it was taking some time. But it's been -- it's open now. Anybody can join as an observer. Every month we have our meeting on the first Wednesday. The schedule is updated on the website. Before a week we publish the Zoom link where you can just log in and join the meeting as an observer.

So we started that a month ago, and it was successful. So now we are happy to update that now our meetings are open.

The second request came as a -- from the -- after the review that our mailing list is closed. So we have to take again some logistical steps. That's why it was taking some time. But I can tell you that for last four months, our mailing list is open. It's publicly archived. You cannot join the mailing list, of course, but it's publicly archived. You can review the discussion. And, again, all these details have been updated on the ASO website. And all the other things -- all the other recommendations and their status are on the NRO website. You can review where we are at any recommendation.

I can tell you that most -- most of the recommendations has been implemented and only few are under process. So, hopefully, by next

face-to-face meeting we should be able to give you a complete picture of where we are at right now.

So that's all from our end, from the ASO AC side. If you have any question, I'm happy to answer that.

RON DA SILVA: I'm not seeing any questions for you, Aftab. Thank you for sharing what's been happening not just with the SO but what's happening in all the RIRs.

I think in closing, Kaveh, did you have something you wanted to say?

KAVEH RANJBAR: I just wanted to point out just that will be Axel's last meeting as the managing director of RIPE NCC joining this meeting. So, yes, I think it's a good opportunity to say I have reported to him for more than ten years. Yeah, wish him the best.

And I don't know if any other Board member has -- yes, I see Chris has something to say.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Thanks, Kaveh. Hi, everyone.

I've -- I've been here for 19 years and when I first got here, Axel was already here.

[Laughter]

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And he's been here ever since guiding the RIPE ship through the formation of the ASO and all that stuff and the transition and the new numbers and always there reminding us that the second or first "N" in ICANN is for numbers. We can argue about whether it's the first one or the second one, but it's there.

So I just want to say this is not just the CEO of RIPE standing down; this is the end of an era. And I want to say thank you for everything that you've done, Axel. Thank you.

[Applause]

AXEL PAWLIK: Thank you, people. It was mostly a joy working with you. And, like I said -- (laughter) -- a couple of weeks ago, I'm like IPv4, I'm fading into the background but I'm not totally going away. So you will probably see me again. Thank you.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you, Axel. Thank you, Chris, for the good words. I'm sure we will continue to see you at least at the Dutch New Year's reception that you were co-founder of for the Internet and many more places.

AXEL PAWLIK: Absolutely.

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CHERINE CHALABY: So I'd also like to thank Axel. Three years ago when the Board wanted to reach out a little bit more to the technical community and embrace a stronger relationship without any objective other than we are a community, we invited Axel to give us a presentation. You remember that, yes? So first member of the RIRs to come and give us a presentation to the Board directly. And we spent -- where was it? I forgot which country it was. Amsterdam?

AXEL PAWLIK: It was in Brussels.

CHERINE CHALABY: Yeah, there you are.

AXEL PAWLIK: It was by the book.

CHERINE CHALABY: (indiscernible). And he came over and gave us very, very good insight into the RIRs, your work, your issues.

And, you know, this has helped. And since then, our relationship has grown and we've become more engaged together and we really appreciate it.

You are not the only one stepping down, by the way. I'm stepping down this week, so we have something in common. So thank you very much for everything you have done. Thank you.

RON DA SILVA: I don't have anything else to add. Just hope you have fun whatever you're going to do.

Thanks, Axel. And thanks to everybody here. Any other business? Otherwise, we can happily adjourn. Maybe not. Louie. Louie's hat.

LOUIE LEE: Just a quick invitation to the "how it works" session this afternoon at 1:30. It's how it works for regional Internet registries, and it's going to be up here on this floor, so for everybody that wants to come pop by and say hi and check that out.

RON DA SILVA: Great. Thanks, Louie.

Enjoy the rest of your morning. We are adjourned.

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