

Lateral Creativity



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SCAP "Collection Systems in Motion" Workshop

What are Private Sewer Laterals?



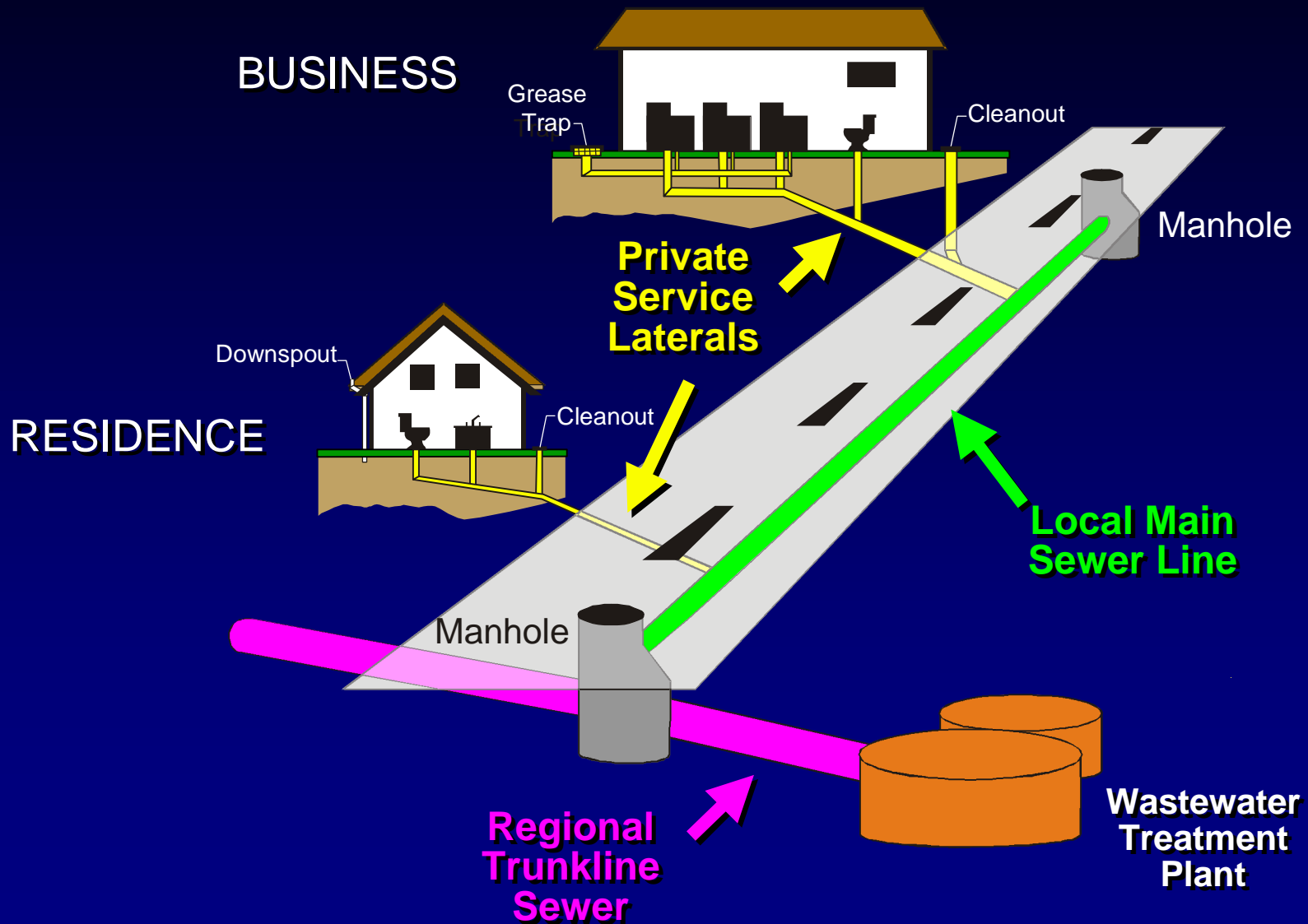
Different Definitions?

- u Main Sewer
- u Side Sewer
- u Building Sewer
- u Lateral Sewer
- u House Sewer

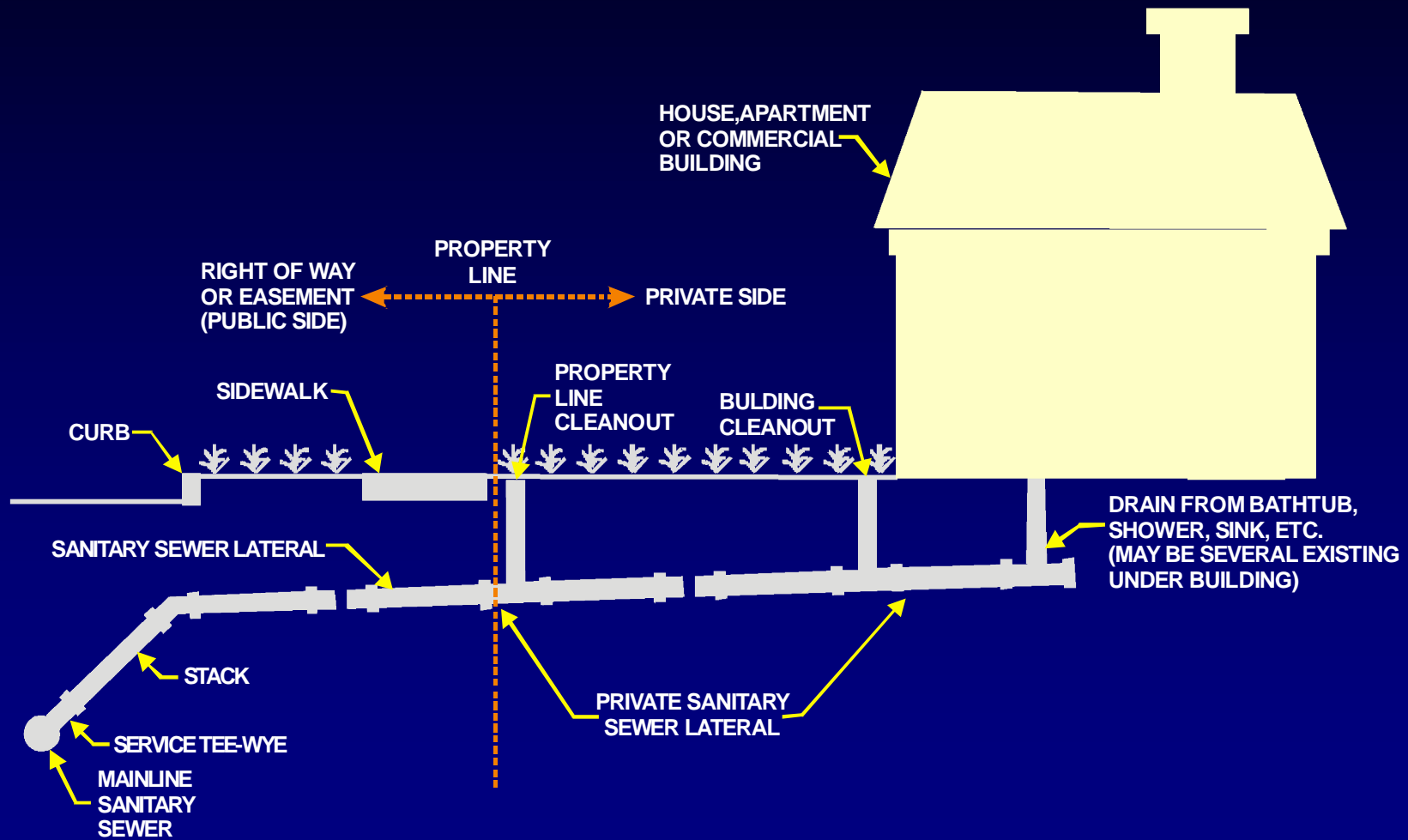
What Do You Call it?

- u Upper Lateral
- u Lower Lateral
- u Right-of-way Lateral
- u Encroachment Lateral
- u Easement Lateral
- u Shared Lateral
- u Side Sewer
- u Building Sewer

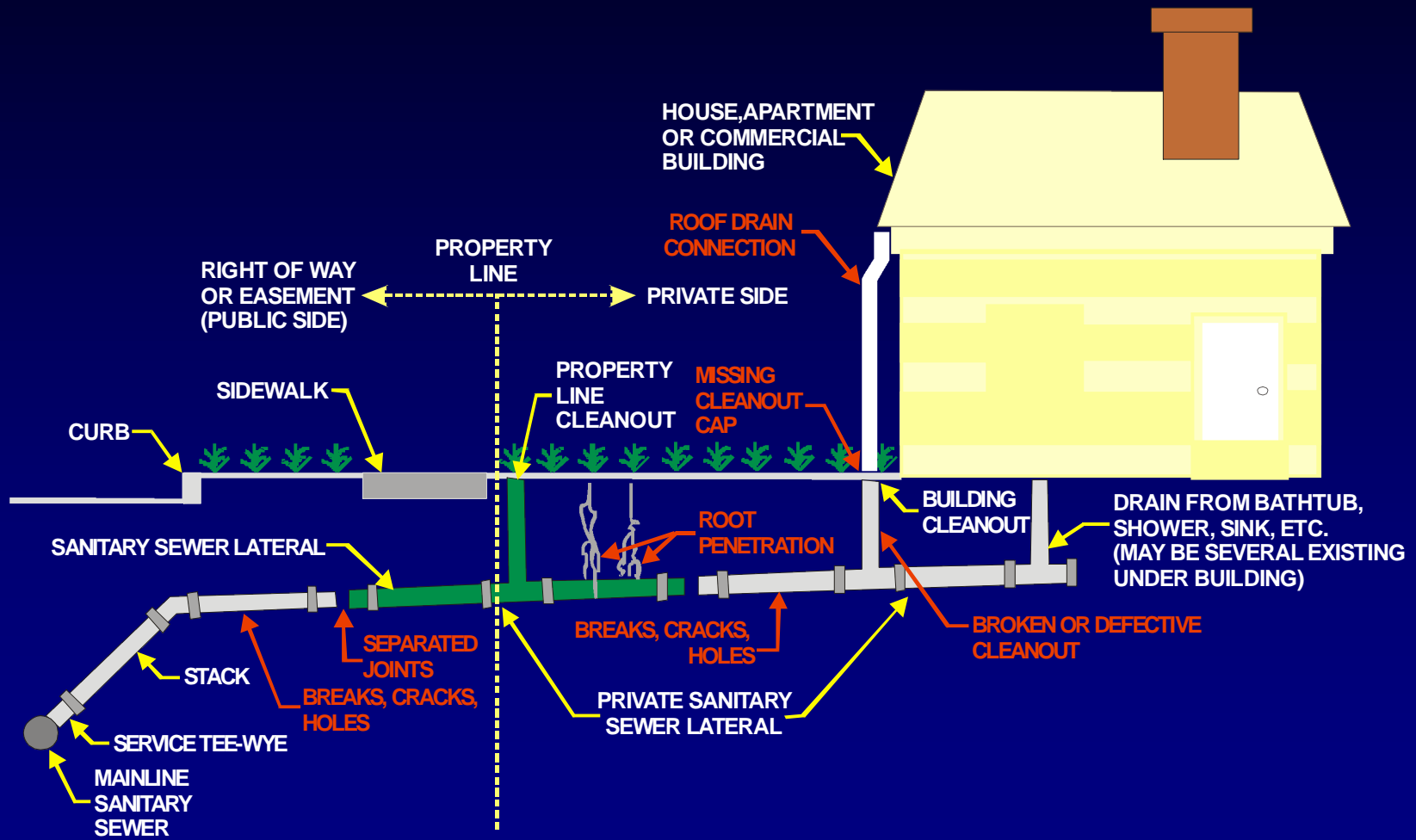
Sewer System Overview



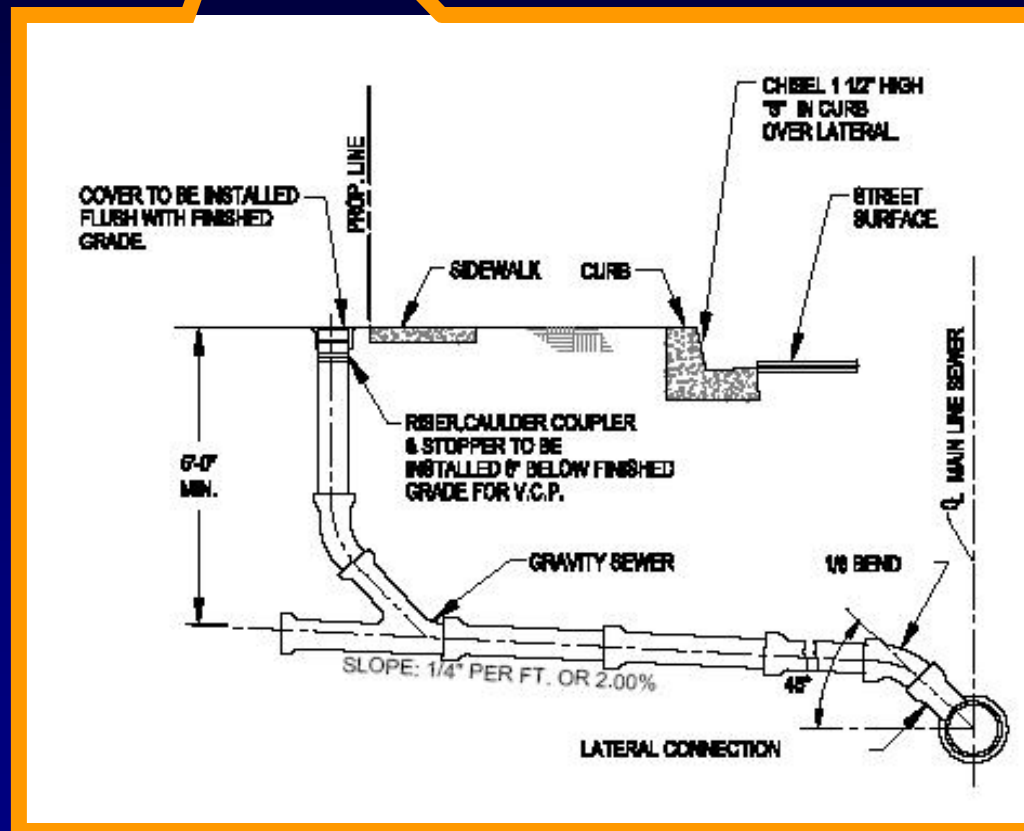
Typical Private Lateral



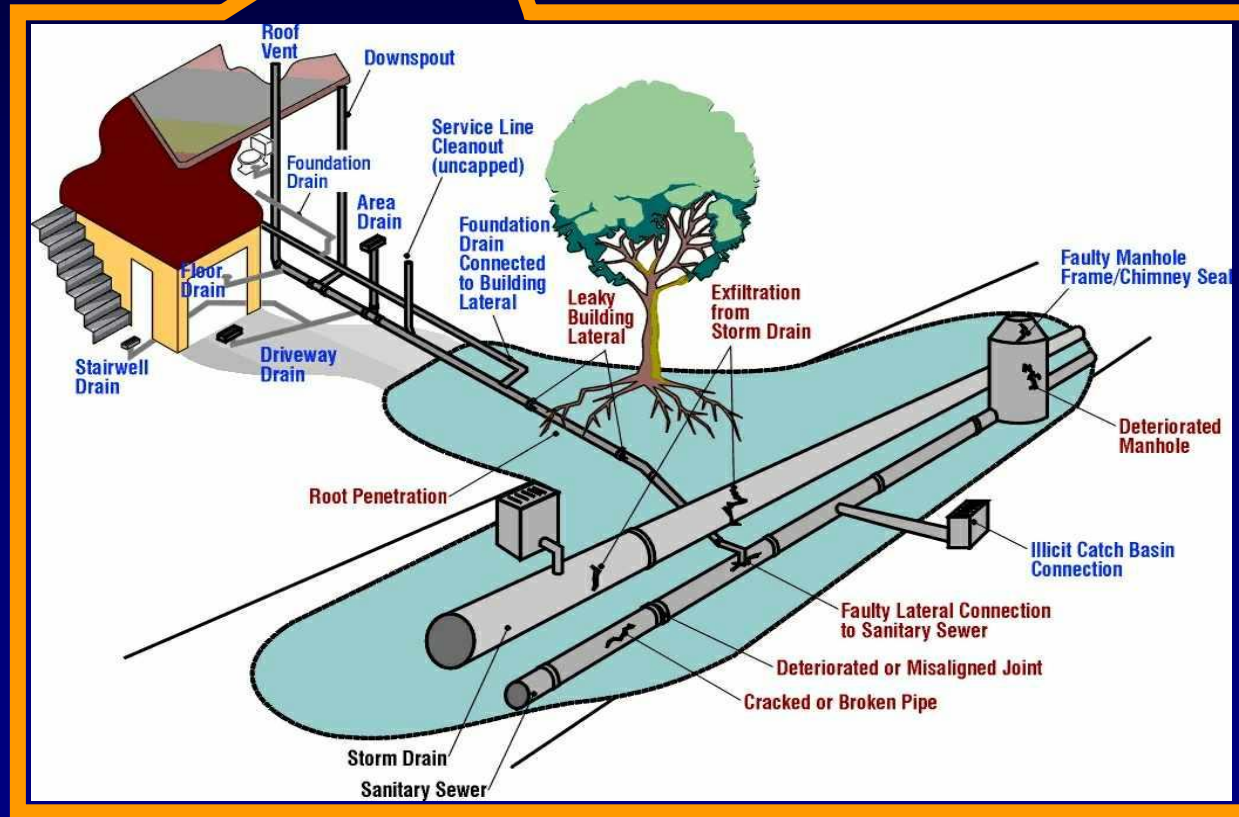
Sewer Lateral Problems



Typical Lateral Connection



Typical Causes of I/I Problems



I/I Issues

- u How do I inspect?
- u Quantifying problems?
- u How to communicate?
- u Capacity issues?
- u Effect on peak flows
- u Dirt pipes
- u Fix the problem, not the blame
- u No programs
- u No record keeping

Maintenance Issues

- u No plumbing access -
Where's my cleanout?
- u Reactive maintenance only
- u Roots, Roots, Roots
- u Broken joints
- u The drain is not a dump
- u Orangeburg pipe
- u Broken connections
- u No accountability
- u No record keeping

Construction Standards

- u Bedding – Failure at installation?
- u Cleanouts?
- u Acceptable pipe materials?
- u Acceptable rehab methods?
- u Sliplining not approved?
- u Testing and inspection?
- u New/Repairs/Rehabs/Replacement?

Ownership – Collection System?

- u Upper/lower and connection to main
- u Lower and connection to main
- u Connection to main only
- u We don't own any part of the lateral

Ownership – Property Owner?

- u Upper lateral only
- u Upper and lower lateral, and connection to main

Ownership – Undetermined?

- u Laterals in right-of-way, easement, or encroachment (It's not my lateral!)
- u Privately owned satellite systems
- u Mobile home parks
- u Senior citizen communities
- u Other

Discussion Topics

- u Private ownership of laterals from the building to the sewer main
- u Residents unaware of policies or problems
- u City record keeping is incomplete, unavailable (where's my lateral)?
- u Many laterals reaching end of design life
- u Most sewer fees only cover local sewer system O&M, not private lateral repairs

What's Being Done?

- u Lateral insurance programs
- u Sewer fees fund repairs
- u City lateral maintenance programs to remove roots from city trees
- u Mandatory replacement/rehab during major remodeling
- u Rethinking the issue of private vs. public ownership

The “Rest of the Story”

- u Some Orangeburg pipe still in the ground
- u Mortar joints failing in old VCP
- u Lateral inspection not required at time of sale
- u Status of I/I problem undocumented
- u Incentives lacking for cities to assist residents in lateral repair
- u “Orphan child” of collection systems

Some Final Comments

- u Should regional agencies assist in private lateral repair programs?
- u It's not just an engineering problem
- u Will fixing the "lower lateral" fix the I/I problem?
- u Residents ask, "Why should I have to pay for a problem under the city street?"
- u Where's my property line?

A Sign of Our Times



The drain is not a dump.



Put fats, oils and grease where they belong.

The Final Solution?



Questions?

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