APPENDIX B:

1983 BUSINESS LEADER

QUESTIONS

A. The individual and the Group							
	Strongly Agree		Agree	No Opinio	on	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
1. The individual is the most fundamental unit in our society.							
2. Work ethics such as hard work, diligence, thrift, respect							
for authority, etc. are the most important guidelines for							
conducting our lives.							
3. All institutions in our society should seek to protect and							
promote the interests of individuals.							
4.◆ Individual freedom may have to be partly restricted in order							
for organizations to function effectively.							
B. & Equality							-
	Strongly Agree		Agree	No Opinio	on	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
1. All individuals deserve an equal opportunity to enter the higher							
paying and more prestigious occupations.							
2. Overnment should intervene in education and in labor markets to							
assure equality of opportunity.							
3. Income and employment should be determined by an individual s							
productivity. Those who work harder and/or have greater natural ability							
should earn higher incomes.							
4. The existing range of incomes in the United States is, in general, a fair							
distribution.							
C. Role of Government							
1. Government should redistribute income in order to assure a minimum		Strongly Agree	Agree		No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagre
standard of living for all citizens.							
2. Government should not directly redistribute income. Instead it should							
try to make incomes more equal by promoting equality of opportunity and							
a healthy economy.							
3. Government currently restricts individual and organizational freedom to							
such an extent that efficiency is often sacrificed.							
4. In the future, government may have to restrict individual and organizational							
freedom even more in order to promote the common good and solve society s							
major problems.							
5. Government should provide incentives for business to get involved in solving							
social problems.							
D. Role of Technology							
1. The quality of life can best be improved by the effective application of		StronglyAgree	Agree		No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
technological innovations.			-		-	_	
2. The quality of life can best be improved by the effective application of the							
kinds of knowledge which colleges teach in humanities, philosophy and social							
science courses.							
II. YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE SOURCES OF ETHICAL STANDARDS					•		
Many factors can influence a businessperson sethical standards and ethical practice.							
• Which of the following factors influence the average business executive sethical							
standards? (Circle the number which best conveys your opinion).							
To What Extent are Ethical Standards Influenced by							
1. Formal company policy and procedure		StronglyAgree	Agree		No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
2. Peer group pressure		0,			1		3 J
3. Prevailing industry practice			1		1	1	
4. Perceived preference of your boss							
5. Family Experiences			-		1	+	
6. Your church experiences						-	
7. Your educational experiences							
8. Your educational experiences 8. Your company sethical code or policy							
9. Your company (sethical code or policy 9. Your professional ethical code			_			+	
9. • 1 our professional ethical code							L

		T	I	1	1	l
). If Society is moral climate . If YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE CORPORATION						
is section asks for your opinions regarding the role of the business corporation						
a our society. (Circle the number that best conveys your opinion)						
• A corporation s primary responsibility is to its stockholders.		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
2. A corporation is equally responsible to its stockholders, employees, customers,		Buongiji igree	. i.g.ice	rie opinion	Disugree	BuoligijBibligio
and other interested parties.						
3. Corporations should take the lead in solving major social problems such as						
pollution, discriminations and safety.						
4. Corporations should not become involved in solving social problems unless						
doing so becomes a cost of doing business or an opportunity to earn a profit.						
5. Most corporations get involved in social responsibility projects because outside						
pressures make such involvement a cost of doing business.						
6. Most corporations get involved in social responsibility projects because their						
nanagements believe it is the right action to take, regardless of the effect on the						
20mpany 🍫 s profits.						
7. Most corporations get involved in social responsibility projects because of the						
public relations value of such projects.						
V. YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE ETHICS OF BUSINESS PRACTICE						
A.				NOT	D:	0. I.D.
. The typical business executive has two sets of ethical standards, one which	StronglyAgree		Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
ne/she applies to business activities and another which is applied to his/her private life.					+	
2. Ethical standards in business are lower than in government.					-	
 Ethical standards in business are lower than in government. Ethical standards in business are lower than in the typical American family. 						
• 51 5						
5. The ethical standards I use in business are higher than the standards of my supervisor.						
supervisor. 5. The ethical standards I use in business are higher than the standards used by					+	
the people who work for me.						
. The ethical standards I use in business are higher than the standards of my						<u> </u>
counterparts in other companies.						
3. ♦ The ethical standards I use in business are as high as those I practice with						
ny family and friends.						
. I occasionally make decision which are right for my business but which						
are inconsistent with my personal ethical principles.						
10. Most ethical decisions which I encounter involve conflict between the						
egitimate claims of two or more parties (e.g., stockholder vs. customer,						
imployee vs. stockholder, etc.)						
B. Customer Relationships	· · · ·					
. • Much advertising done by business is misleading to the consumer.	StronglyAgree		Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
2. Effective advertising may have to be somewhat misleading.						
3. Some government regulation of labeling is needed to protect the consumer.						
4. Overnment safety regulations are needed to protect the consumer.						
5. Truth in lending regulations are needed to protect the customer.						
6. Antitrust laws prohibiting price fixing benefit the customer.						
7. It is in the long run self interest of business to protect the customer.						
8. The average customer is less ethical in dealing with business than the						
pusiness is in dealing with that customer.						
C. Employee Relationships						
1. No employee should be required to engage in business practices which	StronglyAgree		Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
hat employee considers unethical.						
2. In accepting an employment offer each employee implicitly agrees to						
abide by the ethical standards of the employer, even if the company						
standards differ from those of the employee.						
3. Lazy or incompetent employees should be fired.						
4. Management should not fire lazy or incompetent employees, rather						
hey should be provided counseling in an effort to improve their performance.						
5. A company should have formal policies to guarantee that every employee						
nas an equal opportunity for promotion, pay increases, and other rewards provided by the firm.						
forward by the tirm.					+	
. Wages and salaries should vary according to both the employee s productivity. 7. Wages and salaries should vary according to both the employee s						
. Wages and salaries should vary according to both the employed s roductivity an years of service with the firm.						
about the first of solvice with the fifth.					+	
A Wages and salaries should vary primarily with the employee As years						
					+	
of service with the firm.				1	_	
of service with the firm. D I Government supervised equal employment opportunity legislation is necessary.						
Wages and salaries should vary primarily with the employee syears fervice with the firm. Government supervised equal employment opportunity legislation is necessary. Labor unions serve a useful purpose by prodding a particular management not fulfilling its responsibilities to labor.						
of service with the firm. De Government supervised equal employment opportunity legislation is necessary. 0. Labor unions serve a useful purpose by prodding a particular management nto fulfilling its responsibilities to labor.						
of service with the firm. De Government supervised equal employment opportunity legislation is necessary. 0. Labor unions serve a useful purpose by prodding a particular management nto fulfilling its responsibilities to labor. De Stockholder Relationships	Strandu A area		Δ στee	No Oninion	Disagree	StronglyDisamo
of service with the firm. 	StronglyAgree		Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
of service with the firm. De Government supervised equal employment opportunity legislation is necessary. 0. Labor unions serve a useful purpose by prodding a particular management nto fulfilling its responsibilities to labor. De Stockholder Relationships	StronglyAgree		Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree

	1		i	1	+	
3. The corporation should seek to maximize long run profits.						
E. Relationships with Competitors						
1. The ethical standards in competition are determined by the least ethical competitor. If one firm engages in unethical conduct the others will have to	StronglyAgree		Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
follow in order to survive.						
2. The antitrust laws promote a higher standard of ethics among competing firms.						
F. Relationship with the Community						
The corporation has a responsibility to:						
1. Promote equal opportunity in hiring and promotion.		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
2. Conserve natural resources, even if doing so means a reduction in						
corporate profits.						
3. Promote conservation of energy even if doing so means a reduction						
in profits.						
4. Clean up or avoid causing air, noise and water pollution even if doing						
so means a reduction in profits.						
5. Contribute money and management time to civic activities in communities						
where the firm has plants or offices.						
6. Help minority owned businesses.						
7. Be truthful in advertising.						
V. YOUR VIEWS REGARDING METHODS OF DEALING WITH ETICAL ISSUES						
This section asks for your views regarding corporate policies dealing with						
ethical issues.♦ There are two parts to each question.						
A. First indicate your feelings as to the importance of each (regardless of						
whether or not your company currently uses it) in making corporations						
moral. (Please circle the number that best corresponds to your opinion.)						
B. Second, place a checkmark in the last column if that policy is currently						
utilized by your company.						
						-
1. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise.		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a opublicly responsibility or committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a opublicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility or committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility � committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A demporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. 		StronglyAgree	Agree Image: State St	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are 		StronglyAgree	Agree Image: State St	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The thical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. A nindustry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility of committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. An person(s) has been added to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. So cally responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. A functional transmitter is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. An postive the social and political trends in order to properly respond 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 I. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. Executives monitor the social and political trends in order to properly respond rather than wait for the legislature and courts to enforce public opinion. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion Image: Constraint of the second secon	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility of committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A performation of the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical ducational programs. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. Executives monitor the social and political trends in order to properly respond rather than wait for the legislature and courts to enforce public opinion. Participation of employees is sought and used in making decisions which have 		StronglyAgree	Agree Image: Constraint of the second sec	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. A n industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. Executives monitor the social and political trends in order to properly respond rather than wait for the legislature and courts to enforce public opinion. Participation of employees is sought and used in making decisions which have strong social implications. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. A A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. A A permanent committee, such as a �publicly responsibility � committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. A permanent commends ethical policies. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. A nidustry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. Executives monitor the social and political trends in order to properly respond rather than wait for the legislature and courts to enforce public opinion. Participation of employees is sought and used in making decisions which have strong social implications. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 1. Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. 2. Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. 3. A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. 4. A permanent committee, such as a publicly responsibility committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. 5. A permanent department is developed and assigned all recurring ethical decision and recommends ethical policies. 6. A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. 7. The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. 8. An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical ducational programs. 9. Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. 10. Executives monitor the social and political trends in order to properly respond rather than wait for the legislature and courts to enforce public opinion. 11. Participation of employees is sought and used in making decisions which have strong social implications. 		StronglyAgree	Agree	No Opinion Image: Constraint of the second	Disagree	StronglyDisagree
 1.◆ Individual executives are assigned and permitted to handle issues as they arise. 2.◆ Additional staff positions are created in order to take care of ethical issues. 3.◆ A temporary takes force of executives and/or employees is formed to deal with critical issues as they arise. 4.◆ A permanent committee, such as a ◆publicly responsibility◆ committee, of senior officers handles ethical decisions. 5.◆ A permanent committee, such as a ◆publicly responsibility◆ committee, of and recommends ethical policies. 6.◆ A person(s) has been added to the board of directors to advise the corporation on ethical issues. 7.◆ The ethical responsibility task is delegated to the operating units as a part of the jobs performed in running the business. 8.◆ An industry-wide code of ethics is developed and all managers at all levels are made aware of the code through periodical educational programs. 9.◆ Socially responsible programs are incorporated into the basic company strategy in pursuing other corporate goals in order to be successful. 10.◆ Executives monitor the social and political trends in order to properly respond rather than wait for the legislature and courts to enforce public opinion. 11.◆ Participation of employees is sought and used in making decisions which have strong social implications. 		StronglyAgree	Agree Image: Constraint of the second sec	No Opinion Image: Constraint of the second	Disagree	StronglyDisagree

VI. SOME BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND
A. Did you ever take a formal course in ethics or moral philosophy?Yes OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
B. Your present title or position:
C. • a) • State in which you live: • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
D.
0000000000000000000000000000000000000
E. Your company size compared to other firms in the industry: A A A One of the largest A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
F. Which of the following best describes the functional area in which you work? (Please check only one.)Accounting
\$
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Finance\$
General Management $\diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond$ $\diamond \diamond $
\$

Construction Manufacturing Industrial Goods Manufacturing Consumer Goods Manufacturing Consumer Goods Manufacturing Industrial Goods Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing Consumer Goods Transportation; Public Utilities Manufacturing, Other Public Utilities Manufacturing, Other Retailing Manufacturing, Other Public Utilities Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Public Utilities Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Manufacturing, Other Insurance Manufacturing, Media, Publishing Manufacturices Manufacturices Manufacturices Manufacturing, Other<
Which of the following best describes your corporate structure? (Please check the <i>one most important</i> only.)Functional *** *
AN OPEN ENDED INVITATION
A. Is there anything else you would like to say on the topic of social responsibility or business ethics?
♦ If so, please make your comments below (or on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.
Are there any company documents dealing with ethics or social responsibility that you would like to share
with us? We would be delighted to receive a copy of your corporate code of ethics or any other documents
illustrating your views on this topic.