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#UCET16 Tech Madness Keynote Speakers - by Katie Blunt

We are excited to announce that Thurl Bailey and Ginger Lewman will be joining us as a keynote speakers at the 2016 UCET Conference at the University of Utah! Travis Allen will also be joining us as a spotlight speaker.

Thursday, March 17th: Thurl Bailey will help us kick off the Tech Madness with his keynote, “Our Winning Defied All Logic”. Following his keynote, Thurl will join us for a tech shootout in our Tech Madness playground.

Thursday, March 17th: Travis Allen will present a spotlight presentation in the main ballroom about the iSchool Initiative.

Friday, March 18th: Ginger Lewman will kick off day two with her “STEAM Maker” keynote. She will spend all day Friday with us conducting hands-on spotlight sessions and workshops in our Tech Madness playground.

Follow Thurl on Twitter! @bigTbailey

Thurl Bailey attended North Carolina State University and was a key player in the ‘Wolfpacks’ miracle run to the 1983 NCAA Championship. That same year, Thurl led NC State in both scoring and rebounds. The Utah Jazz drafted Thurl in 1983 as the 7th pick of the draft. Jazz management reported that he was selected for the quality of his character, as well as the quality of his game. This was the beginning of 16 years of his playing professional basketball, 12 of those years were with the NBA.

At 6’11”, Thurl Bailey is often first noticed as a basketball player, but he is a man of as much depth as height. His strong sense of service has led to countless hours of volunteer work and to numerous awards for leadership and contributions to the community. Included in his awards are: the NBA’s prestigious Kennedy Community Award, the Utah Association for Gifted Children’s Community Service Award, Sigma Gamma Chi fraternity’s Exemplary Manhood Award, the Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America’s American Champion Award and the Italian League’s 1998 All Star Games Most Valuable Player. He has directed basketball camps for youth since 1984 where he teaches young people lessons about life and basketball. Many of his students have special needs including coming from disadvantaged backgrounds or having serious illnesses, and they attend the camps on scholarship.

In addition to professional speaking, Thurl is a broadcast analyst for the Utah Jazz and the University of Utah, an actor, and an award winning singer/song writer. His first album, Faith In Your Heart, is a compilation of uplifting songs that won several top awards. His ‘I’m Not The Same’ CD has great reviews and is a fusion of original style R&B and nu soul.

Thurl Bailey is a devoted family man and the father of six children. He and his wife Sindi live in Highland, Utah with the three youngest children.
Ginger Lewman

Ginger’s Website: https://gingerlewman.wordpress.com/

Follow Ginger on Twitter! @GingerLewman

Ginger is an education consultant and keynote speaker with a non-profit education service center. She specializes in Project/Problem Based Learning, technology integration, and gifted & high ability learners. She is passionate about helping educators rethink what teaching and learning can be in today’s world. To Ginger, there is nothing better than watching the face of a teacher, or a group of educators, or an entire school, as they watch their kids get excited about learning and doing things they never thought was possible. She knows exactly what that feels like from the perspective of the learner, the teacher, and the school leader. Ginger says, “It’s the most awesome thing in the world. Because in that moment, everything is possible. It is my passion to help teachers inspire their students to do more and be more than they could ever imagine.”

Graduating from Emporia State University in 1994 with a BSE in Social Science, Ginger promptly began teaching the day school at a residential boys’ home for The Farm, Inc. where she quickly discovered differentiated instruction and how to engage students well beyond her formal pre-service teacher training. Ginger taught all core subjects to 11 troubled boys at a time, ages 11-18, at the home’s two dining room tables, using previously-discarded 20-year-old text books. It was a challenge.

Eventually uncovering a lifelong passion, in 2004, Ginger earned her Master’s degree in Psychology and Special Education with an emphasis in Gifted Education. She began working as the Gifted Services Coordinator at Emporia Middle School and also serving as North Central Accreditation Steering Committee Chair.

Ginger served on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative for 7 years as a Region 7 Representative, State and Federal Legislative Liaison, a Conference Chair, and the Kansas Education Liaison. Ginger has been a member of the National Association for Gifted Children, working at both the state and federal levels, advocating for the needs of gifted children in Kansas and beyond.

Currently, Ginger serves on the Board of Directors for Advocates for High-Ability Learners (AHA Learners), is a member of the Kansas Council for the Social Studies, and is currently a Google Certified Teacher.

Travis Allen

Travis’s Website: http://www.isitravis.com/

Follow Travis on Twitter! @iSchoolTravis

Travis Allen is a young visionary promoting digital learning in the classroom. Before graduating from high school, Travis created a viral YouTube video on revolutionizing America’s education through the use of mobile technology. Today, he is a senior at Kennesaw State University where he operates his growing organization, iSchool Initiative. With the support of his team, Travis has presented in over 40 states and 8 countries, allowing him to reach an audience of over 200,000 people! He has been featured on CNN, Huffington Post, and Forbes. In 2011, he was the winner of Google Young Minds competition; in 2012, he was invited to the White House for Education Datapalooza; and in 2015 he won the GA Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Travis is quickly becoming one of the most influential leaders of the emerging digital learning movement.

(From http://www.isitravis.com/)

UCET Playground by Dani Sloan

New this year at UCET will have a dedicated space for teachers to play! We believe that learning should be active, hands on, and most of all fun. In the UCET Playground teachers can explore 3D printers, build robots, play with legos, and learn how to take over the world, kind of. Teachers will have the opportunity to play with and explore whatever excites them most.

We’ve teamed up with amazing teachers, incredible students, and inspiring vendors to share the latest and greatest in technology, MakerSpace Movement, and tinkering in education.

We’re still looking for more to add in our playground, if you have a great way for teachers to learn through play, please be a part of our playground. Click here to fill out an application and mark that you’d like to be in the playground.
Bring Your Company To Ucet!

Are you a vendor interested in showing #ucet16 attendees how your company can benefit them? Register to be a conference vendor. This year’s conference exhibits will be a highlight at the conference due to their location in the conference. Instead of being in an exhibit hall away from the action, the vendor exhibits will be right there in the action! The “madness!” We still have plenty of spots left, so hurry and reserve yours today. There are three levels of sponsorship: Platinum, Gold, and Silver. Here is a breakdown of what your money will buy you!

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UCET Elections for Board Members & President - Michael Hakkariinen

We want you! To join our organization as an elected board member.

The UCET Board is made up of appointed positions and elected board members. This year we have four positions open. Although serving on the UCET Board does involve a time commitment of two years, you’ll find that it’s a fun way to make a difference in the Utah Educational Technology Community. As a UCET Board Member you’ll get to:

- Work with talented fun loving people.
- Attend monthly meetings to help plan the premier educational conference in Utah.
- Share your insight and ideas about instructional technology and education with teachers and administrators from around the state.
- Participate in the yearly UCET Board Retreat!

Last year we participated in a mystery room, toured the inner workings of the VivintSmartHome Arena, and saw a SLC Bee’s Baseball Game... along with holding several super productive meetings and workshops.

To apply for the UCET Board or nominate an EdTech Leader please visit our UCET Board Info page at http://www.ucet.org/conference/elections-ballot/ From there you’ll be directed to a short Google Form to complete.

Then, at the UCET Conference, we will be electing new Board Members and the next UCET President. Look for profiles and information soon about all the candidates running for UCET elections. (Candidates for President need to be a current board member)
The 2016 UCET Conference (#ucet16) will be held on March 17-18 at the University of Utah. Our theme this year is Tech Madness!

What is Tech Madness?

Think about March Madness… It’s the NCAA basketball tournament. But, it’s more than just a tournament. It’s the time of year when enthusiasm for college basketball is at its peak. March Madness inspires excitement, crowds, and energy. March Madness is not only for spectators. Fans around the world get in on the action, building their own tournament brackets and participating in their own rituals to support and cheer their favorite teams. It’s about teamwork, hard work, passion, and perseverance. March Madness is the spirit of college basketball.

Tech Madness is the spirit of the 2016 UCET conference. Last year at UCET we focused on elevating technology to new heights -- using technology in innovative, effective, and deep ways. Now it’s time to get moving with all that we have learned! It’s time to put into play the skills we have been developing. It’s time to inspire enthusiasm for learning, excitement for educating, and energy in the classroom! Tech Madness is all about getting in on the action -- teaching and learning in innovative, hands-on, creative, real-world ways!

At UCET16 we want you to learn how teaching effectively with technology can inspire your students. We want you to get technology into your students’ hands so they can learn in exciting, new ways. We want you to learn how technology ties into classroom activities, STEM, STEAM, the Maker Movement, project-based learning, hands-on learning, coding, building, and even playing. Our goal is to help students become thinkers, problem solvers, and innovators. Don’t miss out on the premiere technology conference in the state! Register now for UCET16. And let the madness begin!

#ISTE16 Award Nominations - Pam Turley

Do you know an outstanding educator or school leader who deserves recognition? Nominations for all UCET awards are open from now until Thursday, February 11, 2016. Award winners will be announced Thursday, March 17, 2016 at the opening session of UCET16.

Submission Form for all awards
UCET at The U - Katie Blunt

We are thrilled to be holding this year’s UCET conference at the University of Utah. As you plan your trip to the conference, there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself to enjoy this great new venue:

**UCET at The U**

UCET events will be taking place in two buildings on the University campus — The A. Ray Olpin University Union and Orson Spencer Hall (OSH). Click HERE to see a list of conference events happening in each building as well as building maps.

**Travel & Transportation**

UCET attendees are encouraged to use public transportation to travel to the University of Utah for this year’s conference. TRAX trains will be running on their regular schedule to the University. Carpooling is also a great way to go. However you plan to travel to UCET this year, you can find links to TRAX schedules, driving instructions, and parking information on our website.

**Hotels & Lodging**

Traveling to UCET from out of town? There are many hotels convenient to the University of Utah. Click HERE to view a list of some possible hotel options.

**Local Attractions**

Looking for something to do in the evenings while you’re in town for UCET? Click HERE to check out a few local attractions and events.

**UCET Awards**

**UCET Outstanding Teacher of the Year** – This award recognizes and honors a teacher who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership in implementing technology to improve education. (PK-12 classroom teacher). $500 cash and plaque.

**UCET Outstanding Leader of the Year** – This award recognizes and honors a leader who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership in implementing technology to improve education. Nominee can be a principal, superintendent, school or district technology staff, regional technology trainer, etc. The one stipulation is that the nominee is not a PK-12 classroom teacher. They may have a teaching certificate, however their current position is not as a classroom teacher. $500 cash and plaque.

**UCET Outstanding Young Educator of the Year** – This award will be presented to an outstanding young educator (under the age of 35) who demonstrates vision, innovation, action, and transformation using technology to improve teaching and learning. $250 cash and plaque.

**ISTE Award - Making IT Happen Award** – Making IT Happen is an internationally recognized awards program administered by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). This program honors educational technology educators and leaders for their commitment and innovation. ISTE sponsors the award, the jacket, and a press release about the award recipient. UCET sponsors a $500 cash award for the Making IT Happen recipient. Read more about this award here.

UCET must submit the Making IT Happen Award winner’s name and other information to ISTE well in advance to ensure that the Making IT Happen Award winner receives the coveted black (for men) or pink (for ladies) jacket.

[Submission Form for all awards]
The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another.

—Marva Collins

**UCET Teacher Grants**

The grant program administered by the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology is funded by our vendors. This program will award a variable number of grants each year, not exceeding $1,500 per grant. The program’s purpose is to help support those teachers striving to use technology in a manner that

- employs creative and innovative ideas
- supports Utah Core Curriculum connections,
- demonstrates student learning and achievement,
- fortifies the school community.

Any UCET attendee that attends all sessions of both days of the conference may apply for the grant. Grant funds must be used to purchase technology from a UCET vendor. All materials and services purchased with UCET’s funds as a result of this award are the property of the school or district. A panel representing UCET will meet in May to determine which applications will be funded.

**Deadline & Maximum Award**

April 12, 2016 for $1,500

**Grant Chair** - Pam Turley
pam.turley@ucet.org

**Helpful Documents**

Grant Program Description -
http://goo.gl/h3oKKx

Grant Scoring Rubric -
http://goo.gl/XWO38M

Vendor List - http://goo.gl/6ZGgla

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**Ignite!** - Jared Covili

Looking to get inspired by great ideas from your peers, admins, or outstanding students? Join us for Ignite!, where presenters have 5 minutes and 20 images to tell their story, share a tool and inspire the audience!

**Prize Madness** - Nancy Lagerberg

Prizes, prizes and more prizes!! That is what there will be at UCET 2016 Tech Madness. Big prizes and little prizes! There will be prizes throughout and at the end of both days. A Chromebook, an Apple Watch, a drone, a Sphero, things to charge, listen to, and generally just play with technology that’s what you can win by coming to UCET 2016.

**Presentations** - Andrew Clark

It’s that magical time of the year where snow is on the ground and you’re getting more and more excited about attending UCET. This year we would love to have some great ideas shared with us! You have the ideas, the ones that you’ve shared with your team or at a faculty meeting. The idea, tool, or app that has taken your teaching to the next level. We would love to have you present at UCET this year. If you have students who are doing great things, we’d love to have them participate in the student showcase this year. They can speak with teachers and give firsthand feedback to teachers about what works and what doesn’t in a classroom. You can find all of the necessary information at www.ucet.org/presenters and we hope that you’ll get fired up about presenting. We no longer accept presenter submissions after February 6, so don’t delay! We should have notifications about acceptance of presentations out no later than Feb 20. We hope to see you there!

**Special Opportunities for College Students!** - Suzy Cox

In addition to the amazing discount that undergraduate and graduate students get for the UCET conference, there are also some great new opportunities! This year, the UCET board will be hosting a student lounge, where students can go to get snacks, relax, and network. The lounge will be visited by some amazing teachers and principals, who will answer your questions about the use of technology in Utah schools and what you need to do to be prepared.
We also invite students to participate in the Ignite! and Playground sessions. Groups of students can work together to develop a Playground session that engages teachers in great uses of technology that they can use with their own students. So check out these great presenting opportunities!

Finally, volunteering at UCET is a great way to start contributing to the Utah educational technology community. We invite all students to sign up to volunteer for part or all of the conference. Look for information about how to volunteer on the conference website.

Other Opportunities for Higher Education

Higher education faculty should be aware of two important additional opportunities at UCET this year. First, UCET is awarding one undergraduate and one graduate student scholarship to each Utah teacher education program. Contact Suzy Cox (suzy.cox@ucet.org) for details. Scholarship nominations must be received by March 1st.

Schools of Education are also invited to host a vendor booth at UCET for a significantly reduced rate to advertise their programs. Questions and booth requests should be sent to Suzy Cox (suzy.cox@ucet.org) prior to February 10th for board approval. Please include the following information in your request: Contact person and information, Institution, Specific Program (e.g., M.S. of Educational Technology, Elementary Education program, etc.), and Days for which you want the booth (Thursday, Friday, or both). You will need to provide your own personnel and promotional materials for the duration of your booth reservation.

Awesome Activities at the UCET Conference - Justin Andersen

This year we will have plenty of activities going on during the conference that you can participate in. These will allow you to engage further and win amazing prizes. Some of the activities this year are:

Twitter Prizes- We will be offering prizes to people who are tweeting with the hashtag #ucet2016. A winner will be chosen randomly throughout the conference. The enter, make sure you are tweeting about UCET with #ucet2016.

Scavenger Hunt- We will be hosting a scavenger hunt this year around the conference. Clues will be given and points earned. We have some amazing prizes for the winner! Stay tuned for more details.

Kahoot! - Ever wanted to play Kahoot with 600 people! Come join us at our general sessions to play some Sports Trivia Kahoot. Show your colleagues your amazing knowledge and win some prizes!

You Can’t Have All the Shoes! - Written by Suzy Cox

Shoes

For years, I’ve talked with teachers who are overwhelmed by the sheer number of potential educational technologies. Getting started with using tech in the classroom can be a daunting task, as many feel that they have to know all of the tools that are out there.

A student of mine came up with a great analogy to help teachers better understand the current technology landscape. It goes something like this:

When shoes first came out, you could have all of the shoes. There was just one kind, so it was easy! But now, there are millions of styles of shoes. Almost no one believes that they have to have all of the shoes. They find a few pairs that they like and that serve their purpose, and they wear those until they need new ones.

Years ago, you could be a master of all of the technologies that were used in schools. There weren’t that many, so it was relatively easy (though they were a lot harder to use than modern tools are)! But now, there are millions of technologies that we might use in the classroom. So why do people believe that they have to master all of them? Why not find a few that they really like and that serve their purpose, and use those until they need new ones?

The key to helping teachers get excited about using technology in the classroom is to start simple. I think we all have a few go-to technologies that we use regularly and find useful in teaching and engaging students. What are yours?

Here are a few of mine:

PollEverywhere: This has become my go-to formative assessment tool. The variety of question types is excellent, and it has some great features like the ability to hide the response stream until everyone has answered and integration with Google Slides and PowerPoint that I really love. I use this tool all of the time for both informal info gathering and more formal assessment of student understanding.

Padlet: I love this simple tool! Again, I often use it to formatively assess my students by asking them to contribute their ideas about a topic on a Padlet wall. The walls can also be embedded into HTML pages, making them a great resource for my flipped classroom endeavors in Canvas. Recently, I’ve started using Padlet like Pinterest by creating organized boards that include multimedia and link out to additional resources. This helps me keep resources organized by topic in a nice, visual format. I also use Padlet with my students when I teach with the concept development model, as students can brainstorm on the wall and then move the notes around to organize and classify them. This works great on an interactive whiteboard, too!

Gliffy: This is a great concept mapping/flow charting tool that I and my students use for all sorts of things. We use it to plan or visualize a process, like the steps needed to complete an assignment. We also use it to create concept maps of complex topics to help us visualize the organization of and connections between ideas. The maps can be shared, too, to engage students in collaboration.

These tools are recent additions to my toolbox, joining my Google Apps, GarageBand, and iMovie. What they all have in common is that they are content-independent, so I can really use them to engage students in any subject.

One of the things I’m looking forward to the most about #UCET16 is the opportunity to see other teachers’ go-to technologies. I hope to see you all there! For now, what are your go-to tools and why do you love them?
2016 Utah Legislative Session - Charice Carroll

It is the most wonderful time of the year...for us political junkies anyway...the annual Utah State Legislature general session! The session started on January 25 and runs through March 10. By all accounts, education is a hot topic and major priority for the Governor and Legislature alike. Education bills are being introduced to increase funding, provide for increased professional development, fund additional technology in schools, and more. I highly encourage you to get involved in the process, write letters, and speak up about the issues that affect education, or you personally.

Working in technology support we have a saying, “We can only fix the problems we know about.” Some problems are apparent to us as we monitor the equipment, but unless our stakeholders tell us about a problem they are having that we may not see, we can’t do anything to fix it. In the same vein, legislators can only represent the constituents they hear from and take action on issues when they have information. As educators, and citizens, we all have a responsibility to help the process by providing the context and real-world stories to help guide our law makers.

If you don’t know who your representatives are, go here: http://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp

To see any of the proposed bills or just keep up on the legislative session, you can find all the info at: http://le.utah.gov/~2016/2016.htm.

The Utah State Office of Education also does a nice job of tracking the education bills on their site found at: http://schools.utah.gov/law/Legislative-Session.aspx.

And remember to share your story with UCET here: http://bit.ly/1Y52SZD

Cybercorps Cybercamp 2016

Presenters Needed

Written by Tricia Jackson

The text of this post comes from Clint Stephens at Southwest Educational Development Center, SEDC.

SEDC is sponsoring a CyberCamp for students involved in the CyberCorps program in 20 schools in Utah on May 13-14, 2016 in Cedar City. This is our first CyberCorps student camp since 2008, and we are thrilled to have this program back! CyberCorps students are the first line of defence to support teachers using technology in schools. You can learn more about CyberCorps here.

We would love to have you join us at the CyberCamp to share your expertise and to lead our students in some high quality, hands-on technical training. Sessions will be three hours in length, and we will have four sessions over the course of the two day camp.

Please take a look at the camp session idea list. If there is a topic there that you are able and willing to present, please fill out the presenter form linked below. If there is a topic that you are passionate about that could benefit these students that is not on the list, please submit the presenter form anyway and we will certainly consider it.

CyberCorps CyberCamp 2016 – Presentation Proposal Form

SEDC will provide lodging for any presenters coming in from outside of Iron County, as well as an awesome CyberCorps 2016 T-shirt. You are also more than welcome to join the students for lunch with all of the pizza and soda you care for!

This camp has traditionally been a great experience for all involved, and this year should be no exception. Please let me know if you have any questions at all, and thanks for your time, effort and participation!

Free STEM Education Webinars From NASA Educator Professional Development

Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Home School and Informal Educators

The NASA STEM Educator Professional Development Collaborative (EPDC) at Texas State University is presenting a series of free webinars open to all educators. Join NASA education specialists to learn about activities, lesson plans, educator guides and resources that bring NASA into your classroom. Registration is required to participate. To register, simply click on the link provided beneath the webinar description.

February 8, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. ET: NASA Rockets 2 Racecars: May the Force Uplift You, or Not! (Grades 3-9) - Get your students revved up about science, technology, engineering and mathematics with NASA's Rockets 2 Racecars! Participants will learn more about the science behind racing and the forces of flight and motion. Educators will discuss air pressure and airflow on airplane wings in relation to racecars to help students understand Bernoulli’s principle. Register online to participate. https://www.etouches.com/150707

February 10, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. ET: Solar System and Beyond: The Kepler Mission Explores New Worlds (Grades 6-12) - Explore how the Kepler Space Telescope searches for planets orbiting stars beyond our sun. Participants will investigate how to use real Kepler telescope data and Kepler’s Third Law to construct graphs and interpret data that determines if a planet orbiting a star in another solar system is Earth-like and a candidate to support “life.” Register online to participate. https://www.etouches.com/159277

February 11, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. ET: Solar System and Beyond: Exploring Black Holes in Space (Grades 6-8) - Explore black holes through NASA's Space Math website for educators of grades 6-8. This STEM-based webinar uses NASA press releases, eClips videos, and math problems involving mathematical expressions. The content of this webinar is aligned with the NGSS: PS1, PS3, ESS1, and ESS2 and Common Core Math Standards. Register online to participate. https://www.etouches.com/158868
NASA/Texas Instruments mISSion imaginaTIon Design Challenge

The @Space_Station plays an important role in preparing us for a #JourneyToMars. Want to help us get there? Students can join NASA and Texas Instruments to put science, technology, engineering and mathematics to work. It’s time to take the next big leap! The mISSion imaginaTIon design challenge is a national STEM challenge in collaboration with NASA and Texas Instruments. The challenge is open until May 2, 2016: www.missionimagination.com

Transform teaching and learning

JOIN ISTE NOW

Join our tribe of passionate educators, leaders and experts who are committed to expanding the horizons of education technology. Home to the ISTE Conference & Expo and the widely adopted ISTE Standards for learning, teaching and leading in the digital age, the association represents more than 100,000 professionals worldwide.

Register now for UCET 2016!

Tricia Jackson, tricia.jackson@ucet.org

Attend UCET! Join us at the conference to learn ways in which you can use technology to elevate teaching and learning! Register through http://www.ucet.org/attendees/

The current conference registration costs through February 27 are: $60 Both Days or $42 for one day. $30 for college students for both days (proof required, such as a current activity card). After March 27 add $10 to all price categories. This is a conference you won’t want to miss!

Registration Helpful Hints

There are a couple of items that you should know about the billing information section of the attendee registration form:

If you are registering for one day only, please use “Thursday” or “Friday” for the field “Do you have a comp code?” (You will still need a billing address, but can ignore the rest.)

If you are registering as a student, please use “student” for the field “Do you have a comp code?” (You will still need a billing address, but ignore the rest.)

If your district is paying for your registration, please use the group code your district gave you by typing it into the “Code for Payment” field. (Please do not fill out the billing information fields.)

If you are the person paying for your district, please contact Robert Gordon to get a group code. (robert.gordon@ucet.org)
Mathway:  https://www.mathway.com

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