



Remote Online Initiative UtahStateUniversity®

Empowering rural communities through remote work

RURAL UTAH: BEHIND THE TIMES WITH

1990s YOUTH CULTURE

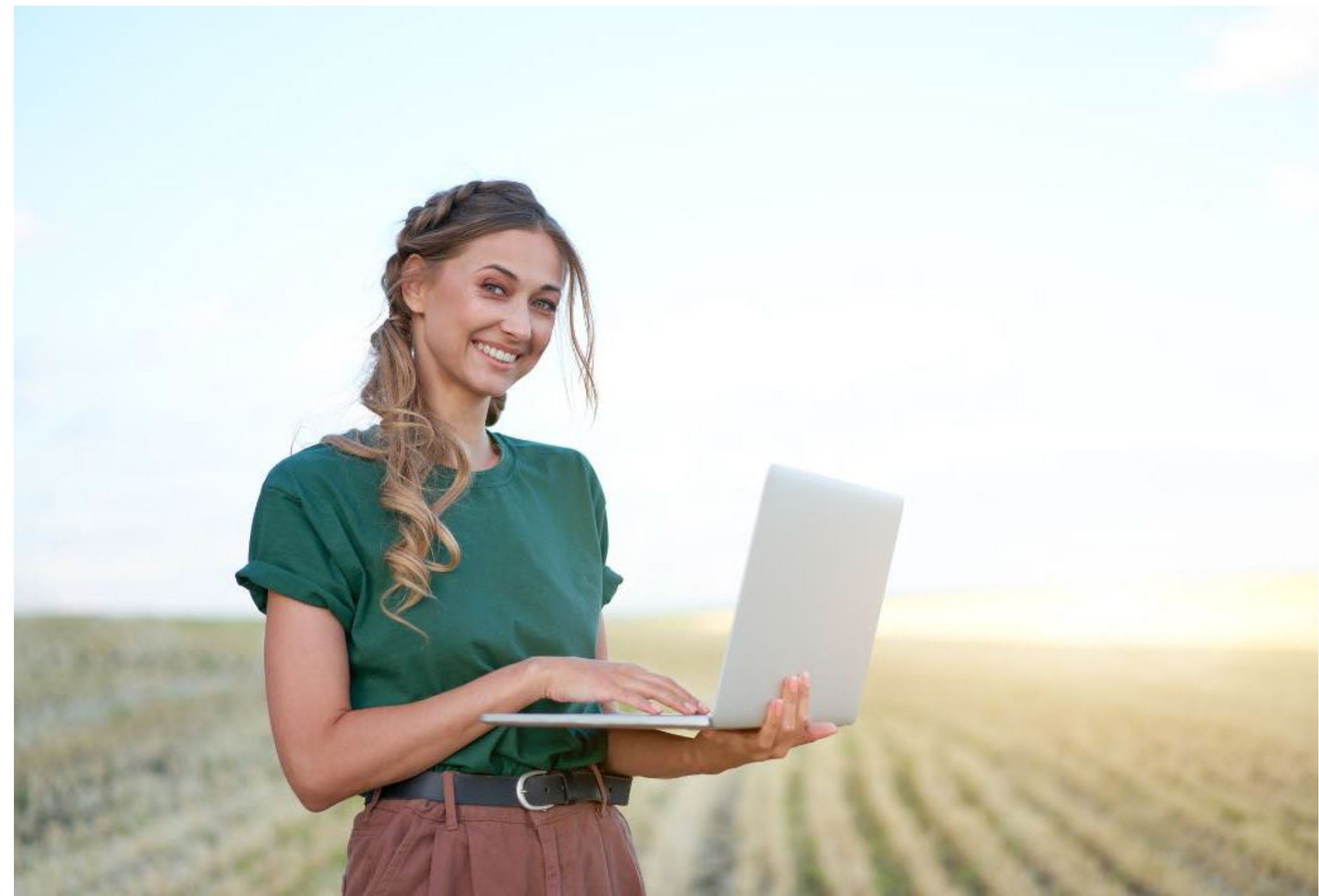
- Fashion (e.g., skater, grunge, denim on denim, scrunchies)
- Activities (e.g., skateboarding, BMX biking, rollerblading, street hockey)
- Music (e.g., Weezer, Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nirvana)
- Technology (e.g., Discman, Gameboy, Macintosh, Digital camera Nikon D1, AOL, eBay, Blackberry 850)





RURAL ACCESS TO **BROADBAND**

- Quality of life
- Essential utility
- Productivity vs. consumption
- Connect to global economy
- Participate in digital workforce



An Essential Utility

The need for broadband access in rural communities is similar to the need for electricity and roads in the early 20th century. The Rural Electrification Act and the New Deal road development programs of the 1930s helped to address these needs.

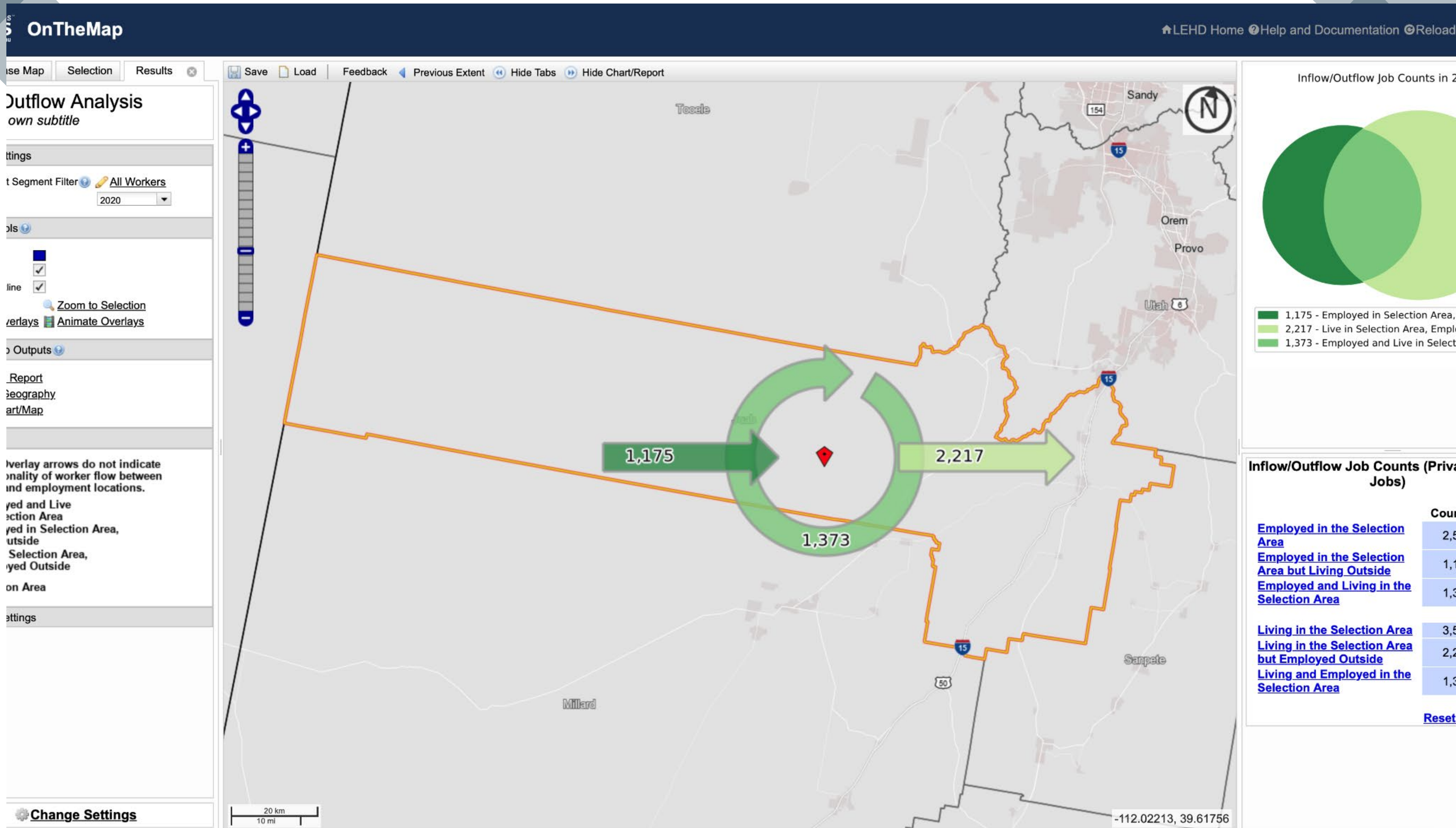
Broadband access provides access to a wide range of services and resources that are essential for everyday life.

Benefits

Without broadband access, rural residents are at a disadvantage in terms of education, healthcare, employment, and government services.



Remote work improves job opportunities in rural areas.



THE RURAL BENEFITS OF **BROADBAND**

- Increased economic opportunities
- Improved access to education
- Enhanced healthcare
- Increased social engagement



COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF

REMOTE WORK

- Well-paying and diverse jobs in rural areas
- Parents more available for children
- Local volunteering, commitment to community
- Fewer cars deteriorating roads
- Less traffic, air pollution
- Prevents the spread of disease
- Continuity of business operations
- Avoiding economic shutdowns
- Addresses housing crisis



RESEARCH: COMMON REMOTE WORK

CHALLENGES

- Isolation and loneliness
- Mental and physical health
- Lack of structure and social interaction
- Security risks
- Technology (software and hardware)
- Difficulty collaborating
- Reliable internet access and speeds
- Reliable internet access and speeds





A Bad Equilibrium?

The office came into being when the world of work involved processing lots of paper. The fact that it remained so dominant for so long may reflect a market failure. Before covid-19 the world may have been stuck in a bad “equilibrium” in which remote work was less prevalent that it should have been. Covid-19 could represent an enormous shock that is putting the world of work into a new, perhaps better, equilibrium.

REMOTE WORK IS

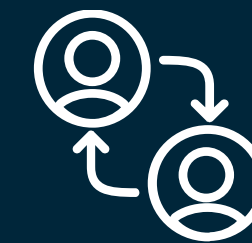
HERE TO STAY

Research indicates remote work will stick after COVID-19. Most workers prefer the flexibility of working from home (Barrero et al., 2021; Hill, 2022). In addition, remote work has significantly increased in response to COVID (Hill, 2022), from 5% in 2017-18 to 45% as of March 2021 (Barrero et al., 2021).

The unanticipated implementation of remote altered views and plans about remote work. Further, unease from mingling and proximity to others is expected to linger in the post-pandemic economy.



Avg. investment of
15hrs and \$561 in
software +
equipment



Diminished
misconceptions
associated with
remote work



Patent apps
doubled for remote
work technology





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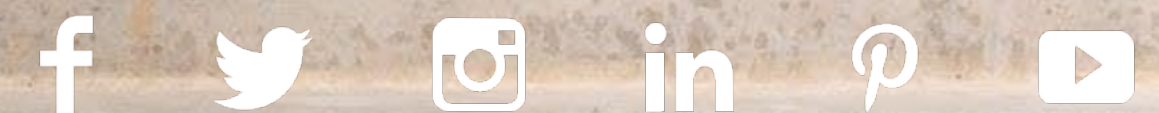
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REMOTE ONLINE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

MAKING REMOTE WORK IN UTAH

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