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## **GEO News coverage is more biased than ARY News coverage regarding Panama Leaks by viewers' perception**

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### **Abstract**

This study has been conducted to analyze if the GEO News Coverage is more biased than ARY News Coverage regarding Panama Leaks using viewers' Perception. Data has been collected through news bulletins and current affairs programs. The information was gathered from 320 University of Sargodha students. Age, Gender, and Education are used as variables to classify the selected participants. Responses are collected using the survey research approach. Convenience sampling is employed in this study. The significance of the study's variables was determined using the ANOVA.T-test and correlation statistical tests. According to significant statistics, the viewership of ARY News is higher than that of GEO News. In comparison to news bulletins, it has been noted that a substantial majority of viewers watch current affairs programmes. The findings revealed that viewers are more likely to be satisfied with ARY News' coverage of the Panama Leaks, and it was discovered that viewers think PML-N has a far greater number of off-shore firms than PPP PTI. Similarly, viewers of both of these selected stations believe that the charges against Nawaz Sharif are genuine and that Imran Khan's stance on the Panama Leaks is correct, according to the findings of the ANOVA Test. Viewers learn more about the Panama leaks through ARY News than GEO News.

**Keywords:** news channels, coverage to panama papers, media split, media biasness

### **Introduction**

The way toward building up media organizations in Pakistan was a response to the white nationalistic plan, where some celebrated characters in the

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development with the expectation of complimentary Pakistan were having entirely or somewhat responsible for national newspapers. Before autonomy, the realized adjusted media was completely obscure after opportunity nationalist plan began and it was gradually spreading by Islamic idea also. (Hughes, [2013](#)).

Notwithstanding that from a significant period media is believed to be the main discussion for individuals. Military dictators are well aware of the importance of the news media and propaganda machinery. They become evident when they take up leadership for the country as soon as possible. Writers for nine different publications who work for media groups proved their importance as steadfast advocates of the military. They backed the material legislation and other crisis action after General Yahya Khan took control of the assembly in 1969 (Haqqani, [2010](#)).

### **Role of Electronic Media in Pakistan**

Before the coming of private TV stations of Pakistan, there was just a single Television station titled PTV which was under severe government rule. Notwithstanding, print media battled exceptionally hard for its privileges just as for the privileges of the overall population. The real pretended by Pakistani media was simply to advise, teach and engage. Be that as it may, this information constrained the issues which didn't fill the genuine need of illuminating general society about the financial issues concerning their lives (Ansari, [2011](#)).

Current Affairs' Programs are well known among watchers dissimilar to the news which are depicted impartially with bear least investigation; the Present undertakings' projects give the subtleties and elucidations in regards to the issues which as of now exist. Through discoursed and translations, these projects try to direct the group of spectators' individuals. As the private TV slots were propelled during the Musharraf system, the rivalry started between various channels which battled to manufacture their validity through select news stories in a presumable target way. Before the development of these private TV stations there existed just one station under the title of private TV slots which spoke to the administration and in this manner consistently introduced the perspective of the legislature.

At the point when the private TV stations communicated their transmissions, they focused on broadcasting syndicated programs on different issues now every news channel is giving political television shows huge viewership. They have turned out to be extremely popular among the normal masses. In like manner, numerous political television shows with the amalgamation of fun and information have accomplished a ton of ubiquity. These Pakistani television shows consult on a scope of issues of national and international concern and political arrangements (Munir et al., [2018](#)).

### **Panama Leaks**

We have caught wind of numerous mystery report spills whether they were Wiki Releases or some other and so forth. Same as these Panama Papers are 11.5 million spilled reports (otherwise called Panama Breaks) which comprise itemized monetary information and lawyer-customer purchase and sell of around 250K offshore organizations. This accumulation of archives contains individual and private money related information about the affluent people and offshore organizations which have not been uncovered previously or had kept private beforehand. While realizing that offshore organizations are legal, the group of writers found that a portion of the Mossack Fonseca elements were utilized for tax avoidance, illegal tax avoidance, misrepresentation, and infringement of international approvals (Hanif et al., [2021](#)).

These 11.5 million reports were set up by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) to be known as Panama Releases made to people in general on third April 2016. The reports were sourced from the Panamanian Law office Mossack Fonseca, which incorporated the subtleties of eight offshore organizations identified with the Sharif family including the previous PM of Pakistan and his more youthful sibling Boss Clergyman of Punjab Shahbaz Sharif. As indicated by these papers, the offspring of Nawaz Sharif Maryam Nawaz (girl), Hussain Nawaz (child), and Hasan Nawaz (child) were the recipient proprietors of the 5 offshore organizations in which the two Neilson and Nescol were utilized to purchase pads in London's most costly Mayfair condos. These holes inhale another life into the allegations of debasement that the Sharif family has for quite some time been spooky by (Hanif et al., [2021](#)).

## Statement of the Problem

Pakistani News Channels are creating polarization on the inclusion of Panama Leaks, but GEO News and ARY News have done a crucial job in the Panama case. Presumably, both are giving enormous inclusion to Panama releases case, one with genius govt approach and other with anti-government stance. Along these lines, the aim of this study to investigate the GEO News Coverage is more biased than ARY News Coverage regarding Panama Leaks by viewers' Perception.

## Objectives

- To Investigate the Flow of information is better regarding Panama Leaks by GEO News rather than ARY News
- To investigate the viewers' perception about GEO News Coverage is more biased than ARY News regarding Panama leaks.
- To investigate the viewers' perception about ARY News Coverage is more biased than GEO News Coverage regarding Panama leaks.
- To determine viewers' extent of interest with the information delivered by GEO News and ARY News regarding Panama leaks.

## Research Question

- How much the Flow of information is better regarding Panama Leaks by ARY News rather than GEO News?
- What are viewers' perception about GEO News Coverage is more biased than ARY News regarding Panama leaks?
- What are the viewers' biasness of GEO News and ARY News regarding Panama Leaks?

## Literature Review

Time will boost the present political upheaval. The longer it lasts, the more serious it becomes, and for the opposition, this would be a wonderful opportunity. It would be valuable for the PML-N rule to keep its excitement in check and find a solution as soon as possible. Though the prime minister's name is not mentioned directly in the Panama Papers, it is mentioned about his children, who are thought to be involved in these deals. Nonetheless, the fact that Nawaz Sharif addressed the public twice about his problem drew

him into the controversy. Nobody seemed to notice the other names on the list.

This approach was reinforced by the PML-decision Ns to join the plan to protect Nawaz Sharif and his family, as well as a counter-offensive by accusing several opposition figures of corruption. The discrepancies in interviews given to the media by the prime minister's children at different periods added fuel to the fire. His animosity can last for months, lest the PML-N loses patience and acts in political actions, such as utilizing the state infrastructure to cruelly deny the opposition or using executive powers to train the sanctuary institution in Punjab. The government's fight for survival will be negotiated in exchange for its efforts to solve the issue of internal security. Because it cannot afford to pay for, the program for madras upgrades and social arming to combat extremist violence will be put on hold. This will offend even more people. This summer, Pakistani politics will be dominated by efforts to gain power with an indeterminate consequence (Rizvi, [2016](#)).

The Panama Papers have thrown the whole globe, including Pakistan, into disarray. The Panamanian prime minister resigned, and other government officials are facing increasing pressure to be held accountable for their actions. Pakistan is on the verge of a political uprising as a result of the government's irrational response to the Panama Papers' revelations. It needs to be aware of the complexity and gravity of the post-Panama-Leaks political situation. Despite going open about their offshore accounts to offer them a credible investigation, the rulers are sticking to their guns by forming a so-called inquiry committee, which was rightfully rejected by opponents. No individual may be a justice on his foundation, according to a basic concept of justice, and therefore the destiny of PM Nawaz Sharif's so-called judicial panel comes to an end.

The set-up would have been the reverse if it had followed the pattern set by the UK prime minister. On the other side, societies would suffer if they do not pay taxes since they will be unable to offer essential public services. How many institutions of higher learning and hospitals could have been established throughout the world if this massive quantity of illicit money had been taxed? The Panama Papers have influenced the necessity for offshore businesses like Mossack Fonseca to be investigated closely to

prevent concealing their finances and avoiding paying taxes (Haque et al., [2016](#)).

No prime minister of Pakistan has ever completed his time of government since the previous 70 years of independence of Pakistan. Even Nawaz Sharif was about to complete his due time but instead, he has been expelled for the third time. Jul 28, 2017, On Friday the Supreme Court made him unqualified for office and transferred the matter of his family's offshore possessions to anti-corruption authorities. Mr. Sharif refuses the charge, but stepped down at once; his governing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party is anticipated to recommend an heir soon. Although this quit Pakistan's politics at the edge of global affairs. It was ignited by the expositions made in the Panama Papers – the unparalleled disclosure from an offshore law firm – relating to lavish London property, purchased through British Virgin Islands companies associated with Mr Sharif's children, who were not adult at that time.

In 2008, they took help from the Swiss arm of Deutsche Bank to borrow £7m against the apartments. The Panama Papers flickered the resignation of Iceland's prime minister within a very short time. David Cameron had undergone a very precise inspection over his family's tax affairs. Malta is still handling the political arguments. Now Mr. Sharif ousted. The effect has been financial also, governments are mapping out billions of dollars in unpaid taxes or other belongings (Khuhro et al., [2019](#)). The European Commission has printed suggestions to get more strict on offshore tax mechanisms. The endeavors must not end there. The public register for advantageous owners of UK corporations must be widened to British tax havens; it must consist of trusts, and a proper method of check and balance should be devised. Liabilities should not be risked on leaks; nevertheless, efficient they have been shown this time (The Guardian, [2016](#)).

The meditations that a governing in the case can put Mr. Sharif in instant problem and carry forward elections due in 2018 has been convenient for now. However, the decree has not eased the air of bitterness that has stained Pakistani politics since 2014. The reason is that the court has not removed the prime minister's name and has intimated him to come forward before investigators will be employed by the opposition to take away at his legality and personal uprightness. **Contentions of corruption have trailed Mr. Sharif**

since the 1980s. And a lot of that the Panama Papers have exposed now was the matter of a federal investigation in the mid-1990s. Mr. Sharif gave claimed that the inquiry finished when he took charge in 1997, naming it as "politically motivated". But presently he and his family are bound to admit that they used offshore companies to attain foreign property.

The supplicants, in the meantime, led by Mr. Khan, have not proceeded much better. They will keep on to be mocked by the prime minister's camp that they reciprocated politically aggravated charges that they could not justify in court. As the air of animosity is expected to be continued and even become worse when the people inquiring about the matter will start their work. All of this occurred at a time when the governing bodies have lost much of their region to the military and elections are imminent (Khan, [2017](#)).

Good administration blooms in an essentially free-of-corruption place. But unfortunately, Pakistan is each day stepping down in this regard. Corruption, on all sizes and magnitudes (mega, medium, and little), pervades all levels of government and all sectors of society, including the private, public, judicial, political, commercial, and even religious groups. In highly disorganized administrative frameworks, corruption, ironically, acts as the component that balances market tactics (Khaliq et al., [2020](#)). At the individual level, there is an unusual economic concept underpinning this exchange.

The societal cost, on the other hand, is staggering. Corruption has a constant impact on local people's lives through reducing profits from resource utilization. It also raises their living expenses significantly. The origins of corruption in Pakistan may be traced back to major events from the 1940s to the 1990s, and even more recently. Serious attempts at liability, which began in the mid-1990s and were more vigorous around the turn of the century, often resulted in political generosity or discriminatory instruments. At the national level, there has been a virtual legal gap for the previous two years. To eliminate this threat, a variety of frameworks are required (Javaid, [2010](#)).

Corruption is restricted or controlled by the existence of a supervisor or an observing system (Khan et al., [2021](#)). Even though the regional Anti-Corruption Agency was handled in the 1960s and a Federal Investigation



Agency was established to combat corruption in public spheres, it was discovered that the police's anti-corruption unit is the nastiest and dishonest. Gradually the inclination for corruption got momentum and no governmental efforts were visibly seen for control (Khan et al., [2020](#)).

“Corruption isn't an issue that can be solved on its own. It is not enough for the criminal law to look for and punish bad apples. Of course, the government may need to create legitimacy by prosecuting high-profile corrupt individuals, but such trials aim to get public attention and support, not to fix the underlying problem. Anti-corruption legislation can only serve as a foundation for more significant systemic reforms.” (Rose-Ackerman, [2008](#) ).

Quah ([2003](#)) enlists six valuable practices adopted by the four high-ranked countries in Asia, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, and South Korea. These practices do not at all rely on the police department to counter corruption, i.e., do not let the police investigate the culprits. this is similar to giving to a child and expecting him to chew (Sohail et al., [2019](#)). Instead, a separate autonomous body should be inducted to tackle corruption by utilizing. Effective means produced by the government Singapore took 5 and Hong Kong took 26 years to understand the significance of this trend. Further, legislation should be monitored periodically to deal with the loopholes and unavoidable problems by making quick amendments where and when necessary.

In Singapore, the prevention of corruption Act (POCA) trusted power to officials and directors dealing with corruption. The Republic of Korea is a good example of quick amendments in legislation (Asghar et al., [2019](#)). There is a need for the realization that it took decades to implement and practice the right policies in these countries. It was not possible only through government effort but opposition also played a vital role in countries like Malaysia. These played a significant in amending the legislative body to make Anti-corruption departments more powerful, effective autonomous, and independent.

Meagher ([2005](#)) elaborates on how different nations adopt various means in achieving this good. The study under consideration is focused on the proceeding of NAB is similar to Hong Kong. NAB is considered an institution with the prestige that deals with corruption in Pakistan. It

incorporates the power of all anti-corruption departments, since the foundation of Pakistan. Additionally, NAB holds the power to investigate corruption in its limitations, even though somebody is under investigation the ratio of corruption among common people and what is their definition of corruption and how they counter i.e. (Klitgaard, [1988](#) ; Javiad, [2010](#)).

Recognizing corruption is a critical problem since anti-corruption tactics cannot be developed without a thorough understanding of the subject. Intellectuals, authors, and researchers from many organizations' have remarked on numerous definitions of corruption, including political, social, economic, and moral corruption. The most widely recognized definition in the sphere of concern is that it is a misuse of authority for personal and private benefit.

(Melgar et al, [2009](#); Haarhuis & Leeuw, [2004](#)). Actually all Virtual perception about corruption i.e. The definition of corruption was endorsed by the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, Global Competitiveness Reports, Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Political Risk Services Group's International Country Risk Group (ICRG) index, and the World Bank's World Governance Indicators. These indexes reflect the feelings of all government personnel, employees, and lawmakers. Although these indexes are used to rate things. While it is theoretically possible to define corruption similarly, there is no guarantee that the rankings that result are consistent (Ahmad & Aziz, [2001](#)).

In the same way, Khan ([1996](#)) views corruption as a behavioral deviation from the formal code of conduct that directs the behavior and actions of government employees. Advig et al. ([2001](#)) outline the following four manifestations of corruption: embezzlement, fraud, extortion, and bribery. Embezzlement “is another kind of theft of entitled facilities by officers in public and government institutions”. Fraud “is, however, an economic corruption that is often channelized through a middle man mediating between state politicians and citizens”. Extortion “is done as when money or other valuable things are taken by use of violence, force, and threats for the personal benefits of government officials”. Extortion and blackmailing are taken as an exploiting source of money. Bribery is a type

of corruption where payment is given in cash form to public office holders as an exchange for some behavior (Khuhro et al., [2020](#)).

The resources are distributed equally by following the merit of nepotism family and friends' consideration. Some people get special treatment from officeholders who do not feel hesitation in violating the rules and regulations. In Nepotism, Government officers give performance and favor to their family and relatives over others. Graf Lambsdorff, ([2005](#)) defines consumption over import/export permits, public utilities, annual tax payment, contracts, loan law, and policymaking and judicial proceedings in reoffered to as “Petty corruption”. Whereas corruption in political donations, public trust, and bureaucracy is termed as “Grand corruption”.

Melgar et al. ([2009](#)) examined the role of individual factors such as age, gender, marital status, number of children together with national factors like GDP and Income inequality per capita in shaping corruption perception. The level of corruption in the public sector correlates with that of the private sector. The correlate data from 7 countries and made 57,000 observations. Davis and Ruhe ([2003](#)) looked at the link between views of a country's alleged corruption and its cultural characteristics. They claim that people's, organizations', and governments' opinions of a country's corruption are connected to their assessments of its cultural characteristics. Cabelkova ([2001](#)) discusses the incentives people receive as a result of corruption, believing that they are influenced by the amount of corruption recognized by individuals as well as the level of tolerance displayed by the relevant authority.

## Hypotheses

1. It is more likely that the the Flow of information is better regarding Panama Leaks by GEO News rather than ARY News
2. It is more likely that viewers' perception about GEO News Coverage is more biased than ARY News regarding Panama leaks.
3. It is more likely that viewers' perception of ARY News Coverage is more biased than GEO News Coverage regarding Panama leaks.

## Theoretical Framework

The current study's theoretical framework is based on Media Dependency Theory, Cultivation Theory, and Uses and Gratification Theory. The

argument that audiences who watched more current affairs programme have their views relevant to the views presented on current affairs programs television, and heavy viewers will sustain more effects on their perception than light viewers, is the main relevance of cultivation theory to the current study.

The fear of being a victim of Panama's corruption perception is greater among heavy users of Panama-based programs than among light watchers. Viewers who watch more current affairs shows, for example, feel better knowledgeable about the Panama leaks, according to this survey (Naeem et al., [2020](#)). The media dependence hypothesis is also relevant to the current study because viewers who watch more television current affairs Programme believe that these Programme depict reality as it occurs in society. The uses and satisfaction hypothesis is relevant to the current study since it aims to discover people's watching habits and views as a consequence of exposure to the current affairs Programme.

### **Methodology**

The goal of this study was to see if viewers believe GEO News coverage of the Panama Leaks is more biased than ARY News coverage. through the programme of Current Affair. In this study, a target of 320 people was chosen for data collecting purposes utilizing a simple sampling approach. Gender (Male and Female) and Profession (Male and Female) were used to split the population (Employees and Students) Following the specification of population data, a convenient sampling approach was used. A standardized questionnaire was used to obtain data from 320 respondents. ANOVA. The significance of the study's variables is determined using the T-test and correlation statistical tests.

### **Analysis**

#### **Findings**

Table 1 Shows the interest while watching different contents of ARY News and Geo News by the respondents. It has been observed from the findings that overall significant majority of the respondent watches current affairs contents of ARY News (22. %) and News Bulletin (15.3%) very much as compared to Geo News current affair contents (6.6%) and News Bulletin (9.7%), followed by (16.9%) News Bulletin, current affair (20%)

much of ARY News and (15.9%) News Bulletin and current affair (10%) much of Geo News.

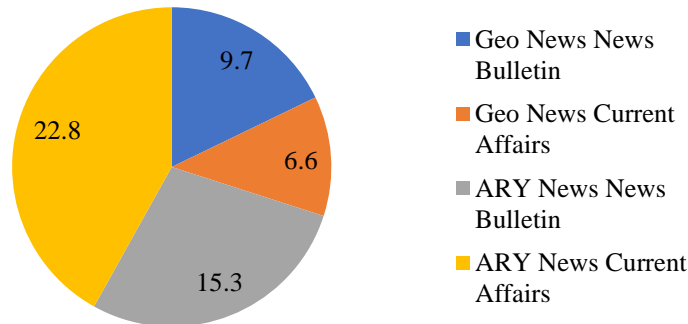
**Table 1**

*Interest to Watch Content of Private TV Channels*

Response Catagories	Geo News		ARY News	
	News Bulletin	Current Affairs	News Bulletin	Current Affairs
Very much	9.7	6.6	15.3	22.8
Much	15.9	10	16.9	20
Somewhat	25.6	21.3	20	15.9
Rarely	24.1	26.9	20.9	17.2
Not at all	24.7	35.3	26.9	24.1

**Figure 1**

*Interest to Watch the Content of Private TV Channels*

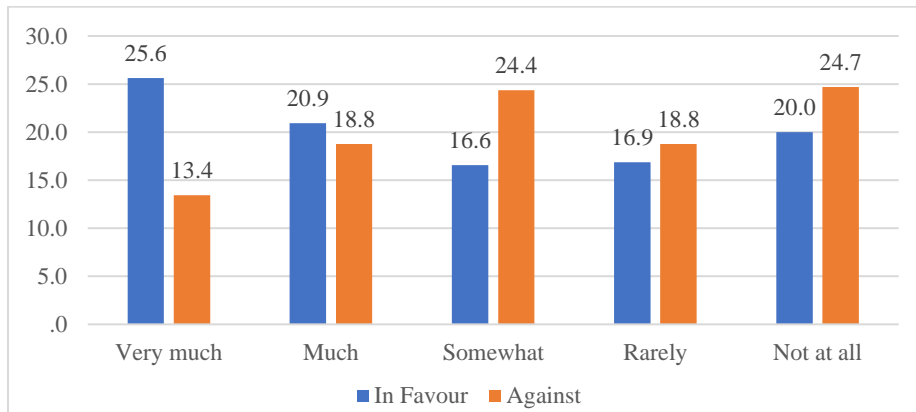


This graph shows the estimated time spent watching the Geo News and Ary News; News Bulletin and Current Affairs Programs. The results revealed that there is not much difference in viewers spending time watching the Private Television Channels. The viewers are found to be significantly paying more time to ARY News Bulletin and Current Affairs (22. % & 15.3%) followed by Geo News, News Bulletin, and Current Affairs Programs (9.7% and 6.6%). The results of this graph show a similar picture to the graph of ‘how much they spend time to watch News Bulletin

and Current Affairs Programs of both selected private television channels'. Like the graph above same difference was noted in respondent's time spent on ARY news. The graph also indicates the viewer's extent of interest in taking in a news bulletin, then the current affairs program of ARY news channel.

**Figure 2**

*Coverage Panama Leaks by Geo News*



This table shows that the coverage satisfied on Panama leaks of Geo News. It has been observed from the findings that the overall significant majority of the respondents 25.6 % Geo as followed by much 20.9% than the somewhat new (24.7). It is also compared them against response overall coverage the response of viewers rarely is 16.9% than the 20. % In terms of respondents that overall analysis shows that the student is minor satisfied with the coverage of Geo news; News Bulletin and Current Affairs Programs.

## Discussion

According to the data, private news TV stations far outweigh other media outlets in terms of reach and political information in Pakistan's urban areas. For example, the country's newspaper circulation is appallingly low. Pakistan's overall newspaper circulation in 200 was 6.1 million for a population of 207 million people (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics), and it is still declining (Enn, [2012](#)). Every newspaper has its slant and policy, and

two major private television news networks, ARY News and Geo News, gave the Panama situation substantial attention based on these different policies and viewpoints.

On private TV channels, the most popular shows were Public Interest and Reasonability. The Conflict was ranked third. The fourth and fifth places, respectively, were given to economics and morality. Although the Panama Papers released a comprehensive report on money laundering and offshore assets, news outlets were shaped differently by creating a sense of awareness and advice. The majority of ARY News and Geo News' coverage of the Panama Court hearings and various political organizations' and individuals' press conferences/statements on the Panama issue. The study's outcomes on Panama coverage found that the two most well-known private television channels covered the subject more extensively. To entice readers, most news articles and editorials employ a variety of wordings and visual components. ARY News stood at the top of the list for comprehensive coverage of the Panama crisis.

## **Conclusion**

Viewers watch ARY News more frequently than GEO News, according to major studies. In comparison to news bulletins, it has been noted that the majority of viewers watch current affairs shows. The outcomes of the research study confirm the research hypothesis that viewers are more likely to be happy with ARY News' coverage of the Panama Leaks and that viewers feel that PML-N has a far greater number of off-shore firms than PPP, PTI. Therefore, the data suggest that viewers of these selected channels believe the charges against Nawaz Sharif are accurate and that they feel Imran Khan's stance on the Panama Leaks is right. The study hypothesis was further supported by the ANOVA Test.

Viewers learn more about the Panama leaks through ARY News than from GEO News. Overall, the findings of this survey show that the majority of respondents watch these Private News Channels daily, exposing them to news bulletins and current affairs programme. Respondents are becoming more interested in news and current affairs programme as a result of their interactions with them. They use this platform for a variety of reasons,

including gathering information, entertainment, and enjoyment, all based on their interests.

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