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WINNING WAYS

Leadership Management & Sales

Four Ways to Get Fit
for the Future

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Four Ways to Get Fit for the Future



By Gihan Perera

It's easy to set ambitious goals, but not so easy to think about them when you have an overflowing in-box, teams to manage, customers to serve, and a hectic life at home.

The problem is, if you spend all of your time on those day-to-day things, there's a real risk you will miss the threats – and opportunities – just around the corner.

So I have four suggestions for you. These are all about thinking differently and thinking ahead, but are all easy to do as well.

“ The problem is, if you spend all of your time on those day-to-day things, there's a real risk you will miss the threats – and opportunities – just around the corner. ”

1. Spend two days on something important

A few years ago, when I switched from Outlook to Gmail, it took me about two days' effort (spread out over a week or so) to get back to my old level of productivity. When I recently switched from MYOB to Xero for my accounting software, again it took me about two days' effort overall.

Two days sounds like a lot of time, especially in today's busy world. How can you afford to find two days to learn a new e-mail system, use a new accounting package, recruit somebody new, document something important in your business, or build a Web site?

But the real question is: If it has a long-term benefit, how can you not afford the time?

Just two days ... that's all I ask!

2. Learn something new

I want you to learn something new – maybe something personal, maybe something professional.

But there's a specific way I want you to learn it: by doing an online course.

This is the way people learn, collaborate and innovate now. It's bringing millions of people around the world out of poverty, and will transform our entire education system.

Go to Open2Study.com and sign up for one of their courses. It's free, open to everybody, and high quality – backed by Australian and New Zealand universities. So choose a course that interests you and do it!



You'll be amazed by what they say. In fact, if you have never done this before, you might be amazed at what they know!

“ Make it a point to reach out to people more “junior” to you – for example, your team members, your customers, and even your kids – and ask for their advice. ”

3. Ask somebody more “junior” for advice

When I have trouble using my iPad, I ask my ten-year-old niece, who knows much more than I do about it.

Make it a point to reach out to people more “junior” to you – for example, your team members, your customers, and even your kids – and ask for their advice.

For example:

- Your receptionist might be a successful YouTube video blogger at home.
- A recent graduate might be the leader of some important social cause.
- A senior manager might be doing one of those online courses I mentioned – on her own time.
- That quiet technician might have joined Toastmasters to develop his presentation skills.

They all have skills, talents and abilities far beyond their day-to-day work. And when you ask for their advice – and listen to it and act on it, of course – they get the chance to share those skills. And that's good for everybody.



4. Set one Big Hairy Audacious Goal

Finally, look for at least one idea that would light your fire, seems beyond your reach, and might even appear crazy to most other people. It's the sort of thing that could change your world.

It might be something personal – such as your health, relationships, or wealth.

It might be something at work, like eliminating all meetings, turning your team inside out to be more customer-centric, engaging your local community to support your work, or speaking at a TEDx event.

Or it could be something on a broader scale, like changing the way the community treats

newcomers, saving the black rhino from extinction, or creating a new accounting standard.

Sam Schillace from the cloud storage company Box puts it this way:

"If 80% think it's the dumbest idea ever and should die in a fire, and 20% think it's the best thing they've ever seen, then you've probably got something."

Which of these things will YOU do?

All of these things will help future-proof your business, your career, and your life. Don't do them all at once, but do them!



Gihan Perera is a futurist, conference speaker, author and consultant who gives business leaders a glimpse into what's ahead - and how they can become fit for the future.

Since 1997, he has worked with business leaders, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, and other change agents - helping them with their strategy for thriving in a fast-changing world.

Forbes magazine rated him the #5 social media influencer in the world in his area of expertise.

For more information, or to register for one of Gihan's webinars, visit gihanperera.com