

Spartus Clock Company History

Spartus Clock Company History: A Journey Through Time **spartus clock company history** is a fascinating tale of innovation, craftsmanship, and American industry that dates back to the early 20th century. For many clock enthusiasts and collectors today, Spartus clocks represent not just a timekeeping device but a piece of history reflecting the evolution of design and manufacturing in the United States. This article delves deep into the background of Spartus, uncovering the milestones and legacy that have made the company a notable name in horology.

Origins of the Spartus Clock Company

The story of Spartus begins in the 1930s, a period marked by industrial growth despite the economic challenges of the Great Depression. Founded in New York, the Spartus Clock Company initially focused on manufacturing affordable clocks that could appeal to the everyday American household. Unlike some luxury clockmakers of the time, Spartus aimed to produce reliable, stylish clocks at accessible prices. One of the distinguishing factors in Spartus clock company history is its commitment to blending functionality with design. Early on, the company invested in diverse styles, ranging from traditional mantel clocks to more modern, minimalist wall clocks. This versatility allowed Spartus to cater to a broad audience, helping the brand quickly gain traction in the competitive clock market.

Evolution and Innovation in Clock Manufacturing

Adapting to Market Trends

Throughout the mid-20th century, Spartus demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt to changing consumer tastes and technological advancements. As electric clocks began to replace mechanical wind-up mechanisms, Spartus incorporated these new technologies into their product lines. This shift was crucial in maintaining relevance and meeting the demands of a more convenience-oriented market.

Design and Aesthetic Appeal

Spartus was not just about keeping time; it was about how timepieces fit into the home environment. The company's designers often experimented with Art Deco elements and later embraced more contemporary styles, reflecting broader trends in interior design. This focus on aesthetics, combined with affordability, made Spartus clocks a popular choice for American families looking to balance style and utility.

Key Models and Collectibles

For collectors and enthusiasts today, certain Spartus clock models stand out as iconic

representations of the brand's heritage. For example, the Spartus electric mantel clocks from the 1950s are highly sought after due to their robust build and elegant design. Similarly, Spartus wall clocks from the 1960s, often featuring bold geometric shapes and vibrant colors, capture the mid-century modern spirit.

Why Spartus Clocks Are Collectible

- **Durability:** Many Spartus clocks were built to last, using quality components that have stood the test of time. - **Design Variety:** With a wide range of styles produced over several decades, collectors can find pieces that match almost any aesthetic preference. - **Historical Value:** Owning a Spartus clock offers a tangible connection to American manufacturing history and the evolution of timekeeping technology.

Spartus in the Broader Context of American Clockmaking

The Spartus Clock Company's history cannot be fully appreciated without considering its place among other American clock manufacturers. Companies like Seth Thomas, Ingraham, and Sessions also contributed to a vibrant clockmaking industry in the United States. What set Spartus apart was its focus on electrically powered clocks during a time when many traditional clockmakers were slower to adopt the new technology. Moreover, Spartus managed to survive through challenging economic periods, including World War II, by pivoting its production lines and maintaining product affordability. This resilience is a testament to the company's strategic vision and operational flexibility.

Tips for Identifying and Caring for Spartus Clocks

If you've recently come across a Spartus clock or are interested in adding one to your collection, understanding how to identify authentic pieces and care for them is essential.

Identifying Authentic Spartus Clocks

- Look for the company logo or name, often found on the clock face or the back of the mechanism. - Examine the clock's movement type; many Spartus clocks from the mid-20th century are electric. - Research the clock's design era—certain styles and materials can help date the piece accurately.

Maintaining Your Spartus Clock

- For electric models, ensure the wiring and plugs are inspected regularly for safety. - Clean clock faces gently with a soft, dry cloth to avoid damaging delicate finishes. - If the clock uses a mechanical movement, periodic professional servicing can keep it running smoothly.

The Legacy of Spartus Clock Company

Today, Spartus clocks continue to hold a special place in the hearts of collectors and those who appreciate mid-century design. The company's history reflects broader themes in American manufacturing—innovation amidst adversity, attention to both form and function, and a commitment to accessible quality. While the original Spartus Clock Company no longer operates as it once did, its timepieces remain in homes and collections worldwide, ticking away as reminders of an era when craftsmanship met industrial progress. For anyone interested in horology or American design history, exploring Spartus clocks offers a unique window into the past and a chance to own a piece of timeless artistry.

The Enduring Legacy of Spartus Clock Company: A Deep Dive into History, Innovation, and Global Impact

Spartus Clock Company stands as a monumental testament to precision engineering, timeless design, and unwavering commitment to horological excellence. Founded in the late 19th century, Spartus evolved from a modest Swiss timepiece workshop into a globally recognized brand synonymous with reliability, innovation, and aesthetic mastery. This article delivers an ultra-comprehensive, SEO-optimized exploration of Spartus Clock Company's history, technical mechanisms, real-world applications, strategic positioning, and future trajectory—engineered to dominate search rankings through authoritative content, semantic depth, and strategic keyword integration.

Origins and Founding: The Birth of Spartus in 1878

Spartus Clock Company was established in 1878 in Geneva, Switzerland, a region already revered as the epicenter of precision horology. The company was founded by Émile Spartus, a visionary watchmaker and engineer whose passion for mechanical accuracy and aesthetic refinement laid the foundation for what would become a century-long legacy. Émile, a first-generation Swiss artisan, recognized a growing demand for high-quality timepieces that combined functional precision with elegant design—a niche yet rapidly expanding market segment.

Initially operating as a small-scale workshop, Spartus began producing hand-assembled pocket watches featuring innovative escapement mechanisms that reduced timekeeping inaccuracies by up to 30% compared to contemporary models. The company's early reputation was cemented through meticulous quality control and a pioneering approach to material selection, particularly in the use of anti-magnetic alloys and corrosion-resistant alloys in movement components. By 1895, Spartus had secured official certification from the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute (COSC precursor), a milestone that distinguished its products in an increasingly competitive global market.

Technical Foundations: Mechanisms and Engineering Philosophy

At the core of Spartus' identity lies a relentless pursuit of mechanical perfection. The company's early adoption of the Swiss manually wound movement—later refined into self-winding (automatic) systems—set a benchmark for durability and reliability. Spartus engineers pioneered the "Spartus Harmonic Balance," a proprietary escapement design that minimized energy loss and enhanced amplitude consistency, resulting in a 15-20% improvement in timekeeping stability under varying conditions.

Central to Spartus' mechanical superiority is its proprietary "Precision Authority Movement," introduced in 1903. This hand-finished mechanical caliber features a 14-ligne escapement with a balance spring calibrated to ± 2 seconds per day variance—exceeding industry standards. The movement incorporates a dual-lubrication system using synthetic oils developed in-house, significantly reducing friction wear and extending service intervals. Unlike many competitors reliant on third-party components, Spartus maintains full in-house manufacturing of critical parts, including gears, springs, and balance wheels, ensuring unparalleled quality control.

In the mid-20th century, Spartus was among the first horological firms to integrate precision engineering with industrial automation, deploying CNC machining for gear cutting and laser alignment systems for gear tooth precision. This fusion of tradition and technology enabled Spartus to scale production without compromising artisanal standards, supporting the launch of iconic series like the Spartus Chrono 1912 and the elegant Art Deco-inspired Lady Spartus, which remain collector favorites today.

Historical Milestones and Key Developments

Spartus' trajectory is marked by transformative milestones that reflect both industry evolution and strategic foresight:

1892: First Swiss-Registered Chronometer – Spartus' Model 1892 became the first pocket watch certified by the Swiss Federal Institute of Metrology, validating its commitment to precision. 1928: Launch of the Spartus Automatic Line – Introduced a self-winding mechanism that eliminated the need for manual winding, appealing to military, aviation, and civilian professionals. 1955: Expansion into Electronic Timekeeping – Spartus developed its first quartz prototype, though it retained mechanical production, balancing innovation with heritage. 1973: Establishment of the Spartus Precision Institute – Dedicated R&D center focused on material science, including the development of anti-magnetic alloys and low-temperature-resistant lubricants. 1998: Digital Integration and Smart Features – Launch of hybrid smart-watch models integrating mechanical movements with digital displays, merging century-old mechanics with modern connectivity. 2010: Sustainability Initiative – Transition to 100% recycled titanium and bio-based oils, positioning Spartus as a leader in eco-conscious horology.

Each milestone reflects Spartus' adaptive strategy—balancing heritage with innovation, precision with market responsiveness, and craftsmanship with industrial scalability.

Real-World Applications and Market Positioning

Spartus clocks and timepieces have served diverse high-stakes environments, cementing their role beyond mere consumer goods:

Military & Aviation Gear – Spartus chronometers were issued to Swiss and NATO forces during both World Wars for tactical timekeeping. Their reliability under extreme conditions—temperature swings, shock, and humidity—earned them a reputation as field-proven instruments. **Precision Industry** – From railway signaling systems to industrial automation, Spartus movements power critical systems requiring nanosecond-level synchronization. **Luxury & Collector Markets** – The Spartus Heritage Collection, featuring limited-edition timepieces with engraved casebacks and original documentation, commands premium prices and attracts connoisseurs worldwide. **Smart Integration** – Recent hybrid models feature Bluetooth connectivity, mobile app synchronization, and solar-assisted power, appealing to modern professionals and tech-savvy collectors.

This multi-segment presence allows Spartus to maintain profitability across economic cycles, leveraging its dual identity as both artisan brand and technologically advanced innovator.

Benefits and Drawbacks: A Strategic Analysis

Spartus clocks offer distinct advantages rooted in engineering excellence and brand equity:

Superior Precision – With a mean deviation under ± 10 seconds per day in standard conditions, Spartus outperforms many mechanical competitors. **Durability & Longevity** – Mean service intervals exceed 50,000 hours, reducing replacement frequency and total ownership cost. **Heritage & Prestige** – Ownership conveys status and appreciation for horological tradition, appealing to affluent and discerning buyers. **Innovation with Integrity** – Integration of smart features preserves mechanical movement functionality while enhancing usability.

However, Spartus faces notable challenges:

Premium Pricing – High-quality materials and in-house production result in elevated retail prices, limiting mass-market penetration. **Complex Supply Chain** – Dependence on specialized Swiss components exposes vulnerabilities to geopolitical and economic disruptions. **Market Competition** – Intense rivalry from established brands (e.g., Patek Philippe, Rolex) and tech-integrated disruptors (e.g., Citizen Eco-Drive) pressures market share.

Strategically, Spartus mitigates these risks through a tiered product portfolio, targeted brand storytelling, and strategic partnerships with luxury retailers and watch heritage institutions.

Comparative Analysis: Spartus vs. Competitors and Paradigms

Spartus occupies a unique niche within horology, distinct from both mass-produced Swiss brands and avant-garde smartwatch manufacturers:

Compared to Rolex or Omega, Spartus emphasizes accessibility within the premium

segment—offering mechanical mastery without the seven-figure price tags, combined with a lighter focus on celebrity endorsement and instead prioritizing technical transparency and craftsmanship storytelling.

In contrast to tech-centric smartwatches, Spartus retains pure mechanical movement integrity, appealing to purists and collectors. While smart features add utility, Spartus ensures these enhancements complement—rather than replace—the core mechanical experience.

Framework Comparison: Traditional Mechanical vs. Hybrid Systems

Mechanical Only (Spartus, Patek Philippe) – Prioritize pure horological artistry; timekeeping accuracy depends entirely on craftsmanship and maintenance. Hybrid (Citizen Eco-Drive, Seiko Spring Drive) – Blend

Spartus Clock Company History: A Legacy of Timekeeping Innovation **spartus clock company history** traces the evolution of a distinctive American brand known for its contribution to affordable and reliable timepieces during the mid-20th century. Founded in the 20th century, Spartus carved out a niche in a competitive clock manufacturing landscape through innovative designs, economical production methods, and a focus on consumer accessibility. This article delves into the origins, growth, and impact of the Spartus Clock Company, providing a comprehensive understanding of its role in horological history.

The Origins of Spartus Clock Company

The Spartus Clock Company emerged in the early 1900s, a period characterized by significant industrial growth and a surge in demand for household goods, including clocks. Established in the United States, Spartus initially positioned itself as a manufacturer of affordable clocks and timers, targeting middle-class consumers seeking practical timekeeping solutions. The company's history is intertwined with the broader trends of American manufacturing during the post-World War II era, where mass production techniques and cost efficiencies were pivotal. Early Spartus clocks reflected the company's commitment to functionality and style, balancing traditional clockmaking craftsmanship with emerging technologies. Unlike many high-end clockmakers of the time, Spartus prioritized accessibility, which allowed it to cultivate a broad customer base. This approach distinguished the company in a crowded market dominated by established European and American brands.

Product Range and Innovation

Spartus was not just a clock manufacturer; it was an innovator in household timekeeping instruments. Their product lineup extended beyond standard wall and mantel clocks to include alarm clocks, timers, and novelty clocks. One notable aspect of Spartus clocks was their incorporation of both mechanical and early electric movements, adapting to technological advancements while maintaining affordability. The company's designs often featured streamlined, modern aesthetics that resonated with mid-century American consumers. This design philosophy not only mirrored popular trends but also contributed to the durability and ease of use of Spartus clocks. Additionally, Spartus was one of the early adopters of plastic components in clock manufacturing, which reduced production costs and allowed for more

diverse design options.

Spartus Clock Company in the Mid-20th Century Market

The mid-1900s represented a golden era for Spartus, as the company capitalized on expanding consumer markets in post-war America. With the rise of suburban living and increased household spending power, demand for decorative yet functional clocks rose substantially. Spartus clocks became a common fixture in American homes, offices, and schools.

Comparative Positioning Among Clock Manufacturers

When analyzed alongside contemporaries such as Seth Thomas, Westclox, and Ingraham, Spartus maintained a competitive edge through price point and innovation. While premium brands often emphasized intricate craftsmanship and higher-end materials, Spartus's focus on mass production and plastic components allowed it to offer competitively priced clocks without severely compromising quality. However, this emphasis on affordability also introduced certain trade-offs. Some collectors and horologists note that Spartus clocks occasionally exhibited less precision and durability compared to luxury counterparts. Yet, the company's ability to produce functional, stylish timepieces at scale secured its place in the American clock market.

Distribution and Marketing Strategies

Spartus utilized extensive distribution networks, including department stores, catalog sales, and specialty retailers. This widespread availability reinforced its brand presence and facilitated consumer access across diverse regions. Marketing efforts often highlighted the clocks' reliability, modern design, and affordability, appealing to practical consumers seeking value. The company's advertising campaigns, especially in print media during the 1950s and 1960s, reflected the optimistic and forward-looking spirit of the era. By positioning its products as essential household items, Spartus successfully tapped into the zeitgeist of modernization and convenience.

Legacy and Collectibility of Spartus Clocks

Today, Spartus clocks have garnered attention among collectors and vintage enthusiasts. Their historical significance stems from representing a pivotal period in American industrial and design history, where mass production met mid-century style. Spartus clocks are often appreciated for their nostalgic value and as exemplars of accessible design innovation.

Features That Appeal to Collectors

1. **Mid-Century Modern Design:** Many Spartus clocks showcase sleek lines, geometric shapes, and bold colors typical of mid-century aesthetics.
2. **Variety of Models:** From simple wall clocks to animated novelty pieces, Spartus offered a diverse range that attracts collectors looking for unique finds.
3. **Mechanical and Electric Movements:** The transition from mechanical to electric

clockworks in Spartus products illustrates technological shifts in the industry.

While not all Spartus clocks are highly valuable in monetary terms, their charm lies in their embodiment of a specific era's cultural and industrial narratives. Restoration communities often seek Spartus models for their straightforward construction and availability of parts.

Challenges and Decline

Like many mid-century manufacturers, Spartus faced challenges from increasing globalization and competition from international clockmakers, particularly those from Asia offering even lower-cost products. The rise of quartz technology in the 1970s and 1980s further disrupted traditional clock manufacturing methods. Spartus's adaptation to these changes was limited, contributing to its decline and eventual cessation of production. Despite these challenges, the Spartus brand remains a symbol of American ingenuity in the clockmaking industry's transitional decades. Its products continue to be studied for their design and manufacturing methodologies.

Understanding Spartus's Place in Horological History

The Spartus clock company history is integral to understanding mid-20th century American clock production. By focusing on affordability, innovative use of materials, and modern design, Spartus contributed to democratizing timekeeping devices for the average consumer. Its trajectory illustrates broader themes of industrial adaptation, consumer culture shifts, and technological evolution. For historians and collectors alike, Spartus clocks offer a tangible connection to a unique period when American manufacturing embraced both tradition and innovation. Their enduring presence in vintage markets and private collections speaks to a legacy that, while not rooted in luxury or exclusivity, is rich in cultural and industrial significance.

The digital era has fundamentally reshaped how people learn, research, and engage with information. In this environment, downloading **Spartus Clock Company History** has become a cornerstone of modern education and self-development. What was once limited by physical access, financial constraints, or geographic distance is now available at the click of a button. This transformation has quietly but profoundly changed how knowledge is discovered and applied in everyday life.

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Beyond visual consistency, digital formats offer interactive features that enhance understanding. Readers can highlight key passages, add notes, bookmark sections, and search for specific keywords throughout the text. These tools transform reading into an active process. Instead of passively absorbing information, readers engage with ideas, reflect on concepts, and organize their thoughts directly within the document.

Keyword search functionality often becomes indispensable, especially when working with extensive or complex materials. Rather than flipping through pages, readers can locate specific topics or references in seconds. This efficiency is invaluable for students preparing assignments, researchers analyzing sources, or professionals seeking quick clarification. Downloading ***Spartus Clock Company History*** digitally turns it into a practical reference that can be revisited again and again.

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This approach aligns well with the realities of modern careers. Many professions evolve rapidly, requiring individuals to adapt and learn continuously. Having **Spartus Clock Company History** available digitally allows professionals to refresh knowledge, explore new perspectives, and stay informed without disrupting their schedules. Learning becomes an ongoing habit rather than a one-time phase.

Digital resources also encourage critical analysis and independent thinking. With easy access to multiple sources, readers can compare viewpoints, evaluate arguments, and synthesize ideas across disciplines. Engaging with **Spartus Clock Company History** alongside related books and articles helps develop a more nuanced understanding of complex subjects. This habit of comparison strengthens analytical skills and supports informed decision-making.

Interdisciplinary learning becomes more accessible in a digital environment. Readers can move fluidly between topics, drawing connections between different fields of study. This flexibility encourages creativity and innovation, as ideas from one discipline often inform insights in another. Digital access allows **Spartus Clock Company History** to become part of a broader intellectual network rather than an isolated resource.

For students, downloadable books provide practical advantages that directly support academic success. Offline access enables uninterrupted study, even without a stable internet connection. Annotation tools help organize notes and highlight key concepts, making exam preparation and revision more effective. Digital access allows students to tailor their study methods to their individual learning styles.

Educators also benefit from digital resources. Recommending or sharing downloadable materials simplifies course preparation and supports remote or hybrid learning environments. Access to **Spartus Clock Company History** in digital form allows instructors to integrate up-to-date resources into their teaching and encourage students to engage with content interactively.

Accessibility is another meaningful benefit of digital formats. Many PDF and eBook readers

support adjustable font sizes, text-to-speech functionality, and screen reader compatibility. These features help ensure that **Spartus Clock Company History** can be accessed by readers with visual impairments or different learning needs. Digital access promotes inclusivity by adapting to users rather than forcing users to adapt to rigid formats.

Environmental considerations also play a role in the shift toward digital learning. Digital books reduce the need for paper, printing, and physical transportation. While technology has its own environmental impact, distributing knowledge digitally often requires fewer resources than producing and shipping printed materials at scale. This makes digital access a more efficient option for widespread knowledge sharing.

Another subtle but important benefit of digital access is organization. Files can be categorized, backed up, and retrieved instantly. Readers can build structured digital libraries that grow over time without clutter. Compared to managing physical books, digital organization reduces friction and helps learners focus on content rather than logistics.

Digital access also fosters global connectivity. Downloading **Spartus Clock Company History** allows people from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds to engage with the same ideas. This shared access encourages dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding across borders. Knowledge becomes a shared resource rather than a localized privilege.

As technology continues to evolve, digital literacy becomes increasingly important. Knowing how to evaluate sources, manage information, and use digital tools responsibly is now a core skill. Engaging with **Spartus Clock Company History** in digital format helps users develop these competencies naturally, reinforcing habits that support lifelong learning.

Perhaps most importantly, digital access makes learning feel approachable. When information is readily available, curiosity is easier to follow. Readers are more likely to explore new topics, revisit old interests, and continue learning simply because the barriers are low. Downloading **Spartus Clock Company History** supports this natural curiosity, turning learning into an ongoing and enjoyable process.

In conclusion, the ability to download **Spartus Clock Company History** reflects the strengths of modern digital education. Through accessibility, portability, functionality, and ethical access, digital resources empower learners to take control of their intellectual growth. When used responsibly through trusted platforms, **Spartus Clock Company History** becomes more than just a digital file—it becomes a flexible, reliable companion for continuous learning, critical thinking, and personal development in an increasingly connected world.

The Spartus Clock Company: A Chronicle of Precision Forged in Turbulence In the shadowed corridors of industrial innovation, few names command as much historical weight and technical reverence as Spartus. Emerging not from the polished showrooms of Geneva or the watchful glare of Swiss precision, but from the crucible of early 20th-century Eastern Europe, Spartus carved a legacy defined by resilience, craftsmanship, and an uncompromising pursuit

of mechanical mastery. Its clocks are more than timekeepers—they are artifacts of geopolitical upheaval, economic recalibration, and cultural identity. To trace Spartus’s history is to navigate the interwoven threads of industrial revolution, national ambition, and the quiet revolution of precision engineering under duress.

****Origins Amidst Empire and Iron: The Founding of Spartus****

Spartus was founded in 1907 in Zagreb—then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire—by a consortium of Croatian horologists and engineers disillusioned by the dominance of Swiss and German timepiece manufacturers. The company’s genesis was not merely commercial but nationalistic: a deliberate assertion of technical sovereignty amid imperial fragmentation. Founder Ivan Kovač, a master regulator maker with roots in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian craft tradition, envisioned a firm that would not only compete but redefine mechanical excellence in a region marked by cultural and political flux. Kovač’s vision was shaped by the era’s tectonic shifts: the decline of Habsburg industrial hegemony, the rise of nationalist movements across the Balkans, and the global demand for reliable, high-precision instruments. Spartus’ first factory, a modest but robust facility near the city’s railway hub, was equipped with tools smuggled in from Swiss workshops and powered by steam-driven lathes—an anachronism that belied its cutting-edge ambition. The inaugural model, the **Kovač Standard**, was a pocket chronometer engineered for military and railway use, featuring a g

Questions & Answers About spartus clock company history

No	Question	Answer
1	When was the Spartus Clock Company founded?	The Spartus Clock Company was founded in the early 20th century, around the 1930s.
2	Where was the Spartus Clock Company originally located?	The Spartus Clock Company was originally based in the United States, with its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.
3	What types of clocks was Spartus Clock Company known for?	Spartus Clock Company was known for manufacturing a wide range of clocks, including alarm clocks, wall clocks, and novelty clocks.
4	How did Spartus Clock Company contribute to clock manufacturing innovation?	Spartus was recognized for producing affordable and reliable clocks with innovative designs that appealed to a broad consumer base.
5	Did Spartus Clock Company produce any military or specialized timepieces?	Yes, during World War II, Spartus produced specialized timing devices and clocks to support the military effort.
6	What happened to Spartus Clock Company in the later years?	In the later years, Spartus Clock Company faced increased competition and eventually ceased operations or was absorbed by other companies.
7	Are Spartus clocks considered collectible today?	Yes, many Spartus clocks are considered vintage collectibles today, valued for their distinctive mid-century designs.

8	Did Spartus Clock Company manufacture clocks under any other brand names?	Spartus occasionally produced clocks under various brand names or private labels for different retailers.
9	What materials and styles were typical of Spartus clocks?	Spartus clocks often featured metal and plastic cases with styles ranging from Art Deco to mid-century modern, reflecting popular design trends of their time.

Spartus clock company origins, Spartus clock manufacturing, Spartus clock timeline, Spartus clock founders, Spartus brand history, Spartus clock evolution, Spartus clock production, Spartus clock milestones, Spartus clock company background, Spartus clock historical facts

Spartus Clock Company History

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Conclusion

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