CS 428 PEOPLEWARE: PARTS IVVI (CHAPTERS 21-39)

Winter 2022

Bruce F. Webster

PART IV: GROWING PRODUCTIVE TEAMS

- "In the best work groups, the ones in which people have the most fun and perform at their upper limits, team interactions are everything."
- This is as major a challenge as finding the best people: getting them to work together as a team

CHAPTERS 21/22: THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS / THE BLACK TEAM

- Concept of the "jelled team": alignment of personal and team goals
- By contrast, teams are not automatically motivated (or jelled) by company goals and may be disdainful of them
- Key aspect of a jelled team
 - Low turnover
 - Strong sense of identity
 - Sense of eliteness
 - Joint ownership of product
 - Obvious enjoyment
- The Black Team: real-world example

CHAPTERS 23-25: TEAMICIDE / TEAMICIDE REVISITED / COMPETITION

- · Defensive management: distrust and micromanagement
- Bureaucracy: paperwork and busy work
- Physical separation: dividing a team up
- Fragmentation of people's time: too many projects, tasks
- Quality reduction of the product: shipping a bad product
- Phony deadlines: based on company desires, not reality
- "Clique" control: breaking up teams out of fear of loss of control
- "Most organizations doesn't set out consciously to kill teams. They just act that way."
- Phony motivation
- Extended overtime
- Pitting team members against each other (deliberately or inadvertently)

CHAPTERS 26-27: SPAGHETTI DINNER / OPEN KIMONO

- Provide frequent easy opportunities for the team to succeed together
- Show trust in the team by not protecting yourself from their mistakes
- Get out of their hair or send them away for a while
- Encourage productive rule-breaking
- Allow teams to self-organize independent of a particular project
- Trust the natural authority of individual team members

CHAPTERS 28: CHEMISTRY FOR TEAM FORMATION

- Make a cult of quality
- Provide lots of satisfying closure
- Build a sense of eliteness
- Preserve and protect successful teams
- Provide strategic, but not tactical, direction
- Allow and encourage heterogeneity

PART V: FERTILE SOIL

- Chapter 29: The Self-Healing System
 - Keys: training, tools, peer review
- Chapter 30: Dancing with Risk
 - As per Armour, greater risk leads to greater reward
 - At the same time, we need to anticipate and manage the risk of project failure
- Chapter 31: Meetings, Monologues, and Conversations
 - If the goal isn't to reach a decision, then don't hold the meeting
- Chapter 32: The Ultimate Management Sin Is...wasting people's time
- Chapter 33: E(vil)-Mail: again, wasting people's time

PART V: FERTILE SOIL (CONT.)

- Chapter 34: Making Change Possible (when people hate change)
 - Machiavelli and change
 - Improvement requires change, but it is common to change without any improvement
 - Change requires chaos, but management fights against chaos
- Chapter 35: Organizational Learning
 - [Organizational] learning is limited by an organization's ability to keep its [best]
 people
- Chapter 36: The Making of Community
 - The "jelled team" concept, but on an organizational level
 - Even more difficult, fragile, and prone to subversion or decay

PART VI: IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN TO WORK HERE

- Chapter 37: Chaos and Order
 - Progress comes from constructive re-introduction of small amounts of disorder
 - Pilot projects
 - War games
 - Brainstorming
 - Provocative training experiences
 - Training, trips, conferences, celebrations, retreats
- Chapter 38: Free Electrons
 - Giving your best people room to do new things
- Chapter 39: Holgar Dansk:
 - Waking the 'sleeping giant' within the company