



# EVERYBODY VS. BILLIONAIRES

THE LITTLESIS GUIDE TO EXPOSING  
THE BILLIONAIRES IN YOUR BACKYARD



# BILLIONAIRE WEALTH AND POWER

is being turbocharged under the current Trump administration. Over the past year alone, the top ten U.S. billionaires saw their [wealth grow](#) by an astounding \$698 billion, enough to end homelessness in the U.S. for over sixty years or end world hunger for twenty years. As working people across the nation face rising prices and costs for basic needs and see their state and local budgets slashed, billionaires are using their ever-expanding wealth to [buy superyachts](#), [travel to outer space](#), and -- unfortunately for the rest of us -- try and [live forever](#).

Moreover, within this wider expansion of billionaire power and wealth, a subset of the billionaire class, tied especially to tech and finance, has closely aligned itself with Trump's authoritarian agenda. Megabillionaires from Elon Musk and Peter Thiel to Jeff Yass and Larry Ellison are financing, enabling and profiting from Trump's rule and its attacks on workers, immigrants, climate, and more.

It's no stretch to say that, today, billionaire influence and political authoritarianism are conjoined and mutually reinforcing, allies in a joint effort to enrich and consolidate the power of an oligarchic elite.

But the good news is that people across the country are resisting this billionaire takeover.

At LittleSis, we've heard from organizers across the country -- from campaigns like Tesla Takedown and Purge Palantir, from Pennsylvania to Washington -- who want to take on billionaire power where they live. They want to learn about their own local billionaires: who they are, where their power and influence lies, and how to resist their agenda while putting forward one of our own.



Across the U.S., we're already seeing a growing fightback against the power of billionaire oligarchs. For example:

- Starting in early 2025, thousands of people across the U.S. came together in "[Tesla Takedown](#)" actions that gathered at Tesla dealerships to protest Tesla CEO Elon Musk's key role in Trump's assault on government agencies and workers through the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Tesla Takedown succeeded in toxifying the Tesla brand to such an extent that the company's car sales [dramatically fell](#). Musk, the world's richest person, stepped down as head of DOGE in late May 2025.
- Organizers in Pennsylvania have forged a [broad coalition](#) to take on Jeff Yass, the libertarian founder of the trading firm Susquehanna International Group who is the state's wealthiest billionaire and a key funder of conservative causes. In 2024 the coalition took hundreds of people to Harrisburg to ask their elected officials on both sides of the aisle to -- among other things -- vote against a Yass-backed voucher bill that would reallocate critical funds away from Pennsylvania's public schools. The campaign was successful in stopping that bill and has since made Yass and billionaire influence a key issue in elections from local races to the recent state Supreme Court election.
- Over 200 groups in New York formed the Invest in Our New York coalition to make the state's wealthiest people and corporations pay their fair share to fund public goods like education, affordable housing and healthcare. In [2021](#), they won a big victory when New York State passed a budget that included \$4.3 billion in revenue from raising taxes on the wealthiest people and corporations to fund things like emergency rental assistance, funding for schools, and more. In 2025 the coalition is seeking a billionaire wealth tax and [other new taxes](#) on the state's wealthiest people and corporations.
- Through the "[Purge Palantir](#)" campaign, people across the U.S. have protested Palantir Technologies, the data management corporation headed by billionaires Peter Thiel and Alex Karp. Thiel has been an influential behind-the-scenes player in the Trump administration while Palantir received more than [\\$322 million](#) in government contracts during the first half of 2025 alone. Palantir's tech provides the backbone for ICE's data management and integration system that drives the agency's surveillance, raids, detention and deportation of immigrants.
- As tech billionaires like Larry Ellison, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos and others look to build data centers to power the rising AI bubble, local communities from [Virginia](#) and [Arizona](#) and [Georgia](#) to [Michigan](#), have been taking on these billionaires and tech executives. Oligarchs are pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into data centers that are gobbling up electricity and contributing to rising utility costs for working people, while often being powered by dirty methane gas fossil fuels.

At LittleSis, we have received requests from organizers across the country who are looking to map billionaire influence in their cities, towns, and states in order to fight back. This guide includes questions, resources, and examples to help you map billionaire influence and opportunities for fightback where you live.

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# IDENTIFYING THE BILLIONAIRES IN YOUR BACKYARD



There are over 3,000 billionaires in the world and over 1,100 in the United States. Some of them, such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Peter Thiel, are frequently in the news for their funding and construction of [Trump's authoritarian project](#), as well as their [wealth hoarding](#), [union busting](#), and [deportation profiteering](#).

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

Who are the other billionaires? Where do they live? What industries do they make their money from? Which billionaires are the closest to Trump and playing a key role in shaping, bankrolling, and implementing his tech-right authoritarian agenda? Resources to help you answer these questions include:

- [Forbes' Real-Time Billionaire List](#) - This is the go-to, most comprehensive list of billionaires available. It is updated with each billionaire's net worth in real time. You can search and sort the data by industry, net worth, country, age, and more.
- [The Department of Class Solidarity](#) - This website builds on Forbes' list and includes profiles on specific billionaires with information on their political ideology, scandals, obscene spending, and how they are enabling Trump's attacks on communities across the country. You can also identify which billionaires have their primary residence in your state by using the state filter [here](#).
- [LittleSis.org](#) - [LittleSis.org](#) is an "involuntary facebook of the 1%" that tracks relationships between powerful people, corporations, and politicians. Many billionaires have profiles on [littlesis.org](#) showing their business, political, and social networks. For example, see private equity billionaire Stephen Schwarzman's profile [here](#).
- ["What We Know About America's Billionaires: 1,135 and Counting" from The Wall Street Journal](#) - This project identifies trends across the U.S.'s 1,135 billionaires, including where they live, their top causes, and their ages.
- [Revolving Door Project's "Tracking Oligarchs in Trump World"](#) - From The Revolving Door Project: "The second iteration of the Trump Administration is the [wealthiest](#) ruling clique in American history. Trump tapped a total of 13 billionaires to serve in his second term. Even putting aside Elon Musk, these oligarchs have a combined net worth of almost \$600 billion. Whether you are Linda McMahon, who [effectively](#) has no experience in education, or known Wall Street [hustler](#) Howard Lutnick, the administration's power comes entirely from its donor class. Due to this unfortunate reality of the current political landscape, the Revolving Door Project has assembled a tracker of the most egregious examples of the wealthiest in and around the Trump administration."

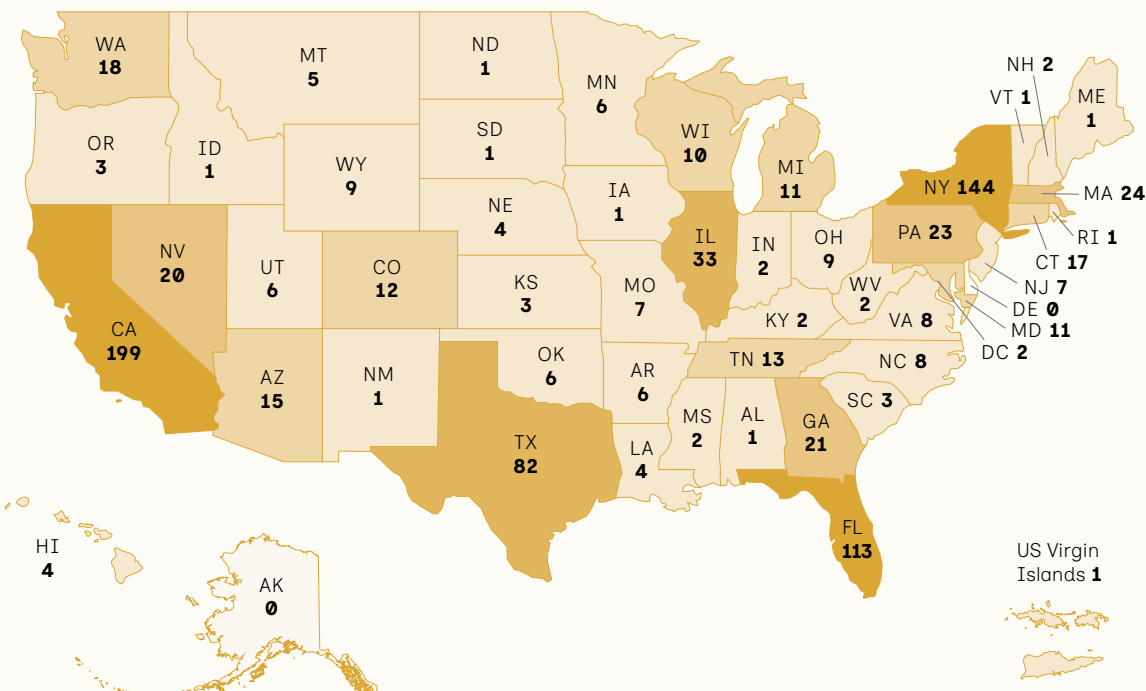




## RESEARCH RESOURCES CONTINUED

- [“The Authoritarian Stack”](#) from The Autonomy Institute - Includes a helpful mapping of the Authoritarian Right network, including ideological, investment, board and leadership, policy, and procurement ties.
- Local press - Local press will often report on local billionaires. Google “[your state, city]” and “billionaires” and you will probably turn up a list of local billionaires. Once you identify which billionaires live in your state or town, you can search your local paper for their names to get a sense of their business, political, and social networks, as well as how they influence issues you care about. For example, you can conduct internet searches with with a billionaire’s name and the following key words:
  - Lawsuit
  - Scandal
  - Tax evasion
  - Political contributions
  - Housing
  - Climate
  - Prison/Police
  - Charter Schools
  - ICE/immigration
  - Authoritarianism
  - Trump

## BILLIONAIRES BY STATE



Source: <https://department-of-class-solidarity.netlify.app/billionaires/>

# WAYS BILLIONAIRE INFLUENCE MIGHT SHOW UP IN YOUR TOWN, CITY, OR STATE



Billionaires shape our political and economic systems in countless ways. They are [bosses](#), [landlords](#), [political donors and architects](#), and more. Mapping billionaire influence in your town, city, or state can help identify opportunities for political and economic pressure to fight back. This section highlights five ways billionaire influence might be showing up where you live, alongside research tips and data sources for investigating them, and examples of how people are fighting back.

## Donating to local politicians and influencing local elections

Billionaires spent [record amounts](#) during the 2024 federal election. Just 100 billionaire families spent \$2.6 billion—double what billionaires spent in 2020. Top billionaire donors included Elon Musk, Timothy Mellon (heir to the Mellon banking fortune), the Uihlein packaging and office supply dynasty, Miriam Adelson (widow of casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson), hedge fund manager Ken Griffin, high-frequency trader Jeff Yass, and hedge fund manager Paul Singer, all of whom donated to various Republican committees.

These and other billionaires are not just spending massive amounts of money to shape federal politics, they are also spending massive amounts of money to influence local and state governments. For example, Wall Street billionaire and school privatization evangelist Jeff Yass is the [largest campaign donor in Pennsylvania state politics](#). He has also spent money in [18 other states](#) in the pursuit of privatizing schools. Elon Musk spent [\\$20 million](#) on Wisconsin's Supreme Court race. West Texas oil billionaire Tim Dunn has used his money to remake Texas politics [with the hopes of turning the state into a Christian theocracy](#). Finance and tech billionaires spent [\\$19 million](#) in an attempt to beat newly-elected mayor of New York City Zohran Mamdani.

While billionaires are increasingly emboldened to bypass democracy to implement their agendas, resistance to the billionaire class's agenda and political capture is also growing. In Pennsylvania, the All Eyes on Yass coalition (which [tracks Jeff Yass's political spending](#) in Pennsylvania) has led the [All Eyes on Yass Pledge For a Healthy Democracy](#), a pledge from state elected officials to prioritize democracy by refusing money from Yass and his associated organizations. Mamdani's win in New York City was a resounding refute of the billionaire agenda for the city. Musk was defeated when he tried to meddle in Wisconsin's Supreme Court, as was [Jeff Yass](#) when he attempted to do the same in Pennsylvania.



## RESEARCH RESOURCES

If you are interested in mapping billionaire influence in your state and local politics, there are several resources and data sets that will be useful:

- News articles – Again, Google and local news sources are very helpful for this kind of research, especially if you don’t know where to start or are not focused on a particular billionaire or political race. Often, local journalists will have compiled primers on corporate and billionaire spending in local elections. For example, see [this](#) roundup from Michigan. If you are not sure where to start, trying googling terms like:
  - [state or city] billionaires
  - “[state or city]” and “billionaires” and “campaign finance”
  - “[state or city]” and “billionaires” and “political spending”
- Similarly, if you are trying to determine if a particular billionaire you have identified has spent money in politics where you live, try some simple Google searches like:
  - [billionaire name] [state or city]
  - [billionaire name] [state or city] [campaign finance]
  - [billionaire name] [state or city] [political spending]
- State and local campaign finance databases – States, cities, and counties all have their own campaign finance reporting systems. These systems include databases that allow you to search for specific donors or candidates. To find your city or state’s campaign finance database, Google [city/state] [campaign finance database]. For example, here is [Pennsylvania’s campaign finance database](#). The quality of data available and the functionality of these databases differs greatly from state to state. Take some time to explore what is available where you live. And if you are having trouble, don’t hesitate to reach out to the workers who maintain the database –they are often very helpful and can help you find what you are looking for.
- [TransparencyUSA](#) – TransparencyUSA is a database that includes campaign finance data for [24 states](#). TransparencyUSA helpfully aggregates data so you can see [lists](#) of top contributors, top committees, and top candidates in a state.
- [Federal Elections Commission \(FEC\) campaign finance database](#) – The FEC’s campaign finance database lets you search for campaign contributions made at the federal level. Even when you are doing state or city-level research, there can be instances when money contributed at the federal level ends up being funneled to more local vehicles.
- [LittleSis’ Money in Politics training](#) – LittleSis covered how to do campaign finance research (including key terms that are helpful to understand when investigating the sometimes convoluted trail of money in politics) during our 2024 Research Tools for Organizers training series. See here for the [slidedeck](#) and a [recording of the training](#).

## Buying up natural resources, from land to waterways

Billionaires are always looking to buy up natural resources – from water to land to fossil fuels. Currently, billionaires including Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Sam Altman, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, and Larry Ellison are engaged in a frenzied rush to control the water, land, and energy needed to power data centers for AI. Private equity billionaires including Stephen Schwarzman of Blackstone, Larry Fink of Blackrock, and Marc Rowan and Josh Harris of Apollo Global [are financing the frenzy](#). Across the U.S., [urban](#) and [rural communities](#) alike are standing up to AI billionaires siphoning [energy](#), [water](#), and [public dollars](#).

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

Here are a few resources to start identifying tech billionaires buying up natural resources where you live:

- Media Justice’s [“The People Say No: Resisting Data Centers in the South”](#) report and [toolkit](#) – A great primer on the issue of data centers, which also includes case studies of data center buildout in regions across the South and clear explanation of the different billionaires and corporations driving the data center expansion at the expense of Black and Brown communities.
- [Data Center Watch](#) – A roundup of where activists are fighting back and winning by blocking and delaying projects.
- Institute for Policy Studies’ [“Billionaire Blockback on Housing”](#) – A report on the billionaires buying up housing. You do internet searches with the names of these landlords + where you live to see if they have a significant presence in your backyard.
- LittleSis’ [“Who are our landlords and where do they get their money?”](#) training – In this training, LittleSis covered how to power research landlords, including billionaire landlords. The training also includes tips and tricks for how to unwind the networks of secretive LLCs corporate landlords often use to obscure ownership.
- Local news – Data centers are hot topics right now. Try googling [your town/city/state] and data center, and you’ll likely find helpful information. You can also read your local newspaper or [business journal](#) to see if any real estate billionaires are acquiring large tracks of land or undertaking development projects locally.



## Securing state and local tax breaks for projects in your backyard

Billionaires love to build their businesses with public money, including massive tax breaks. For example, Elon Musk and his businesses have received at least [\\$38 billion](#) in government contracts, loans, subsidies, and tax credits. Tax breaks for billionaire-backed data centers are [robbing states of hundreds of millions of dollars](#). Public financing of billionaire projects provide opportunities for everyday people to call attention to their destructive practices and demand accountability. For example, activists and elected officials in Austin, Texas are calling for a renegotiation of Tesla's [multimillion tax break](#) in light of Musk's toxic politics and the company's refusal to provide transparent information about how they are fulfilling commitments tied to their tax break.



## RESEARCH RESOURCES

There are several research approaches and tools that can help you identify which billionaires have secured state and local tax breaks for projects near you:

- [Good Jobs First Subsidy Tracker](#) - A powerful “national search engine for economic development subsidies and other forms of government financial assistance to business.” You can search by state or company name.
- [Good Jobs First “Researchers Guide: Researching Economic Development Subsidies & Their Impact](#) - Good Job’s First guide to researching corporate tax breaks.
- News searches - Local news will usually report on projects getting massive tax breaks. Try these google searches:
  - [city or state] corporate tax breaks/tax subsidies
  - [city or state] and billionaire and tax breaks/tax subsidies
- Local government agencies’ meeting minutes, press releases, and events - Identify which government agencies are responsible for approving economic development deals. Often, these agencies post meeting minutes, press releases, and more on their website.
- Public records requests/[MuckRock](#) - If you have identified a particular billionaire-backed project that is receiving tax subsidies, there are likely many public documents about the project that can provide you with information about how the deal is structured. [MuckRock](#) can provide guidance and examples for how to submit relevant public records requests. See their [FOIA 101 guide here](#). There are many public records request templates available online, such as [here](#). After you’ve submitted your request, be sure to jump on the phone and follow up with the records officer to ensure they have received it and establish a point of contact.

## Doing business with local government agencies

Many if not most of Trump's billionaire inner-circle are recipients of massive government contracts. Peter Thiel's Palantir alone is slotted to receive [\\$2.3 billion](#) in federal contracts this year. It has been the target of [protests](#) over contracts that power ICE and the Israeli Defense Ministry. Amazon will do [\\$630 million](#) worth of business with the federal government. Many of these companies also hold contracts with state and local government agencies. For example, a 2021 [investigation](#) found the Los Angeles Police Department worked with Palantir to surveil Angelenos with little concern over First Amendment rights.



## RESEARCH RESOURCES

Resources for identifying local government contracts include:

- [USAspending.gov](#) - The official source for federal spending information, including contracts, grants and loans. The database can be filtered by state. Even if these are federal contracts there can still be linkages to state and local work.
- State procurement websites - The Institute for Public Procurement has a list of state procurement websites [available here](#). This will take you to the specific agency in your state that handles government contracts - these agency names can range from General Services, Procurement, Purchasing, Enterprise Services, Administration, etc. State procurement departments typically have some kind of portal where the public can search for active contracts. These portals vary widely in terms of how transparent and useful they are.
- Local procurement databases - Local procurement departments also sometimes have searchable portals. For an example, see [New York City's procurement database](#), and their open government tool [Checkbook](#). If you are having trouble finding data from your local procurement department, try Googling the city name + search terms like "bid" "contract" "procurement" "vendor" "solicitation" "request for proposal."
- Public records requests/[MuckRock](#) - If you are having trouble finding the information you are looking for on the procurement department website, you might want to submit a public records request. [MuckRock](#) can provide guidance and examples for how to submit relevant public records requests. See their [FOIA 101 guide here](#). There are many public records request templates available online, such as [here](#). After you've submitted your request, be sure to jump on the phone and follow up with the records officer to ensure they have received it and establish a point of contact.

## In your pension or university endowment's investment portfolio

There's also a good chance that your university endowment or your pension fund – either through a private employer or a public state or municipal pension fund – is investing through or in any number of villainous billionaires. Activists and elected officials across the country have been calling on pension funds and universities to use their power as shareholders to influence corporate decision-making or divest from companies entirely to hold their billionaire leaders accountable. For example, the California Public Employee's Retirement System (CalPERS) recently [opposed](#) Tesla's decision to award Elon Musk a \$1 trillion pay package. Last spring, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania [stopped](#) buying Tesla stock due to Elon Musk's politically motivated destruction.



## RESEARCH RESOURCES

Two ways that your institutions might be enriching billionaires include:

- **First**, through directly investing in the **stock** of companies like Tesla (and Elon Musk) or Palantir (and Peter Thiel and Alex Karp).
- **Second**, through investing in **funds** overseen by asset managers and private equity firm run by influential billionaires – for example, by BlackRock (and Larry Fink) or Blackstone (and Stephen Schwarzman).

There are a few ways you can look for these investments:

- **Look at the portfolio holdings of public retirement funds:** Public retirement funds, through which public officials oversee and manage taxpayer money that funds the pensions of public employees, sometimes have publicly-disclosed portfolio holdings that you can find on the fund's website or through internet searches. For example, [here](#) are the extensive holdings of New York State's biggest retirement fund, which includes investments in Tesla and Palantir stock and investments in funds managed by Blackstone.
- **Look at the portfolio holdings of your private retirement investments:** Typically if you call the firm managing your IRA or log on to your IRA account, you can access the holdings of any funds that you're invested in.
- **Look at the portfolio holdings of your university endowment:** This information is not always public, but often you can bits and pieces of it in 990 forms that universities file or in Securities and Exchange Commission filings. If you want to learn how to research 990s and SEC filings to locate university investments, check out [these resources](#) we put together.
- **Use a database like [WhaleWisdom](#) or [NASDAQ](#) to search 13F filings for a particular corporation** – All institutional investors with at least \$100 million in assets under management have to file a form called the 13F with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) every quarter. There are several databases, including WhaleWisdom and NASDAQ, that allow you to reverse search these filings by searching for a particular company and seeing who the biggest institutional investors in the company are. Once you have the list, you can look to see if a pension fund or endowment you have ties to shows up on the list.

# POWER MAPPING BILLIONAIRES' POLITICAL, BUSINESS, AND SOCIAL NETWORKS



Once you have identified the specific billionaires who are influencing issues you care about where you live, you might want to learn more about their political, business, and social networks.

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

LittleSis' [Research Tools for Organizers: Billionaires](#) training explains how to find a billionaires':

- Net worth and salary
- Cultural and educational ties
- Investments
- Company headquarters
- Scandals
- Assets including mansions, yachts, and private jets

The [recording](#) and [sliddeck](#) can be found here. In the webinar, we walk through how to use the following resources:

- [Forbes' Real-Time Billionaire List](#) - This is the go-to, most comprehensive list of billionaires available. It is updated with each billionaire's net worth in real time. You can search and sort the data by industry, net worth, country, age, and more.
- [LittleSis.org](#) - [LittleSis.org](#) - [LittleSis.org](#) is an "involuntary facebook of the 1%" that tracks relationships between powerful people, corporations, and politicians. Many billionaires have profiles on littleSis.org showing their business, political, and social networks. For example, see private equity billionaire Stephen Schwarzman's profile [here](#).
- [OpenSecrets](#) - OpenSecrets includes a database for searching federal campaign contributions. The site cleans up the data and is especially helpful if you are interested in aggregated totals by industry, geography, etc., identifying top donors to specific politicians, or identifying which politicians are bringing in the most cash. The site also lets you search federal lobbying disclosures.
- [Good Jobs First Violation Tracker](#) - Good Jobs First's Violation Tracker is "the first wide-ranging database on corporate misconduct. It covers banking, consumer protection, false claims, environmental, wage & hour, safety, discrimination, price-fixing, and other cases resolved by federal regulatory agencies and all parts of the Justice Department since 2000 -- plus cases from state attorneys general and selected state and local regulatory agencies."
- [Super Yacht Fan](#) - You can use this site to search for billionaire-owned yachts.
- [FAA Aircraft Registry](#) - You can search a billionaire's name or a corporation's name to see if they have a private plate registered with the FAA.



# KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BILLIONAIRE TIES



At LittleSis, we publish up-to-date analysis of the billionaire class on our blog, [Eyes on the Ties](#). Some of our latest analysis includes:

- [“The Billionaire Oligarchs and Corporations Profiting from ICE’S Deportation Machine”](#)
- [“A Big Beautiful Win for These Billionaire Blocs”](#)
- [“CERAWeek, the ‘Superbowl of Energy’ – A Spectacle of Billionaire Power to Advance Fossil Fuels”](#)
- [“Billionaire Ideologues and the 2024 Presidential Election”](#)
- [“Mapping the Billionaire Winners of the 2024 Election”](#)



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