# NBT Bancorp Inc. Announces Second Quarter Earnings of \$0.45 per Share, up 25\% From the Second Quarter of 2007; Declares Cash Dividend 

## July 28, 2008

NORWICH, NY, Jul 28, 2008 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX News Network) -- NBT Bancorp Inc. (NBT) (NASDAQ: NBTB) reported today that net income per diluted share for the three months ended June 30,2008 was $\$ 0.45$ per share, up $\$ 0.09$, or $25.0 \%$, from $\$ 0.36$ per share for the three months ended June 30, 2007. Return on average assets and return on average equity were $1.12 \%$ and $14.49 \%$, respectively, for the three months ended June 30, 2008, compared with $0.95 \%$ and $11.90 \%$, respectively, for the three months ended June 30, 2007. Net income for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was $\$ 14.7$ million, up $\$ 2.6$ million, or $21.5 \%$, from the three months ended June 30, 2007. The increase in net income for the three months ended June 30, 2008 compared with the three months ended June 30, 2007 was primarily the result of an increase in net interest income, an increase in noninterest income, and a decrease in the provision for loan and lease losses, partially offset by an increase in noninterest expense.

Net income per diluted share for the six months ended June 30,2008 was $\$ 0.88$ per share, up $\$ 0.11$, or $14.3 \%$, from $\$ 0.77$ per share for the six months ended June 30, 2007. Return on average assets and return on average equity were $1.10 \%$ and $14.09 \%$, respectively, for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared with $1.04 \%$ and $12.98 \%$, respectively, for the six months ended June 30, 2007. Net income for the six months ended June 30,2008 was $\$ 28.4$ million, up $\$ 2.2$ million, or $8.3 \%$, from the six months ended June 30, 2007. The increase in net income for the six months ended June 30, 2008 compared with the six months ended June 30, 2007 was primarily the result of increases in net interest income and noninterest income, partially offset by an increase in noninterest expense.

NBT President and CEO Martin A. Dietrich said: "We are very pleased with our earnings through the first six months of 2008. Even though the economy is creating unique challenges for the banking industry, we were able to post record earnings per share through the first half of this year. We continue to see growth in noninterest income, which was up $17.3 \%$ for the second quarter of 2008 , compared with the second quarter of 2007, primarily due to our continued focus on fee initiatives and other areas of noninterest income. Our net interest margin continues to climb despite the difficult rate environment. Our net interest margin was $3.94 \%$ for the second quarter of 2008 , up from $3.84 \%$ for the first quarter of 2008 and up from $3.63 \%$ for the second quarter of 2007. This increase, coupled with the continued growth in our earning assets, has resulted in a $4.4 \%$ increase in net interest income over the first quarter of 2008 and in an $11.2 \%$ increase over the second quarter of 2007. In addition, we maintain capital levels in excess of regulatory standards for 'well-capitalized' institutions. As of June 30, 2008, NBT's ratio of core capital to tangible assets stands at $7.23 \%$, while the applicable regulatory standard to be determined as 'well-capitalized' is $5 \%$. We have also seen improvement in our asset quality. Our delinquency ratio improved to $0.68 \%$ for the period ending June 30, 2008, compared with $0.85 \%$ for the period ending June 30, 2007. Solid operating results from all areas of the bank have contributed to our strong first half performance."

Loan and Lease Quality and Provision for Loan and Lease Losses
Nonperforming loans at June 30, 2008 were $\$ 22.8$ million or $0.63 \%$ of total loans and leases compared with $\$ 30.4$ million or $0.87 \%$ at March 31, 2008, and $\$ 34.4$ million or $1.00 \%$ at June 30, 2007. The decrease in nonperforming loans at June 30,2008 was primarily the result of $\$ 7.8$ million in net charge-offs during the second quarter related primarily to one large commercial loan, which had been previously identified and reserved for in 2007. The allowance for loan and lease losses totaled $\$ 54.5$ million at June 30,2008 , as compared with $\$ 56.5$ million at March 31,2008 , and $\$ 57.1$ million at June 30, 2007.

The Company recorded a provision for loan and lease losses of $\$ 5.8$ million during the second quarter of 2008 compared with $\$ 6.5$ million and $\$ 9.8$ million for the three months ending March 31, 2008 and June 30, 2007, respectively. Net charge-offs totaled $\$ 7.8$ million for the three month period ending June 30, 2008, up from $\$ 4.2$ million for the three months ending March 31, 2008, and up from $\$ 3.3$ million for the three months ended June 30, 2007. The decrease in the provision for loan and lease losses for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was due primarily to improvement in nonperforming and classified loans. The increase in net charge-offs for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was due primarily to a charge-off related to one large commercial loan, which had been previously identified and reserved for in 2007. Net charge-offs to average loans and leases for the three months ended June 30, 2008 were $0.88 \%$, compared with $0.48 \%$ for the three months ended March 31,2008 and $0.38 \%$ for the three months ended June 30, 2007. The Company's allowance for loan and lease losses was $1.51 \%$ of loans and leases at June 30, 2008, compared with $1.61 \%$ at March 31, 2008 and $1.66 \%$ at June 30, 2007.

The Company recorded a provision for loan and lease losses of $\$ 12.3$ million during the six months ended June 30, 2008 as compared with $\$ 11.9$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2007. Net charge-offs totaled $\$ 12.0$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, up from $\$ 5.4$ million for the same period a year ago. The increase in net charge-offs for the six months ended June 30, 2008 was due primarily to additional charge-offs in the first and second quarters of 2008 related to one large commercial loan, which had been previously identified and reserved for in 2007. Net charge-offs to average loans and leases for the six months ended June 30, 2008 were $0.68 \%$, compared with $0.32 \%$ for the six months ended June 30, 2007.

## Net Interest Income

Net interest income was up $11.2 \%$ to $\$ 46.0$ million for the three months ended June 30, 2008 compared with $\$ 41.4$ million for the three months ended June 30, 2007. The Company's fully taxable equivalent (FTE) net interest margin increased from 3.63\% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 to $3.94 \%$ for the three months ended June 30, 2008. In addition, the Company experienced a $2.7 \%$ growth in average earning assets for the three months ending June 30, 2008 as compared to the three months ending June 30, 2007, due primarily to an increase in average loans and leases. Although the yield on interest earning assets decreased 44 basis points, the yield on interest bearing liabilities declined 88 basis points, which contributed to the increase in the net interest margin for the three months ended June 30, 2008 compared to the same period for 2007. The yield on money market deposit accounts declined from 3.44\% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 to $1.65 \%$ for the three months ended June 30, 2008, while the yield on time deposits decreased 85 basis points for the same period. The yield on short term borrowings declined 255 basis points for the
three months ended June 30, 2008 as compared to the three months ended June 30, 2007 as a result of the 325 basis points drop in the Fed Funds Target Rate from 5.25\% at June 30, 2007 to 2.00\% at June 30, 2008.

Net interest income was up $9.9 \%$ to $\$ 90.1$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2008 compared with $\$ 82.0$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2007. The Company's FTE net interest margin increased from $3.63 \%$ for the six months ended June 30, 2007 to $3.89 \%$ for the six months ended June 30, 2008. In addition, the Company experienced a $2.2 \%$ growth in average earning assets for the six months ending June 30,2008 as compared to the six months ending June 30, 2007 due primarily to an increase in average loans and leases. Although the yield on interest earning assets decreased 34 basis points, the yield on interest bearing liabilities declined 69 basis points, which contributed to the increase in the net interest margin from the six months ended June 30, 2007. The yield on money market deposit accounts declined from $3.44 \%$ for the six months ended June 30, 2007 to $2.01 \%$ for the six months ended June 30, 2008, while the yield on time deposits decreased 58 basis points for the same period. The yield on short term borrowings declined 205 basis points for the six months ended June 30, 2008 as compared to the six months ended June 30, 2007 as a result of the 325 basis points drop in the Fed Funds Target Rate from 5.25\% at June 30, 2007 to 2.00\% at June 30, 2008.

## Noninterest Income

Noninterest income for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was $\$ 16.4$ million, up $\$ 2.4$ million or $17.3 \%$ from $\$ 14.0$ million for the same period in 2007. The increase in noninterest income was due primarily to an increase in fees from service charges on deposit accounts and ATM and debit cards, which collectively increased $\$ 2.2$ million as the Company continued to focus on enhancing fee income through various initiatives. In addition, trust administration income increased $\$ 0.3$ million for the three month period ended June 30, 2008, compared with the same period in 2007. This increase stems primarily from an increase in customer accounts resulting from successful business development. Broker/dealer and insurance revenue increased approximately $\$ 0.3$ million for the three month period ended June 30, 2008 as we expanded our sales force and increased the number of accounts being serviced. Other noninterest income decreased $\$ 0.4$ million for the three month period ended June 30, 2008, compared with the same period in 2007. Net securities gains for the three month periods ended June 30, 2008 and 2007 were nominal and had no significant effect on noninterest income.

Noninterest income for the six months ended June 30, 2008 was $\$ 32.5$ million, up $\$ 5.8$ million or $21.9 \%$ from $\$ 26.7$ million for the same period in 2007. The increase in noninterest income was due primarily to an increase in fees from service charges on deposit accounts and ATM and debit cards, which collectively increased $\$ 4.4$ million as the Company focused on enhancing fee income through various initiatives. In addition, trust administration income increased $\$ 0.6$ million for the six month period ended June 30,2008 , compared with the same period in 2007. This increase stems primarily from an increase in customer accounts resulting from successful business development. Broker/dealer and insurance revenue increased approximately $\$ 0.3$ million for the six month period ended June 30, 2008 as we expanded our sales force and increased the number of accounts being serviced. Net securities gains for the six month periods ended June 30, 2008 and 2007 were nominal and had no significant effect on noninterest income.

## Noninterest Expense and Income Tax Expense

Noninterest expense for the three months ended June 30,2008 was $\$ 35.4$ million, up from $\$ 28.0$ million for the same period in 2007. Office expenses, such as supplies and postage, occupancy, equipment and data processing and communications charges were $\$ 9.7$ million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, up $\$ 1.1$ million, or $13.2 \%$, from $\$ 8.6$ million for the three months ended June 30, 2007. This increase was due primarily to an increase in expenses related to the five new branches the Company has opened within the past eight months. Salaries and employee benefits increased $\$ 3.9$ million, or $29.8 \%$, for the three months ended June 30,2008 compared with the same period in 2007. This increase was due primarily to increases in full time employees during 2008 and reduced levels of incentive compensation in 2007. Professional fees and outside services increased $\$ 0.6$ million for the three month period ended June 30, 2008, compared with the same period in 2007, due primarily to fees and costs related to the aforementioned noninterest income initiatives. Other operating expenses were $\$ 5.2$ million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, up $\$ 1.4$ million or $34.6 \%$, from $\$ 3.8$ million for the three months ended June 30 , 2008. This increase was primarily due to increases in advertising expenses. Income tax expense for the three month period ended June 30,2008 was $\$ 6.5$ million, up from $\$ 5.5$ million for the same period in 2007. The effective rates were $30.9 \%$ and $31.3 \%$ for the three month periods ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Noninterest expense for the six months ended June 30, 2008 was $\$ 69.5$ million, up from $\$ 58.9$ million for the same period in 2007. Office expenses, such as supplies and postage, occupancy, equipment and data processing and communications charges were $\$ 19.7$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, up $\$ 1.8$ million, or $10.1 \%$, from $\$ 17.9$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2007. This increase was due primarily to an increase in expenses related to the aforementioned branch openings. Salaries and employee benefits increased $\$ 4.7$ million, or $16.2 \%$, for the six months ended June 30, 2008 compared with the same period in 2007. This increase was due primarily to increases in full time employees during 2008 and reduced levels of incentive compensation in 2007. Professional fees and outside services increased $\$ 2.0$ million for the six month period ended June 30, 2008, compared with the same period in 2007, due primarily to fees and costs related to the aforementioned noninterest income initiatives. Other operating expenses were $\$ 8.4$ million for the six months ended June 30,2008 , up $\$ 1.4$ million or $20.0 \%$, from $\$ 7.0$ million for the six months ended June 30, 2008. This increase was primarily due to increases in advertising expenses. Income tax expense for the six month period ended June 30, 2008 was $\$ 12.5$ million, up from $\$ 11.7$ million for the same period in 2007. The effective rates were $30.5 \%$ and $30.9 \%$ for the six month periods ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

## Balance Sheet

Total assets were $\$ 5.3$ billion at June 30, 2008, up $\$ 107.7$ million or $2.1 \%$ from $\$ 5.2$ billion at December 31, 2007, and up $\$ 187.9$ million or $3.7 \%$ from $\$ 5.1$ billion at June 30, 2007. Loans and leases were $\$ 3.6$ billion at June 30, 2008, up $\$ 147.0$ million or $4.3 \%$ from $\$ 3.5$ billion at December 31, 2007, and up $\$ 170.6$ million or $5.0 \%$ from $\$ 3.4$ billion at June 30, 2007. The increase in loans and leases at June 30, 2008 as compared to December 31, 2007 and June 30, 2007 was due in large part to an increase in consumer loans of approximately $\$ 113.6$ million and $\$ 150.4$ million, respectively. Total deposits were $\$ 3.9$ billion at June 30, 2008, up $\$ 67.0$ million or $1.7 \%$ from December 31, 2007, and down $\$ 20.1$ million or $0.5 \%$ from June 30, 2007. The increase from December 31, 2007 was due in large part to a $\$ 33.6$ million, or $5.0 \%$, increase in demand deposits and a $\$ 29.4$ million, or $1.8 \%$, increase in savings, NOW, and money market accounts. Stockholders' equity was $\$ 403.9$ million, representing a total equity to total assets ratio of $7.61 \%$ at June 30, 2008, compared with $\$ 397.3$ million or a total equity to total assets ratio of $7.64 \%$ at December 31, 2007, and $\$ 390.9$ million or a total equity to total assets ratio of $7.63 \%$ at June 30, 2007.

## Stock Repurchase Program

Under previously disclosed stock repurchase plans, the Company purchased 272,840 shares of its common stock during the six month period ended June 30, 2008, for a total of $\$ 5.9$ million at an average price of $\$ 21.77$ per share. At June 30,2008 , there were $1,203,040$ shares available for repurchase under previously announced plans.

## Dividend Declared

The NBT Board of Directors declared a third quarter cash dividend of $\$ 0.20$ per share at a meeting held today. The dividend will be paid on September 15, 2008, to shareholders of record as of September 1, 2008.

## Corporate Overview

NBT is a financial holding company headquartered in Norwich, NY, with total assets of $\$ 5.3$ billion at June 30, 2008. The company primarily operates through NBT Bank, N.A., a full-service community bank with two divisions, and through two financial services companies. NBT Bank, N.A. has 124 locations, including 85 NBT Bank offices in upstate New York and 39 Pennstar Bank offices in northeastern Pennsylvania. EPIC Advisors, Inc., based in Rochester, NY, is a full-service 401 (k) plan recordkeeping firm. Hathaway Insurance Agency, Inc., based in Gloversville, NY, is a full-service insurance agency. As filed on Form 8-K on July 9, 2008, NBT Bancorp Inc. signed a definitive agreement to acquire Mang Insurance Agency on July 3 , 2008 and the acquisition is expected to close in the third quarter of 2008 . More information about NBT and its divisions can be found on the Internet at: www.nbtbancorp.com, www.nbtbank.com, www.pennstarbank.com, www.epic1st.com and www.hathawayagency.com.

## Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and are based on the beliefs and assumptions of the management of NBT Bancorp and its subsidiaries and on the information available to management at the time that these statements were made. There are a number of factors, many of which are beyond NBT's control, that could cause actual conditions, events or results to differ significantly from those described in the forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements include, among others, the following possibilities: (1) competitive pressures among depository and other financial institutions may increase significantly; (2) revenues may be lower than expected; (3) changes in the interest rate environment may reduce interest margins; (4) general economic conditions, either nationally or regionally, may be less favorable than expected, resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality and/or a reduced demand for credit; (5) legislative or regulatory changes, including changes in accounting standards and tax laws, may adversely affect the businesses in which NBT is engaged; (6) competitors may have greater financial resources and develop products that enable such competitors to compete more successfully than NBT; and (7) adverse changes may occur in the securities markets or with respect to inflation. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. Except as required by law, NBT does not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent circumstances or events.

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NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiaries
    SELECTED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
                (unaudited)
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Savings, NOW, and money market Time

Total deposits
Short-term borrowings
Long-term debt
Trust preferred debentures
Other liabilities

Total liabilities
Total stockholders' equity

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Income (unaudited)
(in thousands, except per share data)
Interest, fee and dividend income:
Loans and leases
Securities available for sale
Securities held to maturity
Other

Total interest, fee and dividend income

Interest expense:
Deposits
Short-term borrowings
Long-term debt
Trust preferred debentures
Total interest expense

Net interest income
Provision for loan and lease losses
Net interest income after provision for loan and lease losses

Noninterest income:
Trust
Service charges on deposit accounts
ATM and debit card fees
Broker/dealer and insurance revenue Net securities gains (losses)
Bank owned life insurance income
Retirement plan administration fees
Other

Total noninterest income

Noninterest expense:
Salaries and employee benefits
Office supplies and postage
Occupancy
Equipment
Professional fees and outside services
Data processing and communications
Amortization of intangible assets

| 1,643,702 | 1,614,289 | 1,606,473 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1,595,132 | 1,591,106 | 1,670,961 |
| 3,939,113 | 3,872,093 | 3,959,166 |
| 205,624 | 368,467 | 290,387 |
| 619,720 | 424,887 | 352,151 |
| 75,422 | 75,422 | 75,422 |
| 65,749 | 63,607 | 53,574 |
| 4,905,628 | 4,804,476 | 4,730,700 |
| 403,872 | 397,300 | 390,934 |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \$ 5,309,500 \$ 5,201,776 \$ 5,121,634 \\
& ===============================
\end{aligned}
$$

Three months ended Six months ended June 30,

| 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | June 3, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2007 |  |  |  |



| 72,854 | 76,495 | 147,506 | 151,954 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 18,712 | 26,950 | 41,410 | 52,934 |
| 1,362 | 2,918 | 3,702 | 6,010 |
| 5,629 | 3,997 | 9,931 | 8,483 |
| 1,146 | 1,272 | 2,393 | 2,540 |
| 26,849 | 35,137 | 57,436 | 69,967 |
| 46,005 | 41,358 | 90,070 | 81,987 |
| 5,803 | 9,770 | 12,281 | 11,866 |
| 40,202 | 31,588 | 77,789 | 70,121 |


| --------- | --------- | --------- | --------1 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2,099 | 1,792 | 3,873 | 3,229 |


| 6,938 | 4,936 | 13,463 | 9,405 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2,225 | 2,041 | 4,322 | 3,937 |


| 1,366 | 1,093 | 2,473 | 2,176 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| 18 | 21 | 33 | 16 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

$480 \quad 450 \quad 932 \quad 884$
$1,671 \quad 1,601 \quad 3,379$ 3,193

| 1,622 | 2,058 | 4,039 | 3,842 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16,419 | 13,992 | 32,514 | 26,682 |

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| 16,906 | 13,022 | 33,676 | 28,986 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1,331 | 1,334 | 2,670 | 2,630 |
| 3,427 | 2,585 | 7,037 | 5,754 |
| 1,862 | 1,837 | 3,687 | 3,770 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2,521 | 1,926 | 5,620 | 3,584 |
| 3,115 | 2,845 | 6,285 | 5,722 |
| 378 | 410 | 769 | 819 |


| estate owned |  | 730 | 228 | 1,297 | 605 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Other operating |  | 5,153 | 3,827 | 8,416 | 7,016 |
| Total noninterest expense |  | 35,423 | 28,014 | 69,457 | 58,886 |
| Income before income taxes |  | 21,198 | 17,566 | 40,846 | 37,917 |
| Income taxes |  | 6,541 | 5,502 | 12,473 | 11,721 |
| Net income | \$ 1 | 14,657 \$ | 12,064 \$ | 28,373 \$ | 26,196 |
| Earnings Per Share: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | \$ | 0.46 \$ | 0.36 \$ | 0.89 \$ | 0.77 |
| Diluted | \$ | 0.45 \$ | 0.36 \$ | 0.88 \$ | 0.77 |
| NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiaries |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quarterly Consolidated Statements |  |  |  |  |  |
| of Income | 22 | 12 | 4 Q | 30 | 20 |
| (unaudited) | 2008 | 2008 | 2007 | 2007 | 2007 |
| (in thousands, except per share data) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest, fee and dividend income: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loans and leases | \$ 57,220 | \$ 58,617 | \$ 60,817 | \$ 61,183 | \$ 60,689 |
| Securities available for sale | 13,417 | 7 13,746 | 13,971 | 13,847 | 13,562 |
| Securities held to maturity | 1,478 | 1,514 | 1,458 | 1,471 | 1,525 |
| Other | 739 | 775 | 736 | 680 | 719 |
| Total interest, fee and dividend income | 72,854 | 74,652 | 76,982 | 77,181 | 76,495 |
| Interest expense: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deposits | 18,712 | 22,698 | 26,578 | 27,062 | 26,950 |
| Short-term borrowings | 1,362 | 2,340 | 3,048 | 3,885 | 2,918 |
| Long-term debt | 5,629 | 4,302 | 4,233 | 3,770 | 3,997 |
| Trust preferred debentures | 1,146 | 1,247 | 1,270 | 1,277 | 1,272 |
| Total interest expense | 26,849 | 30,587 | 35,129 | 35,994 | 35,137 |
| Net interest income | 46,005 | 44,065 | 41,853 | 41,187 | 41,358 |
| Provision for loan and lease losses | 5,803 | 6,478 | 13,440 | 4,788 | 9,770 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan and lease losses | 40,202 | 37,587 | 28,413 | 36,399 | 31,588 |
| Noninterest income: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trust | 2,099 | 1,774 | 1,584 | 1,701 | 1,792 |
| Service charges on deposit accounts | 6,938 | 6,525 | 7,142 | 6,195 | 4,936 |
| ATM and debit card fees | 2,225 | 2,097 | 2,089 | 2,159 | 2,041 |
| Broker/dealer and insurance fees | 1,366 | 1,107 | 1,052 | 1,027 | 1,093 |
| Net securities gains (losses) | 18 | 15 | 613 | 1,484 | 21 |
| Bank owned life insurance income | 480 | 452 | 480 | 467 | 450 |
| Retirement plan administration fees | 1,671 | 1,708 | 1,557 | 1,586 | 1,601 |
| Other | 1,622 | 2,417 | 1,973 | 1,908 | 2,058 |
| Total noninterest income | 16,419 | 16,095 | 16,490 | 16,527 | 13,992 |

Noninterest expense:


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