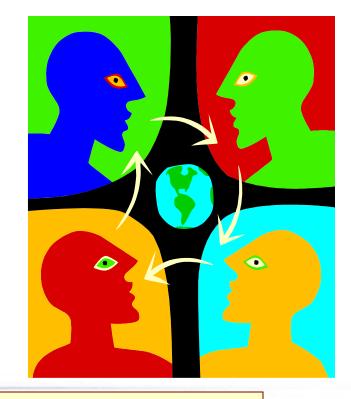


# **Organization Design**

Too often, organizations evolve over time, driven more by random situations than alignment with strategy.

Change, when made, is often piecemeal and creates unanticipated consequences.

Ross A. Wirth, Ph.D. <a href="http://www.entarga.com/orgchange">http://www.entarga.com/orgchange</a> 8/23/2007



This is a straw man to jump-start organization discussion. Content and direction is expected to be refined as the dialogue progresses.



## **Likely Outcomes**

- Minor design changes (likely & desired outcome)
  - Clarify how value is created by each organization unit
  - Clarify relationships & work flows
  - Clarify accountability & decision-rights
  - Align rewards with desired performance
  - Validate required competencies & development path
  - Define desired culture & leadership style
- Major design changes (less likely, more disruptive)
  - Change reporting relationships
  - Change organization unit boundaries
  - Merge or create new organization units

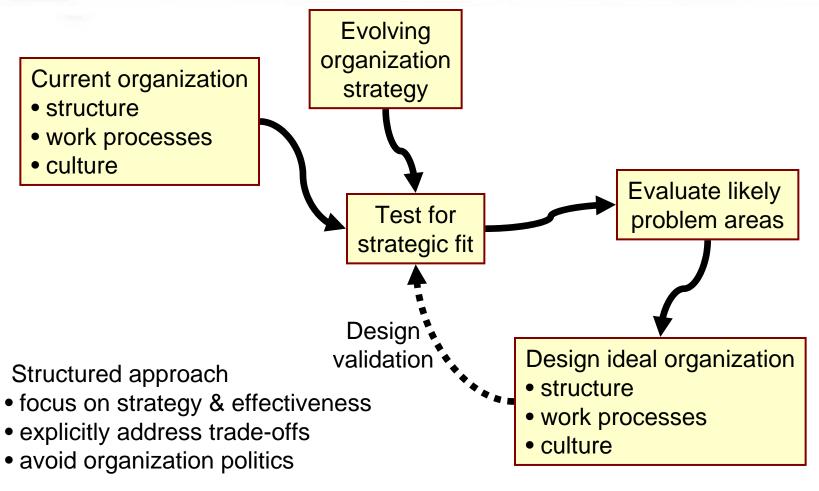


# **Organization Alignment**

- Vision & Strategy
  - Clarity of goals & decision-making style
- Organization Structure
  - Supports core value chain clarity of value generation
- Leadership
  - Clear roles, responsibilities, & accountability
- Management Processes
  - Multi-directional communication for process linkage
- Control Systems
  - Performance metrics for accountability & result prediction
- Skills & Knowledge
  - Team environment with distributed competencies



# **Organization Design Process**





# **Competitive Advantages**

#### • What is unique?

- Type of raw materials?
- Operations excellence as driver of value?
- Approach to manufacturing or distribution?
- Market Segments or Channels?
- Flexible programs oriented toward marketers?



# **Key Strategic Thrusts - possibilities**

- Focus on core strategic businesses
  - Divest non-strategic assets
  - Sale of production through equity facilities
    - Market protection shifting to value optimization
- Push toward being a low-cost competitor
  - Close control of expenses
  - Inventory management
- Push for high manufacturing utilization
  - Balance marketing sales with production
- Evaluate business strategy for alternate one-off ideas

#### What fits our situation?



#### **Design Impact - Strategy**

- Transitioning from growth strategy to mature, value chain optimization
- Current organization design
  - Function of mindset established with previous strategy
  - Often using a design of convenience
- Options for Focus going forward
  - Operations Product Customer (strategic choice)



#### **Design Choice – What is our Focus?**

Operations-Centric

Customer-Centric

Product-Centric



## **Operations-centric Focus**

- Organizational design for low-cost operations
  - Efficient, reliable processes
    - Standardized, team oriented
  - Focus on supply-chain management
    - Supply-inventory-demand balancing
  - Aligned performance metrics
    - Utilization, unit cost, & quality/consistency
  - Employee competencies
    - Manage volume & scale
    - Tight communication linkages
    - Adept at using technology for efficient control
    - Knowledge sharing



#### **Customer-centric Focus**

- Organizational design for customer leverage
  - Customer-oriented focus on product & service mix
    - Consultative approach to market
      - Customizing a total solution
  - Decisions delegated downward, close to the customer
    - Quick & flexible decision-making process
  - Aligned performance metrics
    - Customer satisfaction, lifetime customer value
  - Employee competencies
    - Relationship management
    - Integrative thinking
    - Care about implementation & follow-up



#### **Product-centric Focus**

- Organizational design for product leverage
  - Quick, product line changes
    - Innovation, new development, market creation
    - Emphasis on brand management
  - Focus on developing new ideas
    - Results oriented while risk tolerant
  - Aligned performance metrics
    - Number of new products, % of revenue from "new"
    - Rewards innovation & risk taking
  - Employee competencies
    - Knowledgeable risk takers achievement oriented
    - Adept at using technology for innovation
    - Knowledge development

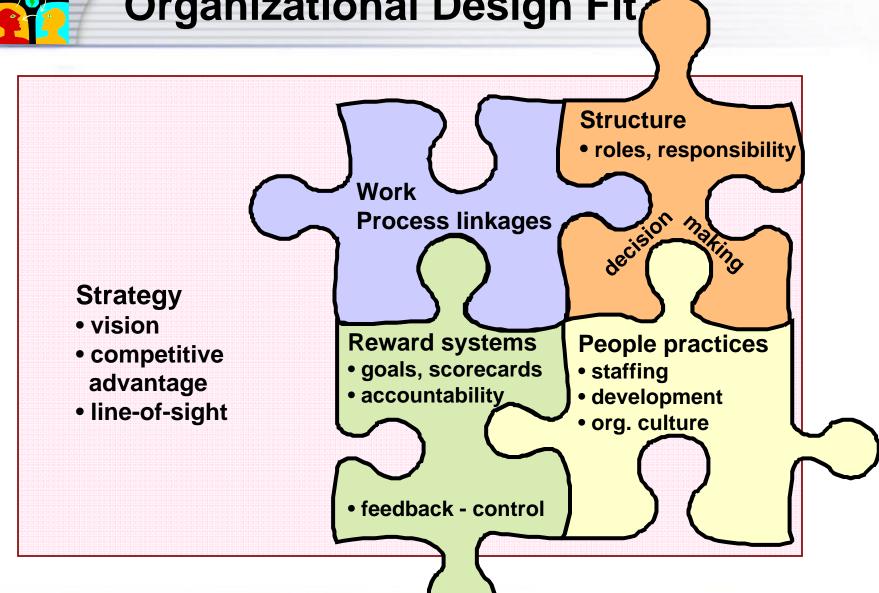


# **Organizational Design Focus**

- Organization unit boundaries
  - Driven by logical flow of work
  - Sufficient checks & balances for internal control
    - But not too much that it interferes with efficient processes
- Eliminate gap between current state and desired end-state
  - Alignment between Strategy & Operations
  - Structural alignment that supports strategy
  - Cross-boundary collaboration & cooperation
  - Infrastructure (IT, HR, Finance, etc.)
  - Management style & skills
- Limits to the design
  - Nonnegotiable elements of the structure what are they?
  - Interface points with parent organization and/or key customers
  - Constraints imposed by parent organization or other key stakeholder
  - Roles & functions that must be maintained (regulatory or mandates)
  - Existing organizational culture (time not available for sufficient change)



Organizational Design Fit





# "Fit" & "Good Design" tests

- Fit tests support organization strategy
  - 1. Focus on areas of competitive advantage
  - 2. Provides value up the organization linkages
  - 3. Reflects employee strength, weakness, & motivation
  - 4. Recognizes existing constraints
- Good Design tests address problem areas
  - 5. Insolates areas needing special cultures
  - 6. Recognizes linkages likely to be problematic
  - 7. Verify appropriate controls are in place
  - 8. Validate value created by each hierarchical level
  - 9. Verify flexibility to pursue emerging opportunities



# **Competitively Advantaged**

- Core competencies positioned in the organization so they receive sufficient attention
  - Initiatives that focus on emerging opportunities should also be similarly positioned relative to future importance
  - Non-core components should not be distracting
- Management systems that are strategically aligned
  - Tight coupling, but loose enough to prevent positive feedback



## Value to Parent Organization

- Clearly defined mission with a distinct value proposition from the perspective of above
  - Organize around value generation
  - Line-of-sight linkages pushed down into the organization



#### Leverages Strengths (avoids Weaknesses)

- Organization leverages internal capabilities
  - And avoids requiring capabilities in short supply
- Leaders have a passion for the focus of the organization that reports to them
- Outstanding employees involved in critical relationships including those that are crossorganizational
  - Career paths and developmental programs for these positions
  - Broadens the number of positions on the replacement plan
    - Also impacts retention planning & a planned exit strategy



#### **Recognizes Constraints**

- Common limitations to organization performance are:
  - Information Systems
    - Aligned with organizational needs and user friendly tools
  - Organizational Culture
    - (supported with research on high performance cultures)
- Efficient processes are essential requirement
  - All processes: transaction processing through financial reporting
  - On-going opportunity identification & process change
  - Identification & removal of barriers to efficiency



## **Protects "Special Cultures"**

- The dominant organizational culture can overwhelm local units that require special cultures to be effective
  - Work & think in ways different from the norm
    - High organizational linkage for protection
    - Greater autonomy than might otherwise be granted
    - Specific cultural boundary understood by all involved
      - Unique goals and requirements



# Problem Linkages – conflicting goals

- Relationships that are problematic due to conflicting goals
  - Best handled through self-managed processes
    - Incentives for collaboration
    - Goal linkage with bi-directional economic exchanges
    - Arbitration for resolving disputes
- Critical inter-unit linkages
  - Sharing knowledge
  - Sharing common resources
    - Shared assets
    - Economies of scale
    - Eliminating duplication of effort
  - Pooling negotiation power
  - Coordinating responses to strategic threat or opportunity
  - Vertical integration to coordinate supply-chain requirements



## **Necessary & Appropriate Controls**

- Clear Accountability with focus on
  - Areas of shared responsibility and high collaboration
  - Areas with no objective outcome or expensive data collection
- Performance metrics for all KPIs
  - KPIs not always clearly link to implementing business strategy
  - Must establish clear accountability, yet be economical to execute
  - Ideally leading indicators with some historic benchmarking
  - Visual dashboard enabling quick triage for action
    - Highlighting of critical information
  - Powered by business warehouse for low maintenance
    - Agreed upon data definitions to describe the business
    - Data linked from different sources for comprehensive view
  - Drill-down analysis for issue isolation



#### Value Generated at Each Level

- Each level in the organization hierarchy needs to add value
  - Streamlines decision-making & resource allocation
  - Shortens lines of communication
  - Efficiently resolve organizational conflicts
- Flat organizations are more efficient
  - However, more difficult to do career ladders
- Raises the issue of placement of staff organizations
  - Accountability to client base
  - Concentration of functional expertise
- Matrix organizations sometimes confuse accountability
- New value chain structures becoming more common
  - Back-end product-centric units
  - Front-end customer-centric units
  - Requires strong leadership to coordinate products with services



# Flexibility to Leverage Opportunity

- Fit for the present & adaptive for the future
  - Tested with scenario planning
  - Identify likely roadblocks to change
    - Often in top management with personal loyalties & fiefdoms
    - Tightly integrated units with complex relationships
  - Modify structure to add elements of flexibility, but not if the change would impact present efficiencies



# **Organization Design Summary**

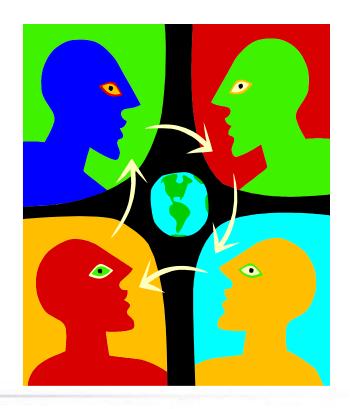
- Organizational design is iterative & occurring all the time
  - However, it often happens without much thought or holistic design
- Desired outcome is improved strategic alignment of
  - Structure
  - Work processes
  - Culture
- Design process is a mix of dialogue & scenario planning
  - Establishes shared understanding of mission & strategy
  - Evaluates alternatives & likely impact of change



# **Organization Design**

Too often, organizations evolve over time, driven more by random situations than alignment with strategy.

Change, when made, is often piecemeal and creates unanticipated consequences.





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