

aws marketplace

OpenVPN Access Server

Reviews, tips, and
advice from real users



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Product Recap



OpenVPN Access Server

OpenVPN Access Server Recap

OpenVPN Access Server Enterprise provides secure, scalable remote access with strong encryption and cross-platform compatibility, leveraging open-source flexibility for cost-effectiveness. It's ideal for connecting remote workers, maintaining privacy, and securing network communications.

OpenVPN Access Server Enterprise is renowned for its ease of setup and adaptability, supporting Linux and different operating systems, which ensures robust security and seamless integration across network scenarios. With features like two-factor authentication and customizable installers, it emphasizes privacy and remote connectivity. While it offers robust documentation and community support, there are challenges with user management due to the lack of a simple GUI. Users note stability issues under heavy traffic, and improvements in security features and configuration automation are desired. Despite these areas for enhancement, it remains a reliable choice for secure remote access.

What are the key features?

- **Easy Setup:** Hassle-free installation process facilitates quick deployment
- **Cross-Platform Compatibility:** Supports Linux and different operating systems for widespread utility
- **Strong Encryption:** Secures data with advanced encryption technologies
- **Two-Factor Authentication:** Enhances security through additional authentication layer
- **Customizable Installers:** Allows personalized installation process to suit organizational preferences

What benefits and ROI should users seek?

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Open-source nature reduces licensing costs
- **User-Friendliness:** Comprehensive documentation and community support ease the implementation
- **Scalability:** Adapts to growing connectivity and bandwidth needs
- **Enhanced Security:** Provides secure access to network resources and data

In industries such as finance and healthcare, OpenVPN Access Server Enterprise secures sensitive data while enabling remote access across LANs and VPCs. It's utilized for encrypted traffic protection, facilitating site-to-site VPNs, and connecting mobile workers securely, thus maintaining data integrity in interoffice communications and IoT platforms.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- ✓ “Overall, my best feature of OpenVPN Access Server is the user management, which is very nice because OpenVPN can be quite painful and not very visible.”



Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

- ✓ “Once you set it up correctly, it works and continues to work reliably.”



Emmanuel Chebukati

DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

- ✓ “OpenVPN Access Server has positively impacted my organization by allowing access to our private services, enhancing security, and enabling remote work from anywhere, as I just need to connect to the VPN to have encrypted traffic to our private resources.”



Oleksii Pavliuk

DevOps and Site Reliability Engineer at Honey Insurance

- ✓ “The main benefits that I have seen from using OpenVPN Access Server are that it is simple, easy, and secure.”



MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

- ✓ “The best features OpenVPN Access Server offers is whitelisting members in my company who have joined recently; it is really easy to use, and it is really easy to set up OpenVPN Access Server as an internal app.”



Girraj Godia

Devops Engineer at Emergent

- ✓ “What I appreciate the most about OpenVPN Access Server is that it's very easy to set up.”



Verified user

Chief Cloud Architect at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

- ✓ “In my opinion, the most useful function in OpenVPN Access Server is the user management feature, which I regularly use to manage the users and the concurrent sessions.”



Somesh Kumar

Team Leader at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

“The best features in OpenVPN Access Server for me are the integrations with single sign-on providers so that users can maintain a single corporate identity. I also appreciate the administration dashboard, which allows you to fairly easily provision subnets for different groups. Performance-wise, it is quite performant. OpenVPN Access Server supports both TCP and UDP protocols, and you can decide which to turn on or off. It is fairly performant and reliable. You can trust that once you are in the network, you will access your resources..”

Emmanuel Chebukati

DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

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“Overall, my best feature of OpenVPN Access Server is the user management, which is very nice because OpenVPN can be quite painful and not very visible. This tool gives absolute visibility and full control over the users, their access, and provides them with some dashboards. The administrator can see everything related to the VPN system.

“I primarily utilize OpenVPN Access Server access control features for personal working desktops to access the infrastructure. We provide the key pair generated automatically, which I control, but I know that it has other features to deliver those credentials as well..”

Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

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“The best feature of OpenVPN Access Server is single sign-on, which is a very secure feature for information security.

Access control is effective in providing precise access to user groups and devices. In our company, we use a couple of services to control devices and users. One of these is a mobile device management solution such as Miradore or JumpCloud, and another solution to secure the channel to connect to company services is OpenVPN Access Server. Through the admin console, we can manage user rights and connections to company services..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“I believe the best features OpenVPN Access Server offers are 2FA authorization and its connection with Google Workspace, which allows for good synchronization.

I use the 2FA authentication and Google Workspace synchronization, and the benefits of these features for my team are that Google accounts of our employees can be synchronized and authorized through SSO, which makes it easier to set up and configure VPN for our employees. If they have a Google account, they can connect to VPN easily. 2FA adds an additional layer of authorization that enhances security.

OpenVPN Access Server has positively impacted my organization by allowing access to our private services, enhancing security, and enabling remote work from anywhere, as I just need to connect to the VPN to have encrypted traffic to our private resources..”

Oleksii Pavliuk

DevOps and Site Reliability Engineer at Honey Insurance

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“In my opinion, the most useful function in OpenVPN Access Server is the user management feature, which I regularly use to manage the users and the concurrent sessions. When I have a very small number of connections and users, I used to manage it from OpenVPN Access Server from the UI, discarding or canceling the open connections and unused connections.

I am satisfied with the access control features of OpenVPN Access Server; that access control is a good feature for OpenVPN Access Server.

I have been using the role-defining feature with OpenVPN Access Server. There are different roles: the admin role and the normal roles, so I provide the regular operations roles to the regular users, and admin access is restricted to a few people.

I find the user interface of OpenVPN Access Server to be good; it is an intuitive user interface, so I appreciate that..”

Somesh Kumar

Team Leader at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

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“The best features OpenVPN Access Server offers is whitelisting members in my company who have joined recently. It is really easy to use, and it is really easy to set up OpenVPN Access Server as an internal app.

When whitelisting members, I just add the name of the user. I go into User Permissions, add the name of the person I'm going to whitelist, and send them the credentials. They are able to log in and authenticate using an authenticator app and are easily able to onboard on OpenVPN Access Server and access internal apps.


It is easy to whitelist new apps that I'm going to host or when I've created a new VPC. I will do the VPC peering where I have hosted OpenVPN Access Server, and I can easily add the IP or CIDR of that particular new VPC or subnet which I'm going to use for my new app in the UI.

Before using OpenVPN Access Server, only developers mainly had access to databases. We can create read-only users for databases and internally give them access using OpenVPN Access Server. It has been really useful, as we don't have to give access to everyone, and just give access to OpenVPN Access Server, and they are able to access databases or internal websites.

The change has mainly led to the onboarding process being more smoothed out. It is really fast and saves developers' time. It saves my time as a DevOps engineer, setting up things for people..”

Girraj Godia

Devops Engineer at Emergent

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Other Solutions Considered

“I previously used L2TP/IPsec on my home router, and I am currently testing WireGuard for my home network because WireGuard is faster than OpenVPN Access Server..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“I have tried other solutions including Cisco, FortiGate, and native IPsec solutions from Windows platforms, as well as an open-source version of OpenVPN without dashboards and the WireGuard open-source solution..”

Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

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“Apart from speed considerations, I use OpenVPN Access Server only for enterprise use and do not have a plan to use it for my home network. This is an enterprise solution and enterprise service, but not for a home user..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“Before choosing OpenVPN Access Server, I haven't evaluated any other options. Some of my colleagues recommended OpenVPN Access Server, and I went through it, and it has been really useful..”

Girraj Godia

Devops Engineer at Emergent

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“I compare OpenVPN Access Server to other solutions by noting that it is extremely easy to set up. Even someone who is non-technical or possesses technical knowledge will be able to install it and use it in a few minutes, which is almost not possible with any other solution, as they are much more complicated..”

Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

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“In comparison with other products and solutions such as Twingate or other VPN services, the key differences between OpenVPN Access Server and competitors include access to resources versus subnets, focusing on fine-grained access. Another difference is the ability to see logs specific to the resource that has been accessed. Compared to other products such as Cisco, the advantages include reliability and the protocol—OpenVPN Access Server uses HTTPS and UDP, which are universal. Some of the other protocols that other VPN providers use are not guaranteed. OpenVPN Access Server has advantages there. There should be a move more towards zero trust, where you are accessing a specific resource, defining a specific server or subnet, and assigning access to those resources to individual users or groups. That approach would be better..”

Emmanuel Chebukati

DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“It's efficient. Connecting to the local server without it would be much more difficult. Every employee who works from another office has to use it, so it's essential..”

Verified user

Project Manager at a photography company with 51-200 employees

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“Overall, I believe the ROI is high. The initial investment can be costly, as you go through the process of learning the application. But in the long run, you gain more than just financial benefits; the intellectual knowledge gained can be invaluable..”

Elliott Scott

CEO at Scott Solutions LLC

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Use Case

“My use case for OpenVPN Access Server is infrastructure VPN for internal company usage. The main reason we use it is because of the user management UI and the visual representation of all the data related to it..”

Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

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“My current use case for OpenVPN Access Server is for the security aspect, so I access the servers through the VPN. I disable the public access and only enable the private access..”

Somesh Kumar

Team Leader at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

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“My primary use case for OpenVPN Access Server is providing secure, centralized access to hybrid cloud environments. Whenever I set up hybrid cloud infrastructure for clients, deploying Access Server is a natural next step. It acts as a gateway, allowing us to securely connect to the private network for routine administration, system updates, and accessing internal dashboards and tools..”

Emmanuel Chebukati

DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

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“I am currently working with OpenVPN Access Server for approximately 20 users. We use OpenVPN Access Server to connect to our company services from one IP address to secure these connections. OpenVPN Access Server is very lightweight, and the installation process is equally lightweight.

Single sign-on is very important for me because it is one of the principles of zero-trust architecture. In this architecture, each user has minimum privilege and uses one login and one password to connect to any services..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“The main use case for OpenVPN Access Server is making internal web applications and using them within our organization. We have many internal apps, such as Re:dash for analytics, and internal peering and accessing different VM machines and internal servers.

I have hosted OpenVPN Access Server in my VM for one of those internal apps. From that VM, I have done the VPC peering to our different VPCs. And I have hosted, for example, Re:dash, an analytics tool for our internal company members. So we use VPN to whitelist them, and then they can internally use Re:dash for the analytics dashboard, querying, and connecting to the different databases and all..”

Girraj Godia

Devops Engineer at Emergent

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“My main use case for OpenVPN Access Server is to allow our employees to access the private network and external web services that are whitelisted to our network.

A specific example of how my team uses OpenVPN Access Server is that developers are accessing private development services, microservices, or resources on AWS, while the business team or sales has access to some specific services launched and implemented on our private network that are closed from internet access.

External parties or partners whitelist our IP addresses, and our employees use VPN to access those services as well..”

Oleksii Pavliuk

DevOps and Site Reliability Engineer at Honey Insurance

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“I found some open-source documentation for setting up OpenVPN Access Server. It was really easy to set up initially. I got some networking issues from the VPC peering side, but it was resolved from open-source references..”

Girraj Godia

Devops Engineer at Emergent

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“The solution's initial setup is easy.

On a scale from one to ten, where one is complex and ten is easy, I rate the solution's initial setup a seven or eight out of ten..”

Deniz Uzun

Product Project Manager at Virgosol

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“I find it easy to install OpenVPN Access Server, and there are no issues. It is just a couple of clicks or using the package from the Ubuntu package registry, and the documentation is clear on how to do that..”

Oleksii Pavliuk

DevOps and Site Reliability Engineer at Honey Insurance

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“The user interface of OpenVPN Access Server is very easy. It has two buttons: a download button and a cancel button, along with a checkbox to download only the profile. There are no additional settings, only log out and download options with the checkbox. This is a very simple interface that is very good for users, very good for admins, and very good for security..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“The ease of installing and setting up OpenVPN Access Server within the organization depends on the skillset of the person conducting the setup. On AWS, I would say it is medium difficulty because you have to select the right license and the right instance size, and it is not inherently clear what instance size to use. On-premise, it is fairly easy to set up. The setup for clients depends on the client that the end user is using. On mobile devices, sometimes I find that Mac users and iPhone users find it easier to set up than Android users. Overall, I would characterize the setup difficulty as medium. It is not too difficult and also not too easy..”

Emmanuel Chebukati

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DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

“I find it extremely easy to install and set up OpenVPN Access Server.

“As far as I remember, it takes about 10 or 15 minutes maximum to have a server ready.

“OpenVPN Access Server requires really minimal maintenance, as it is basically dockerized and everything is automated, so it is even updated. It's absolutely simple to install..”

Fedir Plotnikov

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

Customer Service and Support

“We are able to manage the support of the solution and troubleshoot for clients. However, I have never dealt with the solution's technical support services in the past. .”

Verified user

Enterprise Solutions Consultant at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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“The support team is really quick to jump on any support cases. I had a case open about two weeks ago. It was related to our DNS. I received an email within 15 minutes. The team set up the support tickets and worked with me. I rate support a nine or ten out of ten..”

Verified user

CEO at a consultancy with 1-10 employees

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“We have a network engineer to look after technical issues within the organization. However, we escalate queries to the OpenVPN’s support team over email. They are responsive..”

LAWAL YUSUF


IT auditor at SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

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“I would rate technical support for OpenVPN Access Server as not applicable because I have never talked with them. The documentation was absolutely fine for me; it was well-structured, and I did not have any difficulties with this solution, so I did not need the support..”

Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

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“Regarding technical support for OpenVPN Access Server, it is very good and very fast. Any issue was solved in five to ten minutes, or they sent me a description to solve my issue when I could not determine the problem myself. The technical support is very fast and very good..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“I would evaluate OpenVPN's technical support and customer service teams as providing standard support. You send a ticket or create a ticket, and somebody responds, and they seem to know what they are doing. The service is adequate. I would rate the technical support an eight on a scale of one to ten..”

Emmanuel Chebukati

DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

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Other Advice

“We were surprised how straightforward it was to integrate with AWS. We had a little hiccup with installing the certificate, but we read the documentation and everything was sorted out. We would recommend creating tutorial videos of setup and common troubleshooting. People prefer to watch video guides rather than read documentation..”

Verified user

IT Engineer/ Software developer at a tech vendor with 11-50 employees

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“I would suggest for others looking into using OpenVPN Access Server, people find it difficult sometimes to self-host. Find the right documentation and go through it. Mostly it is all about networking. If your basics of networking are clear, you will be able to host it easily.

On a scale of one to ten, I rate OpenVPN Access Server a nine..”

Girraj Godia

Devops Engineer at Emergent

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“OpenVPN Access Server remains stable and works well despite a couple of things that can be improved or enhanced, and the documentation is good with no issues on that side. My impression of the connection speed when using OpenVPN Access Server compared to other VPN solutions is that it is medium; it is not fast and it is not slow, but in some cases, it could be slow.

My advice for others looking into using OpenVPN Access Server is to consider if they need a VPN or just zero trust network access. If they want to route traffic to specific domains, OpenVPN Access Server may not be suitable, but for a secure, safe, and stable VPN with good service integrations such as Google for SAML authorization, it works well and I would recommend it. I would rate OpenVPN Access Server an eight on a scale of one to ten..”

Oleksii Pavliuk

DevOps and Site Reliability Engineer at Honey Insurance

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“For authentication, we use SAML to authenticate users from [Microsoft Entra ID](#) or [Google Workspace](#). SAML and single sign-on serve the same purpose. We use SAML and local authentication for the admin, and the admin can authenticate through SAML with a checkbox in the admin panel or user panel.

I have a recommendation that I can share with other organizations considering OpenVPN Access Server. From my previous job, we used OpenVPN Access Server, and when I moved to a new job, I proposed using OpenVPN Access Server, and the chief decided to implement it. In the future, when I see that my friends or friendly corporations or friendly structures want to use a VPN, I will recommend OpenVPN Access Server..”

MYKOLA CHEBAN

System Network Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“I utilize the Access Controls feature of OpenVPN Access Server by provisioning users into groups and then provisioning access to those groups. The effectiveness of OpenVPN Access Server in providing precise access to users, groups, or devices

is quite effective and reliable. I would not say it is the most intuitive specifically because there are default access groups, then you have overrides, and it is not inherently clear for someone just getting started with the product. However, if you are more experienced, it is straightforward to set up. Once you set it up, it is reliable, and you have confidence that whatever access you provision for that group of users will be maintained.

I purchase OpenVPN Access Server for my clients through the [AWS Marketplace](#). Given my extensive experience with OpenVPN Access Server, I would recommend that before any organization implements it, they really need to define what their networks and subnets are and what is connected to what. Consider whether your on-premise infrastructure is connected to your cloud and whether your cloud is connected to another cloud. It is essential to have a good understanding of your network. [Make](#) sure there are no overlapping subnets, and then decide where to provision OpenVPN Access Server. The key advice is to understand your network before you even provision this resource, because where you provision it will determine what users can access. You certainly want to have a good amount of coverage where possible so that you can access your internal resources securely. I would rate this product an eight overall..”

Emmanuel Chebukati

DevSecOps Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

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“I do not use any role defining features because it is a really small organization, so it wasn't required, but it is there if needed.

“I have seen OpenVPN Access Server integrations such as LDAP, RADIUS, PAM, and SAML, but again, due to the size of the company, it wasn't necessary and we didn't have it inside the company. However, it was nice that it is already embedded inside.

“We haven't used much in terms of integrations with OpenVPN Access Server, so

it's hard to say. We only used basic features there.

“My advice for others looking to implement OpenVPN Access Server is that it is at least worth trying if you need a fast and easy implementation solution without technical overhead and you just need VPN access, which is supported by all operating systems and mobile operating system vendors. It is definitely worth a try.

“OpenVPN Access Server was purchased directly from the website, not on the [AWS](#) marketplace or through a partner purchase. I would rate this product an overall eight out of ten..”

Fedir Plotnikov

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at Globant

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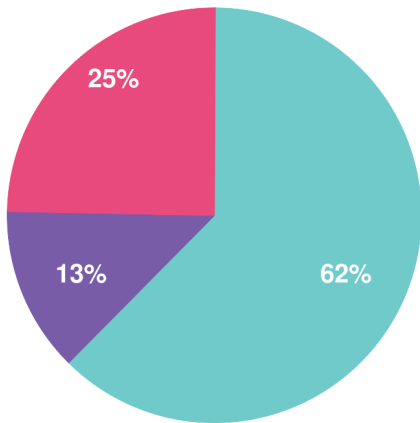
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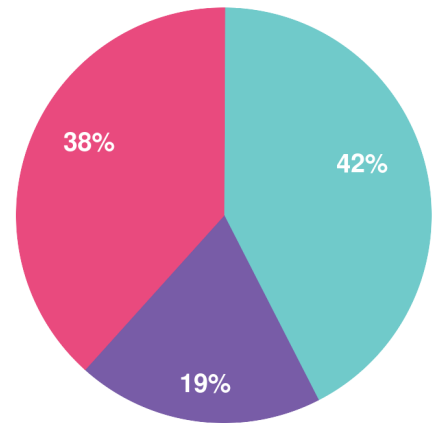
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