



2013 MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

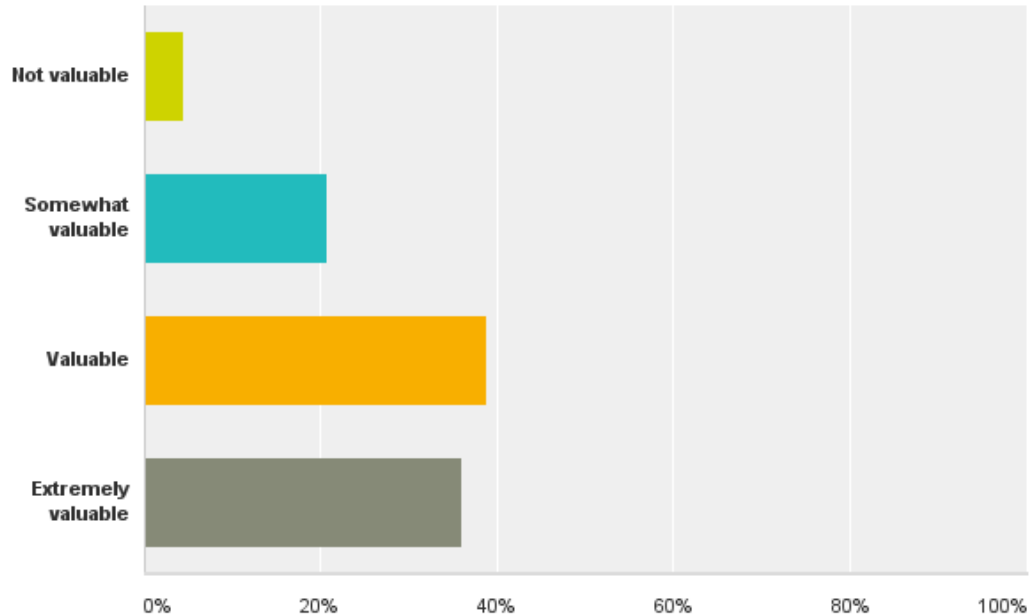
For Conference Format Feedback

Conducted via email on Survey Monkey
December 6, 2013 – December 31, 2013
Survey sent to 370 members | 120 responses received

Developed & Conducted By:
NHFA Board Members | November 2013

Q1 How valuable is an in-the-flesh conference experience for you?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 9



NOT: 4.5% SOMEWHAT: 20.72% VALUABLE: 38.74% EXTREMELY: 36.04%

15 member comments:

I have been overseeing burials and cremations for 28 years without any FD involvement. I want to pass on my knowledge.

I was unable to attend the conference this year.

Loved comrades.

I'm new to this arena, so it would be wonderful to meet like-minded folks in person.

I need contacts to further conversation, and to care for the dead in my region

Human relationships develop in actual contact and conversation.

it's a matter of cost, which depends on location

did not attend - new member

I did not attend the conference this year.

Great gift to connect with folks from all over involved with this endeavor

Telconferences are woefully inadequate

I enjoyed the first (and only) conference I have been too very much and learned a lot. I was bummed that the date both last year and this year conflicted with another annual conference commitment that I have.

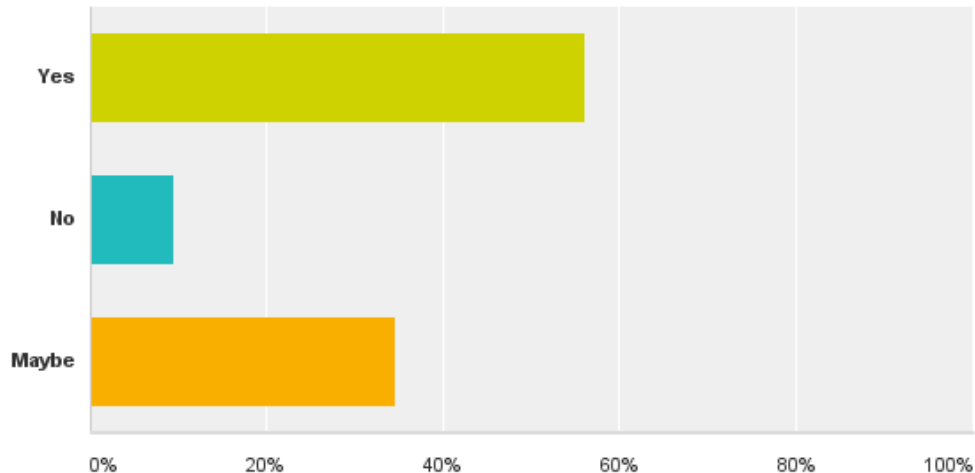
Very valuable, to commune with such joy and like minds

I love the idea, but the reality of travel is more challenging

There is nothing that compares to in person contact - yet for me it is not worth the cost to the environment when most of us need to travel by air to get there.

Q2 Would you be willing to attend North American conferences every other year (on a biennial bases in various cities) with regional conferences occurring in alternate years (in cities based upon region preferences)? (Both in-the-flesh.)

Answered: 116 Skipped: 4



YES: 56.03%

NO: 9.48%

MAYBE: 34.48%

20 member comments:

It depends where the conference is as I live in BC and so this year it would have been very expensive to get to the conference. Financial ability related to cost of airfare, accomodation, etc, plays into whether I am able to attend or not.

If at all possible..yes

Regional, yes.

This would probably depend upon how involved I get ...

North east only

of course depends on costs!

my schedule availibiliy is difficult to predict

Cost is an extreme factor for me. Even travel expenses can be too much.

hard to commit to something expensive, but I'd love to

I could easily attend conferences on the West Coast

Yes, and would be willing to attend every year

I am traveling and moving to much to know where I will be for the next year.

this is a somewhat confusing question for me

cost and time is an issue

Unable to travel outside my region

Depending on the dates and whether they conflict with other commitments.

I'd rather come yearly

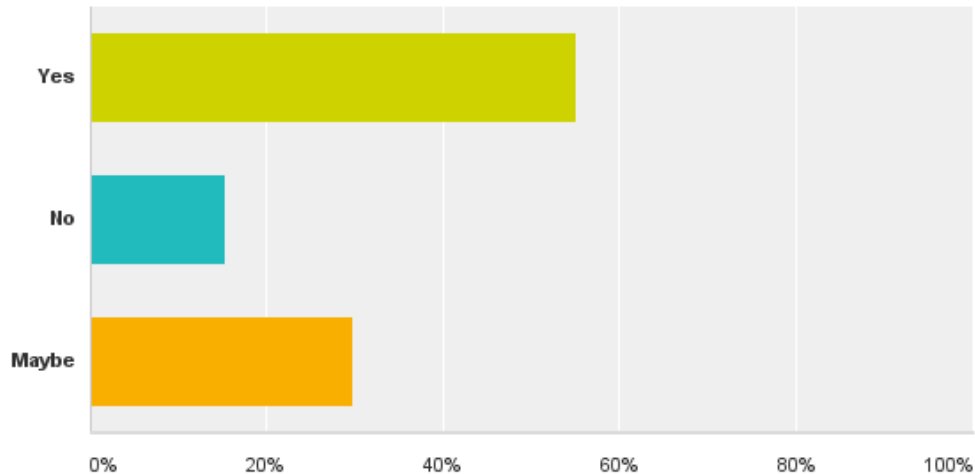
Depending on where they are, I may not come to every one

I'd be partial to the west.

This question is difficult to answer. I'd be "willing" to attend lots of different conference scenarios.

Q3 Would you be willing to participate in a virtual conference with webcasted informational sessions viewable on an on-demand basis?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 2



YES: 55.08%

NO: 15.25%

MAYBE: 29.66%

11 member comments:

I'm pretty tech impaired so this would probably depend upon how easy it would be. LOL
Not interested in the virtual, technological response. Too much of that already in the world.

If the cost were reasonable to my means.

Learning technology. On demand seems like less of a conference and more of a library with video and varying moderators

I much prefer the in person contact, but this would be another option.

I have never attended a virtual conference but would be willing to try.

I've never experienced a webcasted conference.

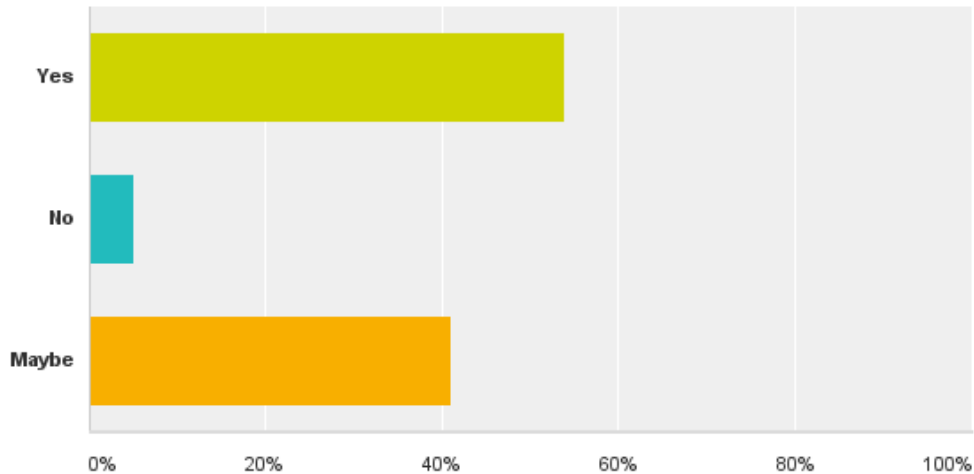
I'm more interested in synchronous events, that are then downloadable for later

Would want more details to confirm.

YES! This would be my preference.

Q4 Would you be willing to attend a joint annual North American conference, held in conjunction with partnering organization(s)?

Answered: 117 Skipped: 3



YES: 53.85%

NO: 5.13%

MAYBE: 41.03%

36 member comments about preference for partnering organizations:

National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization [mentioned 4 times]

FCA [mentioned 14 times]

GBC [mentioned 11 times]

Canadian organizations - we are working on creating a national organization

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery in Gainesville, Florida

ADEC

hospice, OK to die, green burial

Too new to know.

Hospice organizations

Similar to those you've already noted--providers of simple coffins, shrouds, etc, hospices, like-minded funeral directors, and last of all those in bureaucratic offices who deal with the paper-work--death certificates, etc.

Organizing relevant vendors and in conjunction with not for profit and information organizations. Also funeral service governing bodies in various areas of Canada & the US

boineers..land trusts for green burial...

Depends on the partnering organizations. Unsure who/what fits the bill.

I can't think of any at this time.

CINDEA -- see <http://cindea.ca>

Yet-to-be-named but currently-being-birtherd Canadian org analogous to NHFA

Soul Midwife School (UK)

hospice

Threshold Choir Green Burial organization? Land trust groups. Homesteaders. Hospice.

Tibetan Buddhist organizations

Holistic and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), possibly American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA),

It just depends on the "partnering organization(s)".

The Celebrant Institute, ADEC, Association for Near Death Studies, Death Salon (in LA), Boulder's death film fest

Yes! This would be my preference.

Q5: Please rank the following conference session formats in order of your liking:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	total	Average ranking
Peer to peer	23%	21%	8%	17%	13%	9%	9%	104	4.63
Hands-on workshop	22%	19%	21%	11%	13%	9%	5%	104	4.81
One-speaker presenting	15%	15%	20%	15%	12%	10%	13%	104	4.29
Panel w/ multiple speakers	11%	18%	15%	24%	14%	13%	5%	104	4.30
Field trip to relevant location	12%	8%	14%	14%	20%	13%	19%	104	3.62
Round table sessions (facilitated)	13%	10%	13%	12%	15%	31%	7%	104	3.73
Learning lounges	5%	9%	8%	7%	12%	17%	43%	104	2.63

OVERALL ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR SESSIONS FORMATS:
(based upon 104 responses)

- 1) Hands-on workshops
- 2) Peer to peer learning
- 3) Panel with multiple speakers
- 4) One speaker presentation
- 5) Round table sessions led by facilitator(s)
- 6) Field Trip to relevant location
- 7) Learning lounges

Q6: Any other ideas for session formats regardless of where, how and when?

Answered: 27

Skipped: 93

27 Member comments:

Quality of facilitation would strongly influence the value of learning lounges and round table sessions.

Three areas of learning that are needed, 1) requirements for non-FD removal from NH's, hospitals, coroners, 2) pacemaker removal and recycling, 3) installing vaults in non-green cemeteries w/o FD

NOTIFICATION FOR HANDS ON OPPS AND CONFERENCES AND RESOURCES

more 'how to' sessions on setting up your own business, group, non-profit, networking/partnering possibilities. So many of us are isolated, after learning the hands on parts of actual body care and guiding, it's overwhelming to think about where/what to do next.

Midwest

live scenario/phone call roll play

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Conference Format Feedback

all of these could be either very good or not so good depending on the speaker, field trip etc... so format is only half the issue.

Evening sessions for showing relevant films.

Since everything is very new for me, all formats make me tingle. All of the above ideas are great!

Participatory learning & sharing is most valuable for me.

as I am in the UK being there is not an option

Focus on one or two specific topics after identifying the level of interest

More information for the 8 states with laws requiring funeral home transport. Hands-on help with legal after-death documents, etc.

Submission Q&A to specified field experts or improv crowd propelled panel.

The whole conference in one room, 10 tables with 10 participants listen to each speaker for 60 minute sessions. Snacks are served at the tables, participants get to know each other and interact...all speakers are heard...one session leads seamlessly into the next. I attended such a conference with 1000 women in a huge ballroom and was amazed at how well it worked. Giant screens show films and powerpoints and the whole room is bonded together. very powerful. format is dependent on topic. choosing the format without knowing the topic is silly.

I enjoy multiple speakers and multiple workshops.

How about gleening from the format of the Bioneers conference

Question #5 did not record my preferences accurately - I couldn't select ranking for items (d/t my iPhone app?) . Please disregard answers for #5

No

above dependent upon topic, location, and people involved.

I am willing and very interested to serve in the role as facilitator for meetings ~ with the goal of capturing synergistic themes ~ reframing the picture of death and dying in our culture. It seems this pivotal perspective shift has major ripple effect in society. Our final carbon footprint(s) ask our full attention. With shared intentions harmony with natural cycles, including the natural cycles of birth and death. I trained as a lay midwife in El Paso Texas in Feb ~ September, 1978, a daughter of Joe who died , April 2009 and Mom, Barbara who resides at their home of 60 years in Wilmette Illinois, Once the life had left Dad's body, that body became someone else's~ not his, not ours. The effect especially in contrast to the culture where I now volunteer at Maitri Compassionate Care in San Francisco where in many instances after a death, the person's body is cleaned and freshly dressed, and remains in the bed and the room of death up to 72 hours for visitation by family, friends, staff and volunteers. This observance, affords dignity, respect and naturalness and contributes to a true and relaxed attitude around dying for the residents who are in respite, end of life and hospice care in the same facility. As I learn more about the organization, I hope to see where and how I might best engage. Thank You !

I love the idea of figuring out a way to have a live conference online -- since I am disabled, and not able to travel. Furthermore -- in terms of expense -- an online conference would be more available to those who can't afford the expenses of travel/accommodations/conferences -- and realistically, not many of us are making a lot of money. Therefore, an online conference would be much more egalitarian and allow for representation from not only all over North America, but other countries as well.

I actually like the order you have here. I really find too many people gets too crazy. Let us hear from a few. I realize this doesn't quite answer the question.

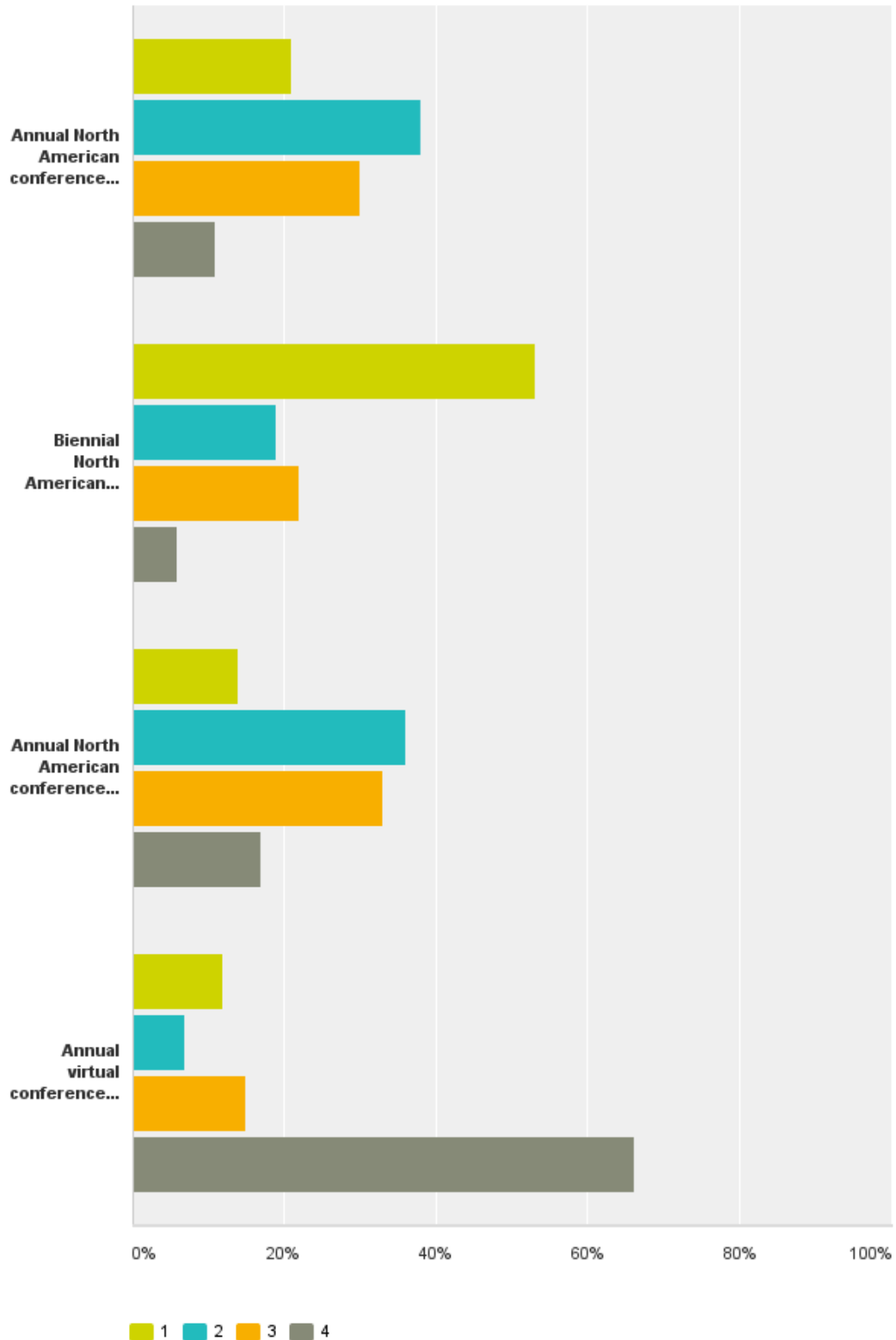
No

I love Open Space Technology, with a really good facilitator, and a number of high profile participants to add expertise

Virtual conference like the one hosted by "Yoga Hub"

Q7 With 1 being highest preference and 4 being lowest, please rank the following conference format options in order of your liking:

Answered: 100 Skipped: 20



Q7 Continued:

OVERALL ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR CONFERENCE FORMAT:

	1	2	3	4	total	Average ranking
Annual conference in various cities	21%	38%	30%	11%	100	2.69
Biennial w/ regional retreats in alternating years	53%	19%	22%	6%	100	3.19
Annual joint conference	14%	36%	33%	17%	100	2.47
Annual virtual	12%	7%	15%	66%	100	1.65

Q8 Do you have any other comments, questions or concerns?

31 member responses:

I do like conferences held in a retreat setting and reasonably priced.

Some involvement with FCA should take place at every conference. No one should be forced to shell out \$2600 just to file a death cert and make a removal (which is subbed out for \$250 anyway). Family run funerals: it's a right, not a privilege. I look toward NHFA certifying funeral guides for burial and cremation. Count me in. Dave Morrison, atty and Quaker (speak truth to power) P.S. I love this group.

I have only been able to make it to one conference and it was great - I really liked having the opportunity to do training in a pre-conference setting. I had to travel a long distance to get there - Boulder - and having a pre-conference training made it even more worthwhile.

My mother passed away December 15th. I was with her during her transition. Please hold my husband and me in your hearts during this time of sadness. Thank you, thoughtfully, Julianne R. Pasco

I just love seeing everybody and communing with like minds. We have such a lovely group of people....

Let's market to other partner organizations and get them to join us but not necessarily be members!

I'd like to have Threshold Choirs or topics related to music again when we meet in person. Thanks for all you do!

I was very sorry not to be able to attend the conference this year.

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Conference Format Feedback

Not now. Keep up the good work

As a newby, I'm really impressed by the organizational enthusiasm, timeliness and seeking of feedback from members. Kudos!

Blessings on you all for the paradigm-shifting education you are doing. I appreciate the excellent communication and inclusive processes, including this survey.

Aligning with regional or state hospice organizations in host conference cities would be nice.

Thank you for a wonderful gathering - I came away so energized with fabulous information.

Thanks for what you are doing and have done!

There are many conferences i have wanted to attend in many places, but poor timing, travel & cost were prohibitive.

For those of us who are very well informed on all aspects of home funerals, very little new information is learned at the conferences, which is why partnering with other organizations will keep the information new and fresh and keep members attending. I think. Love you! :)

it all depends on cost. If you hold these in L.A., I'm there every time.

Thank you for what you do!

It is good to see the alliance looking for better forms of communication and the ability to service the membership. It is exciting to me. Thank you.

Again - could not make selections for question #7 - I prefer biannual North American conferences in partnership with related orgs

No

another consideration:how about biannual north american conferences held jointly with partner organizations, with regional retreats held in alternating years

Thank you. Good work, excellent.

I feel that the baby boomer generation is the one to move this "back to the basics, reclaiming the traditions around death" culture forward. For this reason it seems annual and live would very helpful to build momentum ~ Certainly it seems that live streaming as many sessions as possible of a live in person event would be very valuable to those who are not able to make it or to share with interested parties after the event. Thank you, Meg

Thanks for asking for feedback, I joined the group after the most recent conference, I look forward to participating in the future no matter the format

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Conference Format Feedback

I realize that there is more travel expense with annual conferences and perhaps not as green, yet as a young movement, I think it helps inspire and educate those who will be at the forefront of this movement and that is very important to me.

It is only my finances that hold me back from any and all options.

My 1 and 2 positions are both preferable.

I like some combination of face-to-face and virtual events, and really like the idea of connecting with another organization. Thanks for all the hard work you are doing!

i'm thinking this is the test survey that you're sending out to board members first - which is why I tried to offer critical feedback. overall, good work and thanks for doing this!

This was pretty badass!