

Profit Improvement Ten Tips for a Better Bottom Line

Written by

John L. Daly, MBA, CPA, CMA, CPIM

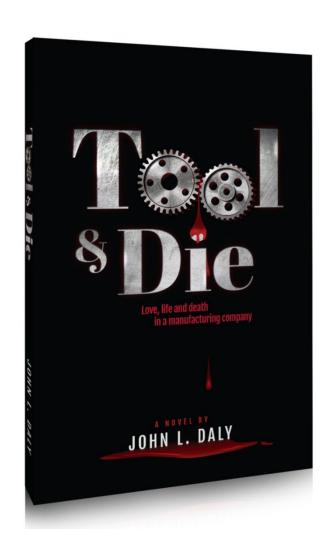
About the Author

John is a former CFO who is a management consultant specializing in pricing and costing issues. He is the author of **Pricing for Profitability** published by Wiley & Sons, Inc. and a novel, Tool & Die.



John L. Daly MBA, CPA, CMA, CPIM





The Human Story of Business

Daly's tale contains plenty of business substance for readers interested in management and finance, but it's charm lies in the human side of his story...

DMarie in SC

Ten Tips

- 1. Understand Your Culture
- 2. Focus Your Strategy
- 3. Map Your Strategy
- 4. Measure What Matters
- 5. Use Big Data

- 6. Understand Your Costs
- 7. Reduce Errors
- 8. Learn From Others
- 9. Improve Decision Making
- 10. Lead From The Heart



4

Number One: Understand Your Culture



What is Corporate Culture?

- The set of rules, values and norms that define the organization's behavior.
- Learned behaviour observed by the individual employees.
- "The way we do things around here".

Culture Is:

Who we hire:



How we decide:

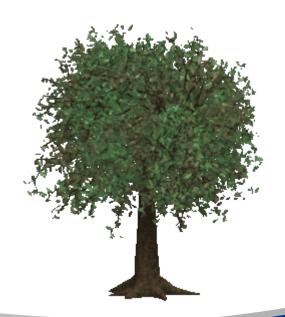


Culture?

Culture changes over time.

With each new hire, the culture changes.

Is the culture the same today as when you started?



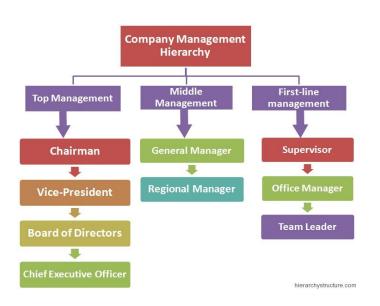
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What we really mean by culture is the commitment throughout an enterprise to some common objectives and common values."



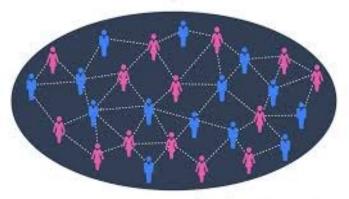
PeterDrucker

Organizational Culture





FLAT ORGANIZATIONS



Ci Jacon Morgan (Statistumorpocato Notucova)



Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast





Culture in the Parking Lot











Culture in the Cubicle

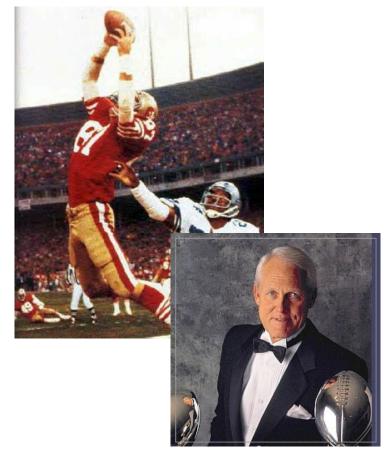






Strong Leaders Create Strong Cultures







Number Two: Focus Your Strategy



Focused Strategies

"You do not merely want to be considered just the best of the best. You want to be considered the only ones who do what you do."

Jerry Garcia
 late leader of The Grateful Dead





What Is Strategy?

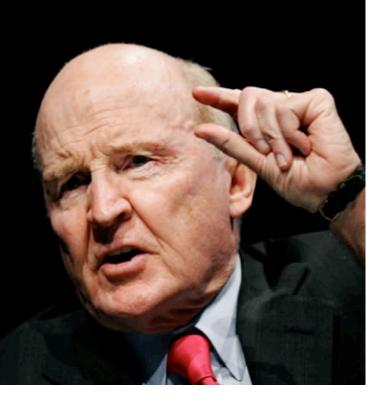
Strategy is what your company does, or will do, to create a sustainable competitive advantage.



Competitive Advantage

"If you don't have a competitive advantage, don't compete."

JACK WELCH legendary CEO





Strategy Provides Focus



A Unique Value Proposition

- A differentiated product.
- Buyers decision.
- Best value may not mean lowest price.
- Buyers choose a product because it is better for that individual buyer.

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Unique Value Propositions











What is Your Business?



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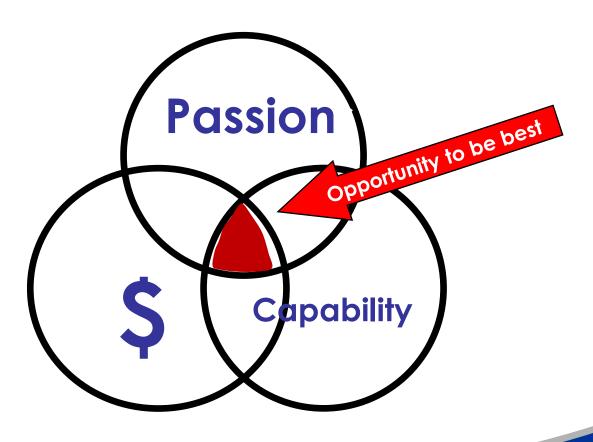






The Hedgehog Concept







Key Lesson

 How can "Jiffy" brand have such a dominant market share in muffins when their competitor is General Mills?

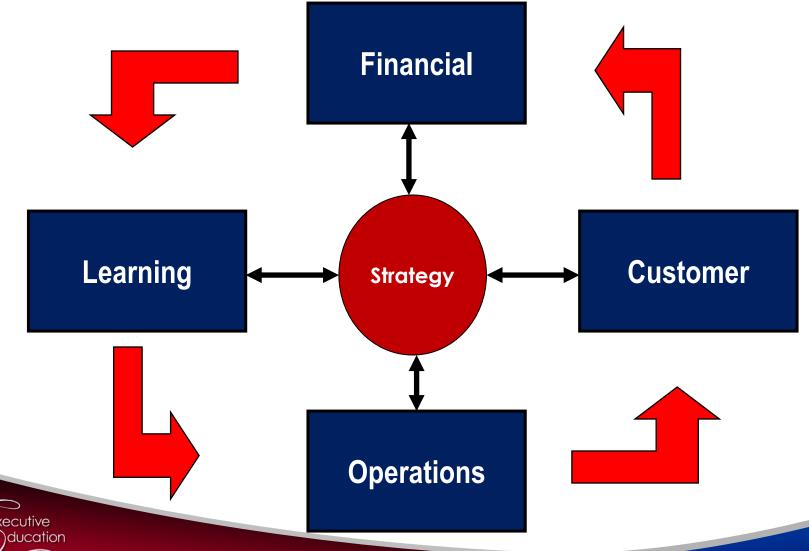




Number Three: Map Your Strategy



The Balanced Scorecard



Critical Success Factors (CSFs)

- Your strategy's critical elements?
- How do we measure improvement?
- Harvard's Robert Kaplan thinks our CSFs will fall into four categories.



Strategy Maps

- Align and link the company's CSFs/KPIs
- Use them to communicate desired direction and specific measures, targets and initiatives to move the organization in that direction



Strategy Maps

Vision	Transforming society through the provision of ultra-high speed mobile information services		
Mission	The number one provider of ultra-high speed mobile networks and content to the United Kingdom		

	Business Objectives and Strategy Map	Measures	Targets	Initiatives
Financial	Increase Profitability Decrease Operating Costs	Net Profit Operating Costs Revenue in target markets	• ↑ 5% per year • ↓ 3% per year • ↑ 12% per year	Implement new financial accounting system Simplify billing operations
Customer	Improve Clarity of Offering Perception Experience	% Market Share Index % Customer Satisfaction Index	† 3% per year † 5% increase in index next period then stabilize	Competitive end user requirements market studies for new UK regions "Improve the Offering" two year programme
Internal Processes	Improve Offering Selection Improve Ease of Use for End Users	New products as % of sales Brand awareness score End User experience score	 12% this year ↑ 5% per year > 90% every reporting period 	Create improved offering selection process Hook into 'Improve the Offering' programme Training programme for new offerings and user interface
Organizational Capacity	Improve Knowledge and Skills Improve Content Supply Improve Technology	Employee development plans Technology training index Information Efficiency Index	• 95% in place • 90% efficient • 95%	Product and marketing training programme 2 year Content supply agreements Technology improvement programme



Number Four Measure What Matters



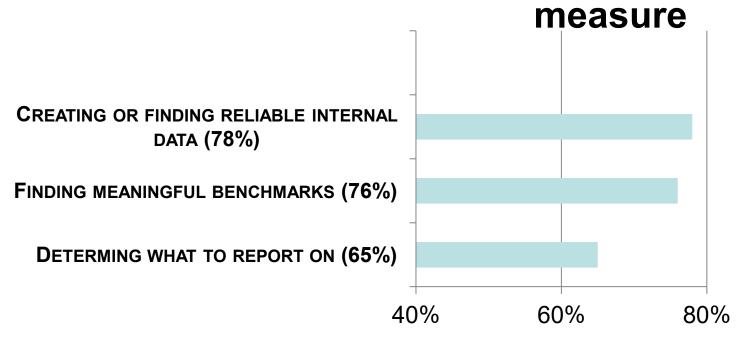
Measurement

"If you can't measure it, you can't improve it."



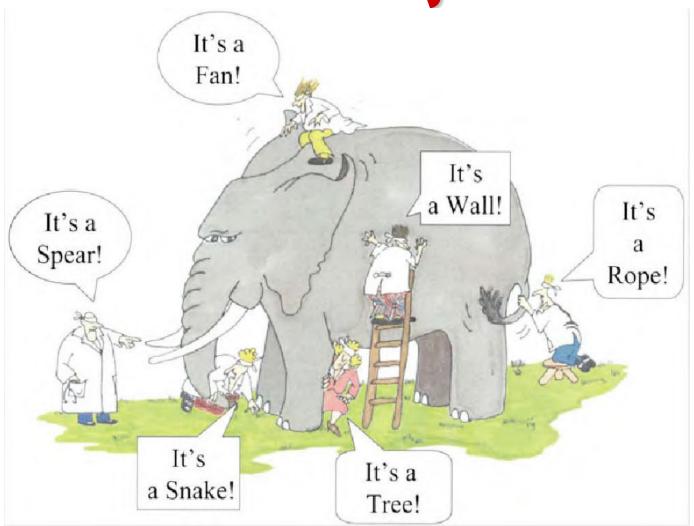
Measurements & Benchmarks

Deciding how to measure is more difficult than deciding what to





Agree on Core Objectives





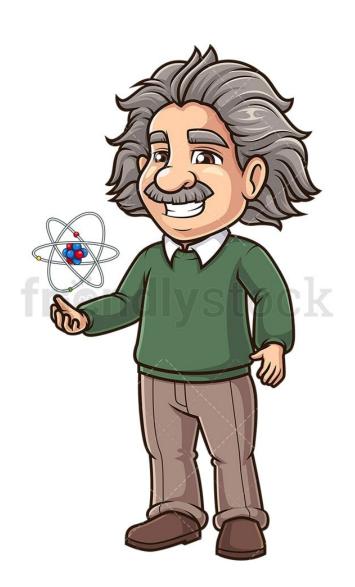
Types of Data

- Internal structured data
- Internal semi-structured data
- Internal unstructured data
- External structured data
- External unstructured data (Big Data)
- From Big data: using smart big data, analytics and metrics to make better decisions and improve performance;

Bernard Marr; 2015 John Wiley & Sons Ltd, United Kingdom

SMART Data

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Timely



The Big MMACC

- Meaningful
- Measurable
- Accurate
- Consistent
- Comparable



Metrics and KPIs

- A Metric is a specific business goal.
- A Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is a quantifiable number that serves as an indicator of success or failure of meeting the metric.

KPIs

Environmental key performance indicators (KPIs) are quantitative measures - *actual numbers* - that put values on the key metrics or goals of your business.



Leading and Lagging KPIs

Leading Indicator:

 An indicator of performance that might predict future success.

Examples:

- User guide usage
- Calories per day
- Using safety equipment



Lagging Indicator:

 An indicator of past performance that measures how we performed.

Examples:

- Customer satisfaction
- Weight
- Number of deaths



Leading and Lagging indicators are time-based

Number Five Use Big Data



Before Big Data





Big Data Now





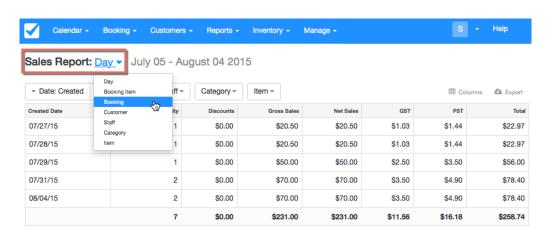
Types of Data (1)

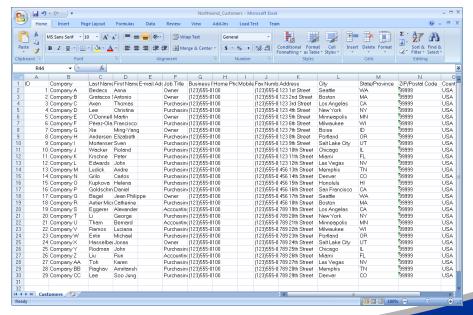
- Internal structured data
- Internal semi-structured data
- Internal unstructured data
- External structured data
- External unstructured data (BIG DATA)

(1) From Big data: using smart big data, analytics and metrics to make better decisions and improve performance; Bernard Marr; 2015 John Wiley & Sons Ltd, United Kingdom



Internal Structured Data





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Internal Data

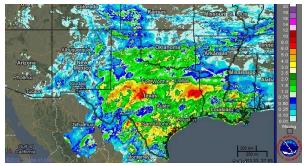
- Sales Data (mostly structured)
- Cost Data (mostly structured)
- HR Data (mostly structured)
- Customer/Employee Survey Data (both structured and unstructured)
- Customer Reviews/Feedback (mostly unstructured)
- CCTV video data (unstructured)
- Customer Data (mostly structured)
- Financing/Equity Data (mostly structured)



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External Data

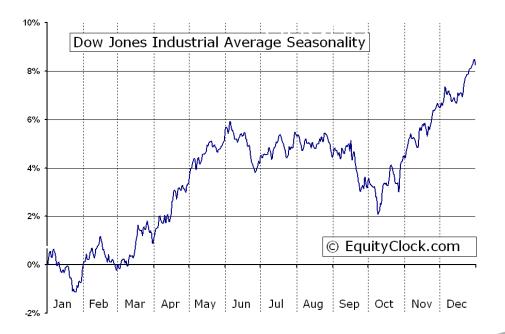














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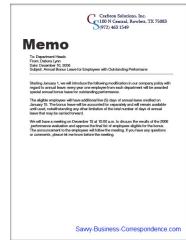
Unstructured Data



Photos







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Acquiring Data

- Created Data
- Provoked Data
- Transaction Data
- Compiled Data
- Experimental Data
- Captured Data
- User-generated Data



Datafication

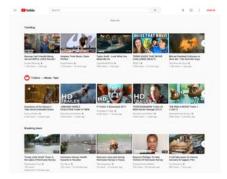
- Economic/Employment Data
- Weather Data
- Twitter/Social Media Data
- Customer/Employee Survey Data
- Customer Reviews/Feedback
- Foreign Currency Data
- Interest Rate Data



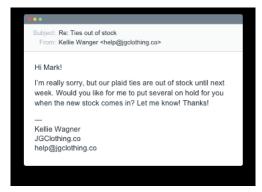
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Data Mining

- Activities
- Conversations
- Photos and Video
- Sensors
- Internet of Things













The 4 V's of Big Data

- Volume How huge amounts of data are generated every second
- Velocity How quickly data is generated, transmitted and transferred
- Variety Increasingly different forms of data being generated
- Veracity Accuracy and truthfulness of generated data

Buying a Hammer - Then





Buying a Hammer - Now





Accountants - Then





Accountants - Then



Dr. Cash \$X.00 Cr. Sales \$X.00

To record daily sales



Accountants - Now





Accountants - Now



Dr. Cash

Cr. Sales

Dr. Cost of Goods Sold

Cr. Inventory

To record daily sales activity

\$XX.00

\$XX.00

\$ X.00

\$ X.00



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Combine Different Data



Number Six: Understand Your Costs



What Drives Costs

What Drives Costs?

- Know your cost structure
- How critical is payroll?
- What can you control?
- Can you outsource?



Fixed, Variable and Step Variable



Examples of Variable Costs











No Allocations







Number Six: Learn from Others



Benchmarking

- Developed by Xerox in 1980s
- 3 Types
 - Competitive
 - Process
 - Internal
- Identifies areas with most opportunity for improvement



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What to Benchmark?

- Mission critical processes
- Expensive processes
- Product features
 - Tangible characteristics
 - Service levels



Benchmark Your Industry

- Industry Trade Groups
- Accountants
- Bankers
- Public Competitors



Benchmark Outside Your Industry



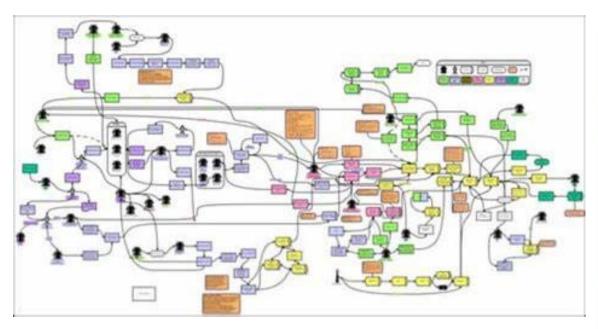


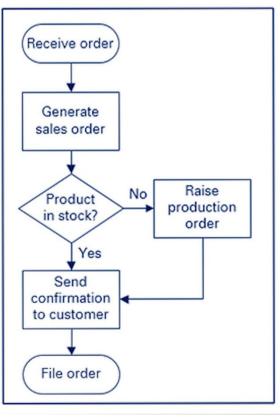


Number Seven: Reduce Errors



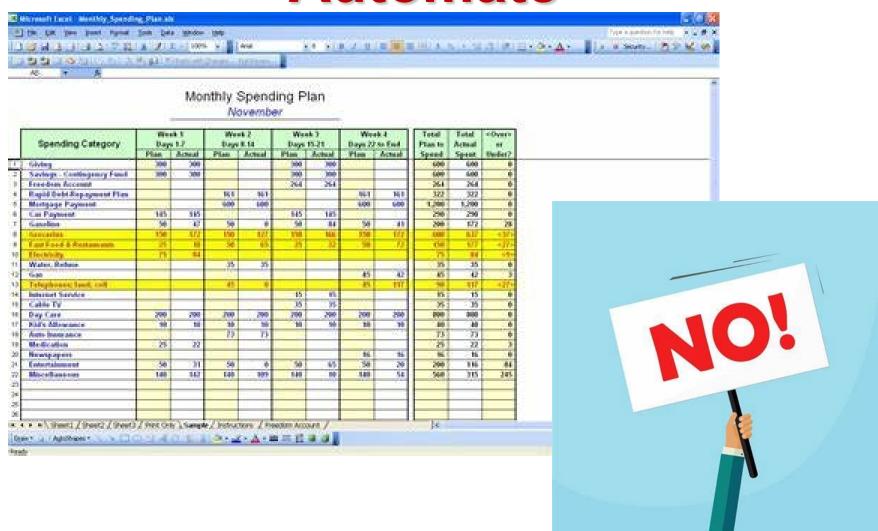
Simplify, Simplify and Simplify







Automate





Ask Why 5 Times

Problem

Our client is refusing to pay for leaflets we printed for him



The delivery was late, so the leaflets couldn't be used



The job took longer than we expected



We ran out of printer ink



The ink was all used on a large, last-minute order



We didn't have enough ink in stock, and couldn't order new supplies in time

Counter-measure

Find an ink supplier who can deliver at short notice, so that we can continue to minimize inventory, reduce waste, and respond to customer demand.





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Number Seven: Improve Decision Making



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Three Issues

- How we make decisions
- 2. How to make better decisions
- 3. How to motivate others to make better decisions







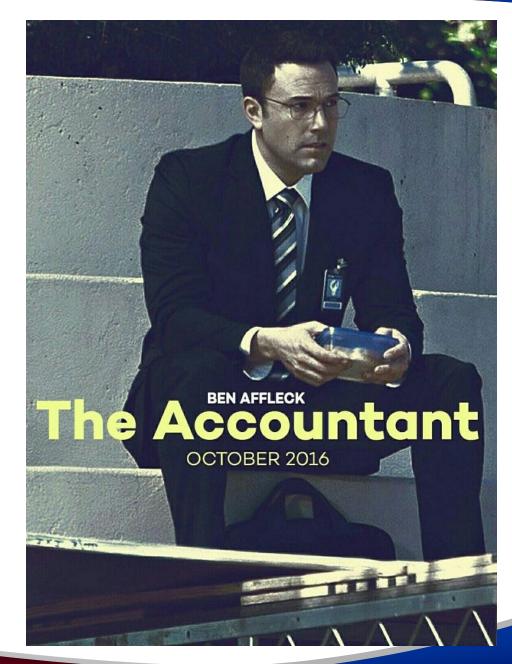


System 2





Our Role

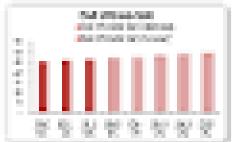




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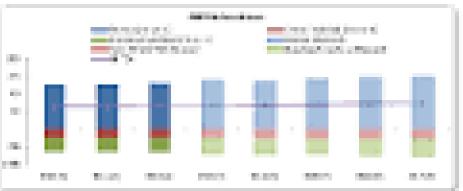


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When to Engage System 2

Steve



An individual has been described by a neighbor as follow: 'Steve is very shy and withdrawn, invariably helpful but with little interest in people or the world of reality. A meek and tidy soul, he has a need for order and structure and a passion for detail."

Is Steve more likely to be a librarian or a farmer?



The Bats and Ball



A ball and bat cost \$1.10. The bat costs one dollar more than the ball.

How much does the ball cost?



Priming

- SO_P - SOUP



People primed with thoughts of old age moved slower Smiling people are more easily amused









Priming with Money

Priming with thoughts or discussions of money caused people to be:

- Less willing to ask for help
- Less willing to help
- More selfish





Jumping to Conclusions



Jumping to conclusions is **efficient** when:

- Likely to be correct
- Mistakes are acceptable
- Saves substantial time and effort



Jumping to Conclusions



Jumping to conclusions is **risky** when:

- Unfamiliar situation
- Stakes are high
- No time for more information



The Law of Small Numbers



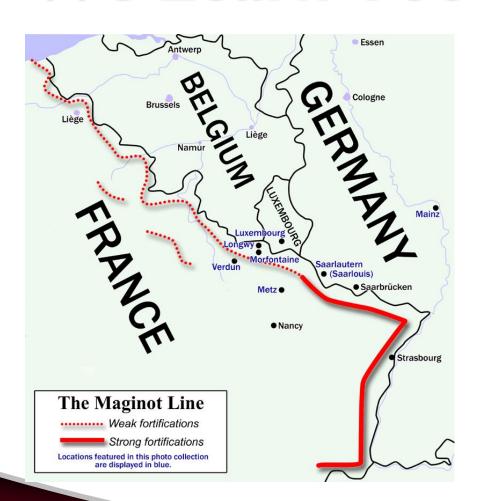








We Learn Too Well



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The Planning Fallacy

Kahneman uses the phrase "Planning Fallacy" to describe projections which:

- Are unrealistically close to bestcase scenarios (overly optimistic).
- 2. Could be improved by consulting the statistics of similar cases (benchmarking).

Have you ever experienced the Planning Fallacy?







Loss Aversion





Bias





Doubt is the Key





Adjust and Adjust





"In war, everything is uncertain."

"Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

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Number Ten: Lead From the Heart



A Leader Defined

Leaders provide the:

- culture,
- environment,
- values and
- incentives

that foster and encourage change.

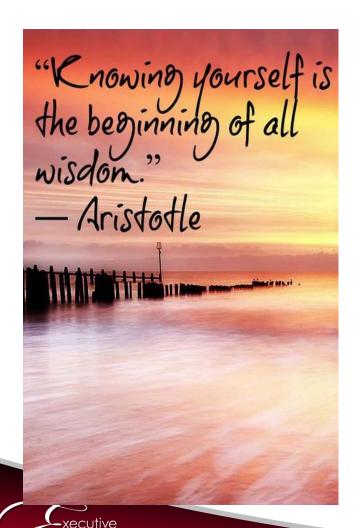


Leaders and Managers

Leaders	Managers					
Strive for change	Maintain the status quo					
Have and impart a vision	Want to accomplish immediate objectives					
Set direction	Plan detail					
Power comes from character, accomplishments and personality	Power comes from hierarchy					
Authority is earned	Authority is bestowed					
Focus on people	Focus on tasks					
Seek the best talent	Hire subordinates					
Facilitates group decision making	Makes sole decisions					
Seeks consensus and buy-in	Assigns tasks by command and control					
Sees healthy conflict as a means to resolve differences	Avoids conflict at all costs					
Knows that all change has risks	Seeks to minimize risk					
Accepts responsibility and accepts blame	Looks to protect themselves and blames others					
Gives credit to others	Takes credit for others					



Look in the Mirror





Look in the Mirror

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"This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

william shakespeare, hamlet





I'm staying in tonight!



Tom Sawyer's Funeral



-xecutive ducation
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Be First





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Empathetic

O, WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US TO SEE OURSELS AS ITHERS SEE US





A Matter of Perception







Dependable





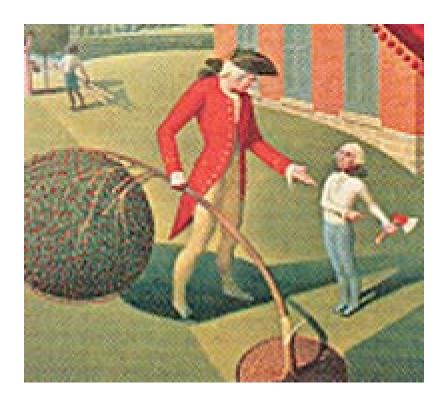
Credible

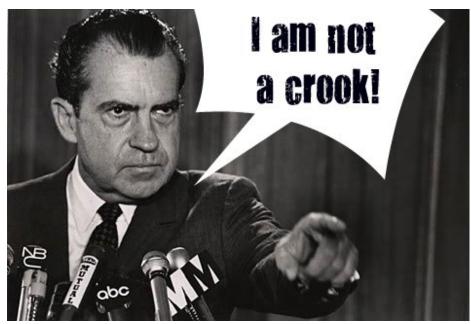






Honest







Be Accountable

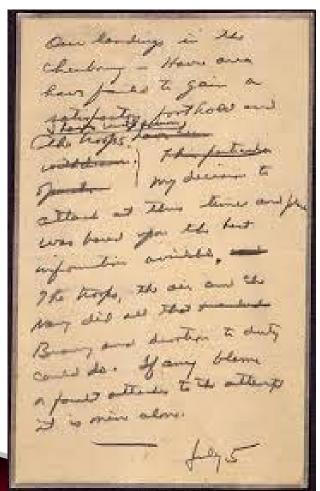


ACCOUNTABLE

Accountability is an inside job.



Be Accountable







Facilitate





Listening





Focus Forward



Foster Buy-In

		Quality Of Plan			
Buy-In		<u>Mediocre</u>	Good		
	<u>High</u>	Good Results	Great Results		
	<u>Low</u>	Failure	Poor Results		



Continue to Learn

- We don't know what we don't know
- Exposure to new ideas creates the ability to question & improve
- Great financial managers continually expand their knowledge and refine the methods they use



Thank You!

Please share your thoughts and comments:

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