

What happened to common sense?

Ever find yourself reading articles and reports touting that accolade common sense ideas are revolutionary, industry changing paradigm shifters? The news media usually picks up on one of these ideas and runs a big story. I often wonder if I'm alone in my criticism of this new discovery. Especially when the first thought I have after consuming the article is "What the heck took you so long? USA TODAY ran a cover story in the money section not long ago that must have certainly turned the head of common sense minded individuals. The story was all about cross pollinating employees in an assembly line operation with one of the world's largest automotive manufacturing companies.

It's interesting to me that Henry Ford created the assembly line to mass produce automobiles, and surely he considered cross pollination of employees before 1915. General Motors did not discover cross pollination of assembly line workers until 2001. That's unimaginable. According to the USA TODAY report, some GM plants just recently implemented a cross pollination program. This article, if true, certainly clears up questions about the high cost of American made products.

Cross pollination of workers is a management practice long employed in fast food or retail operations. The need for flexibility long sought after and certain everyday common place in the service industry. Even more amazing is the new concept touted by USA TODAY and GM regarding hiring practices. USA TODAY quoted a Manpower Staffing Group representative proudly stating that companies now require hiring managers to hire people good at multiple things. That statement makes you wonder what they were doing previously.

GM mentions cross pollination reduced their head count in one plant by 10%. It's astonishing to learn that GM with its deep rooted six sigma program missed cross pollination opportunities. Six Sigma experts loudly lay claim to millions of dollars in savings through their quality programs. So how could something so simple and as old as cross pollination go unnoticed? Often is the case that senior management struggles with simplistic solutions. Today's incredibly bright IT and management leaders look for software and hardware solutions to solve simple ordinary problems.

Unfortunately, often times, the solution generated is unnecessary and it becomes bloated with too many features, and the solution winds up costing more to implement and maintain than the original cost associated with the problem. Leonardo Da Vinci said it best, "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication," make it your goal to find the right solution for your business problems by taking a common sense approach. If the only solution for your business problem includes a long list of hardware software and hundreds of resource hours to implement and maintain the solution.....chances are you may have missed something.

About Rosewood Partners, LLC

Headquartered in a rural East Texas town, Rosewood Partners, LLC is a unique management consulting group that builds on its small town roots of loyalty, partnership and commitment. Its team is comprised of industry specialists with centuries of combined practical hands on business experience in the areas of change management, operations management, off-site and staff augmentation services.

Rosewood's leadership philosophy is drawn from actually having led teams located all over the world through corporate downsizing, merger and acquisition activities and everyday business operations. With its down-to-earth small town roots Rosewood believes in keeping things simple. Real-life experience has granted its team members the ability to employ simplicity to solve real world business problems. The straightforward tasks that simplicity demands deliver the reward of constant and consistent results. It is this simplicity that drives Rosewood's OES methodology, Operational Excellence Simplified.