Developments in Safeguarding:
Virtual Mini Manager's Masterclass
March 2021

- *Please put your name and organisation in the chat, feel free to use this for questions*
- *Please mute your mic and turn off your camera*
- *Make a brew, sit back and soak up the learning!*
- *We will start at 12pm and finish at 1pm*

# North Yorkshire Masterclass

March 2021

Vicki Green

Outline of session:

- Latest police trends are regarding online abuse

- Info from the helplines

- Research into what young people are telling us they need and what is happening to them

- Marie Collins Foundation Overview

- Question and Answers throughout please!

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Scale of Online Child Sexual Abuse Today
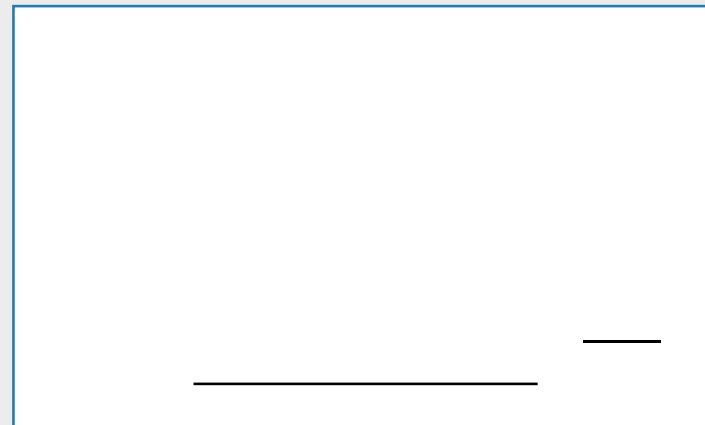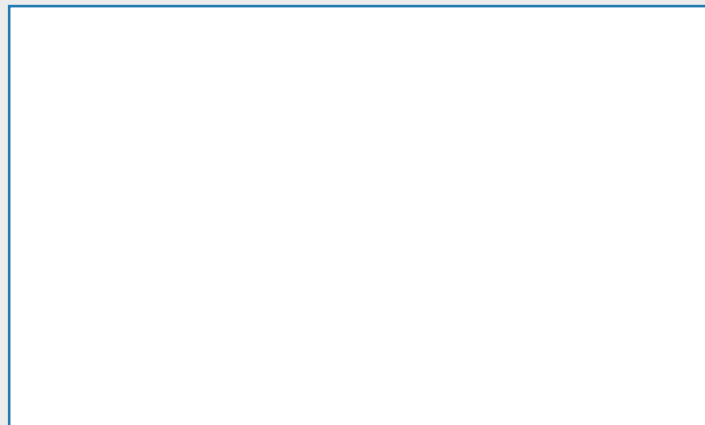
COVID Impact

- *Previously assessed that there were around **300,000** offenders in the UK posing a sexual threat to children*
  - *Our assessment in this year's NSA will revise this estimate upwards significantly.*
- *In broad terms, we assess that the online threat has **increased** as some offenders who started their offending during COVID will likely continue those behaviours*
- *Realistically possible that access to victims has increased for other offenders, including some familial offenders*

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- *The victim base is likely to have expanded, with more children spending more time online, particularly with schools closed*

- *From Q1 2020 onwards, there was a notable increase in the user base for platforms that offer live streaming and enable stranger chat.*

- *Significant increases noted from common apps such as TikTok.*

- *Likely linked to a rise in Self-Generated Indecent Imagery, with the IWF reporting a 77% increase in reports categorised as SGII.*

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- *Between 6 April 2020 and 3 January 2021 there have been 24% more public reports made to Click CEOP, and 15.5% more from children compared with the previous year.*

- *Since September there have been 46% more reports from professionals.*

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Susie Hargreaves – *CEO IWF – Jan 2021*

- "What was already a recognised phenomenon has now cemented into a grave and widespread threat to our children.

- "This year, our analysts have warned there are whole online communities of sexual predators who devote themselves to finding and tracking down children on the internet, so as to bully and coerce them into abusing themselves sexually.

- "These criminals can now groom a child who is in the apparent safety of their own bedroom, into making videos of the most serious kinds of abuse."

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Reflection

Professional's Online Safety Helpline

In it's 10th year of operation, the helpline have handled over 10,000 contacts relating to online safety issues .

Built invaluable relationships with industry

partners and assisted in almost 7,000 online

safeguarding i

The Helpline

Who are we /What do we

As the UK safer internet centre, we are part of a European network of helplines, allowing us to share and learn from other countries and cultures.

We work with industry, meaning we can flag content for removal and use dedicated safeguarding channels to do so.

Use our expertise to create amazing resources

so you got naked online...

Let's talk about PORN
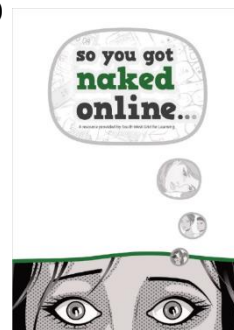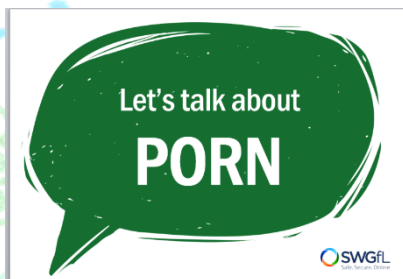
Most importantly, we support ANYONE working with children & young people dealing with any safeguarding issue online. We offer support via phone or email

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A look at 2020

- In 2020 POSH handled 1321 contacts rom professionals, which was a 30% decrease from 2019.

- For the first time ever 'media literacy/education' was one of our largest categories of calls- this was due to schools and organisations getting to grips with remote learning.

- Sadly, where we would usually be hearing of safeguarding incidents, we were advising on GDPR and 'Zoom', this is not because young people were not encountering harm online, but likely because they were not able to report it from home.
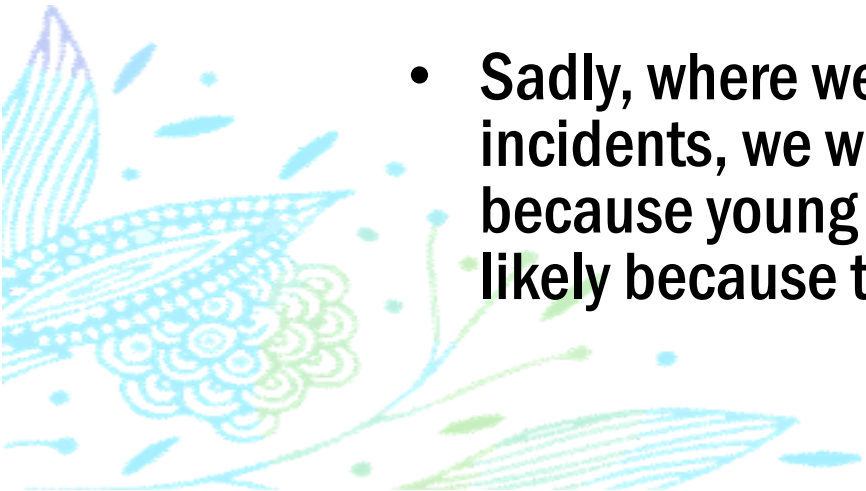
Further reading

- We published an annual report in December 2020, you can find it here; https://swgfl.org.uk/research/uk-safer-internet-helpline-annual-report-2020/

- Carmel (lead practitioner) regularly writes blogs around issues coming in to the helpline, which can be found here; https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/author/carmel-glassbrook/

- Lots of resources for schools and other organisations here; https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/

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Contact us

Professionals Online Safety Helpline
Part of the UK Safer Internet Centre

0344 381 4772
helpline@safterinternet.org.uk

Free support and advice for professionals working with children and young people, dealing with online safety issues

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What young people are saying

YOUTH RESEARCH

Teenagers are intentional in tech choices for perceived anonymity: they prefer "not recorded"

AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, WHAT ARE THE WAYS THAT PEOPLE YOUR AGE SHARE NUDE PHOTOS OR VIDEOS?

■ All 13-17 Year Olds
■ All Kids Who Have Shared Own SG-CSAM

	All 13-17 Year Olds	All Kids Who Have Shared Own SG-CSAM
DMs in apps where content disappears	60	78
Texting or messaging	38	49
FaceTime or other video call	32	50
"Story" or other post in social media apps	28	39
Livestream	8	21

THORN
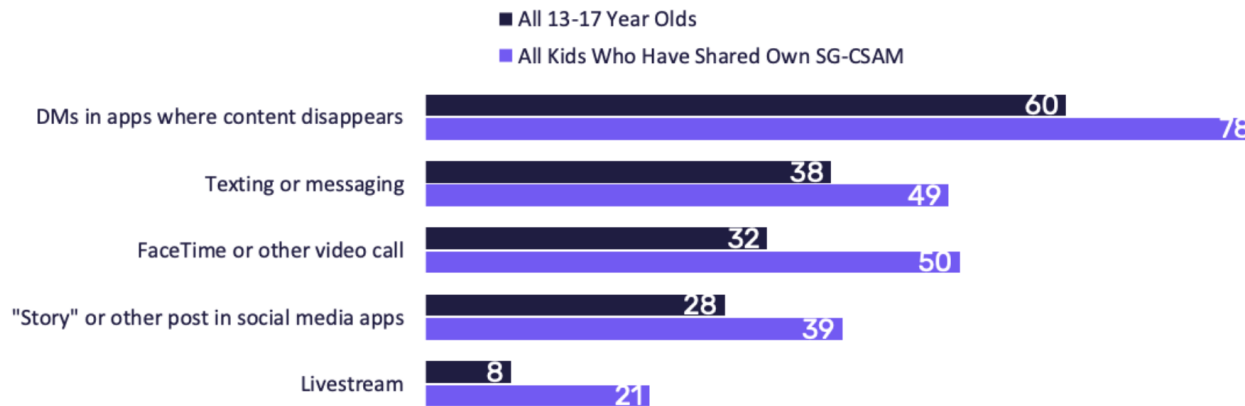
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YOUTH RESEARCH

Nearly 40% of teens agreed it's normal for people my age to share nudes with each other.

YOUTH PILOT - SURVEY

Most kids use the internet to explore their sexuality.

PORNOGRAPHY

83%

Sought out depictions of sex.

ORIENTATION

48%

Sought out information about sexual orientation.

HOW TOs

44%

Sought out sex tips and how tos.

SAFE SEX

34%

Sought out information about safe sex.

17

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> **We all do it.**
> It is ok.

43%

of kids who have shared their own SG-CSAM say they felt positive feelings about the experience

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Responses and barriers to the 'creeps'

- **81% Block those involved**
- **67% Tell friends**
- **53% Ignore it**
- **39% tell a parent**
- **18% Tell police**
- **15% Tell teacher**

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Project DeSHAME - Childnet

Top #5 barriers to seeking help:

#1 "Too embarrassed" (52%)

#2 "Worried about what would happen next" (42%)

#3 "Worried about being targeted by those involved" (42%)

#4 "Worried that they are to blame" (39%)

#5 "Would rather sort it out themselves" (39%)

Top reason for not telling a teacher:
"Worried that their school would overreact" (50%)

Top reason for not telling the police:
"Not wanting them to involve their family" (53%)

Top reason for not reporting on social media:
"Not thinking it would help" (43%)

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Non-consensual sharing of intimate images

24% of r
De
unwanted sexu
with girls being
(30%) compared t

6% of respondents aged 13-17 years across Denmark, Hungary and the UK have had their nude or nearly nude image shared with other people without their permission in the last year, while 41% have witnessed this happening.

'slut' to describe girls in a mean way online in the last year, while over two-thirds (68%) had witnessed people using homophobic or transphobic language online.

68% **The majority** of respondents (68%) agree that people will think badly about a girl if her nude or nearly nude image is posted online, whereas a smaller proportion would think the same if it were a boy (40%).

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When discussing threats online, kids fixate on how strangers are the ones who pose them the greatest risk, often overlooking the threats that might be closer to home:

> *"I know that people will pretend to be a different gender or age to talk to little kids aka a (pedo) then they try to find out where you live."*

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Reflection

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Our Vision:

All children and young people who suffer sexual abuse facilitated by the internet or otherwise, are supported to recover and live safe and fulfilling lives, free from fear and positive about their future.

Our Aim:

To ensure that the response to children and their families who have suffered harm via the internet or otherwise is based on sound, evidence-based practice.

Our Principle:

If you place the needs of the child victim and their family at the centre of any investigation or professional intervention you are likely to better safeguard the child and to achieve a proportionate and appropriate response within the criminal justice system.

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What we do

The MCF works in partnership with police, health, children's services, NGOs, education personnel, industry members, government departments and those working in the legal profession and judiciary. We

- offer direct services to children and their families affected by abuse offline and online
- provide training for professionals
- work alongside those assisting children in their recovery,
- influence national policies and strategies regarding appropriate responses to children harmed online
- Engage in research projects
- engage the media in responsible and informed debate.

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MCF - Finding's from clinical practice

- Most say they would not have told anyone of the abuse had it not been discovered
- All gave minimal information on initial interview with police – many denied
- Talking in any detail about what happened is very difficult
- Shame, guilt, feeling conned, broken hearted
- Formed online relationships with the offenders when 12/13
- Age when abuse was discovered 14/15
- Very few present with a history of 'troubled backgrounds'
- Recovery is a long haul – role of family cannot be under-estimated

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How children are sexually abused online

- Children viewing adult pornography

- Children abused through prostitution and/or trafficking – abusers use the Internet and mobile phones to control their victims

- Children made the subjects of abusive images

- Children groomed online and abused online and/or offline

- Children made the subjects of abusive images, groomed online and abused online and/or offline

- Young people displaying sexually harmful behaviours online

- Young people presenting as LGBT+ online who are groomed online and sexually abused offline

- Children living in a household where a family member has been arrested for viewing child abuse images

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MCF and North Yorkshire

- **MCF were successful in our application to the PFCC Community Fund**

  - 300 licenses to our E-learning package (Think, Path to Protection) which includes membership of our Global Protection Online Network for 1 year.
  - Development of bespoke training for School safeguarding leads and School liaison officers and other personnel such as Digital PCSOs, local neighbourhood officer and others as identified by a project co-ordination group.

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MCF and North Yorkshire

- **Click Path to Protection training Pilot**

- **Putting the needs of children and their families at the very centre of any intervention**

- **Participants taken on the journey using the story of Ben**
  - **The need to take parents concerns seriously**
  - **How to respond to a discovery as opposed to a disclosure**
  - **How to unpick the grooming process and therefore how to support Ben to get to a place whereby he can disclose**
  - **How to work with each other and the family to develop protection around Ben**
  - **How to safeguard the child and ensure successful prosecution**

- **Tri-partite model**
  - **THINK**
  - **ACT**
  - **MANAGE**

The Global Protection online Network (GPN)

"As more and more children come online around the world, and the technology landscape changes and evolves, we now, more than ever, need a forum for collaboration, networking and action"

Ernie Allen
Chair, WePROTECT Global Alliance

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Background

MCF awarded funds from EVAC in 2019:

- to develop GPN and to

- support online CSAE capacity and capability building in priority countries, particularly in respect to victim impact and recovery.

What is the GPN?

- **A platform of dedicated resources developed by professionals, for professionals, responding to online child sexual abuse**

| Connect | Share | Receive Training |

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GPN Audience

- **Front-line professionals working in child protection (police officers, social workers, educators, health professionals, prosecutors and the judiciary etc.)**

- **Heads-of-Department**

- **Civil-society / Non-Governmental Organisations**

- **Academia**

- **CSAE subject-matter-experts**

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Setting the scene – Understanding the global challenges of CSAE

Resource library of CSAE research, toolkits and frameworks categorised against the MNR

Develop knowledge and understanding through e-learning and instructor led training opportunities developed by MCF and its partners

Get in touch about the child protection challenges you face and to discuss ways in which we can assist, either through structured mentoring, providing advice or signposting you to partners who can assist
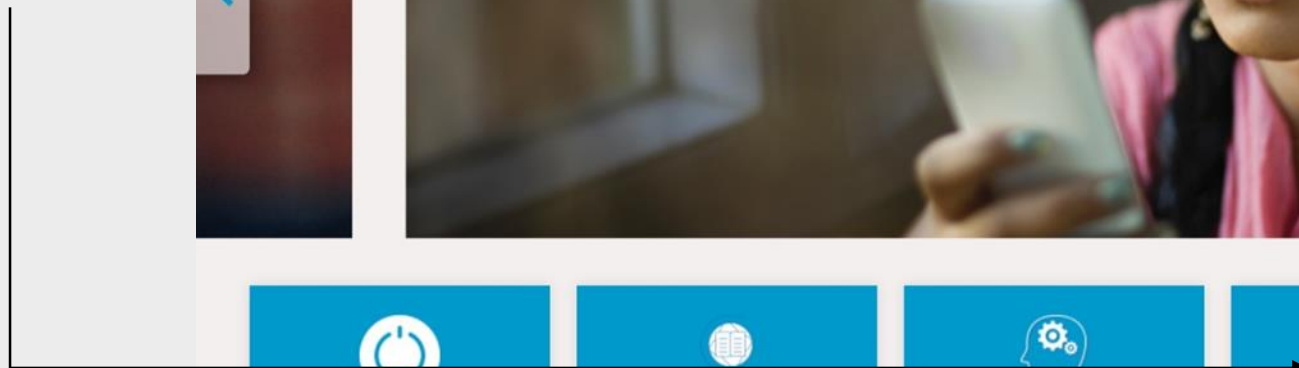
Progress so far…

- The GPN platform was launched at the end of the MCF annual conference on 23rd November 2020

- Targeting initial GPN membership towards academia and NGOs to establish growth of content

- Since launch, we have:

    - Welcomed over 150 members from the UK and priority countries

    - Provided access to over 200 resources that span the model national response (MNR)

    - Established the initial offering of e-learning and instructor-led training and development modules, including:
        - Foundation level: Introduction to Child Protection
        - Intermediate Course in Child Protection for Investigators
        - Click Path-to-Protection (International)

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Other developments

Harm Reduction Resource – Professionals

https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/assets/news_entry_featured_image/NWG-MCF-Professionals-Leaflet.pdf

Harm Reduction Resource – Parents

Sexual Abuse Online

How Can I Help my Child?

In this booklet you will find information about what online harm is and ways you can effectively help and support your children.

When should I be worried?

Teenagers don't think like we do. We know that the brain is not fully developed until the mid-twenties and the teenage years see the second biggest growth in brain development. This means teenagers are more likely to take risks without thinking of the long-term impact. This makes them more vulnerable to sexual abuse online as they may become involved with somebody without wondering why a person they don't know is talking to them.

The challenge for you is that it isn't always possible to know if your child is safe online, but you are probably in the best place to see a change in behaviour which is often a sign that something isn't right.

Some examples of behaviours that may mean that your child is being harmed online –

- Being secretive/defensive about what they're doing online
- Have new things, clothes, mobile phone that they can't/won't explain
- Harmful sexual behaviour that isn't age appropriate
- Being upset, withdrawn or distressed
- Spending more or less time online
- Having access to drugs and/or alcohol
  - Spending more time away from home or going missing
  - Going to unusual places to meet friends.

Remember that every child is different and these behaviours may just be part of their normal teenage development.

If you're worried about any behaviour it is important that you speak to somebody.
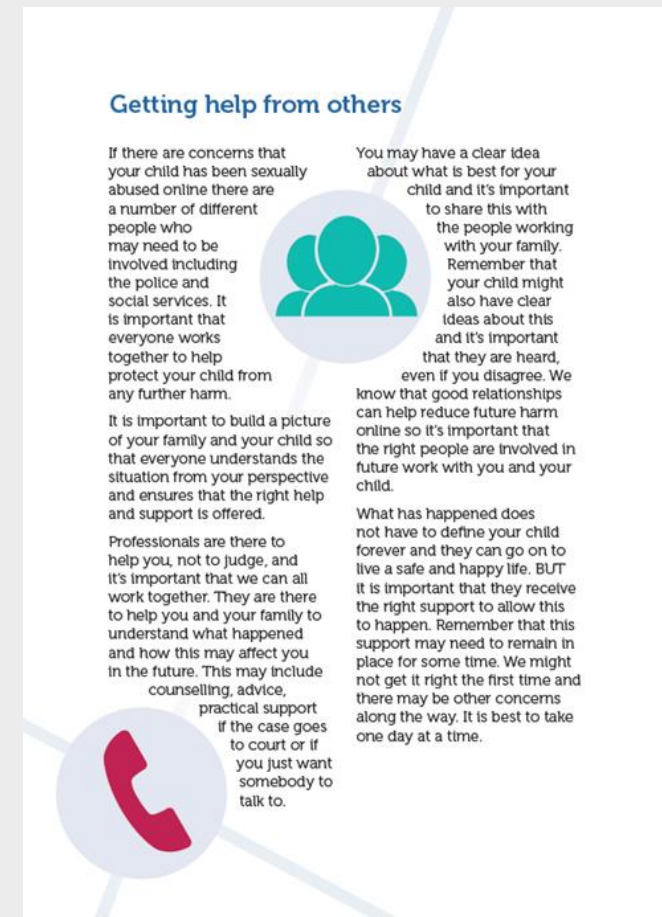
Getting help from others

If there are concerns that your child has been sexually abused online there are a number of different people who may need to be involved including the police and social services. It is important that everyone works together to help protect your child from any further harm.

It is important to build a picture of your family and your child so that everyone understands the situation from your perspective and ensures that the right help and support is offered.

Professionals are there to help you, not to judge, and it's important that we can all work together. They are there to help you and your family to understand what happened and how this may affect you in the future. This may include counselling, advice, practical support if the case goes to court or if you just want somebody to talk to.

You may have a clear idea about what is best for your child and it's important to share this with the people working with your family. Remember that your child might also have clear ideas about this and it's important that they are heard, even if you disagree. We know that good relationships can help reduce future harm online so it's important that the right people are involved in future work with you and your child.

What has happened does not have to define your child forever and they can go on to live a safe and happy life. BUT it is important that they receive the right support to allow this to happen. Remember that this support may need to remain in place for some time. We might not get it right the first time and there may be other concerns along the way. It is best to take one day at a time.

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Parents session

Reflection

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Thank You

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