Online Digital Master Class: HyperThinking
HyperLearning

Introduction

What is this going to be about?

- How do we learn?
- How do we need to change our ideas about learning in a changing working environment?
- Two core aspects of hyperlearning are:

    1. Becoming a self-learner: take charge of your continued learning
    2. Becoming an expert in creativity.

Things you will learn about in this section include:

- Continually adapting and learning.
- Becoming a 'creativity expert', positioning yourself as a source of knowledge in your organization.
- The importance of being a pioneer.
- Bringing creativity to your job or business; finding new solutions to problems old and new.

The importance of continuous improvement

Kaizen Theory means making big changes through small incremental improvements on a continuous basis. This principle is embodied by Apple, although they may not be applying it consciously. For the latest release of OS X they upgraded their software for the iPad, the iPhone, and the Mac; and in the process made hundreds improvements on all products in their operating system. They have done so despite being the market leader with a huge competitive advantage and a loyal customer base.

The importance of on-going self-learning

The assumption here is that thinking and intelligence are mainly acquired skills, and that with the right attitude you can expand your abilities considerably. The brain is like a muscle that can be developed and strengthened through exercise. We need to consider this 'mental exercise routine' as important as our physical well-being

Points for becoming a hyperthinker:

- Be curious: learn and discover new things. This curiosity can be innate or developed through education, but it is important to foster the drive to discover, to learn to ask questions, to challenge preconceptions, and to get excited about new discoveries.
- Use 'soft paradigms': keep your mental models from 'freezing'. As we grow older we can lose a certain adventurousness of spirit, and can end up frozen solid.
- Accept when you are not an expert. Do not be shy of admitting it.
- It is important to be the first to know about new things and can ensure that you are ahead of others and have more and better resources.
- Position yourself as a source of expertise; word will quickly spread.
- It's a simple formula: be curious; ask questions; be an explorer.

Tools to help you to learn:

TED and other channels

- TED contains thousands of videos on interesting subjects.
- Make time every week to explore new and unusual ideas; stay open to new perspectives.
- Google Zeitgeist, Authors@Google, RSC and other specialized channels

Practical tips for fitting informal learning into your routine

- There are plenty of opportunities every day to learn: traffic jams, queueing, waiting on hold. Be prepared with material at hand:
    1. Videos: TED, TEDED, Authors@Google, Google Zeitgeist, RSA, Big Think, Leweb
    2. Podcasts let you to listen rather than watch. TED radio with NPR is a good example
    3. Audible is a fantastic source of audio books. Combine it with your Kindle and you can read and listen to the same book

- Establish a weekly routine of, say:
  1. three to four videos a week
  2. One audio book daily, maybe 30 minutes a day if you have a commute
  3. Kindle reading for evening
- Teach: sharing your knowledge is a great way to learn. Share what you find interesting! You can use Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin or Google Plus to do this – more on this in personal branding)

Practical tips to approaching a MOOC

- Commit to doing 2-3 MOOCs per year and stick to that.
- Research popular online resources: Coursera, Udemy, edX, NovoEd
- Check the subjects you are interested in, and watch the intro video
- Find something that won't conflict with an intense work period and sign up to several
- Select one, that you decide to participate in actively
- Do the reading, follow the schedule
- Participate in the community, join the Google Hangouts
- Write about it to your friends
- Read some (informal) background material as further consolidation
- Apply the concepts in your work

Training creativity

Objective: to place creativity at the center of your job.

- Find solutions where others do not see them.
- Problems are solved with ideas, money and time. Get better ideas, save time and money: simple!
- Intelligence is a skill that you can practice.

Some tools to help you develop this skill:

- Edward de Bono invented the concept of lateral thinking. Six Thinking Hats, developed by de Bono, suggests a system for seeing the world through different perspectives. This is a great aid to hypershifting.

- Mind mapping, invented by Tony Buzan, suggests that in order to remember information we need to change the way we take notes. Mind mapping has become a widely practiced technique for note-taking, project management and brainstorming. Software programs are available to develop mind-maps on computers, smartphones, and tablet devices.

- Challenging thinking: try doing mental arithmetic and refuse to use the desk calculator.

- Luminosity.com has a series of 'brain games' that can help keep your memory and critical thinking sharp.

- Brainstorming, alone and in groups. Creatively spark off each other. Quantity not quality is key here.

- Brain-dumping: a useful clear-out if something isn't working. It gets you back to first principles.

- Problem solving, alone or in teams: take a physical object to pieces and see if you can work out how to put it back together again.

- Puzzles and quizzes: simple, but effective and not to be underestimated.

References:

MOOCs platforms:

TED.com	*http://www.ted.com/*
Authors@Google	*https://www.youtube.com/user/AtGoogleTalks?feature=watch*
Google Zeitgeist	*http://www.google.com/zeitgeist/*
Vsauce	*http://www.youtube.com/user/vsauce?gl=BE*
Udemy	*https://www.udemy.com/*
Coursera	*https://www.coursera.org/*
Standford Venture-Lab	*http://online.stanford.edu/courses/platform/Venture%20Lab*
Edx	*https://www.edx.org/*

Interesting Lives:

Edward De Bono	*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_de_Bono*
Tony Buzan	*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Buzan*