

26 Aug 2018

My posts on Mediocrity and Pointlessness



Herewith an article created from my current posts on the topic of excellent; mediocre; and pointless approaches

Regards

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Post 1 – 18 Aug 2018

Here's an idea: Has anyone thought about designing some sort of test to determine if an approach (either business strategic planning or information technology project planning) is: a) Excellent; b) Mediocre or; c) Pointless (simply a waste of time)?

With so many IT project failures surely poor strategic planning approaches must be responsible for every failure. Hence the first requirement of such a test would be to examine every deliverable produced from every process to enable an 'expert' to judge the category. If you can determine the category of the deliverable, then that should help determine the category of the process (and hence the category of the approach). Hence if the deliverable is:

- 1) Pointless, then the process producing said deliverable must be categorised as a 'waste of time'.
- 2) 'Mediocre' (that is it is too implicit), then the process producing such a deliverable has to be mediocre.

You may find the need to continually (iteratively) change/refine the structure and content of the deliverable in order to improve its quality. This could result in the deliverable and process being classified as 'a waste of time' Any approach that produces a single 'pointless' result (or 2 or more mediocre results), surely has to be a 'waste of time'.

Addendums

Herewith a simple 'traffic light' representation of the 3 categories. The emoji is used for those people who may have a problem seeing colours clearly.



Post 2 – 18 Aug 2018

Here's a thought: I will use 4 prime numbers to prove that the DIKW (WKID) pyramid idea is indeed pointless. Proof using prime numbers 1, 2, 3 & 5:

- 1) Wisdom - a concept within a construct (N0) which is 1 of 4 (N1) goals (N2). Thus N7
 - 2) Knowledge - achieved by asking & answering a minimum of 23 (N3) questions. There are 6 (N4) fundamental questions, 8 (N5) second level (a combination of 2 fundamental), 5 tertiary level questions & 4 (N1) 'rhetorical'. Thus N7
 - 3) Information - is derived from classifying it into 3 subordinate artifacts (N6). Thus N7
 - 4) Data - these are facts and therefore needs multiple prime numbers. Thus N7
- Conclusion: Representing the sum total of everything that anyone needs in order to refer "loosely to a class of models for representing purported structural and/or functional relationships between data, information, knowledge, and wisdom" is pointless (N8)

QED

Regards

Notes

- 0) Anatomy of goals (3)
- 1) $4=2+2$ (or $2*2$). 2 is the first prime number providing the same answer adding them together, multiplying them or squaring
- 2) Benefits (4)
- 3) $23=(2*2*5)+3$
- 4) $6=2*3$
- 5) $8=2*2*2$
- 6) Conceptual; Logical; Physical
- 7) A process that produces an implicit result/deliverable
- 8) 2 or more mediocre areas



Post 3 – 19 Aug 2018

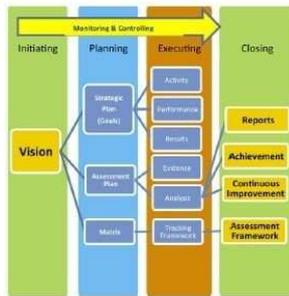
Yesterday (18 Aug 2018) I created a post which, using prime numbers, I could prove the usefulness (or otherwise) of the "Wisdom, Knowledge, Information, Data pyramid". I proved that it was a pointless approach. I now repeat the challenge, issued 3 days ago, to prove (using prime numbers) whether the attached approach is excellent (smiley face); mediocre (thoughtful face) or; pointless (frowning face),

The simple way of doing this is to think about the deliverables from each step/phase/action (call them what you like) and simply using the number of deliverables to assess them accordingly. I will provide my solution in a few days time.

Regards

ps If you think this is completely pointless then think about how much money is being paid to the vendors of the plethora of approaches and whether the student's return on investment (ROI) is being shared with their customers. There is ample evidence that this is not the case (Gartner, Forrester, Standish, local press et al) hence my persistent efforts to get you to look long and hard at the procedures you use to reduce a complex evolving object (like a business) into a simple static object (like a computer application) by way of using complex static objects (deliverables produced in various stages of an approach).

Figure 8 Overview of Strategic Plan, Project Process, and Outcomes



Achieving the goals of a strategic plan will provide an institution with directly correlated evidence of compliance.

Template

Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Initiate	Vision	 Excellent	
Plan	Goals		
	Assessment		
	Matrix		
Execute	Activity		
	Performance		
	Results		
	Evidence		
	Analysis		
Closing	Tracking framework		

My solution to this example can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y9z65emy> - A strategic planning approach

Post 4 – 21 Aug 2018

Here's another thought of mine, based on an article in a 1970 'Dear Abby' column: "(There's) no such thing as a stupid question...". Which "is a popular phrase with a long history. It suggests that the quest for knowledge includes failure, and that just because one person may know less than others they should not be afraid to ask rather than pretend they already know. In many cases multiple people may not know but are too afraid to ask the "stupid question"; the one who asks the question may in fact be doing a service to those around them".

So, what is the first question that anyone should ever ask (themselves or others) just before they embark on any venture/journey, or if they are already on their way?

I would ask: Should I/we be doing this?

The answer to this question should help uncover the 1st objective (deliverable #1).

According to my research, any other deliverable would be pointless as you will only end up 'painting yourself into a corner'. Once you have discovered this 'purpose' your next question should be: Should I/we be using this as the purpose? This should then get you to find a few deliverables that corroborate your first deliverable. Your next challenge is to ask: Should 1, 2, 3, 4 (or more) deliverables suffice?

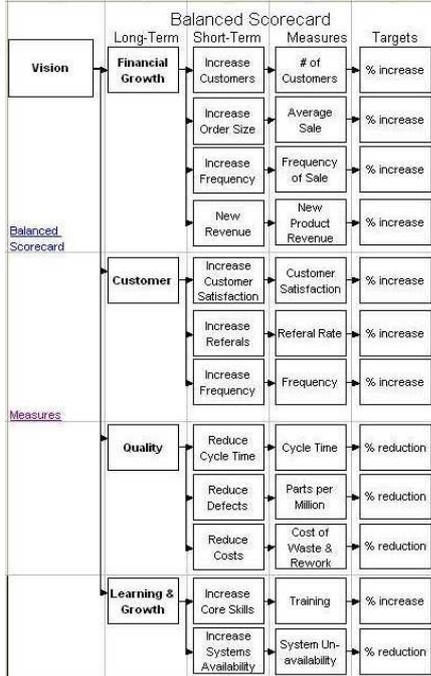
Regards



Post 5 – 21 Aug 2018

Yesterday (19 Aug 2018) I provided an example of a strategic planning approach (as provided to me in an email by Pinterest) and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach? I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment.



Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach.

Template

Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
?	Vision		Singularity
Long term	Financial growth		
	Customer		
	Quality		
	Learning & growth		
Short term	Financial growth		
	> # of customers		
	> Increase order size		
	> Increase frequency		
	> New revenue		
	Customer		
	> Incr cust satisfaction		
	> Incr referrals		
	> Increase frequency		
	Quality		
	> Reduce cycle time		
	> Reduce defects		
	> Reduce costs		
	Learning & growth		
	> Incr core skills		
	> Incr system availability		

My solution to this example can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y9z65emy> - A balanced scorecard approach

Post 6 – 23 Aug 2018

On 21 Aug 2018 I provided an example of a balanced scorecard approach to planning (as provided to me in an email by Pinterest) and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on a 6x6 matrix. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach? I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment. I will provide my diagnosis when I publish the next example.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach.

	Why	How	What	Who	Where	When
Contextual	Goal List	Process List	Material List	Organisational Unit & Role List	Geographical Locations List	Event List
Conceptual	Goal Relationship	Process Model	Entity Relationship Model	Organisational Unit & Role Relationship Model	Locations Model	Event Model
Logical	Rules Diagram	Process Diagram	Data Model Diagram	Role Relationship Diagram	Locations Diagram	Event Diagram
Physical	Rules Specification	Process Function Specification	Data Entity Specification	Role Specification	Location Specification	Event Specification
Detailed	Rules Details	Process Details	Data Details	Role Details	Location Details	Event Details

Template

View	Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Data	Ballpark view	List of things important to the business		Too implicit
	Business model	Semantic model		
	System model	Logical data model		
	Technology model	Physical data model		
	Detailed representation	Data definitions		
	Functioning system	Data definitions		
Function	Ballpark view	List of processes the business performs		
	Business model	Business process model		
	System model	Application architecture		
	Technology model	System design		
	Detailed representation	Program		
	Functioning system	Function		
Network	If you get this far and all deliverables are excellent and want to continue then you have			
People	the option to fill this matrix out on your own and rub my face in it.			
Time				
Motivation				

My solution to this example can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y9z65emy> - A 6x6 matrix approach

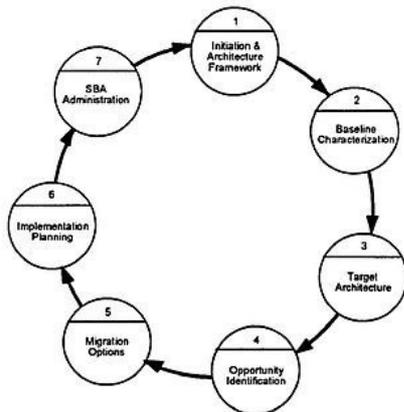
Post 7 – 25 Aug 2018

On 23 Aug 2018 I provided an example of a 6x6 matrix approach to planning (as provided to me in an email by Pinterest) and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on an iterative approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach? I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment. I will provide my diagnosis when I publish the next example.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach.



Template

Domain	Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Business	1	Architecture vision	Catalogues	☹️ Too implicit
	2	Baseline	Matrices	
			Diagrams	
	3	Target architecture	Process flow diagrams	
Technology	4	Opportunities & solutions	Use case diagrams	
	5	Migration planning	?	
	6	Implementation planning	?	
Business	7	SBA Administration	?	

My solution to this example can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y9z65emy> - - An iterative approach (TAFIM)

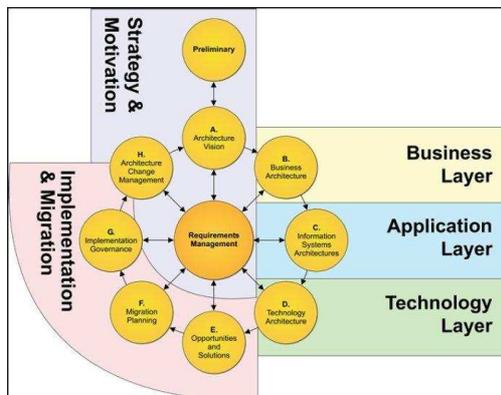
Post 8 – 25 Aug 2018

On 24 Aug 2018 I provided an example of an iterative approach (as developed by the USA DoD called TAFIM) and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another well known and used approach based on an iterative approach and based on the TAFIM approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach? I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of the TAFIM approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - An iterative approach (TOGAF)



Template

Domain	Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Business	H	Change management	Too many	☹️ Too implicit
		Preliminary		
	A	Architecture vision		
	B	Business architecture	Matrices Diagrams	
	C	Information systems architecture	Process flow diagrams	
	G	Implementation governance	?	
Technology	D	Technology architecture	Manually created models	
	E	Opportunities & solutions	Use case diagrams	
	F	Migration planning	?	

Post 9 – 26 Aug 2018

On 25 Aug 2018 I provided an example of an iterative approach (TOGAF which was based on another - the USA DoD TAFIM) and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another well known and used approach based on the approach called 'Agile'. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach? I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of the Agile approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - An Agile approach



Template

Phase	Deliverables	Class	Mitigation
Define	Business wireframes		
	Core product value, strategies, goals, objectives		Too implicit
	Target audience		
	Business opportunity		
Design	UX wireframes		
	Application models		
Develop	Micro-spec		
	Bigger specification Smaller tickets		
Distribute	Tech stack		
	Respective environments		
Distill	Applications		

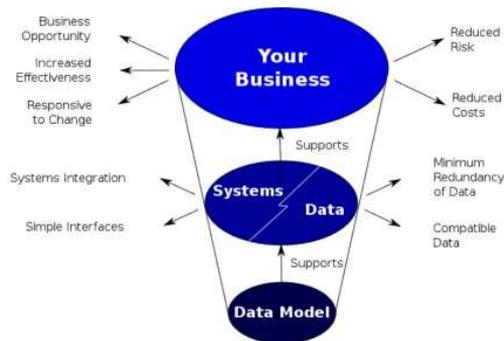
Post 9 – 27 Aug 2018

On 26 Aug 2018 I provided an example of the 'Agile' approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless. Herewith another well known and used approach based on the approach called 'Data modeling'. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of the Data modeling approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Data modeling



Template

Domain	Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Business	1 Business model	Any 'best practice'		See prev examples
	2 Data/system model	Conceptual data model		
	3 Data model	Logical data model Code; Tests		
Technology	4 Implement	Physical databases		
	5 Iterate	Change control		

Post 10 – 27 Aug 2018

Today (27 Aug 2018) I provided an example of the 'Data modeling' approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless. Herewith another approach based on the approach called contextual modeling. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

I will provide a template which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of the contextual modeling approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well -

<https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Contextual approach



Template

Phase	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Discover	Data flows		Too implicit
Interpret	Data		
Consolidate	Consolidated view		
Solutions	Better ways		
Structure systems	UI design		
Iterate	Repeat above		
Implement	Implemented architecture		

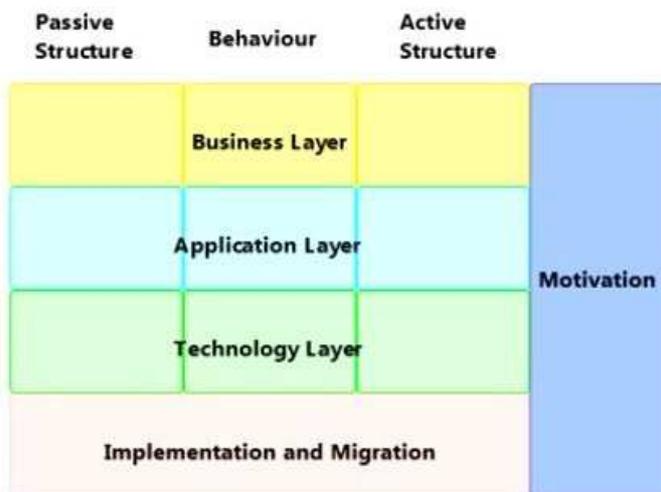
Post 11 – 29 Aug 2018

On 27 Aug 2018 I provided an example of a 'Contextual modeling' approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless. Herewith another approach based on a software product framework offering a CAD tool that they claim can automate other approaches. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

I will provide 3 templates (as it depends where you decide to start your investigation) which should help you with your diagnosis - In my comment.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of the Data modeling approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - A software approach



Template

Layer	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Motivation	Stakeholders		Know your people's capabilities
	Drivers		
	Requirements		
Business	Organisation		
	Processes		
	Services		
	Products		
Application	Application landscape		
	Dependencies		
Technology	Infrastructure		
	Hardware		
	Software		
	Networks		
Implementation	Projects		
Active structure	Who provides the services that add value to the customer		
Behaviour			
Passive structure			

Layer	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Active structure	Who provides the services that add value to the customer		
Behaviour			
Passive structure			
Business	Organisation		
	Processes		
	Services		
	Products		
Application	Application landscape		
	Dependencies		
Technology	Infrastructure		
	Hardware		
	Software		
	Networks		
Implementation	Projects		
Motivation	Stakeholders		
	Drivers		
	Requirements		

Layer	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Business	Organisation		
	Processes		
	Services		
	Products		
Application	Application landscape		
	Dependencies		
Technology	Infrastructure		
	Hardware		
	Software		
	Networks		
Implementation	Projects		
Motivation	Stakeholders		
	Drivers		
	Requirements		
Active structure	Who provides the services that add value to the customer		
Behaviour			
Passive structure			

Post 12 – 31 Aug 2018

On 30 Aug 2018 I provided an example of a 'software product framework approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on the information engineering methodology. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach? I will provide a template In my comment.

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of the information engineering approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Information engineering



Template

Phase	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Plan	Objectives		Too implicit
	SWOT analysis		
Analyse	Data modeling		
	Process modeling		
Design	Database design		
Construct	Code & test		
Implement	Systems		



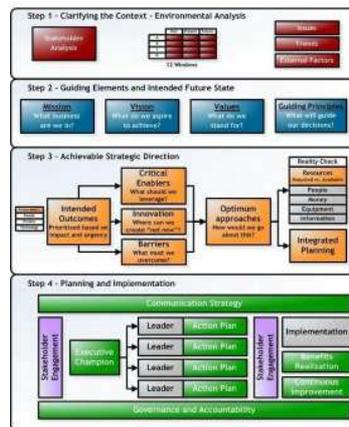
Post 13 – 4 Sep 2018

On 31 Aug 2018 I provided an example of the information engineering approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless. Herewith another approach based on a different strategic planning approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Strategic planning Approach 2

Collaborative Transformation™ Strategic Planning Process

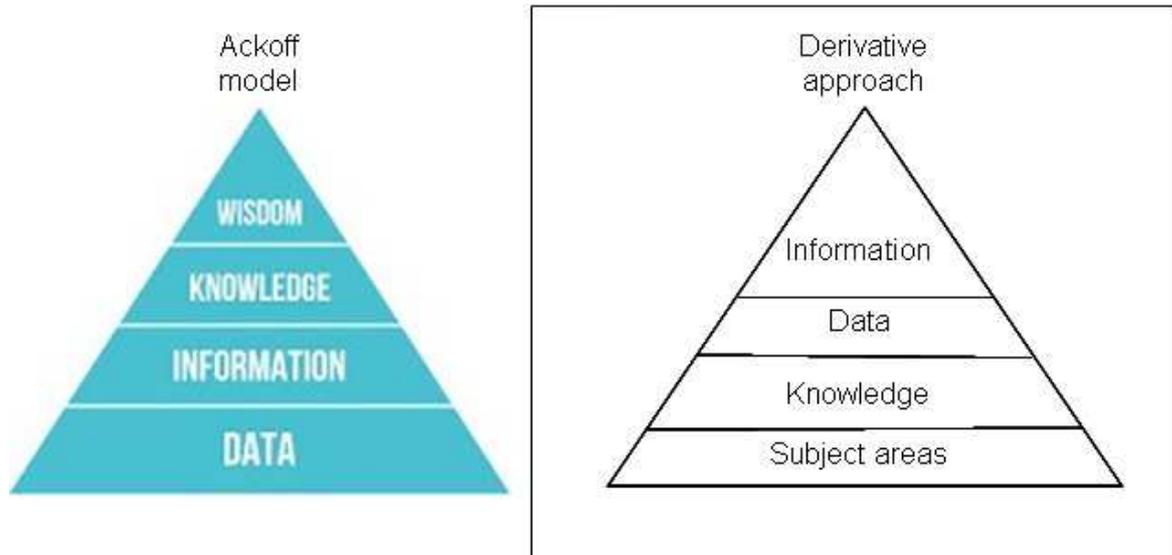


Post 14 – 7 Sep 2018

On 4 Sep 2018 I provided another example of a strategic planning approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless. Herewith another approach based on a derivative of Dr. Ackoff's WKID (wisdom, knowledge, information, data) triangle. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Dr. Ackoff (reference 15) - IDK derivative

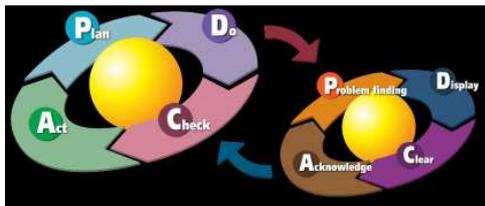


Post 15 – 7 Sep 2018

Earlier on today I provided another example describing the implementation of a derivative of Dr. Ackoff's WKID approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless. Herewith another approach based on Dr. Deming's Quality Control approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Dr. Deming - derivative



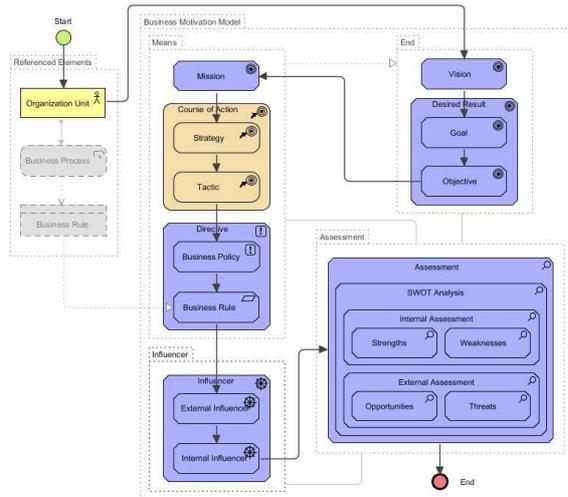
Post 16 – 8 Sep 2018

On 7 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing the implementation of Dr. Deming’s Quality Control and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on a business motivation/case approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Business motivation/case



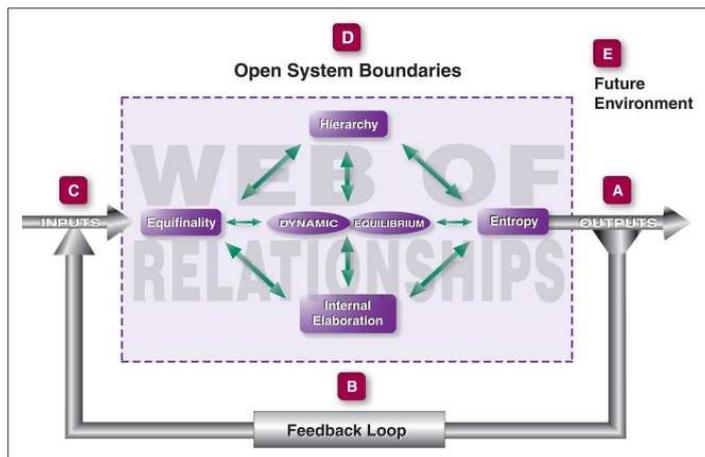
Post 17 - 8 Sep 2018

On 8 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a business motivation/case approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on systems thinking. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Systems thinking



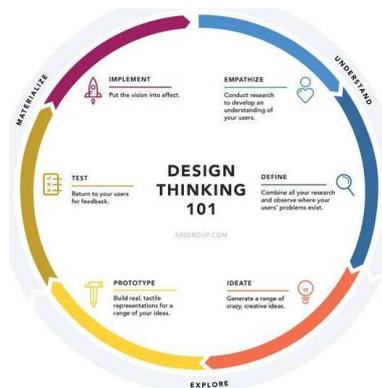
Post 18 - 8 Sep 2018

On 8 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a systems thinking approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on design thinking. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Design thinking



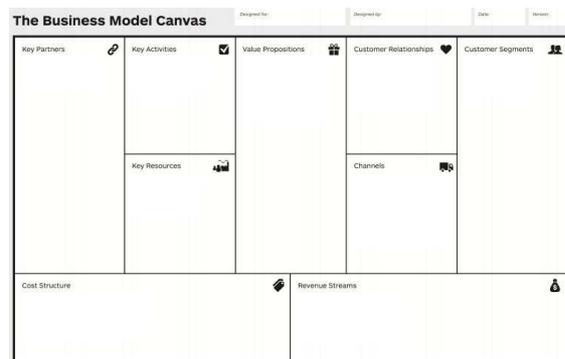
Post 19 - 8 Sep 2018

On 8 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a design thinking approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on business canvasses. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Business canvasses



Post 20 - 8 Sep 2018

On 8 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a business canvass approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on a quality control derivative. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Quality control - derivative 2



Post 21 - 8 Sep 2018

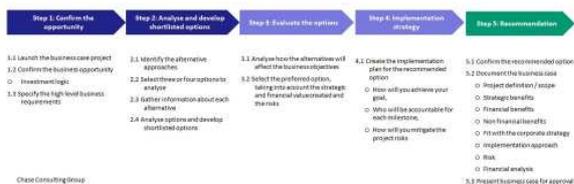
On 8 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a quality control derivative approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on a business case approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Approach 2 - business case

5 Steps to Developing a Solid Business Case



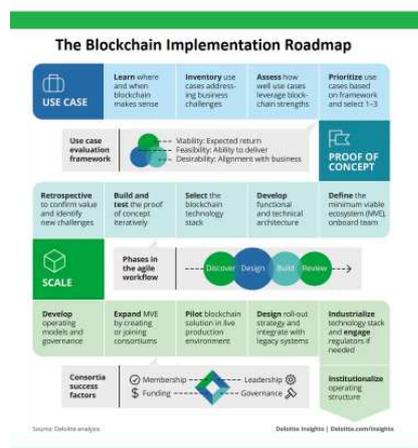
Post 22 - 11 Sep 2018

On 8 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a business case approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on a block chain approach. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards

ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - BC approach



Post 23 – 20 Sep 2018

On 11 Sep 2018 I provided another example describing a block chain approach and challenged anyone to identify if the approach was excellent, mediocre or pointless.

Herewith another approach based on knowledge management. Is anyone capable of diagnosing this approach?

Regards ps Again if you think my challenges are pointless and meaningless then think again. I am trying to ascertain whether anyone (with all their training in any of the approaches to 'strategic planning') has the capability of diagnosing their own approach using their approach. As I have already published my diagnosis of this approach on my training website page, I decided to include this diagnosis as well - <https://lnkd.in/fMzJc7f> - Knowledge management



More to follow