



# Organizational Playbook of The Disruptors

Mark Zawacki  
650 Labs



**Hashtag:** #650strategy

**Twitter:** @markzawacki

**Email:** maz@650Labs.com



What Do  
You Think of  
When I Say...

**'Silicon Valley'?**

# Two guys and a garage: Again and again and again



# There Is A Dated (and Dangerous) Perception Globally: 'The Myth of Silicon Valley'

1. 'High Tech' capital of the world
2. Risk taking mentality
3. Innovative
4. Huge pile of money called Sand Hill Road
5. It's OK to fail
6. Open networking, everyone helps each other
7. Fast-paced
8. Driven by money
9. Stanford (& Berkeley)
10. Isolated from rest of world, self-centered, hype machine

## Silicon Valley has made a big shift...

### From “High Tech Capital of the World”

- Makes technology-based products
- Sells IT to businesses globally
- Arms merchant











### To “Industry-Disruption Capital of the World”

- Builds disruptive businesses
- Competes with businesses globally
- Mercenary

# ... and has already disrupted several industries in very significant ways

## Five Examples:

Industry	Disruptors	Revenue Disrupted	Disrupted
1. Mobile Handsets	 	\$ 75B	Motorola, Nokia, RIM, mobile operators
2. Advertising	 	\$ 45B	Broadcast & print media, big brands
3. Music	 	\$ 20B	Music retailers, distributors, labels
4. Movies		\$ 6B	Movie retailers, content creators
5. Hospitality		\$ 6B	All major hotel chains globally

# The incumbent CEO's dilemma

What's the most unsettling scenario if you're the CEO of large incumbent in a slow-growth mature industry somewhere in the world?

How about a well planned, focused attack by a fully-funded, below-the-radar disruptor that simultaneously ...

- ... Takes on the risks of re-envisioning how your industry can operate and grow
- ... Builds a product or offers a service that is deemed 'much better' by your customers than your current offer
- ... Focuses on efficiently tearing away your most profitable customers with a better value proposition and/or business model
- ... Undercuts your cost structure with advanced technology and/or business model innovation
- ... Hits you with sustained force sufficient to inflict major damage
- ... Outflanks your every response with a superior battle plan and strategy
- ... Not constrained as you might be by a bureaucratic culture, lack of an innovative culture, high cost structure and being slow to competitive responses

► ***Your move***



# Software Is Eating the World...

Source: **Why Software Is Eating The World** by Marc Andreessen, Wall Street Journal, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

# An incredibly vibrant financial services cluster with 1,000 companies focused on disruptive innovation has taken root in Silicon Valley

10+ financial services centric companies who historically happened to be headquartered in Silicon Valley, combined with:



25+ traditional 'tech companies' with a strategic Silicon Valley presence who recognize the utter importance of the financial layer, combined with:



500+ Silicon Valley startups broadly in the financial services space, combined with:



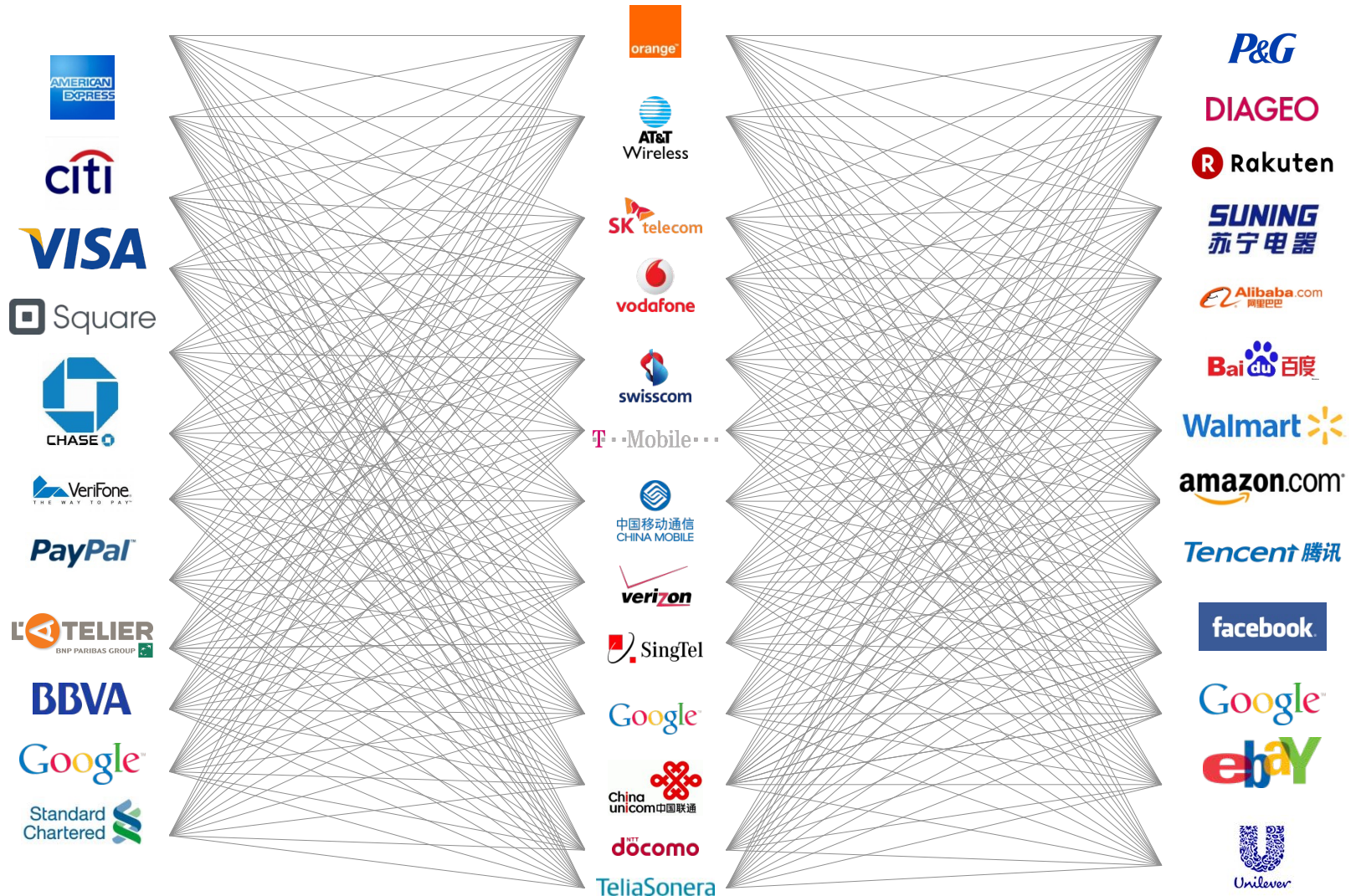
30+ financial services multinationals who have opened a strategic presence in Silicon Valley



# Silicon Valley is Simply Building More Value In Greater Numbers Than Any Other Fintech Cluster Globally



# Massive Sharing, Ideas Competing, Massive Learning, Fast Cycles – 'Ideas Having Sex'



**Average Age: 13.5 years**

**Average Shareholder Value Created: USD \$108B**

**Average Shareholder Value Created PER YEAR: USD \$8B**

Google



salesforce.com.



theranos



PayPal



stripe

# 25 Principles used by Innovative Organizations

***READY?***



# #1. Platforms, not Apps: Hackathons Won't Get You There

## Characteristics of Platforms

- ① Global scale
- ② Creation of new sources of supply (Uber)
- ③ Creation of new user behaviors on the demand side (Airbnb)
- ④ Build scale partner ecosystems (Facebook)
- ⑤ Network effects (WhatsApp)
- ⑥ Architecting a strong curation system with transparency (PayPal)
- ⑦ Bring scarcity and surplus together (Kickstarter)





# #4. Amalgamation: Focus on Combinations of Old (and New) Things

**Silicon Valley did not invent:**

- Integrated circuit
- PC
- Smart phone/feature phone
- Internet
- Browser
- Database
- Search technology



**But it certainly knows how to innovate ...**

Google™



ORACLE®

YAHOO!®

... creating trillions of dollars in value off others' core IP

# #5. Open Organization: Relentlessly Open Innovation



# #6. Disruptive Hypothesis: Challenge Conventional Assumptions

## Car Rental **Clichés**

- Rent by the day
- Fill out paperwork
- Pick up at the airport

## Disruptive Hypotheses

- Rent by the hour
- No paperwork
- Pick up in the city



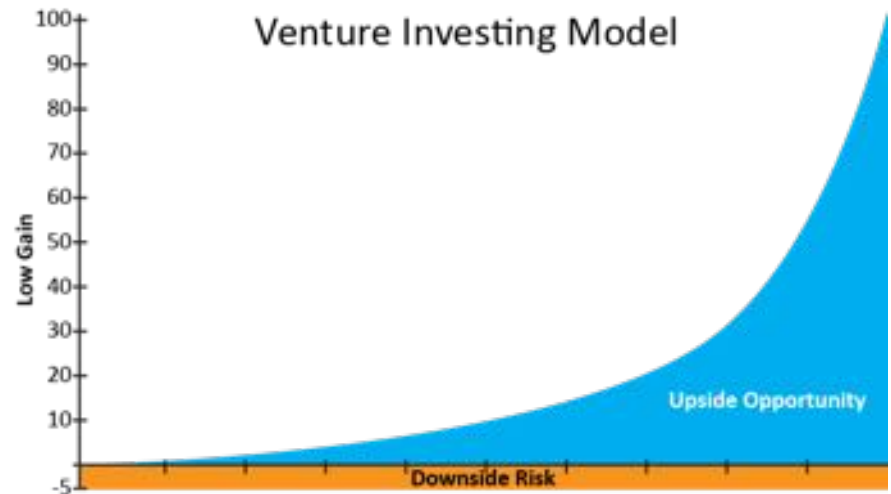
## #8. Learn: Pilots & Prototypes



I  
F\*CKING  
FAILED

# #9. Asset Light: Leverage Assets of Others

**Rent**, don't own assets, people, resources



Sources: Yuri van Geest, co-author "Exponential Organizations"; Joi Ito, Director, MIT Media Lab

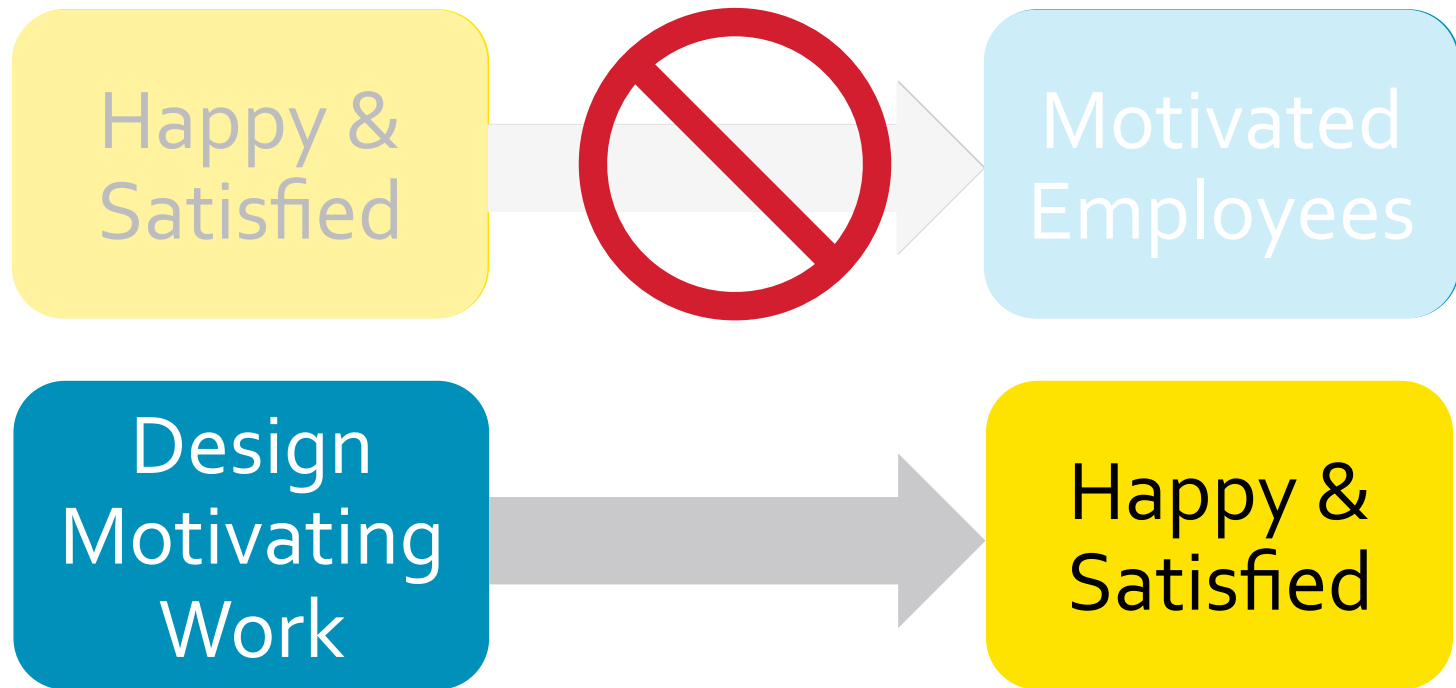
# #10. Math: Become World Class at Data Science

Old School: Qualitative.

New School: **Quantitative**



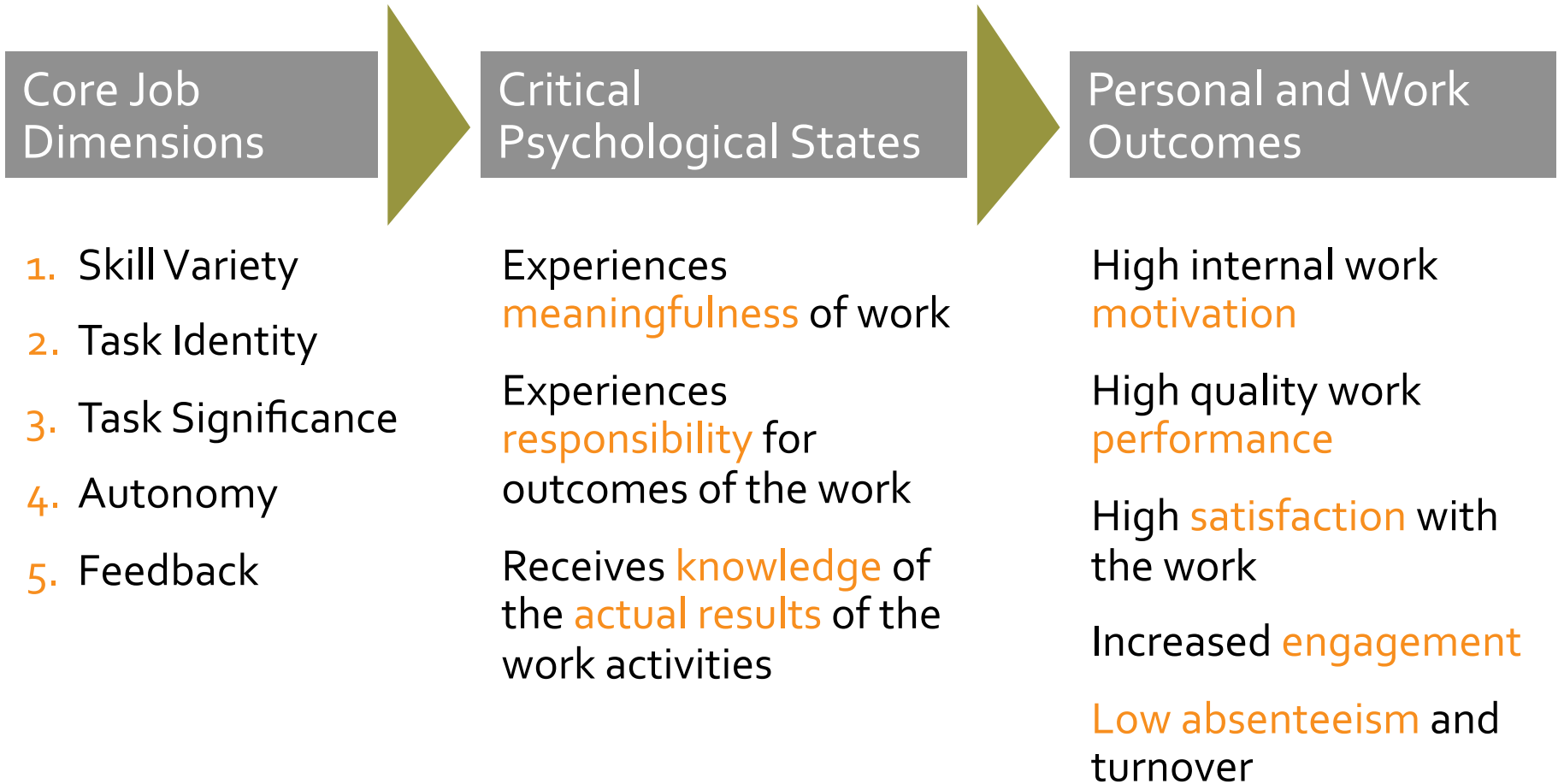
# #15. Motivation: Overtly Design Meaningful Work



Insanely Motivated People **are** the Key to Productivity, Innovation and Disruptive Ideas



# Core Job Theory 101



Source: Job Characteristic Theory, Hackman & Oldham

13%

Source: Gallup Q12 Survey, November 2013

# #20. Pace and Decision Making: A Relentless Sense of Urgency and Speed Trumps Consensus

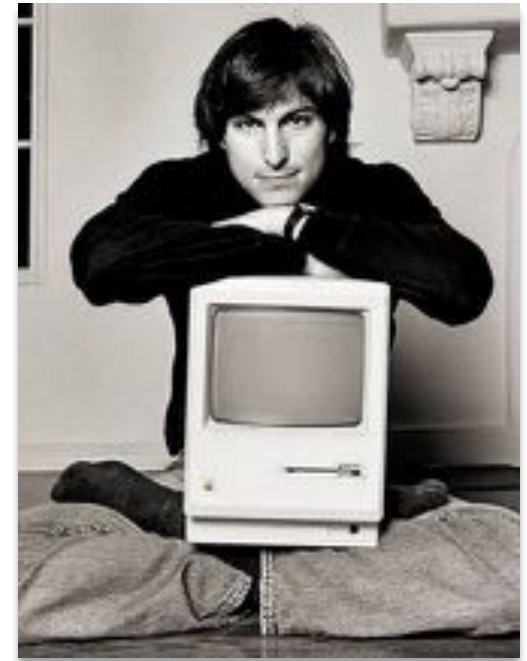


# #24. New Archetypes: Hire More Weirdos, Misfits, Renegades, Outliers and Pirates



'Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes ... the ones who see things differently – they're not fond of rules ... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things ... they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do.'

– *Steve Jobs*



# 20+ Principles used by Innovative Organizations

## Strategy ("ideas")

1. **Platforms Not Apps:** Hackathon Thinking Won't Get You There
2. **Value:** Growth as the primary metric
3. **Vision:** Have a *big* and *clear* vision
4. **Amalgamation:** Focus on combinations of 'old,' not net 'new'
5. **Open Organization:** Relentlessly open innovation
6. **Disruptive Hypothesis:** Challenge conventional assumptions
7. **The Magic:** Look for the Magic Moment
8. **Learn:** Pilots & prototypes
9. **Asset Light:** Leverage assets of others
10. **Math:** Become world class at data sciences

# 20 Principles used by Innovative Organizations *continued*

## Customer

**11. Customers:** Understand and lead with UX

## People

**12. Talent:** Become world class at global and internal talent mapping

**13. Primary Organising Principle :** Dunbar number

**14. (Legally) Exploit Ageism:** Leverage the under-35s

**15. Motivation:** Overtly design meaningful work

**16. Finance:** Kick 'em off the growth and innovation teams

# 20 Principles used by Innovative Organizations *continued*

## **Culture** (Still “People”)

- 17. **Independence:** Cut them loose from the mother ship
- 18. **Surface Cognitive Biases:** Better decision-making, faster
- 19. **Reference Point:** Focus
- 20. **Lateral Thinking:** Beyond the obvious
- 21. **Pace and Decision Making:** A relentless sense of urgency
- 22. **Leadership:** Achieved vs. ascribed
- 23. **Accountability:** Yes, please ...
- 24. **New Archetypes:** Hire more weirdos, misfits, renegades, outliers and pirates





# Thank You!

**Further Reading:** <http://www.650labs.com/disruptor-proof-points/>

[maz@650labs.com](mailto:maz@650labs.com)

@markzawacki  
#650strategy

# Me

Strategist & Advisor, Corporate Change Agent, Speaker, Provocateur,  
Easily Distracte

Focus on disruption, innovation, strategy & revenue growth

300+ clients spanning 25+ years and 50+ countries – tech, media,  
telcoms, retail, financial services, manufacturing, public sector, CPG, oil  
& gas, chemicals, utilities + lots and lots startups



Adjunct professor of innovation at design school CEDIM (Monterrey,  
Mexico) including teaching alliance with Stanford's d.school

# 650Labs What We Do

**Help large companies drive growth, strategy & innovation**

- Organize initial projects
- Train, coach teams
- Be the 'Operating Partners'
- Educate board member and senior executives
- Help CXO drive innovation from projects into parent

**Business Builders + Change Agents**



## #2: Value: Growth As The Primary Metric



# Innovation and Growth are Inextricably Linked

Large companies globally across industries have an extremely poor track record of innovation

4,800 public cap companies globally across all industries with revenue of USD \$1B or more

What percentage of the 4,800 can grow top line revenue organically by 5% per year for 5 years in a row?

8%

Source: **Harvard Business Review**, January/February 2012, The Growth Outliers, by Rita McGrath

# #3. Vision: Have a Big and Clear Vision

## Bad



"Shape the future of the Internet by by creating

unprecedented value and opportunity for our customers, employees, investors and ecosystem partners"

Large  
European  
Bank

"We will become a digital company"

## Good



"To organize the the world's information"



"Go impact a billion people"



"Radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity"

Source: Salim Ismail, co-author "Exponential Organizations"

# #7. The Magic: Look for the Magic Moment



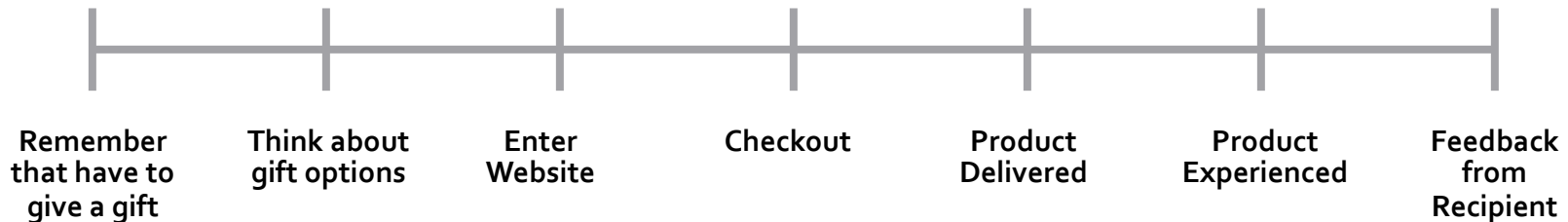
The Magic Moment is the light bulb moment when the user realizes how this 'thing' changes his/her life; it does NOT come from just a cool UI



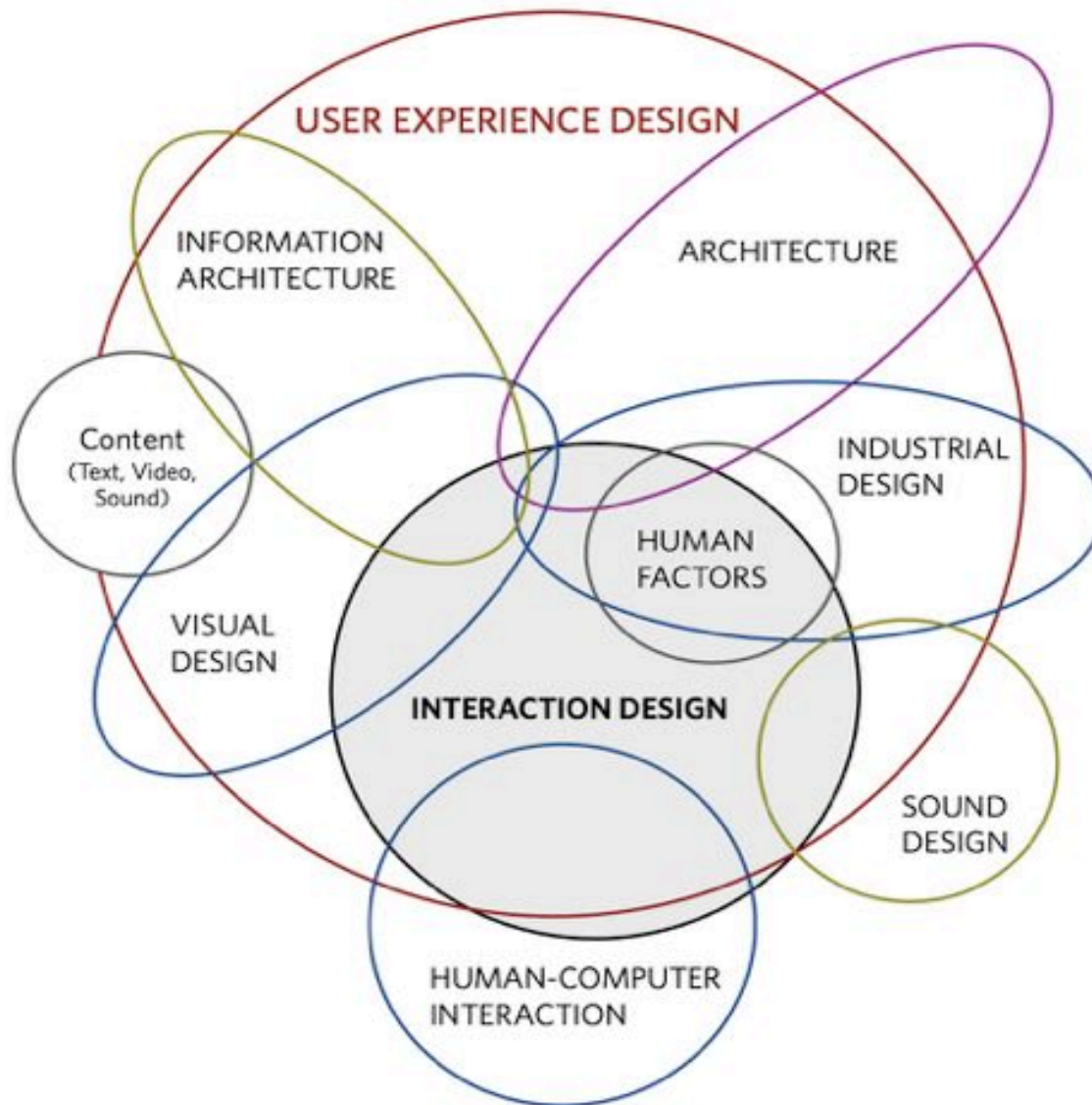
# #11. Customers: Lead with UX

## What is UX?

UX  $\neq$  UI



# Implications of Focus on UX

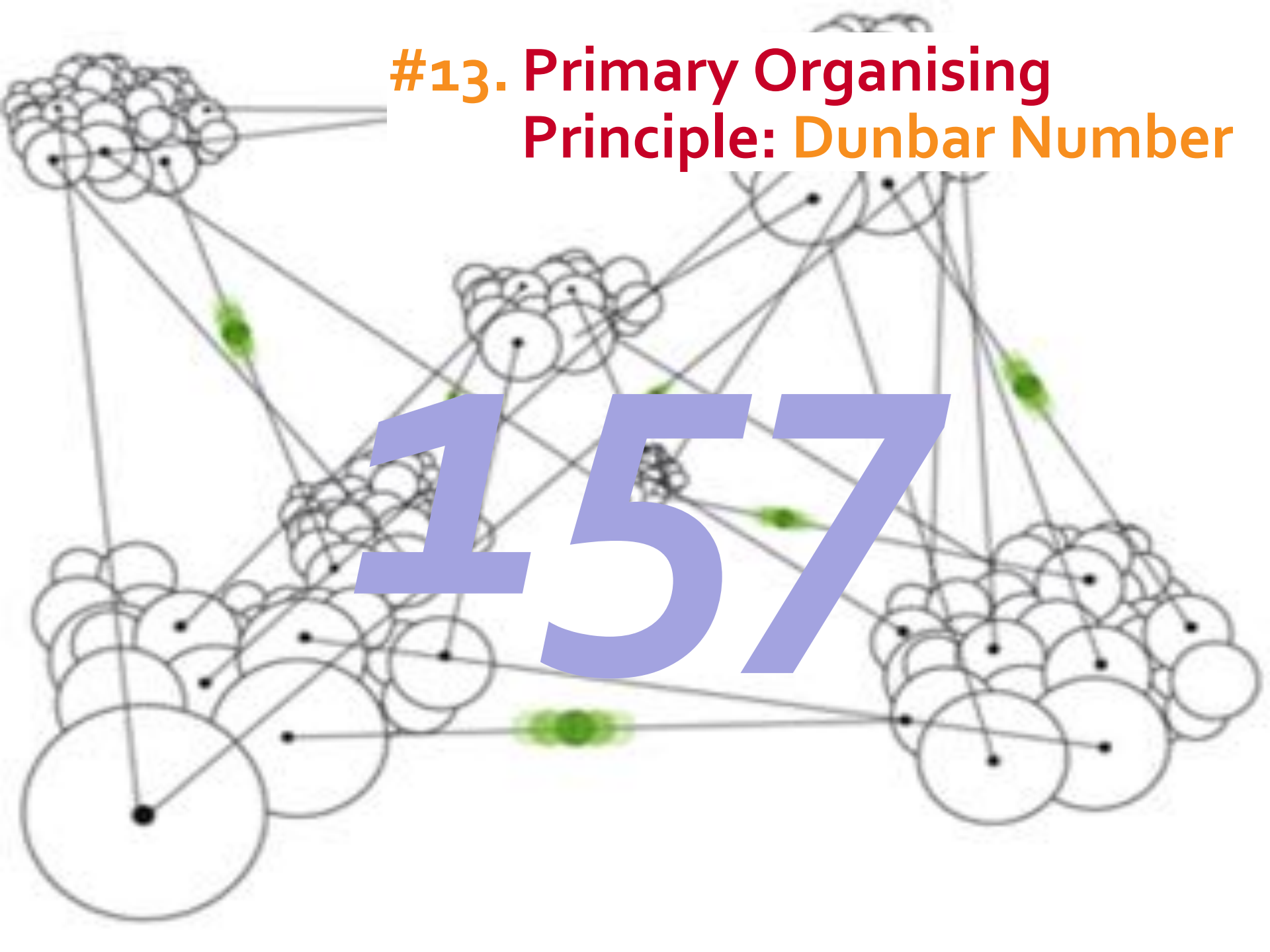


# #12. Talent: Becoming World Class at Global and Internal Talent Mapping



# #13. Primary Organising Principle: Dunbar Number

157



# #14. (Legally) Exploit Ageism: Leverage the Under-35's!

Charles Darwin	28
Ada Lovelace	27
Albert Einstein	26
Leonardo DaVinci	23
Dorothy Hodgkin	23
Blaise Pascal	19
Alexander Graham Bell	18
George Westinghouse	18
Louise Braille	15

# Age-Based Organizational Pyramids are so 19<sup>th</sup> Century...

Key employees in multinationals who should be involved disruptive innovation activities very seldom are

## Neuroeconomics

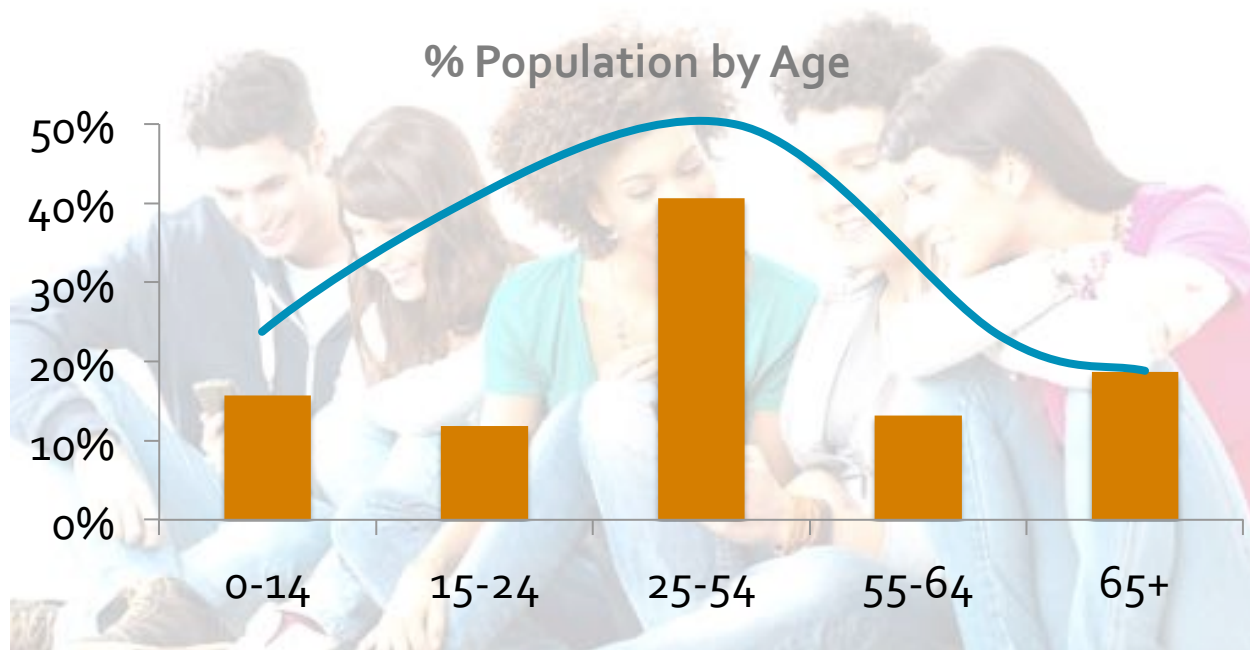
- Big companies are typically  $\downarrow\beta$
- $\downarrow\beta$  companies tend to attract & hire  $\downarrow\beta$  people
- Personal appetite for risk? ( $\uparrow\beta$  or  $\downarrow\beta$ )
- Corporate ladders & the 25 year anniversary clock



## Why Under 35?

1. Nothing to lose
2. Something to prove
3. Healthy naivety
4. More physical energy
5. 'Closer to the future' – represent creative destruction
6. More optimistic
7. Not corporately formatted (yet)
8. Often recently up-skilled
9. Single = more discretionary effort
10. In peak cognitive age

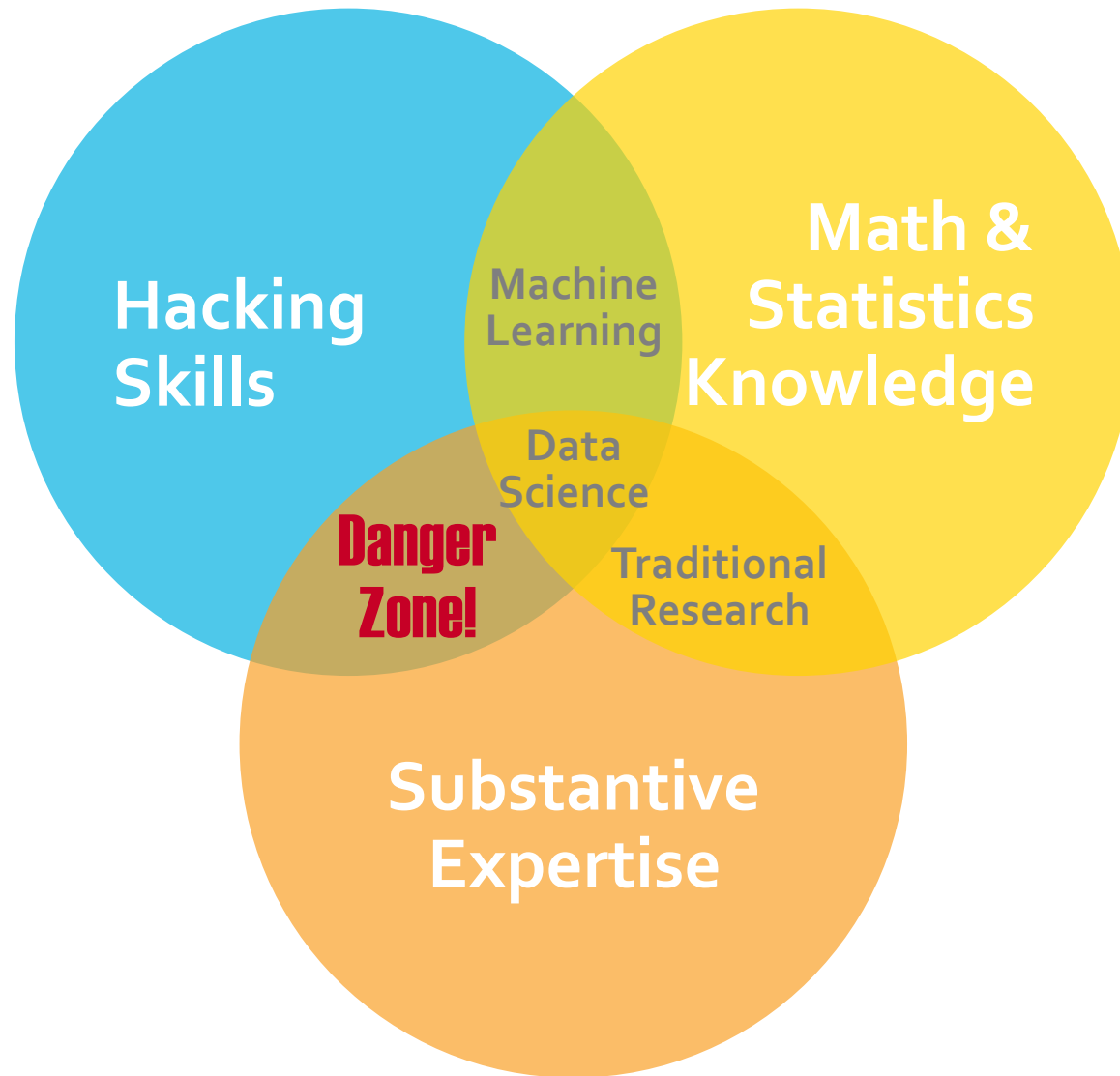
# ...there is the whole thing about the 'Generational Tidal Wave'



## Beliefs, Behaviors & Expectations

networking  
paypal  
friending  
crowdsourcing  
social  
downloading  
hypertext  
app-stores  
apps  
search  
peer-to-peer  
multi-touch  
texting  
likes  
online-collaboration

# Organizational Implications of Quant





# #16. Finance: Kick 'Em Off the Growth/ Innovation Teams



# #17. Independence: Cut Them Loose From the Mother Ship



# #18. Surface Cognitive Biases: Better Decision-Making, Faster

## FRAMING

**LOSS AVERSION:** We feel losses more acutely than gains of the same amount, which makes us more risk-averse than a rational calculation would recommend.

**SUNK-COST FALLACY:** We pay attention to historical costs that are not recoverable when considering future courses of action.

**CONTROLLABILITY BIAS:** We believe we can control outcomes more than is actually the case, causing us to misjudge the riskiness of a course of action.

## PERCEPTION

**CONFIRMATION BIAS:** We place extra value on evidence consistent with a favored belief and not enough evidence that contradicts it. We fail to search impartially for evidence..

**GROUPTHINK:** We strive for consensus at the cost of a realistic appraisal of alternative courses of action

**OVERCONFIDENCE:** We root our decisions in an initial value and fail to sufficiently adjust our thinking away from the value.

## ACTION

**EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM:** We are overly optimistic about the outcome of planned actions. We overestimate the likelihood of positive events and underestimate that of negative ones..

**OVERCONFIDENCE:** We overestimate our skill level relative to others' and consequently our ability to affect future outcomes. We take credit for past positive outcomes without acknowledging the role of chance.

## STABILITY

**STATUS QUO BIAS:** We prefer the status quo in the absence of pressure to change.

**PRESENT BIAS:** We value immediate rewards very highly and undervalue long-term gains.

## #19. Reference Point: Focus

Views and Components  
The differences between  
two the **focus** is whether  
you want to find all the  
views on a server or only

## #21. Lateral Thinking: Beyond the Obvious

“What should I do...?”

versus

“What ***COULD*** I do...?”



## #22. Leadership: Achieved vs. Ascribed



achieved 



ascribed 

## #23. Accountability: Yes, Please ...

