These are the FAST services you need to know about

FAST, or free ad-supported streaming television, is the closest thing you can get to having cable without actually paying for it. As the name implies, FAST services let you watch a wide selection of content as you flip through individual “channels,” all without a subscription. While FAST services might not get the latest and greatest content, they’re still a nice option to have whenever you want to jump into some random show or movie without taking ages to decide what to watch on Netflix. Plus, you don’t even need to create an account to watch shows on most FAST services, allowing you to drop in and out as you please. All you have to do is watch some ads.

Here, we’ve compiled a list of some of the most popular FAST services that you might want to consider trying when suffering from Netflix burnout.

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Pluto TV, which is owned by Paramount,

offers over 250 different channels to browse through, along with thousands of free shows and movies that you can watch on demand, no account necessary. It's got one of our favorite user interfaces, launching from the channel you last watched instead of forcing you to choose a channel every time you open the app. Like most other FAST services, Pluto TV offers channels dedicated to specific shows and their genres, but because it's Paramount, that means it has a lot of Paramount properties you've heard of, including *Star Trek* and *CSI*.

There's also a host of movie channels to choose from, and Pluto TV has some of its own channels, too, like Pluto TV Spotlight, Pluto TV Crime Movies, and Pluto TV Staff Picks, which feature shows and movies curated by the service.

And because Paramount owns CBS, Pluto TV also offers access to local CBS news stations in major cities, like Baltimore,

San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, New York, Detroit, and others, making it feel like you actually are using a linear TV rather than a FAST service. You can use the Pluto TV app on **a range of smart TVs and devices**, including Android, iOS, and on the web.

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Emma Roth / The Verge

Roku, the company known for its set-top boxes and its Roku-enabled smart TVs, also has a FAST service called **The Roku Channel**. Here, you can access tons of shows and movies across over 350 channels without creating an account. That includes some of the discontinued shows Warner Bros. Discovery sent away earlier this year as well as some of Roku’s original

content, like *Die Hart 2* with Kevin Hart or *Martha Cooks* featuring Martha Stewart.

What really separates Roku from other services is its UI. Browsing through The Roku Channel is a bit more like scrolling through Netflix than typical linear TV, with live content featured in a carousel toward the top of the screen and all other on-demand content split into

categories below. It has a pretty wide range of content, including classic movies and TV shows, sitcoms, reality shows, and sports.

The Roku Channel also lists Premium content from services like Paramount Plus, Showtime, and AMC Plus, which you have to pay for. While some of these Premium shows allow you to play the first episode for free, you'll have to pay

for a subscription to the service it's from if you want to go any further. This makes The Roku Channel seem like a cross between a FAST service, a traditional media store, and a hub for your subscriptions.

Now for the bad. One of the biggest drawbacks of the service is that **you can only watch it** from your TV if you have a Roku device, Amazon Fire TV device, or a Samsung smart TV.

Otherwise, you can use the service from Roku’s desktop site or its mobile app, no casting allowed.

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The Fox-owned Tubi has a massive collection of live and on-demand content. It sits behind The Roku Channel as the second most popular FAST service, netting

64 million monthly active users in February. With over 50,000 movies and TV shows on tap, Tubi has one of the largest streaming libraries in the FAST space. It

also has a wide selection of local news stations from networks like Fox, ABC, and NBC. That makes it one of the more compelling options for people looking to replace cable

(or their ancient TV antenna).

Like Roku, Tubi also has some of its own **Tubi Originals**, although some of them seem kind of cheesy. The service added even

more content when Tubi and Roku struck a deal with Warner Bros. Discovery earlier this year, bringing *Westworld*, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, *Raised by*

***Wolves, How It's Made*, and others to both platforms. Aside from that, you can find basically just about any genre of movie or TV show that you're looking for (just**

look at that massive menu when you hover over the Browse button).

Tubi is available on a number of platforms, including Android, iOS, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire

TV, Xfinity X1, Xbox, Samsung smart TVs, Sony smart TVs, PlayStation, the web, and more. You can view the whole list of supported devices on Tubi's website.

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Verge

Freevee — formerly called IMDb Freedive and then IMDb TV

— is a FAST service owned by Amazon. And because this *is* an Amazon-owned

product, that means you'll have to sign in to your Amazon account (or

create a new one) in order to actually use the service. Once you’re signed in,

you can access a trove of on-demand movies and TV shows in an interface

that looks a lot like Amazon Prime Video.

Freevee, too, has its

own originals, including a *Judge Judy* reboot, an *Alex Rider* series, and

documentaries on stars like Post Malone and Luke Bryan. There's some live content

as well, including channels with news, reality shows, classics,

and more, but it really feels like Freevee prioritizes on-demand shows.

You can access the Freevee app just about anywhere. It's available on

several smart TVs made by LG, Samsung, and Amazon, and you can also access it

from streaming devices, including the Amazon Fire Stick, Apple TV,

and Roku devices as well as on the web, Android, and iOS.

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While Plex is primarily known

as a kind of build-your-own

Netflix server software, it

also has its own FAST service

that you can use with or without

setting a server up. It

encompas
ses a
large
library

of live and on-demand content,

featuring a channel guide

with a user-friendly interfac

e that allows you to sort

through content by genre.

The over 200 channels on the

service include ones dedicate

d to some of the shows

you'll often see on other

FAST platforms, like *Portland*

ia, Top Gear, and *Ice Road*

Truckers. It also has a hefty

collection of over 50,000

on-
demand
shows
and

movies like *Pulp Fiction*

and *Hannibal*. But the

flexibility — and accessib

ility – of Plex is what really

makes it stand out.

Not only

can you use the service to set

up your own media server

but you can also access it on

almost any device, includin

g smart TVs, streamin g

devices, gaming consoles, mobile

phones, and even VR systems.

Plex also claims it’s

available in nearly every

country around the world.

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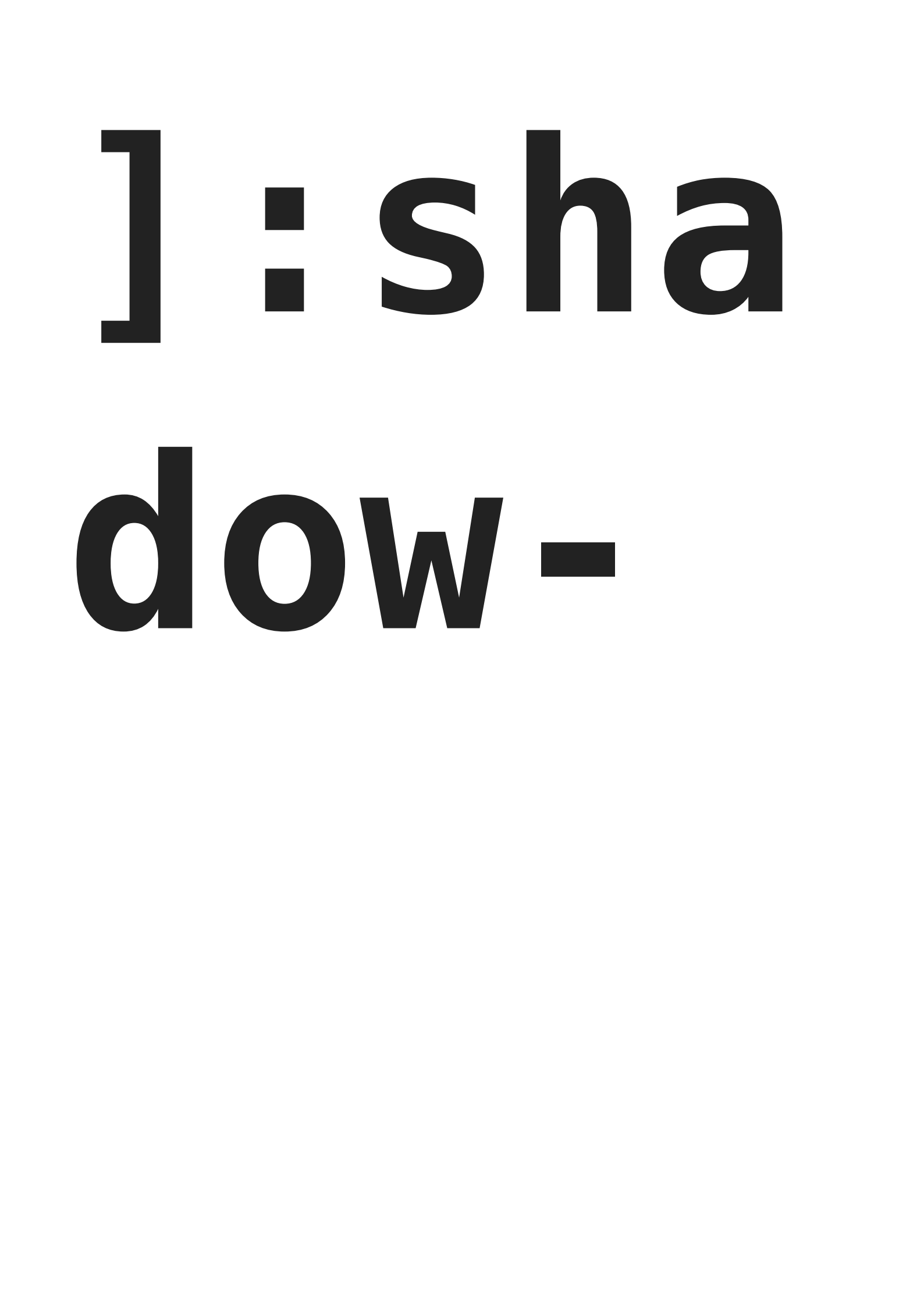
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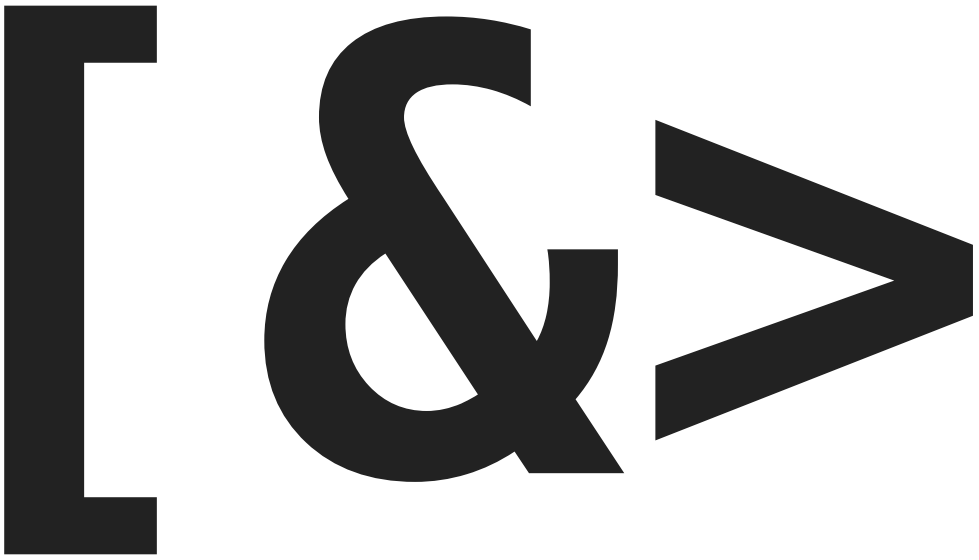
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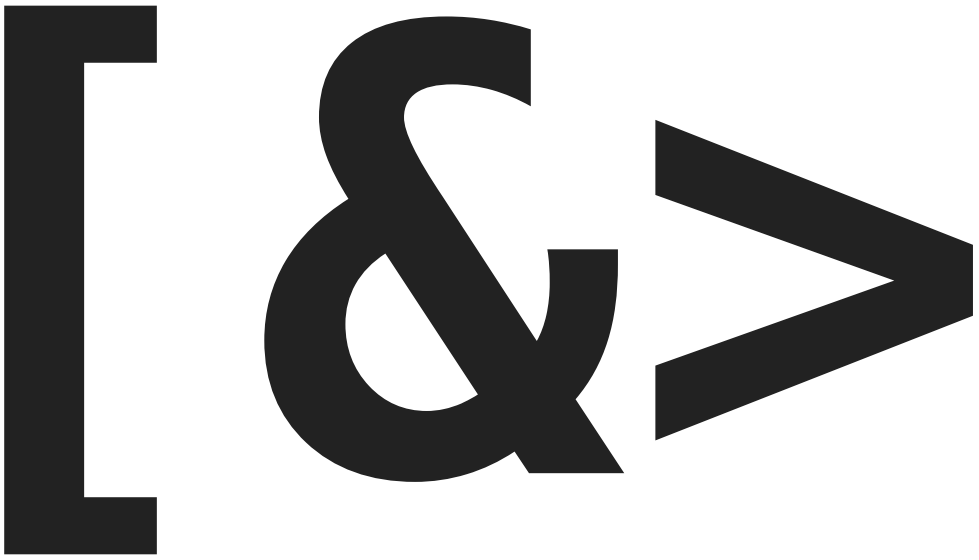
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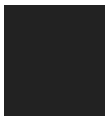
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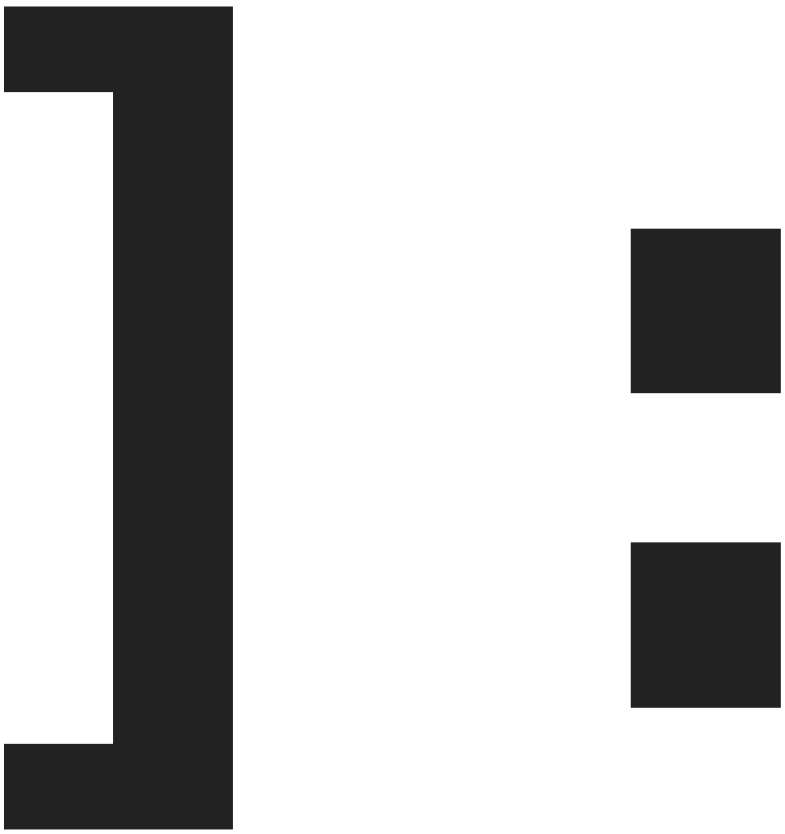
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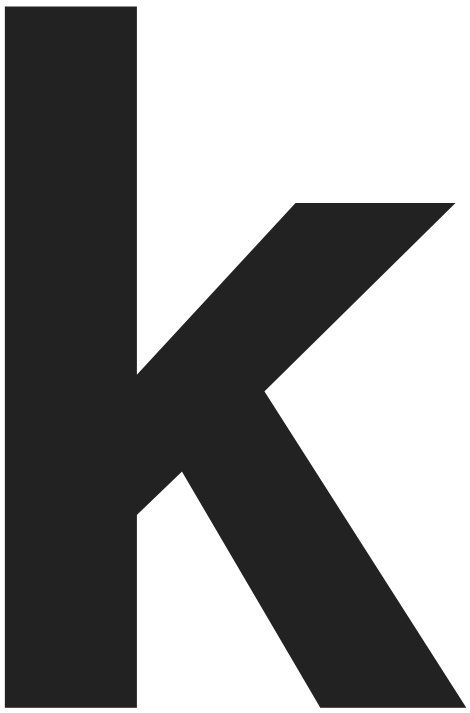


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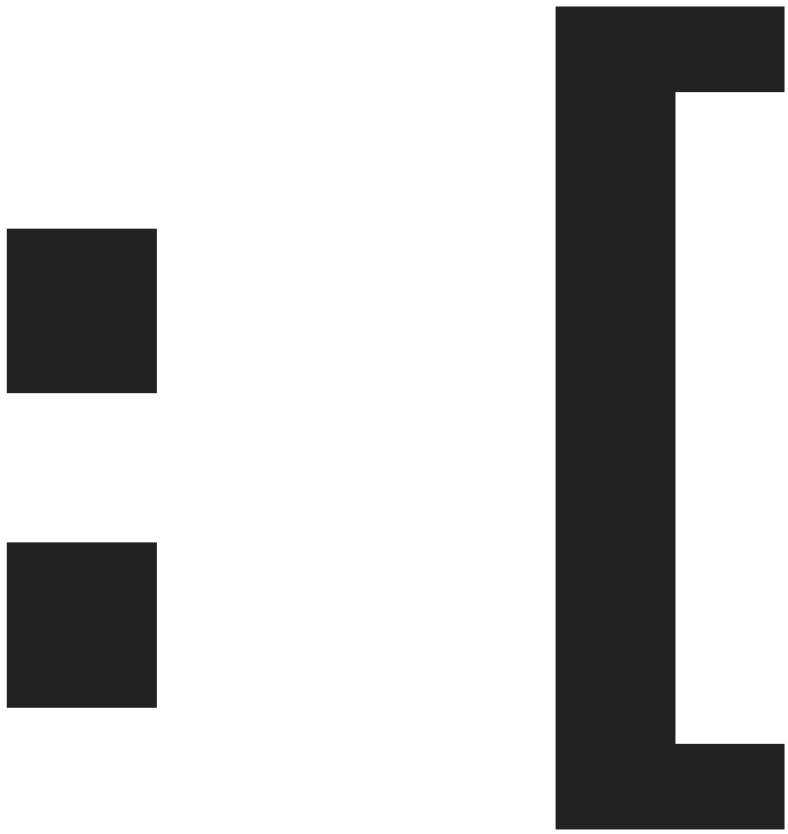


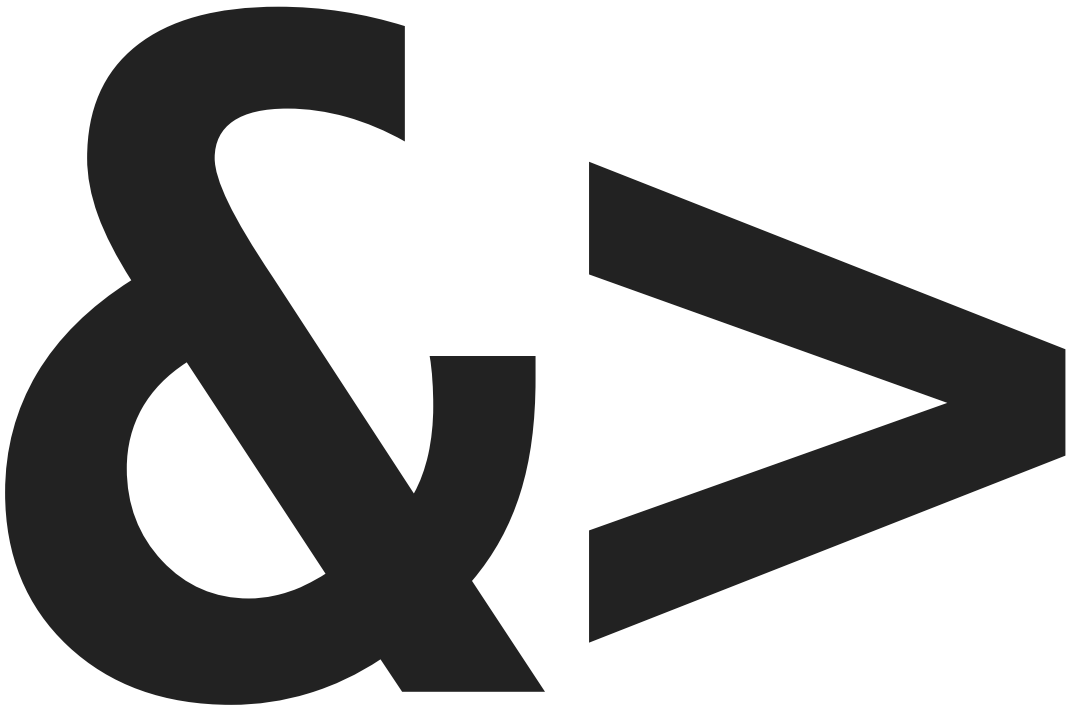
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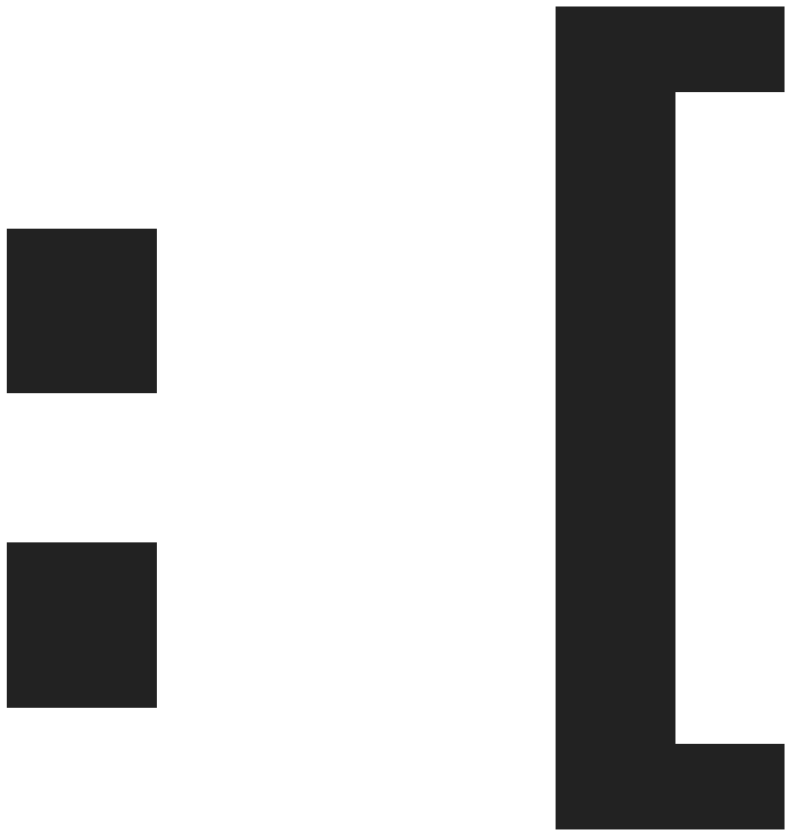

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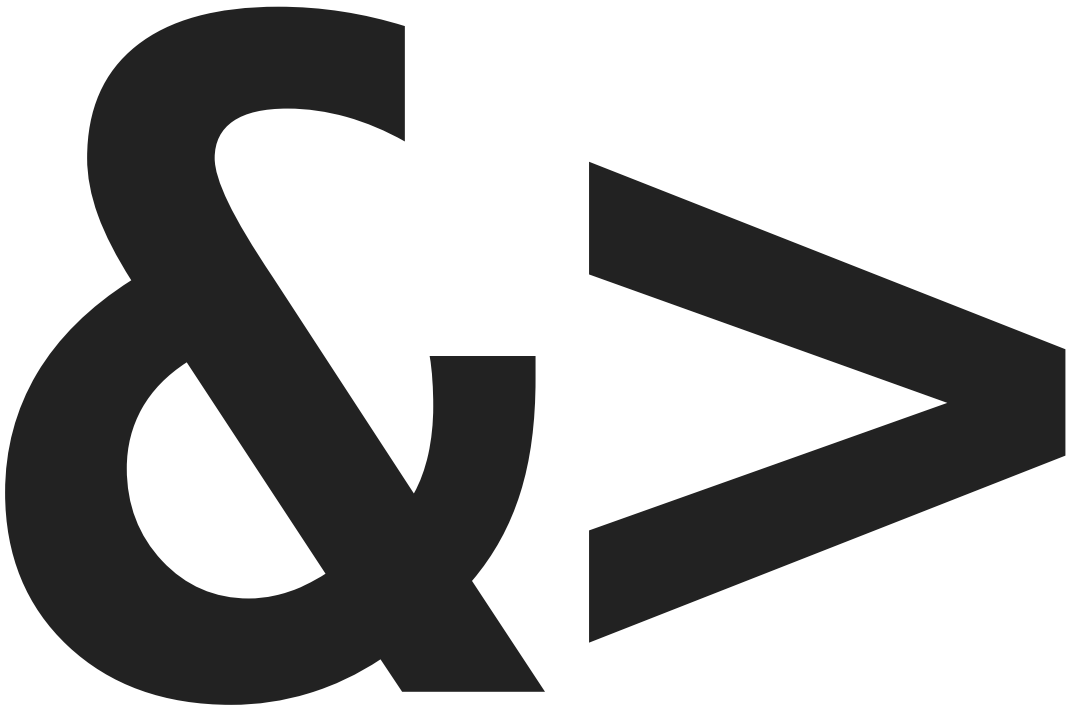


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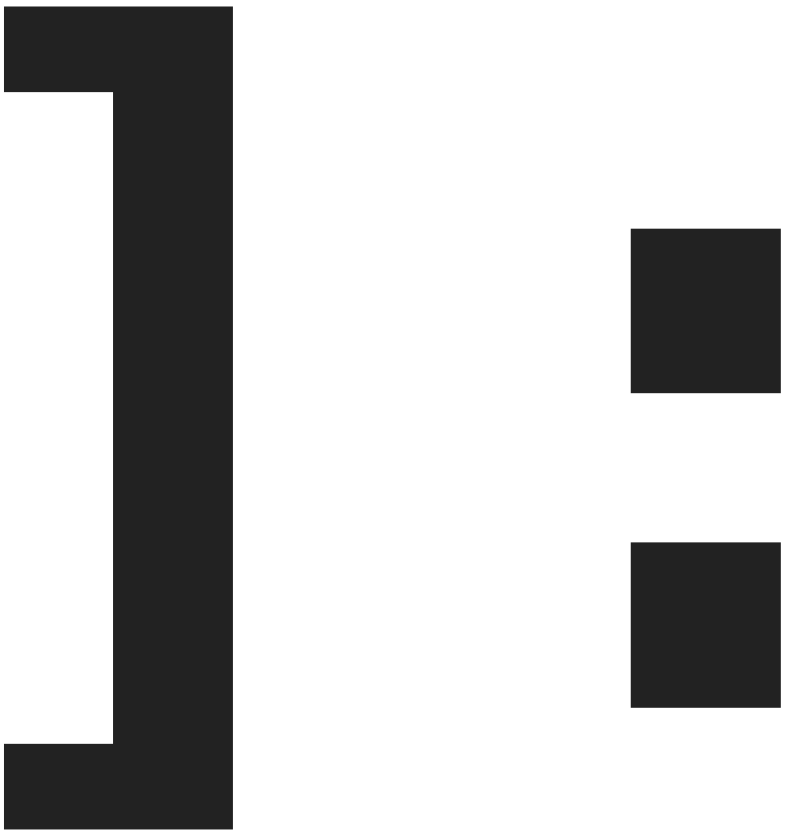
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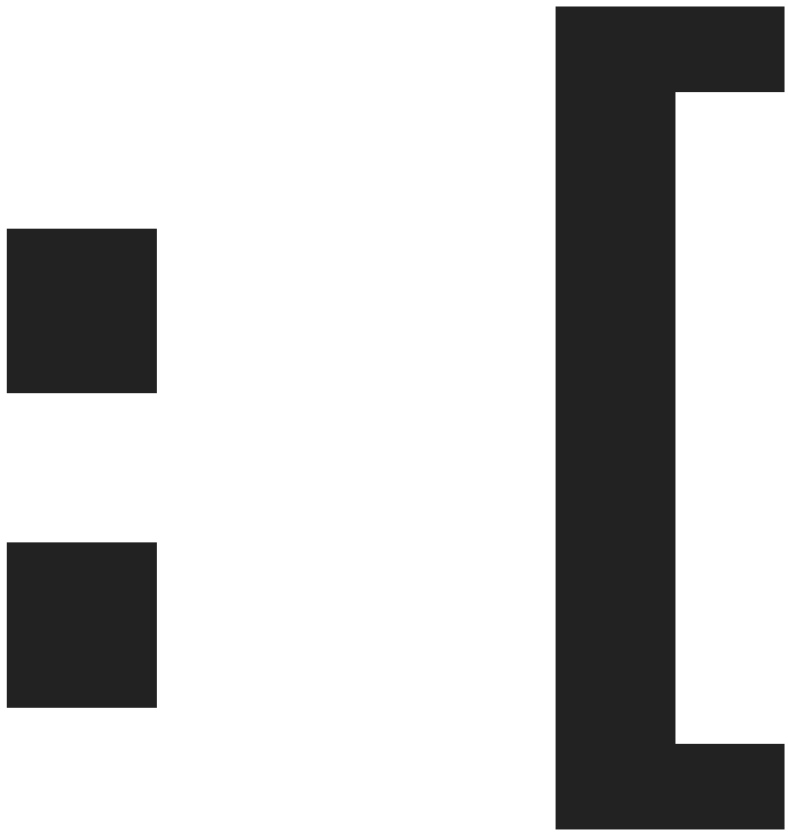

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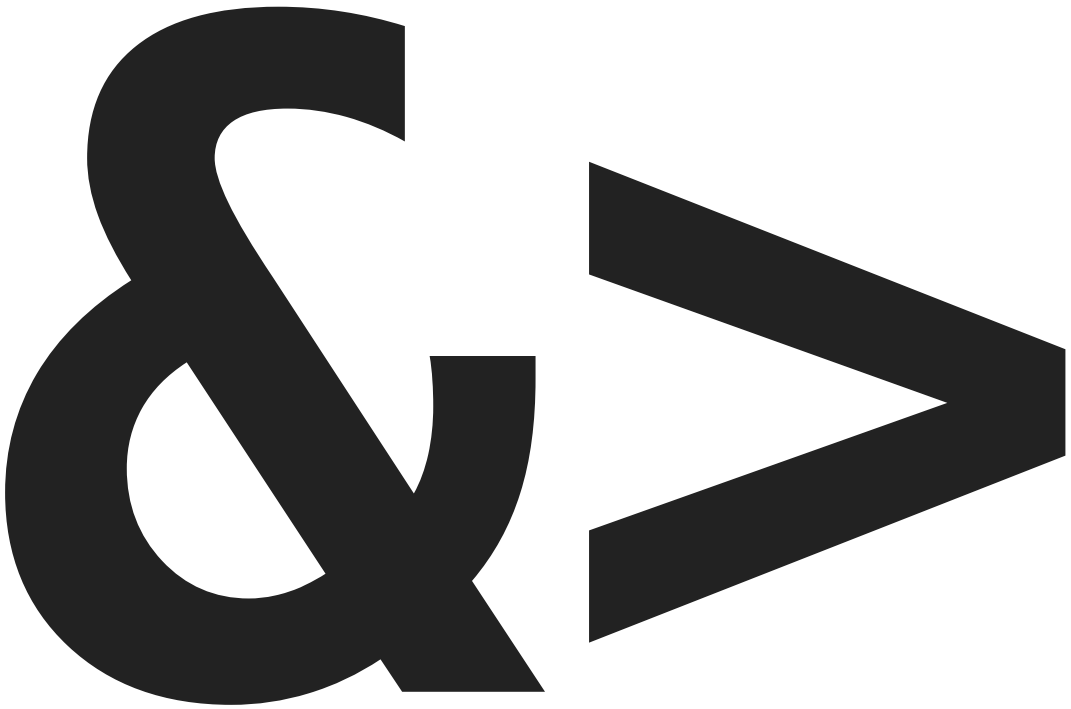
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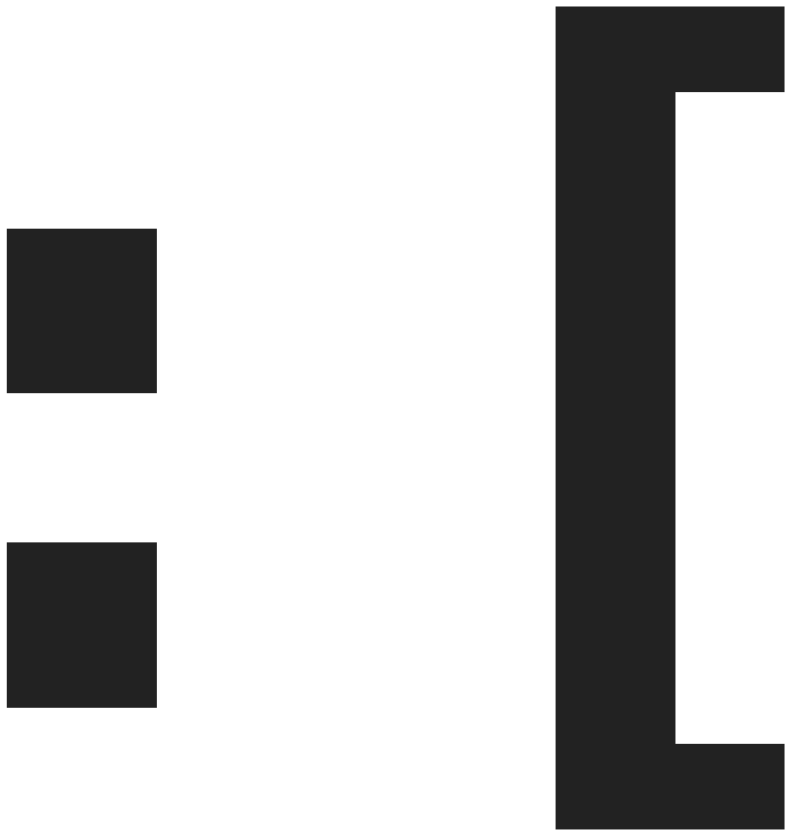

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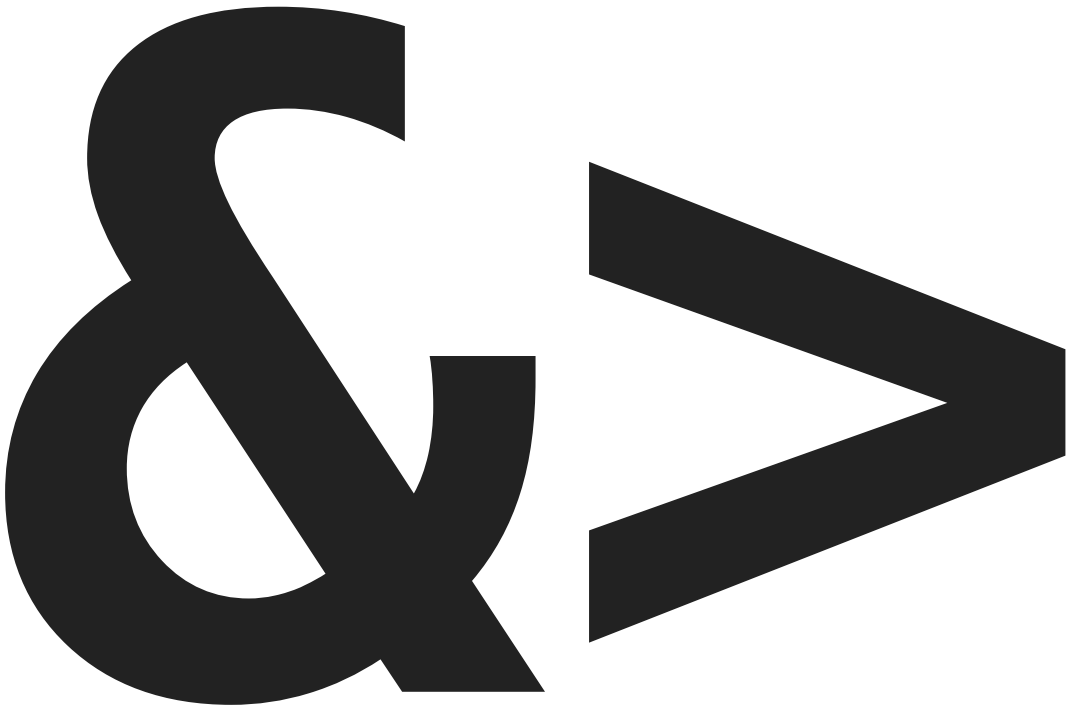


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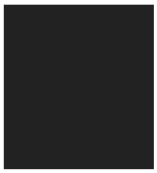
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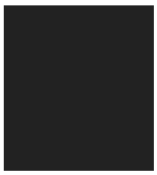
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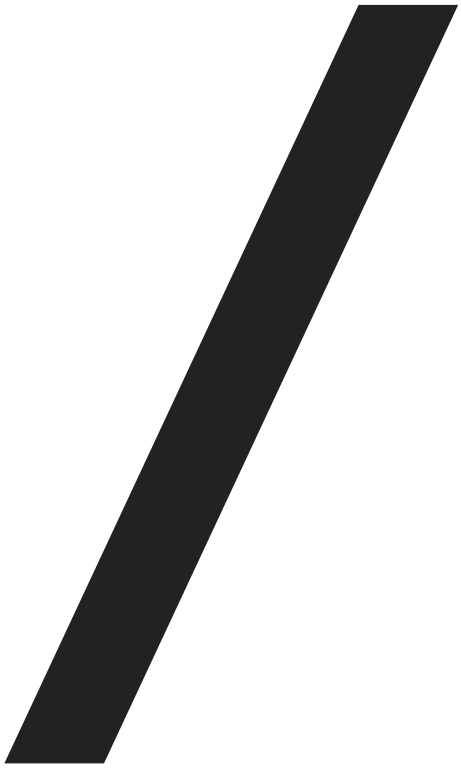


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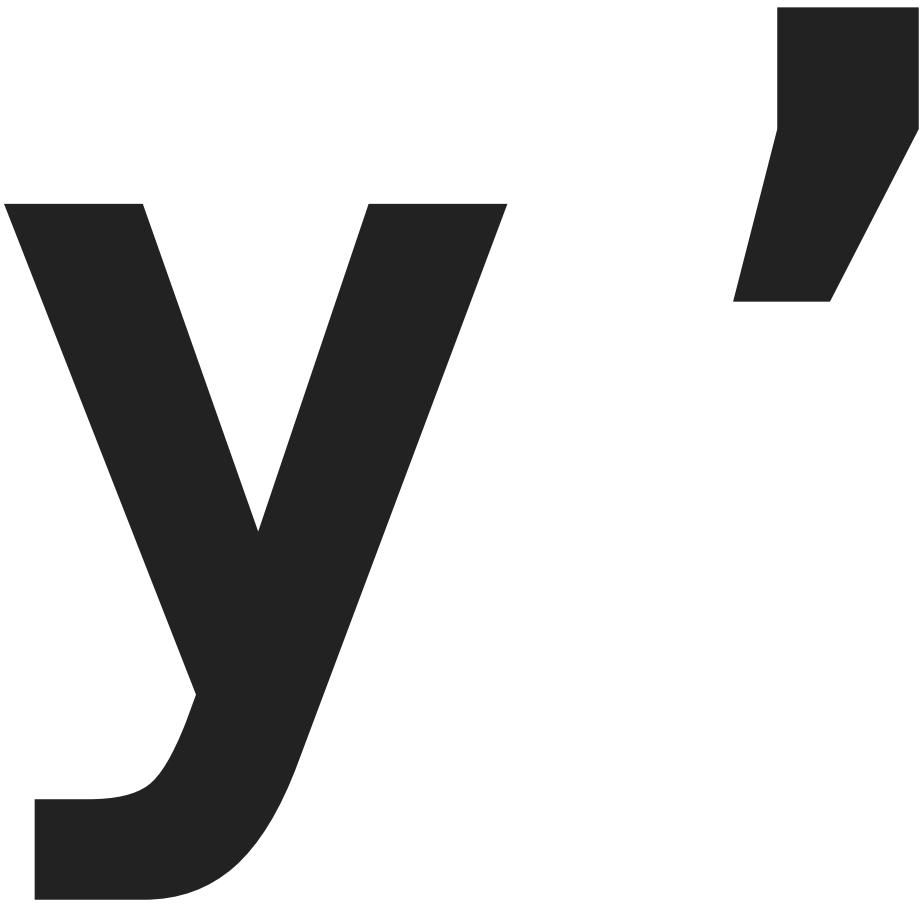

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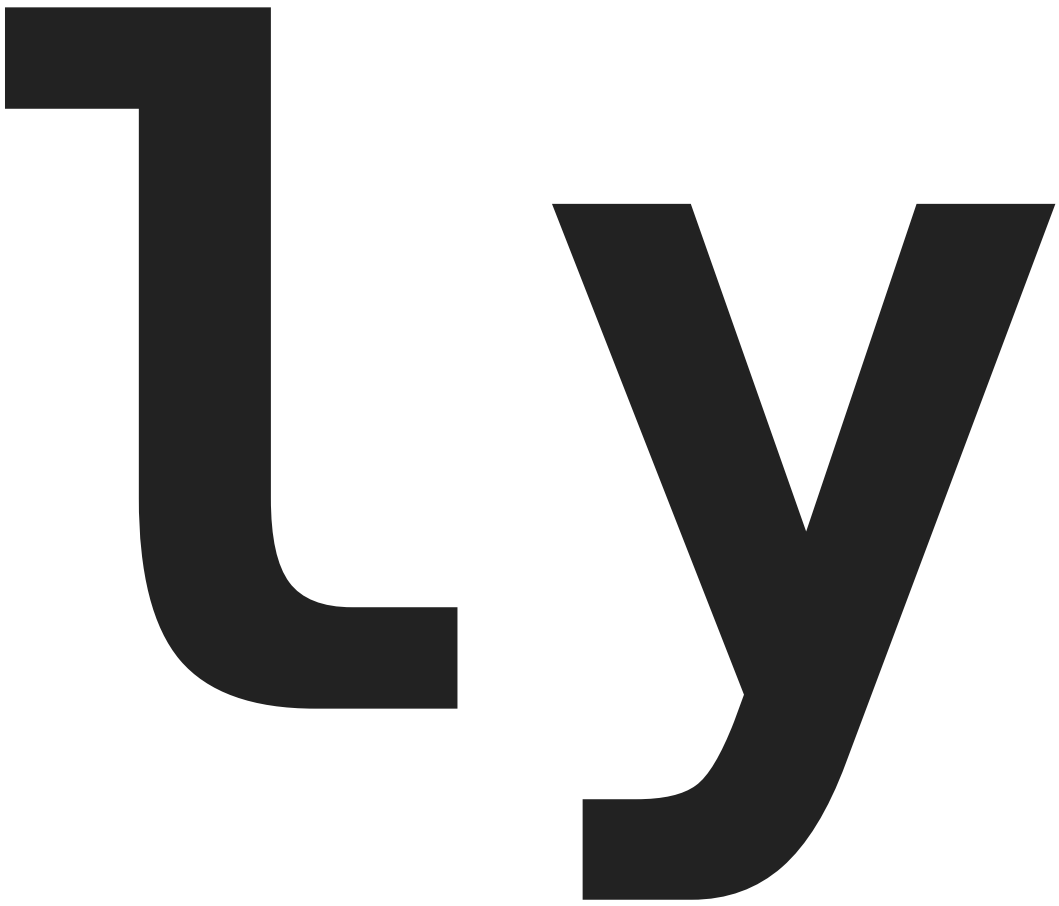






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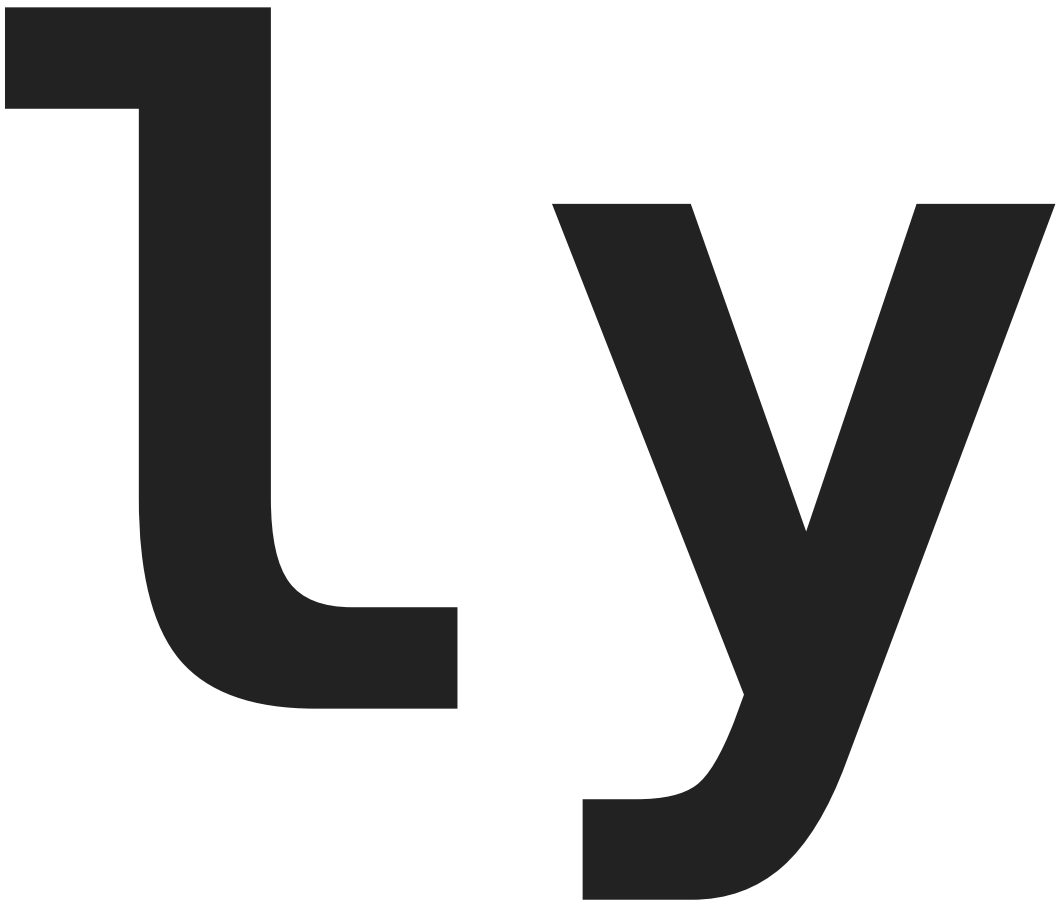
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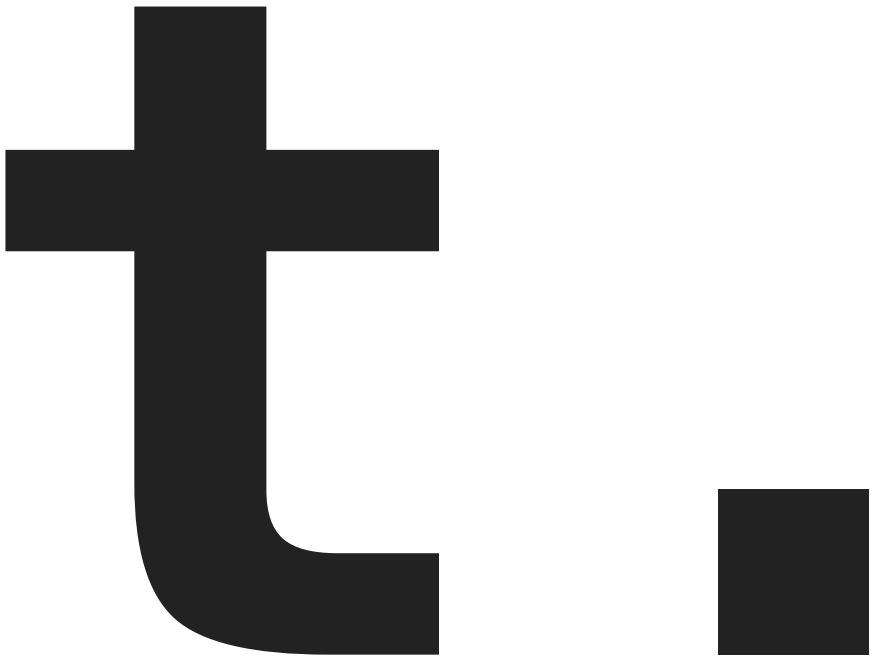
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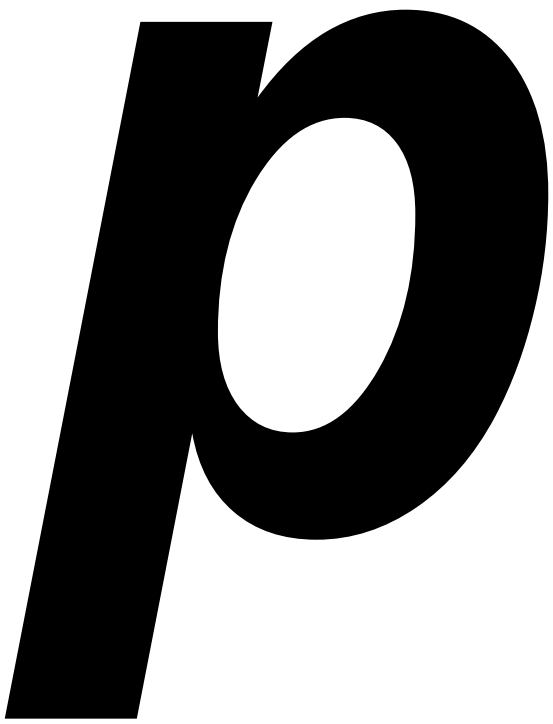


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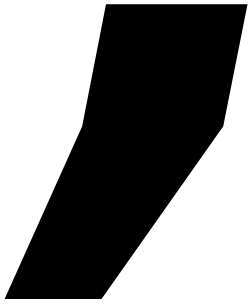
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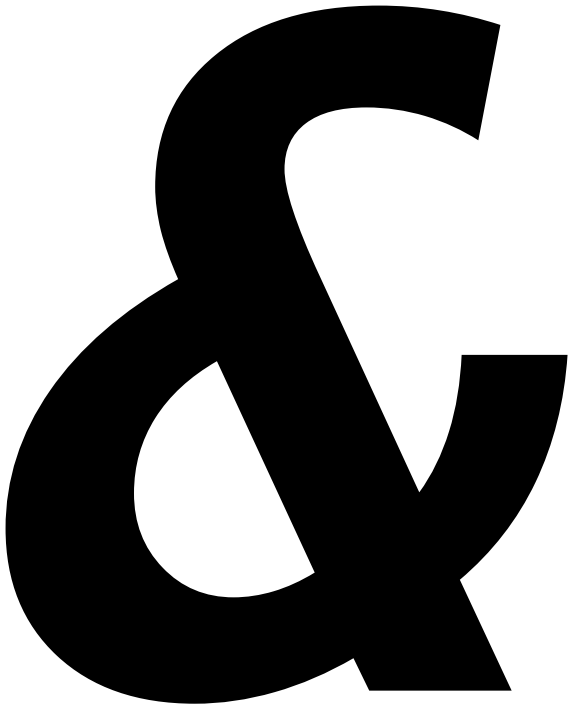

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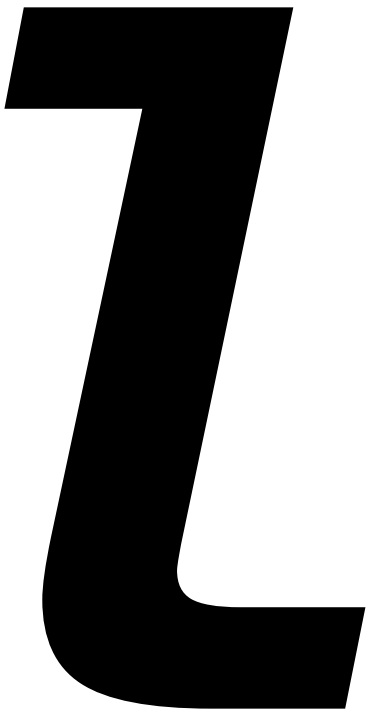
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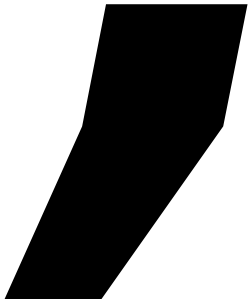




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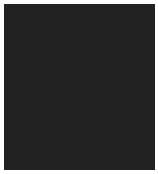
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