



# BALKAN CYBERSECURITY DAYS 2025

18-20 MARCH 2025  
PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO

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## Balkan Cybersecurity Days – Speakers biographies

### Introduction from the hosts



#### **Franziska Klopfer, DCAF**

Franziska Klopfer. Franziska has been engaged in institutional reform in the security sector, with a specific focus on cybersecurity at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) since 2011. Previously, she had worked for over seven years for intergovernmental committees and working groups on Internet governance at the Council of Europe and the United Nations. In her work at DCAF, Franziska implements reform and capacity building projects and leads research on cybersecurity governance. She has specific expertise on Internet governance, human rights and public policy, cybersecurity and the privatisation of security.

Franziska holds an MA in Human Rights from University College London and an LLM in Public International Law from Queen Mary University of London.

#### **Ana Minevski, Independent Advisor, CIRT.ME**

Ana Minevski is a cybersecurity expert and a member of the National Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT.ME). With over 15 years of experience in the government sector, she has played a crucial role in preventing, managing cyber incidents and mitigating cyber threats. Holding a master's degree in cybersecurity.



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## Gilles Schwoerer, Director, WB3C

Gilles Schwoerer is the Project Manager and Director of Studies at the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre.

With extensive experience in cybersecurity and cyber capacity building, Gilles brings valuable expertise to our mission of strengthening cyber resilience in the Western Balkans.

Prior to joining WB3C, he served as Cyber Project Manager at the Directorate of Security and Defense Cooperation (DCSD), which is part of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, where he contributed to cyber capacity-building initiatives and strategic partnerships, including for the Western Balkans.

He was also Deputy Chief at the Center for the Fight Against Digital Crime (C3N) of the French Gendarmerie Nationale, overseeing complex cybercrime investigations and digital forensics operations.

Gilles also served as Cyber Liaison Officer at the French National Jurisdiction for Combating Organized Crime. In this role, he played an important part in coordinating cybercrime investigations, ensuring seamless collaboration between law enforcement and judicial authorities.

Throughout his career, he has earned distinctions for his contributions to law enforcement, including the highest recognition from the Dutch police.

## Keynote Speech



## Serge Droz, Board of Directors, FIRST

Serge Droz is a senior IT-Security expert and seasoned incident responder. After more than twenty years work in different CSIRTs he now works as a senior adviser for the Swiss FDFA. He studied physics at ETH Zurich and the University of Alberta, Canada and holds a PhD in theoretical astrophysics. He has worked in private industry and academia in Switzerland and Canada in different security roles as well as at the national CERT in Switzerland.



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Serge is a member of the board of directors of FIRST (Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams), the premier organisation of recognised global leaders in incident response. In this role he actively participates in discussion relating to cyber security at various policy bodies, in particular related to norm building.



### **Marina Ivanović, Software Engineer**

Marina Ivanović is a Software Engineering Lead with experience spanning industry, academia, and policy. She served on the Executive Board of the ETH Cyber Group, where she led the Training for the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge. Marina has also contributed to research as a Research Assistant at ETH Zurich, publishing a paper in the area of Network Security, as well as leading discussions at the ICRC Symposium on Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Humanitarian Action. Marina holds an MSc degree from ETH Zürich.

## **Panel: Protecting and recognizing the invisible Critical Information Infrastructure**



### **Rikardo Junčaj, Team Lead, Government CERT, Montenegro - Moderator**

I am a master's student currently completing my studies in information communication technologies, with a career dedicated to cybersecurity, focusing on incident response, threat hunting, and strengthening organizational defense capabilities. I'm Team lead Gov-CIRT Montenegro, where I work on identifying, analyzing, and responding to cyber threats that could compromise the security of critical infrastructure and government institutions.

In addition to incident response and threat hunting, I have significant experience in digital forensics and penetration testing, allowing me to approach cyber threats from multiple perspectives—understanding attack vectors, methods of compromise, and strategies for mitigation and system



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recovery. I actively participate in developing security operational procedures, designing threat detection strategies, and implementing solutions for proactive cyber defense.

I am a technology enthusiast with a passion for engineering, space, and sports. I also love to travel abroad to explore and experience different cultures around the world.

My goal is to contribute to enhancing cyber resilience through ongoing research, the development of effective security strategies, and sharing knowledge with the broader cybersecurity community.



## **Bill Woodcock, Executive Director, Packet Clearing House**

Bill Woodcock is the secretary general of Packet Clearing House, the intergovernmental treaty organization that builds and supports critical Internet infrastructure, including Internet exchange points and the core of the domain name system. Bill is best known for his work in the 1980s developing the anycast routing technique which now protects the domain name system, and his work establishing Internet exchange points throughout the world. His work focuses principally on the security and economic stability of critical Internet infrastructure.

## **Dr Camino Kavanagh, Visiting Senior Fellow, Dept. of War Studies, King's College London**

Dr. Camino Kavanagh is a visiting Senior Fellow with the Dept. of War Studies, King's College London and a Senior Research Fellow with United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Her current research focuses on international politics, security, conflict and technology, including emerging issues relevant to critical subsea infrastructure.

Camino served as advisor/rapporteur to the 2019-2021 and 2016-2017 UN negotiating processes on cyber/ICT and international security (UNGGE and UNOEWG). Over the past decade she has also advised and consulted with the



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Office of the UN Secretary-General, other UN peace and security entities, regional organizations and government departments and agencies on issues pertaining to cyber, critical infrastructure and international security, conflict and diplomacy. She participates in a number track 1.5 and track 2 initiatives on these same topics. Prior to this, Camino spent over a decade working in conflict and post-conflict contexts, including with UN peacekeeping operations and political missions.



## **Maria Pericàs Riera, Researcher, Center for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Technology, German Council on Foreign Relations**

Maria Pericàs works at the Center for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Technology at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), a foreign policy think tank based in Berlin. She is part of the project “Norms in Cyberspace,” where she researches the emergence of cyber norms, critical infrastructure protection, and the impact of emerging technologies on international security.

She is also an International Digital Policy Fellow with the German Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport and a Fellow with the Internet Society. Before joining DGAP, Maria gained practical experience at the Munich Security Conference and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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## Plenary Sessions



### **Mil Rajic, Dynarisk, GB**

Cybersecurity expert with over 20 years of experience, specializing in dark web intelligence, cyber threat analysis, and predictive threat modeling. He leads the Threat Intelligence Team at DynaRisk, focusing on emerging threats, threat actor identification, and incident response.

Mil has helped secure companies in the banking, financial, insurance, and technology sectors. His expertise includes ransomware tracking, infostealer analysis, and deep web monitoring.

Recognized globally, his work has been featured in top publications, and he has received multiple awards as an ethical hacker. As a Liaison Member of FIRST, he actively contributes to strengthening cyber resilience worldwide.

### **Martina Martinova, Young Faces, MKD**

Martina Drangovska Martinova holds an LLM in Criminal Law and has over a decade of experience as a human rights lawyer. Her work focuses on privacy, data protection, and digital rights, using legal aid, advocacy, and research to bring about meaningful change. She is deeply committed to protecting women and children in the digital space. Outside of her work, Martina is a mother of two who enjoys reading everything from bedtime stories to tales that spark curiosity, provide insight, or add a touch of magic.



### **Aleksandar Acev, CISSP, MKD**

Aleksandar Acev is a cybersecurity expert with over 20 years of experience in Information Systems Management, Cybersecurity, and Incident Response. He specializes in policy development, risk assessment, capacity building, and cybersecurity training.

As the Head of North Macedonia's National CSIRT (MKD-CIRT), he led its establishment and operations for seven years, growing the Cybersecurity Information Exchange Network and capacity building activities for over 100



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organizations, and securing membership in FIRST and Trusted Introducer. He also developed national cybersecurity policies, established incident response frameworks, and launched awareness programs, including a training platform for 20,000+ civil servants.

Currently serving as Senior Regional Cybersecurity Advisor at DAI, Mr. Acev designs and delivers cyber resilience programs, TTXs, and capacity-building initiatives for organizations and critical infrastructure operators in the region, leveraging interactive learning and real-world simulations to strengthen security preparedness.



## Marko Stanković, Young Faces, SRB

He is a Chevening Scholar currently pursuing an MSc in International Security and Global Governance at Birkbeck, University of London. He holds a Master of Laws from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law. During his undergraduate studies, he spent a semester at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. There, he was exposed to diverse pedagogical approaches through a joint module delivered by visiting professors from Queen Mary University of London. Simultaneously, he has been involved in numerous academic initiatives, training programmes, and seasonal schools, going beyond traditional coursework.

During his studies, he volunteered over a year at the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM), where he worked on legal advocacy, research, and public policy initiatives aimed at strengthening rule of law and human rights. After graduation, he joined the OSCE Mission to Serbia as an Intern and later advanced to the role of Project Assistant. In this capacity, he contributed to initiatives on police reform, cybersecurity, gender equality, and the inclusion of national minorities in policing. This entailed supporting projects aimed at strengthening institutional practices and working on outreach campaigns to enhance public awareness of the Mission's work.



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Through all these experiences in education, volunteering and project engagement, he has gained a strong level of confidence in his area of expertise. On top of that, being exposed to a variety of people and cultures has strengthened his proficiency in two languages; English and French.



## **Branko Primetica, CEDARS, SRB**

Branko is the founder and Managing Director of Cedars International d.o.o., with offices in Belgrade, Serbia and Washington D.C., since 2022. Prior to this role, Branko served as President and Chief Strategy Officer of EGT, based in Washington D.C. EGT, a company that he co-founded and built to 400 employees, was an award-winning provider of business transformation, IT, and cybersecurity consulting services for the United States Federal Government. Since his move to Belgrade, Branko has expanded his company across the Western Balkans, providing cybersecurity services for both the public and private sectors, supporting the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) throughout Serbia, helping SMEs digitize and expand into profitable investment-ready businesses, and serving as the Regional Director of the U.S. Cybersecurity Protection and Recovery Program (which encompasses critical infrastructure protection and civilian ministry cybersecurity). In addition, Branko has published multiple articles defining proactive cybersecurity programs, presented at multiple conferences (including NATO's recent Advanced Research Workshop on Critical Infrastructure Security), advised APEC on the transition to a digital economy, provided inputs to the U.S. Data Act at the request of Congress, and supported updates to Serbia's amended National Information Security Law.



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## Branko Džakula

Cybersecurity Executive | Entrepreneur | Educator MAppSc, CISM, ISO 27001 & NIS2 Senior Lead Implementer and Auditor, DORA Senior Lead Manager

As a Cybersecurity Executive, vCISO, and Co-Founder of Secfix & UN1QUELY, I simplify cybersecurity compliance through a Security-as-a-Service model. My expertise spans AI integration into cybersecurity workflows, Incident Management, Penetration Testing, GRC, Data Privacy, and regulatory frameworks like ISO 27001, NIS2, DORA, SOC2, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, GDPR, and more.

Passionate about closing the cybersecurity skills gap, I founded Montenegro's first Cybersecurity Academy (UN1QUELY). I advocate for accessible cybersecurity education, helping professionals and startups scale securely.



## Allison Jones, Hack the Box, GB

Allison Jones is a European Federal Account Executive at Hack The Box focusing on providing Cyber upskilling and operational support to Federal entities throughout Europe. While working at Hack the Box, she has supported implementing a defined strategy to support government elements in their mission needs throughout Europe.



## Blerim Jahiu, ICT Expert, KOS

With over 30 years of experience in ICT and specialized in cybersecurity and computer networks, I am a seasoned professional dedicated to advancing cybersecurity education, consulting. As a Cisco Certified Instructor Trainer (Train-the-Trainer) and EC-Council Certified Instructor (CEI), I bring a wealth of expertise in mentoring the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. My role as a Cybersecurity Career Mentor (EC-Council) has allowed me to guide



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aspiring professionals in navigating the dynamic cybersecurity landscape, equipping them with the skills needed to excel in this critical field. Throughout my career, I have collaborated with organizations to implement advanced security frameworks. I have also contributed to regional cybersecurity awareness through lectures at different events. My ability to work effectively in multiethnic environments, coupled with fluency in multiple Balkan languages, has enabled me to collaborate seamlessly with diverse teams and stakeholders.

During my tenure at AT&T, one of the world's largest ICT service providers, I honed my skills in securing and optimizing large-scale network infrastructures. Additionally, as a lecturer at institutions like the Rochester Institute of Technology (Kosovo) and Riinvest College, I have taught a wide range of cybersecurity topics, from fundamentals to advanced techniques like penetration testing and incident response. In 2017, I was recognized as one of the Top 10 Instructors Worldwide by the Cisco Networking Academy, a testament to my dedication to student success and excellence in education. I am passionate about leveraging my technical expertise, mentorship experience, and commitment to innovation to drive impactful cybersecurity initiatives and empower organizations to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

## Bledar Kacadej, AKSK, ALB

**Bledar Kacadej**  
Network Security Engineer

**“Cybersecurity heroes wear digital capes.”**

**Role:** Network Security Engineer - Part of Purple Team, Malware Analysis, Incident Investigation and Digital Forensics Unit.  
**Experience:** 12 years in IT and Network Cybersecurity.  
**Certified by:** Cisco, Fortinet, Oracle, Azure Cloud, etc.  
**Bio:** With a solid background in network security engineering and a passion for tackling complex cybersecurity challenges, Bledar brings invaluable expertise to the Purple Team and Digital Forensics at AKCESK. His extensive experience in understanding, designing, implementing and maintaining secure network and system infrastructures. Ensures that the team's defensive capabilities are robust and effective.  
Bledar's proactive approach to identifying and mitigating threats, coupled with his dedication to staying current with the latest security trends and technologies, makes him a valuable asset in safeguarding the organization's digital assets.



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## **Besim Karaqa, Reiffeisen Tech, KOS**

Information security professional, with 25+ years of expertise and certifications including CISSP and PMP. Proven track record in leading and implementing robust cybersecurity measures. Excels in project management, risk mitigation, and compliance. Eager to collaborate with innovative teams to enhance organizational security.



## **Blent Kurtalani, Reiffeisen Tech, KOS**

Cybersecurity professional with a decade of experience in Information Technology and eight years specializing in cybersecurity. As a Senior Security Analyst at Raiffeisen Cyber Defense Center, Blent focuses on Cloud Security Engineering, Information Security Analysis, and Incident Response. With expertise in Vulnerability Analysis, Risk Management, and Security Governance, a strong background in frameworks such as ISO/IEC 27001/2, GDPR, and HIPAA.



## **Snežana Nikčević, Civil Tech Advocate, NGO 35mm**

Leading the Citizen-Centric Digital Transformation Program at NGO 35mm and serving as a Team Leader at the Center for AI and Digital Policy's AI Policy Clinic, actively engaged in national and regional efforts related to digital policies. As a producer with a background in media studies, produced two features and one short film. Coordinated over 100 A/V projects, including major production services for clients like BBC's Top Gear, Toyota, Samsung, Endemol Shine, etc. Contributions to digital regulation include co-authoring studies on the Digital Services Act (DSA), contributing to the AI and Democratic Values Index covering 80+ countries and supporting e-government centers serving 31,700+ citizens in the Western Balkans. A facilitator and an educator in the fields of culture and digital development, and an alumna of several skills development programs.



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## **Sergio Garcia Albea, Switch, CH**

My name is Sergio Albea and I'm originally from Barcelona. Five years ago, I landed in beautiful Switzerland, where I am currently working as CSOC Security Expert, focus on threat analysis and response on Education and Research sector.

With over 15 years of experience, I have immersed myself in the dynamic field of security, focusing on diverse IT landscapes and ensuring robust protection against threats and vulnerabilities. My approach is divided in proactivity, leveraging advanced analytics and architectural design to preemptively mitigate risks and fortify defenses against potential breaches.

Throughout my career, I have had to secure and manage a myriad of IT environments such as messaging platforms, Identity and Access Management systems, Information Protection mechanisms, DevOps, Azure Resources.



## **Katarina Bogičević, Young Faces, SRB**

Katarina Bogičević is a young researcher in International Relations and Security Studies, currently an intern at the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy. With several years of experience in the civil society sector, she has contributed to organizations such as JEF Europe, Centre E8 and European Movement in Serbia. Her research focuses on peacebuilding and critical approaches to post-conflict transitions, European integration, gender studies, and political communication, with a growing interest in cybersecurity governance and extremism.





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## **Jon Flaherty, Shadowserver, GB**

Joining Shadowserver in 2016, Jon brings a range of skills and experience from UK Law Enforcement cyber crime investigation into the Foundation. Engaging in consumer outreach, incident handling and the training of constituents in the use of Shadowserver public benefit services allows Jon the opportunity to deliver current threats and insights to all areas of the cyber community. Of specific interest to Jon is international liaison and with the support of public/private sector partners, the upskilling of developing cyber regions and National CERTs to ensure the effective use and understanding of Shadowserver's bespoke datasets for a secure more internet.



## **Damir Hasanović, Young Faces, SRB**

Damir Hasanović is a freshman at the Faculty for Diplomacy and Security in Serbia with professional pursuits ranging from governmental policy making to effective and on-the-ground based journalism. Throughout his career, he worked mostly as a journalist, most prominently as a correspondent for EU affairs for the Progovori o pregovorima portal. In addition, he has attended many schools, programs and conferences organized by renowned organizations such as U.S Department of State, DW Akademie, UN Association of Serbia and the European Movement in Serbia. His main areas of interest include geopolitics of the Middle east, international humanitarian law, security in the cyber space and threat intelligence.



## **Stefan Kukovski, General Secretariat, MKD**

I have valuable working experience, obtained in 18 years in government administration and knowledge of several languages. I have participated in creating strategic frameworks and policies as high government official and have knowledge of administrative management at central level and interagency cooperation. My experience with Resilience, started with administrative roles and as part of National coordinating body for



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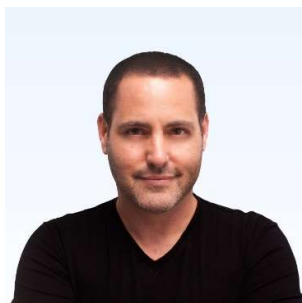
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implementing NATO policy regarding resilience. Here is my working experience and results:

Feb 2024 -present Member of National coordinating body for implementing NATO policy regarding resilience. 2007-2024 Deputy Head of Sector for organizing Government sessions - I have organized more than 500 government sessions. 2009-2010-Member of Special Group for Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire for harmonization of national laws with laws of EU 2011 - 2019 -Secretary of Housing Commission of the Government-I coordinated solving of apartment issue for 2,000 families.



## **Tzachi Zornenstain, BaddonAI, IL**

Tzachi Zorenshtain is the founder of BaddonAI Before BaddonAI, Tzachi was the Co-Founder and CEO of Dustico, a SaaS-based solution that detects malicious attacks and backdoors in open-source software supply chains, which Checkmarx acquired in August 2021. Tzachi is armed with more than a decade's worth of experience in cyber-security, specializing in building advanced malware research systems. Prior to Dustico, Tzachi's tenure at Palo Alto Networks, Symantec and McAfee deepened his passion towards contributing to the developer and cybersecurity space and saw him building custom security architectures and hunting for advanced Cyber-attack groups.



## **Mladen Kanjevac, PULSEC, MNE**

Mladen Kanjevac is a seasoned cybersecurity engineer with expertise in diagnosing and resolving diverse challenges. He excels in cyber threat prevention, threat intelligence gathering, and the effective mitigation of cyber incidents.



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## Trainers: Training Track 1 – The source of networkforensics: Networkdata

### Wim Biemolt, SURF.NL, Netherlands

Wim Biemolt is part of the "team expert networking" at SURF. Responsible for the network of SURF, the national research and education network of the Netherlands. He is also a member of SURFcert, the Computer Emergency Response Team for education & research institutions in the Netherlands.

### Jeffeny Hoogervorst, SURF.NL, Netherlands

Jeffeny Hoogervorst is a cybersecurity expert with over 20 years of experience in the field. Throughout his career, he has held various roles in cybersecurity, including digital forensics, threat detection & response in CERT teams, security training and security officer. Since 2011, Jeffeny has been a core member of SURFcert, the Computer Emergency Response Team for education and research institutions in the Netherlands. At SURF, he is involved with the technical side of SURFsoc, the Security Operations Center that helps affiliated institutions with threat detection and incident response.



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## Trainers: Training Track 2 – Advanced network monitoring and threat detection with free open-source tools



**Vytenis Misevičius – NRD Cyber Security, Lithuania**

Vytenis is a SOC team leader and senior cybersecurity analyst at NRD Cyber Security. He has a strong focus on pentesting, ethical hacking, detection engineering, monitoring and threat hunting. He has spent his career honing his technical skills and driving security improvements within the SOC and the team. In this role, Vytenis balances leadership with hands-on involvement, ensuring the team stays ahead of evolving cyber threats while fostering a proactive, resilient security culture. He is passionate about uncovering vulnerabilities, building robust detection strategies and continuously refining defences to protect critical systems and networks.



**Arūnas Venclovas – NRD Cyber Security, Lithuania**

Arūnas is an experienced leader in product development with a deep understanding of cybersecurity, IT, and telecommunication markets. Currently serving as the Director of Product Development at NRD Cyber Security, Arūnas is responsible for deploying cyber security solutions in National and sectorial CERTs with the aim to automate operations, build capacity and empower for successful work. Arunas has played a major role in automating and modernizing CSIRTMalta (Malta Critical Infrastructure Protection) operations by improving Incident Detection, Response and Threat Intelligence actualization. Also, he is working closely with multiple CIRT's (Eg-FinCIRT, etc.) in assisting them to improve network detection capabilities by automating threat hunting, rulesets adjustment and solving other related challenges.



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## Trainer: Training Track 3 – Cyber Threat Intelligence: Introduction and Practical uses

### Aleksandar Mirković – e-Lavirint, Montenegro

With 18 years of diverse experience in IT infrastructure, sysadmin, and security roles, I am a seasoned professional adept at managing and securing networks across various platforms, including Cisco, FortiNet, Juniper, CheckPoint, and ForcePoint. My expertise lies in information system audit, incident response and threat hunting, penetration testing for infrastructure, web, and mobile applications, and the installation and configuration of SIEM tools such as McAfee, Splunk, Trellix, Mandiant solutions, and open source SOC solutions. As a dedicated security and threat analysis enthusiast, I thrive on tackling new challenges to continuously expand my knowledge and enhance my skill set



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