

Studio Dragon (253450)

Expecting Another Sluggish 4Q

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January 10, 2024

Maintain BUY but lower target price from KRW60,000 to KRW59,000

We maintain BUY but lower our TP from KRW60,000 to KRW59,000 on Studio Dragon. We revise down 2024E NP (to control. int.) by 19% based on a change in estimated no. of aired episodes (320→280). The stock currently trades at 28.9x 2024E P/E. Domestic content investment is unlikely to improve in the near term given TV/OTT market conditions, thus the company is expected to search for new growth drivers overseas.

4Q23 preview: Low earnings contribution from high-budget shows

We forecast 4Q23 revenue/OP at KRW154.5bn (-18.9% YoY)/-KRW1.2bn (turn to red YoY). Performance should be largely dragged down by a drop in no. of aired episodes to 69 (-32 YoY, -6 QoQ). Programming revenue is estimated at KRW30.8bn, as no. of TV episodes fell 10 QoQ to 40 (26 simultaneously aired on OTT). Distribution revenue should fall 33.6% YoY to KRW121.2bn. High-budget shows were aired (e.g., *Gyeongseong Creature*, *Sweet Home Season 2*, *A Bloody Lucky Day*) but their earnings contributions were low because of joint production. Studio Dragon should post an operating loss largely on amortization for *Arthdal Chronicles: The Sword of Aramun*, which began airing in 3Q23.

2024 forecast: Potential inclusion of global lineup would raise earnings

We forecast 2024 revenue/OP at KRW747.7bn (+0.2% YoY)/KRW72.2bn (+23.4% YoY; 9.7% OPM). The company should find it challenging to achieve growth solely from domestic content production amid the sluggish market. We anticipate 2023–level revenue. Despite a decline in no. of episodes produced following the removal of the Wed-Thurs drama time slot, production scale should expand. We note that 2024E revenue does not factor in U.S.-produced shows, thus potential inclusion of a global lineup (mentioned during 4Q23 earnings call) would raise 2024E earnings. OP should improve YoY on the back of profits from original content following contract renewal with Netflix.

Buy Maintain

Target Price (Lowered)	KRW59,000
Dividend yield*	0.0%
Total return	17.5%
Current price (Jan 10)	KRW50,200
Consensus target price	KRW76,833
Market capitalization	USD1.1bn

* 12-month forward

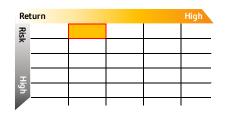
Trading Data							
Free float	45.2%						
Avg. T/O val. (3m, KF	5.3						
Foreign ownership	ership						
Major shareholders	CJ ENN	54.8%					
	Naver			6.3%			
Stock Price Perform	nance (to	otal return)				
(%)	1M	3M	6M	12M			
Absolute	-4.7	3.1	2.4	-37.1			
Relative	-10.1	-50.2					

Earnings Forecast & Valuation

Fiscal year-end	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenue (KRWbn)	747	748	822	897
OP (KRWbn)	59	72	93	117
NP to control, int. (KRWbn)	40	52	70	90
EPS (KRW)	1,332	1,735	2,326	2,984
EPS growth (%)	-20.9	30.3	34.1	28.3
P/E (x)	38.7	28.9	21.6	16.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.6	5.8	4.9	4.2
P/B (x)	2,2	2.0	1.8	1.6
ROE (%)	5.8	7.1	8.7	10.2
Div. yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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Risk & Total Return (annualized over three years)

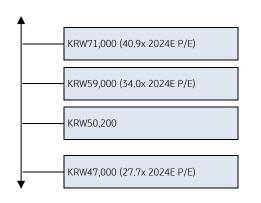


Stock Price & Relative Performance



Source(s): Company data, KB Securities





Revised Earnings Estimates

(KRWbn, %)	Previ	ous	Revis	sed	Cha	Change		
	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E		
Revenue	755.1	798.8	746.5	747.7	-1.1	-6.4		
OP	65.9	84.7	58.5	72.2	-11.2	-14.7		
NP (to control, int.)	48.4	64.4	40.0	52.1	-17.3	-19.0		

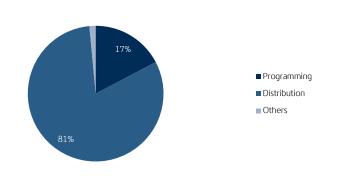
Source(s): KB Securities estimates

KB Estimates vs. Consensus

(KRWbn, %)	KB Esti	mates	Conse	nsus	Difference		
	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	
Revenue	746.5	747.7	774.7	834.8	-3.6	-10.4	
OP	58.5	72.2	73.3	86.0	-20.1	-16.0	
NP (to control. int.)	40.0	52.1	57.2	66.4	-30.0	-21.4	

Source(s): Quantiwise, KB Securities estimates

Revenue Composition (2024E)



Base-case scenario: Catalysts

- 1) 2024E TV content at 184 episodes
- 2) 2024E OTT-bound original content at 96 episodes

Bull-case scenario: Upside risks

- 1) 2024E TV content at over 200 episodes
- 2) 2024E OTT-bound original content at over 120 episodes

Bear-case scenario: Downside risks

- 1) 2024E TV content at under 160 episodes
- 2) 2024E OTT-bound original content at under 70 episodes

Valuation & Target Price Calculation

- 1) Valuation method:
 Discounted cash flow model
- 2) Target price calculation:9.3% WACC
- 3) Target price range: KRW478,000 - KRW71,000
- 4) Valuation at target price: 2024E P/E 34.0x

Earnings Sensitivity Analysis

(%)	EPS Change				
	2023E	2024E			
+1% in KRW/USD	+1.1	+1.1			
	+0.5	+4.9			

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

Peer Group Comparison

(KRWbn, X, %)	Market	P/E	P/E		P/B		EV/EBIT		ROE		Dividend Yield	
	Сар	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	
Studio Dragon	1.5	26.5	22.5	2.12	1.95	21.2	17.6	8.2	8.9	0.0	0.0	
CJ ENM	1.5	N/A	37.8	0.44	0.43	N/A	22.9	-6.8	8.0	1.6	1.8	
Warner Bros.	35.4	N/A	N/A	0.60	0.60	N/A	28.1	-0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	
Netflix	277.9	39.4	30.1	9.46	8.03	32.7	25.2	25.2	28.1	0.0	0.0	

Source(s): Bloomberg consensus, KB Securities estimates

Table 1. Earnings Forecast

(KRWbn, %)	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23E	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
TV Episode	53	87	99	76	73	64	50	40	-	315	227	184
OTT Episode	21	20	61	25	39	19	25	29	-	127	112	96
Revenue	121.1	157.5	228.9	190.5	211.1	163.5	217.4	154.5	487.1	697.9	746.5	747.7
Media	35.4	43.8	59.4	54.0	43.2	42.5	35.0	30.8	161.3	192.5	151.5	129.4
Commerce	77.7	103.9	165.8	132.8	165.7	118.9	180.0	121.2	275.5	480.2	585.8	607.3
Pictures	8.0	9.8	3.8	3.7	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	50.3	25.2	9.2	11.1
YoY %	3.4	48.5	97.2	28.8	74.4	3.8	-5.0	-18.9	-7.3	43.3	7.0	0.2
Media	-19.1	<i>55.4</i>	64.0	1.5	21.9	-3.1	-41.0	-42.9	-18.1	19.4	-21.3	-14.6
Commerce	23.0	53.8	<i>155.2</i>	66.4	113.1	14.4	8.6	-8.8	-1.5	74.3	22.0	3.7
Pictures	-21.5	-5.1	-74.8	- <i>75.3</i>	-71.0	-78.4	- <i>38.3</i>	-33.6	2.6	-49.9	-63.5	20.3
QoQ %	-18.1	30.0	45.3	-16.8	10.8	-22.6	33.0	-28.9				
Media	-33.4	23.7	35.5	-9.1	-20.0	-1.7	-17.5	-12.0				
Commerce	-2.6	33.7	59.5	-19.9	24.7	-28.2	51.4	- <i>32.7</i>				
Pictures	-46.6	22.8	-61.4	-2.4	-37.2	-8.5	10.0	5.0				
OP	18.1	27.0	18.9	1.2	21.6	16.3	21.9	-1.2	52.6	65.2	58.5	72.2
(YoY %)	1.4	95.7	29.9	-81.4	19.3	-39.8	15.4	TTR	7.0	24.0	-10.3	23.4
(QoQ %)	185.4	49.1	-29.9	-93.8	1732.1	-24.8	34.4	TTR				
OPM (%)	15.0	17.1	8.3	0.6	10.2	9.9	10.1	-0.8	10.8	9.3	7.8	9.7
NP to control, int.	15.6	25.6	17.8	-8.5	18.4	10.2	18.2	-6.7	39.0	50.6	40.0	52.1
(YoY %)	0.4	170.2	20.5	RR	17.8	-60.1	1.9	RR	31.8	29.5	-20.8	30.2
(QoQ %)	TTB	63.8	-30.3	TTR	TTB	-44.6	<i>78.3</i>	TTR				
NPM (%)	12.9	16.2	7.8	-4.4	8.7	6.2	8.4	-4.4	8.0	7.2	<i>5.4</i>	7.0

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

Note: RR=remain in red, TTB=turn to black, TTR=turn to red

Table 2. Key Valuation Measures

(KRWbn, x, '000 shares, KRW)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
EV/Sales	5.7x	6.4x	4.6x	5.1x	5.5x	3.8x	2,2x	2.1x
Revenue	287	380	469	526	487	698	747	748
% YoY	85.7	32.4	23.5	12.2	(7.3)	43.3	7.0	0.2
EV/EBITDA	22.1x	21.1x	14.9x	16.2x	17.6x	12.1x	6.6x	5.8x
EBITDA	74	115	146	165	152	219	247	276
% YoY	91.4	55.1	26.4	13.6	(8.3)	44.1	12.9	12.0
P/E	61.9x	72.3x	85.9x	88.7x	69.9x	51.1x	38.7x	28.9x
EPS	1,050	1,278	941	1,044	1,301	1,684	1,332	1,735
% YoY	84.5	21.7	(26.3)	10.9	24.6	29.4	(20.9)	30.2
P/B	4.95x	6.46x	5.31x	4.56x	3.99x	3.91x	2.17x	1.97x
BVPS	13,141	14,305	15,242	20,309	22,785	21,982	23,744	25,479
% YoY	112.8	8.9	6.5	33.2	12.2	(3.5)	8.0	7.3
Share price	65,000	92,400	80,900	92,600	91,000	86,000	51,500	50,200
No. of shares	22,711	28,038	28,068	28,369	30,008	30,020	30,058	30,058
Market cap	1,822	2,592	2,273	2,778	2,731	2,585	1,548	1,509

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

Table 3. Valuation: Discounted Cash Flow Model

(KRWbn, %, k shares, KRW)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	Terminal
NOPLAT	26.6	30.1	22.1	37.2	39.6	57.2	49.0	61.4	73.7	91.8	111.4	131.1	
Operating profit	33.0	39.9	28.7	49.1	52.6	65.2	58.5	72.2	93.4	117.1	142.9	168.9	
Taxes	(6.4)	(9.8)	(6.6)	(11.9)	(13.0)	(8.1)	(9.5)	(10.8)	(19.7)	(25.3)	(31.5)	(37.8)	
D&A	41.3	75.3	116.8	116.2	99.1	153.3	188.3	204.3	216.4	225.1	231.6	236.6	
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	1.8	2.9	3.8	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	
Amortization	41.0	75.0	115.0	113.3	95.3	150.0	185.3	201.1	213.1	221.7	228.2	233.2	
(-)Change in working capital	(72.9)	(139.4)	(142.9)	(144.1)	(154.9)	(279.6)	(147.5)	(26.0)	38.1	(10.2)	(9.9)	(8.0)	
Decrease/increase in accounts receivable	(13.7)	(27.2)	(21.8)	(31.4)	2.2	(35.2)	25.5	(27.7)	38.0	(11.0)	(10.7)	(8.7)	
Decrease/increase in inventories	(2.1)	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Decrease/increase in account payables	9.0	25.9	8.6	(11.5)	18.7	11.7	0.7	1.7	0.1	0.9	8.0	0.7	
Other	(66.1)	(138.4)	(130.2)	(101.2)	(175.8)	(256.0)	(173.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	
(–) Tangible capital expenditures	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.5)	(7.2)	(1.8)	(3.9)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	
(-) Intangible capital expenditures	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(1.2)	(8.0)	(2.5)	(84.2)	(229.1)	(231.4)	(233.7)	(236.1)	(238.4)	
(-) Other	(2.1)	5.0	(8.2)	(4.1)	7.9	6.2	(11.5)	(9.2)	(3.8)	(2.1)	0.1	3.1	
Free cash flow	(7.5)	(29.4)	(13.0)	(3.1)	(11.0)	(69.3)	(9.5)	(2.3)	89.4	67.3	93.7	120.8	2,420.2
(KRWbn, %, k shares, KRW)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	Terminal
Operating cash flow	(7.2)	(29.1)	(12,2)	5,2	(8,4)	(62,9)	78.3	230.4	324.4	304.6	333.3	362.8	
(-) Tangible capital expenditures	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.5)	(7.2)	(1.8)	(3.9)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	
(-) Intangible capital expenditures	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(1.2)	(0.8)	(2.5)	(84.2)	, ,	, ,	. ,	(236.1)	(/	
Free cash flow	(7.5)	(29,4)	(13.0)	(3.1)	(11.0)	(69.3)	(9.5)	(2.3)	89.4	67.3	93.7		2,420.2
Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates	,,	,,	,,	, - /	,,	(=====	· · · · · · ·	, ,					,

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

Note: Studio Dragon's content investments reflected as intangible capital expenditures (cash flow from investing activities)

Table 4. Valuation: Discounted Cash Flow Model

(KRWbn, %, k shares, KRW)	Valuation				
Total PV of 2023–2028 cash flow	279.8				
PV of terminal value (1% TGR)	1,550.9				
Enterprise value	1,830.8				
(-) Net debt	71.1				
(-) Non-controlling interests	0.0				
(+) Investments in non-consolidated affiliates	12.3				
Equity value	1,771.9				
(÷) No. of shares	30,058.5				
Target price	59,000				
Current price	50,200				
Upside	17.5				

Source(s): KB Securities estimates

Table 5. WACC Calculation

(KRWbn, %)	Revised	Notes
COE (A) = a + b x c	9.62	
Risk-free rate (a)	3.64	Avg. 1y MSB yield (last three months)
Adj. beta (b)	0.98	Adj. beta
Risk premium (c = d - e)	6.11	
Market (d)	9.41	2001-2023 annual avg. WMI500 total return
Risk-free rate (e)	3.30	2001–2023 annual avg. 1y MSB total return
COD (B)	4.27	Avg. yield of Studio Dragon's short-term debt
Fair equity value	2,797	Value of outstanding shares implied by TP
Debt	182	
Weight of equity value (f)	0.94	
Weight of debt (g)	0.06	
WACC (C) = $(A \times f) + (B \times g)$	9.30	

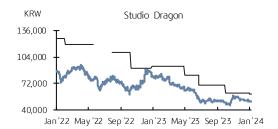
Source(s): KB Securities estimates

Income Statement						Statement of Financial Position					
(KRWbn)	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	(KRWbn)	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
(Reporting standard)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(Reporting standard)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)
Revenue	698	747	748	822	897	Total assets	1,091	1,131	1,185	1,255	1,346
Cost of revenue	598	635	554	597	637	Current assets	400	374	387	438	517
Gross profit	100	112	194	226	260	Cash and cash equivalents	124	103	88	178	246
SG&A expenses	35	53	122	132	142	Current financial assets	5	8	8	8	8
Operating profit	65	59	72	93	117	Trade receivables	142	133	161	123	134
EBITDA	219	247	277	310	342	Inventory	0	0	0	0	0
Non-operating accounts	-7	-9	-9	-4	-2	Other current assets	130	130	130	130	130
Interest income	2	1	4	6	8	Non-current assets	691	758	798	817	829
Interest expenses	5	2	8	8	8	Investment assets	150	156	163	163	163
Profit on equity method	0	0	0	0	0	Property, plant and equipment	11	13	13	13	14
Net other non-operating income	-4	-8	-5	-2	-2	Intangible assets	378	417	445	464	476
Profit before tax	59	50	63	90	115	Other non-current assets	152	172	177	177	177
Income tax expense	8	10	11	20	25	Total liabilities	430	418	419	420	421
Net profit	51	40	52	70	90	Current liabilities	416	404	406	406	407
NP attributable to controlling interests	51	40	52	70	90	Trade payables	16	8	10	10	11
Adj. net profit	51	40	52	70	90	Short-term financial liabilities	170	172	172	172	172
						Other current liabilities	230	224	224	224	224
Operating Statistics & Ratios						Non-current liabilities	14	14	14	14	14
(%)	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	Non-current financial liabilities	9	9	9	9	9
Revenue growth	43.3	7.0	0.2	10.0	9.0	Other non-current liabilities	4	4	4	5	5
OP growth	24.0	-10.3	23.4	29,4	25.3	Total equity	661	714	766	836	925
EBITDA growth	44.1	12,9	12.0	12,1	10.4	Issued capital	15	15	15	15	15
NP growth of parent	29.5	-20.8	30.2	34.1	28.3	Share premium	473	473	473	473	473
GP margin	14.3	15.0	26.0	27.5	29.0	Other equity interest	0	0	0	0	0
OP margin	9.3	7.8	9.7	11,4	13.1	Accumulated other comprehensive income	-40	-27	-27	-27	-27
EBITDA margin	31.3	33.1	37.0	37.7	38.2	Retained earnings	213	253	305	375	464
EBT margin	8.4	6.6	8.4	10.9	12.8	Controlling interests	661	714	766	836	925
NP margin of parent	7.3	5.4	7.0	8.5	10.0	Non-controlling interests	0	0	0	0	0
Statement of Cash Flows						Key Ratios					
(KRWbn)	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	(x, %, KRW)	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash flow from operating activities	-63	78	230	324	305	Multiples					
Net profit	51	40	52	70	90	P/E	51.1	38.7	28.9	21.6	16.8
Depreciation & amortization	153	188	204	216	225	P/B	3.9	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.6
Other non-cash adjustments	23	9	11	20	25	P/S	3.7	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7
Investments in working capital	-280	-147	-26	38	-10	EV/EBITDA	12.1	6.6	5.8	4.9	4.2
Decrease(Increase) in receivables	-35	26	-28	38	-11	EV/EBIT	40.4	27.7	22.1	16.1	12,3
Decrease(Increase) in inventory	0	0	0	0	0	Dividend yield, ordinary (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase(Decrease) in payables	12	1	2	0	1	EPS	1,684	1,332	1,735	2,326	2,984
Investments in other working capital	-256	-174	0	0	0	BVPS	21,982	23,744	25,479	27,805	30,789
Other operating cash flow	-10	-12	-11	-20	-25	SPS	23,250	24,836	24,875	27,363	29,825
Cash flow from investing activities	-43	-96	-238	-235	-237	DPS (annual, ordinary)	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	Cash dividends payout ratio (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investments in intangibles	-3	-84	-229	-231	-234	Operating performance					
Changes in investment assets	-12	-5	0	0	0	ROE	7.5	5.8	7.1	8.7	10.2
Other investment cash flow	-25	-2	-6	0	0	ROA	5.1	3.6	4.5	5.7	6.9
Cash flow from financing activities	165	-6	-7	0	0	ROIC	7.3	4.8	6.6	8.0	9.2
Proceeds from (repayment of) debt	168	-1	0	0	0	Financial structure (%)					
Changes in equity	3	0	0	0	0	Total liab./equity	65.1	58.5	54.8	50.2	45.5
Dividends paid	0	0	0	0	0	Net debt/equity	7.7	10.0	11.2	Net Cash	Net Cash
Other financing cash flow	-5	-6	-7	0	0	Current ratio	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3
Other cash flow	0	3	0	0	0	Interest coverage (x)	13.2	30,6	8.7	11.2	14.0
Increase/decrease in cash	59	-21	-14	90	68	Activity ratios					
Cash and cash equivalents at FYE	124	103	88	178	246	Asset turnover (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Free cash flow	-69	-9	-2	89	67	Receivables turnover (x)	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.8	7.0
Net cash flow	-114	-20	-14	90	68	Payables turnover (x)	42.1	61.9	85.3	85.5	88.9
Net cash (net debt)	-51	-71	-86	4	72	Inventory turnover (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

★ KB Securities

Rating & Target Price Changes (Share price —, Target price —)



Date	Rating	Analyst	TP Differential (%)			
			(KRW)	Avg.	Max/Min	
Dec-30-2021	Buy	Danny Lee	127,000	-34,15		
Feb-11-2022	Buy	Danny Lee	120,000	-32.34	-21.17	
Aug-05-2022	담당자변경	Yonghyun Choi		-		
Aug-08-2022	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	110,000	-35.02	-25.91	
Oct-17-2022	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	90,000	-17.07	-1,22	
Jan-04-2023	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	93,000	-19.32	-10.32	
May-08-2023	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	82,000	-23.81	-18.78	
Jul-03-2023	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	70,000	-27.11	-23.00	
Oct-10-2023	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	60,000	-13.15	-4.50	
Jan-10-2024	Buy	Yonghyun Choi	59,000			

Classification of Investment Ratings

Stock Ratings	(based	on ex	pected	12m	performance)

Buy: +15% or beyond	Hold: Between 15% and -15%	Sell: -15% or beyond
Note: Classification revised from	n four ratings (Strong BUY, BUY, Marketp	erform, Underperform) to three
(Buy, Hold, Sell) as of Feb 23, 2	017; Basis for ratings revised from expect	ted 6m return to expected 12m
return as of Feb 10, 2020		

Buy	Hold	Sell
89.0	11.0	-

Sector Ratings (based on expected 12m performance)

Positive:	Neutral:	Negative:				
To outperform market	To perform in line with market	To underperform market				
Note: Classification revised from Overweight/Neutral/Underweight to Positive/Neutral/Negative as of Jun						
28 2017: Basis for ratings revised from expected 6m return to expected 12m return as of Feb 10, 2020						

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