



# MANAGED FUTURES INDEX

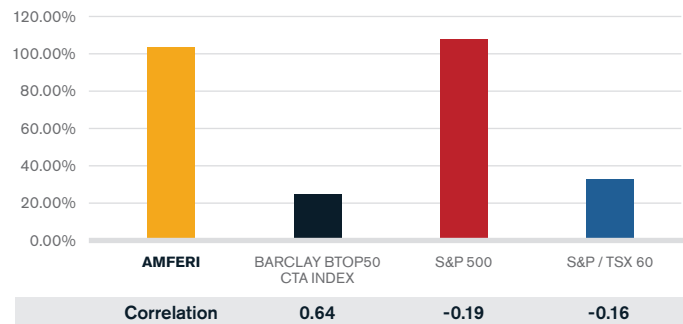
COMMENTARY +  
STRATEGY FACTS

FEBRUARY 2020



## CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(SINCE JANUARY 2007\*)



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**SUMMARY**

After a resilient start to the year, global equities have corrected sharply all in the last week of February. The S&P fell -8.41%, while the Nasdaq and MSCI World lost 6.38% and 9.73%. The Canadian TSX/S&P60 lost 5.89% while the TSX Energy sub-index tanked 14.97%, highlighting the resource energy weakness.

Commodities continued the sell-off that started in January and looks to have been the canary in the coal mine. The fear has started to become reality as global economies are softening and demand is potentially being affected. The weakness was fairly universal with energies and metals both negative for the month. As such, the energy weighted GSCI lost 16.67% while the more diverse Bloomberg Commodity index dropped 5.15%.

In response, Bond futures rallied sharply, and the US dollar also ended higher for the month. Commodity currencies sold off while the Japanese Yen reversed and moved higher to close the month.

**RESULTS**

The AMFERI softened a mere 0.11% in February while the Barclay BTOP50 CTA fell 1.21% for the month (per Table 1).

The strategy performance was thus better than benchmarks during this quick and sharp correction after lagging during the equity rally post outperformance in 2018 as the industry benchmarks and equities fell.

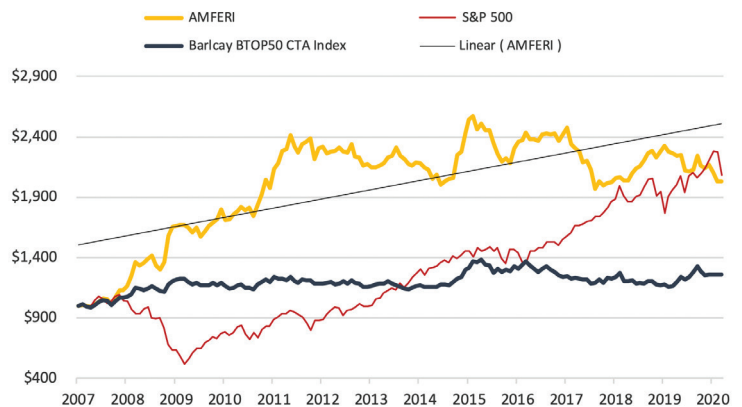
It is important to note that in addition to long term outperformance, gains have come at critical times of need (per Chart 1) and is illustrated by long term performance: 10, 13 year and since early 2007 in Table 1. The annualized result since 2007 is similar to equity gains over 5%.

**OUTLOOK**

After 2020 started with a myriad of geo-political events that caused commodities to correct while equities remained strong, the unknown ramifications of the spreading coronavirus led to fear. Since peaking on February 20th, most capital markets have lost over 10%.

From here, it is very hard to predict the path. What we do know, is most markets are likely to remain volatile. In addition to a lack of equity exposure, the risk-management and capital allocation backbone of the AMFERI strategy worked very well during the final week of the month. We anticipate this to continue as this

**Chart 1 HISTORICAL GROWTH SINCE 2007**



**Table 1 ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE**

|                     | AMFERI  | Barclay BTOP50 CTA Index | S&P 500 | TSX 60  |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1 Month             | -0.11%  | -1.21%                   | -8.41%  | -5.89%  |
| 2020 YTD            | -3.48%  | -0.93%                   | -8.56%  | -4.21%  |
| 1 yr (Mar 19)       | -10.38% | 7.00%                    | 6.10%   | 1.91%   |
| 3 yr (Mar 17)       | -11.79% | 0.86%                    | 24.99%  | 7.12%   |
| 5 yr (Mar 15)       | -17.58% | -8.46%                   | 40.38%  | 9.18%   |
| 10 yr (Mar 10)      | 15.51%  | 8.54%                    | 167.47% | 42.80%  |
| 13 yr (Mar 07)      | 103.73% | 25.31%                   | 109.99% | 30.71%  |
| Annualized (Jan 07) |         |                          |         |         |
| Return              | 5.53%   | 1.69%                    | 5.73%   | 2.07%   |
| Std Deviation       | 11.42%  | 6.63%                    | 14.72%  | 12.56%  |
| Sharpe Ratio        | 0.58    | 0.28                     | 0.51    | 0.27    |
| MAR Ratio           | 0.24    | 0.11                     | 0.11    | 0.05    |
| Worst Drawdown      | -23.32% | -16.11%                  | -52.56% | -44.27% |

strategy has a long track record in volatile times and performing in a way to first protect capital, and second to provide positive non-correlated returns.

As such, given the strategy has the backbone required, the agnostic long-short approach no matter where the markets trend from here, has the potential to be an ideal complement to traditional asset allocation and portfolio management. We are optimistic that the volatility and surprises the year will continue to unfold are met with experience and discipline that lead to opportunity.

**ATTRIBUTIONS AND TRADES**

After exiting a number of commodities in January, the stability that February started with was short-lived. The portfolio exited long positions in Gasoline and Cotton, shifting to short exposure across the bulk of Ag and Energy markets covered.

There were very few markets that avoided the sell-off with Sugar being the only covered by the portfolio. WTI oil fell over 13% while Wheat dropped over 5%. To be clear, even Gold ended lower on the month, much to the surprise of many commentators. The portfolio is now short commodities in 8 of 12 components (or 66%) and includes all 3 sectors - Energies, Metals and Ags (see Chart 3).

Performance was positive in 2 of 5 index sectors, both commodity and financial. Gains were led by the short exposures in the energy sector and complimented by long interest-rate futures as rates dropped. See Chart 2. The Metals and Ag sector pulled the portfolio down as momentum in Silver and Cotton offset short gains.

Shifting of momentum challenged currencies as demonstrated by reversals in exposure for the US Dollar Index and exit of the Canadian Dollar.

The strongest performing portfolio components were short energies and Corn while the weakest performing were Silver and Cotton.

**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**

**ENERGY**

The sharp sell-off in energies that started last month continued. The portfolio shifted the sole long exposure in Gasoline to short early in the month before further weakness for a gain in that market and across the sector.

**METALS**

While Copper stabilized, both precious metals sold off sharply to end the month. We close the month long Gold and Silver but short Copper. Watch this sector carefully.

**AGRICULTURE**

While Soybeans stabilized where we are positioned short, weakness in Corn offset the remaining long exposure in Wheat. Sugar continued to move higher but did not offset the sector.

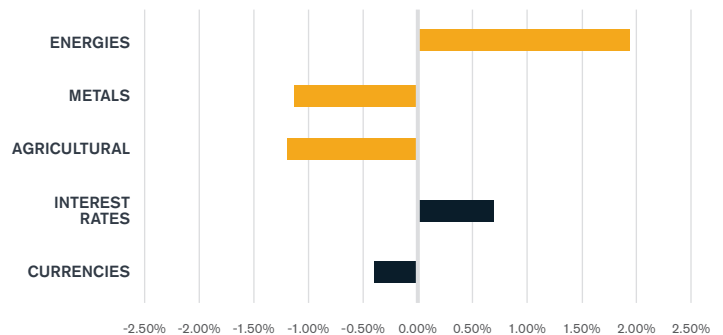
**INTEREST RATES**

US Rate futures rallied as a safe-haven for a gain. The portfolio remains long across the curve.

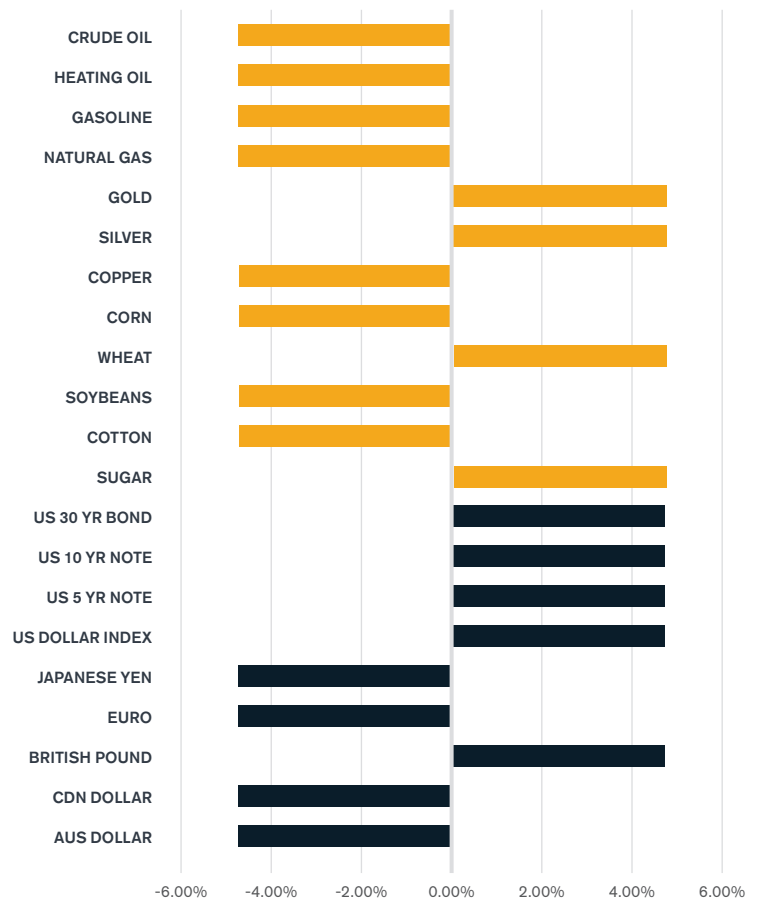
**CURRENCIES**

The overall sector performed reasonably well in the volatility with gains in the short Aussie Dollar and long Euro markets.

**Chart 2** INDEX RETURN ATTRIBUTION



**Chart 3** COMPONENT EXPOSURE: SHORT/LONG



However, the early month strength in the US dollar had us reverse to re-join the long-term trend. Unfortunately, the sharp global capital market sell-off in the last week caused this to be poor timing. We remain long the Dollar Index alongside the British Pound.

**WHY AUSPICE INDICES**

The Auspice Indices are designed to meet the needs of investors that are looking to participate in liquid alternatives through a disciplined approach without sacrificing performance, diversification, and transparency. We believe Auspice Indices encompass everything from alpha to beta, across a return continuum. The indices blend elements of active management and indexing into a transparent, published, single strategy rules-based approach.

**THE MAIN POINTS OF DIFFERENTIATION INCLUDE:**

Auspice has addressed typical concerns with the valuable Managed Futures/CTA sector:

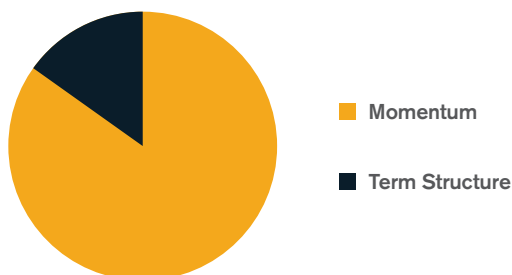
**STRATEGY DESCRIPTION**

The Auspice Managed Futures Index aims to capture upward and downward trends in the commodity and financial markets while carefully managing risk.

The strategy focuses on Momentum and Term Structure strategies and uses a quantitative methodology to track either long or short positions in a diversified portfolio of exchange traded futures, which cover the energy, metal, agricultural, interest rate, and currency sectors. The index incorporates dynamic risk management and contract rolling methods. The index is available in total return (collateralized) and excess (non-collateralized) return versions.

| CHALLENGE  | SOLUTION   |
|--|--|
| <b>Transparency</b>  | Rules-based index published approach that is completely transparent  |
| <b>Liquidity</b>   | Daily available (40 act Mutual Funds, ETFs)  |
| <b>High Fees</b>   | Low cost, management fee-only provider. No underlying or hidden fees typically associated with sub-advisory                |
| <b>Ability to perform in bear market</b>   | Outperformance in critical times   |
| <b>All Managed Futures the same</b>  | Compliments many single or multi-manager Managed Futures strategies  |
| <b>Financial markets concentration resulting in high correlation to equities</b> | More balance of commodities and financials with no stock indices exposure results in lower correlation to equity and peers |
| <b>Lack of long term track record</b>  | Proven long term track record is published by NYSE   |
| <b>Brand recognition</b>   | Strategy used by public pensions, institutional investors and retail distributors in US and Canada                         |

**RETURN DRIVERS**



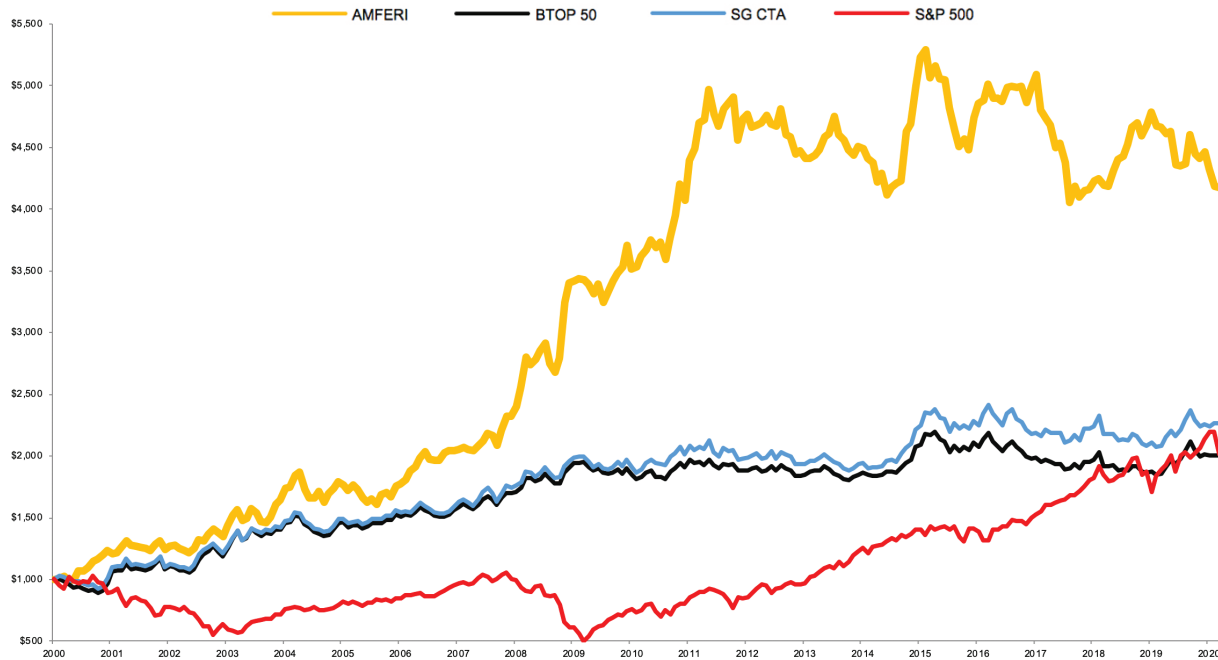
**OTHER DETAILS**

Calculated and published by NYSE since 2010.  
 Tickers: Bloomberg AMFERI, Reuters AMFERI

**PRODUCT AVAILABILITY**

Licensing and/or sub-advisory of the strategy  
 Bespoke product design  
 ETFs: through partner firms  
 40 Act Mutual Funds: US investors through partner firms  
 Separately Managed Accounts

**COMPARATIVE MANAGED FUTURES INDEX PERFORMANCE**



**MONTHLY PERFORMANCE TABLE\***

| YEAR | JAN    | FEB    | MAR    | APR    | MAY    | JUN    | JUL    | AUG    | SEP    | OCT    | NOV    | DEC    | RETURN         |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| 2020 | -3.37% | -0.11% |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | <b>-3.48%</b>  |
| 2019 | -2.20% | -0.35% | -0.97% | 0.32%  | -5.76% | -0.36% | 0.50%  | 5.44%  | -3.47% | -0.90% | 1.21%  | -2.99% | <b>-9.50%</b>  |
| 2018 | 0.43%  | -1.25% | -0.10% | 2.99%  | 1.99%  | 0.74%  | 2.09%  | 3.03%  | 0.75%  | -2.25% | 1.93%  | 2.18%  | <b>13.12%</b>  |
| 2017 | -5.56% | -1.48% | -1.05% | -4.02% | 0.84%  | -3.43% | -7.36% | 3.08%  | -1.95% | 1.32%  | 0.20%  | 1.54%  | <b>-16.94%</b> |
| 2016 | 0.57%  | 2.67%  | -2.25% | -0.07% | -0.51% | 2.29%  | 0.26%  | -0.25% | 0.31%  | -2.70% | 2.44%  | 2.17%  | <b>4.87%</b>   |
| 2015 | 1.11%  | -4.22% | 1.89%  | -2.14% | -0.04% | -4.59% | -3.79% | -2.78% | 1.40%  | -1.92% | 5.85%  | 2.26%  | <b>-7.26%</b>  |
| 2014 | -1.67% | -0.86% | -3.50% | 1.47%  | -3.79% | 1.38%  | 0.96%  | 0.38%  | 9.45%  | 1.26%  | 6.70%  | 4.64%  | <b>16.55%</b>  |
| 2013 | 0.08%  | 0.55%  | 1.01%  | 2.27%  | 0.55%  | 3.09%  | -3.05% | -0.96% | -1.87% | -0.86% | 1.47%  | -0.31% | <b>1.82%</b>   |
| 2012 | -2.20% | 0.46%  | 0.40%  | 1.21%  | -1.48% | -0.41% | 3.11%  | -4.44% | -0.22% | -3.16% | 0.60%  | -1.38% | <b>-7.45%</b>  |
| 2011 | 2.23%  | 4.62%  | 0.54%  | 5.20%  | -4.05% | -2.00% | 2.91%  | 0.98%  | 1.08%  | -7.07% | 3.85%  | 0.60%  | <b>8.48%</b>   |
| 2010 | 0.31%  | 2.47%  | 1.50%  | 2.09%  | -1.55% | 1.14%  | -3.74% | 4.92%  | 4.81%  | 6.42%  | -3.14% | 7.91%  | <b>24.87%</b>  |
| 2009 | 0.41%  | -0.14% | -1.02% | -2.52% | 2.51%  | -4.43% | 2.46%  | 2.86%  | 1.70%  | 1.52%  | 4.97%  | -5.03% | <b>2.80%</b>   |
| 2008 | 6.80%  | 9.39%  | -2.14% | 1.42%  | 2.58%  | 2.12%  | -5.75% | -2.49% | 4.42%  | 16.05% | 4.92%  | 0.50%  | <b>42.65%</b>  |
| 2007 | 0.75%  | -1.02% | -0.45% | 1.90%  | 2.05%  | 2.94%  | -0.82% | -3.48% | 5.56%  | 5.18%  | 0.12%  | 3.19%  | <b>16.68%</b>  |
| 2006 | 2.34%  | 3.43%  | 2.02%  | 3.61%  | 2.71%  | -3.20% | -0.30% | 0.09%  | 3.24%  | 0.62%  | 0.25%  | 0.41%  | <b>16.06%</b>  |
| 2005 | -2.46% | 2.45%  | -1.94% | -3.87% | -2.36% | 1.70%  | -2.48% | 4.80%  | 1.03%  | -2.03% | 5.04%  | 0.90%  | <b>0.35%</b>   |
| 2004 | 0.76%  | 5.16%  | 1.70%  | -7.67% | -4.21% | 0.12%  | 3.53%  | -5.24% | 4.32%  | 2.20%  | 3.33%  | -1.56% | <b>1.52%</b>   |
| 2003 | 5.61%  | 2.95%  | -5.34% | 0.93%  | 5.66%  | -2.64% | -4.26% | -0.92% | 2.93%  | 7.09%  | 2.28%  | 5.80%  | <b>20.92%</b>  |
| 2002 | 0.65%  | -1.93% | -1.81% | -1.12% | 2.66%  | 5.99%  | -0.72% | 3.94%  | 2.96%  | -1.54% | -2.51% | 6.40%  | <b>13.15%</b>  |
| 2001 | 0.50%  | 3.90%  | 3.87%  | -2.30% | -1.13% | -0.53% | -0.65% | -1.01% | 3.72%  | 2.35%  | -5.23% | 2.00%  | <b>5.18%</b>   |
| 2000 | 1.43%  | 1.78%  | -3.61% | 1.19%  | 6.54%  | 0.03%  | 2.32%  | 4.74%  | 1.85%  | 3.01%  | 2.27%  | -1.81% | <b>21.17%</b>  |

Represents index data simulated prior to third party publishing as calculated by the NYSE

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## COMPARABLE INDICES

\*Returns for **Auspice Managed Futures Excess Return Index (AMFERI)** represent returns calculated and published by the NYSE. The index does not have commissions, management/incentive fees, or operating expenses.

The Bloomberg Commodity (Excess Return) Index (**BCOM ER**), is a broadly diversified index that allows investors to track 19 commodity futures through a single, simple measure.

The **S&P/TSX 60 Index** is designed to represent leading companies in leading industries. Its 60 stocks make it ideal for coverage of companies with large market capitalizations and a cost-efficient way to achieve Canadian equity exposure. Price Return data is used (not including dividends).

The **S&P 500** is an index of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry grouping, among other factors. The S&P 500 is designed to be a leading indicator of U.S. equities and is meant to reflect the risk/return characteristics of the large cap universe. Price Return data is used (not including dividends).

The (**MSCI**) **World Index**, Morgan Stanley Capital International, is designed to measure equity market performance large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries, covering approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each. This index offers a broad global equity benchmark, without emerging markets exposure.

**Excess Return (ER)** Indexes do not include collateral return.

The S&P Goldman Sachs Commodity Excess Return Index (**S&P GSCI ER**), is a composite index of commodity sector returns representing an unleveraged, long-only investment in commodity futures that is broadly diversified across the spectrum of commodities.

The **SG CTA Index** provides the market with a reliable daily performance benchmark of major commodity trading advisors (CTAs). The SG CTA Index calculates the daily rate of return for a pool of CTAs selected from the larger managers that are open to new investment.

The **Barclay BTOP50 CTA Index** seeks to replicate the overall composition of the managed futures industry with regard to trading style and overall market exposure. The BTOP50 employs a top-down approach in selecting its constituents. The largest investable trading advisor programs, as measured by assets under management, are selected for inclusion in the BTOP50.

The CTA indexes do not encompass the whole universe of CTAs. The CTAs that comprise the indices have submitted their information voluntarily and the performance has not been verified by the index publisher.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The Equity benchmarks used in this material are intended to reflect the general equity market performance. They are shown to illustrate the non-correlated attributes versus other assets. Adding non-correlated assets within a portfolio has the potential to reduce portfolio volatility and drawdowns.

The performance of Auspice Managed Futures Index prior to 11/17/2010 is simulated and hypothetical as published by the NYSE. All performance data for all indices assumes the reinvestment of all distributions. To the extent information for the index for the period prior to its initial calculation date is made available, any such information will be simulated (i.e., calculations of how the index might have performed during that time period if the index had existed). Any comparisons, assertions and conclusions regarding the performance of the index during the time period prior to the initial calculation date will be based on back-testing.

These results are based on simulated or hypothetical performance results that have certain inherent limitations. Unlike the results shown in an actual performance record, these results do not represent actual trading. Also, because these trades have not actually been executed, these results may have under-or over-compensated for the impact, if any, of certain market factors, such as lack of liquidity. Simulated or hypothetical trading programs in general are also subject to the fact that they are designed with the benefit of hindsight. No representation is being made that any account will or is likely to achieve profits or losses similar to these being shown. The index does not have commissions, management/incentive fees, or operating expenses.

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