Risk Management Made Simple

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for executives and management professionals

from Risk Wise Inc. and Diana Del Bel Belluz

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BONUS RESOURCE: Escape from Your Echo Chamber

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By Liz Guthridge

Do you hear only like-minded voices? If so, you're running the risk of getting stuck and stale. You need to make an effort to break out of your echo chamber!

Who are your "go-to" people? If you're like most of us, you tend to reach out to individuals who work in close proximity to you. Or, you call on colleagues in your department or another function in which you already have close working relationships. You trust them because you have frequent contact with them and you know them. Plus, they tend to agree with you most of the time (or at least not challenge you), which you probably appreciate if you're pressed for time and resources.

But you're running a big risk if you don't enlarge your network, according to the experts in the new science of business and social networks. If you almost always depend on trusted advisors rather than seek out diverse people with different points of view, you are creating an "echo chamber network."

In an echo chamber network, you share too many things in common with each other. Your thoughts and actions reverberate. And because you're basically recycling ideas rather then gathering new ones, you hurt your performance. Specifically, echo chambers are bad for decision-making, creativity, and getting ahead in your career.

<u>Brian Uzzi</u> a social psychologist who teaches at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and researches social networks, says you need to seek out specialists from other disciplines to break out of this echo chamber. Their skill set will help you transcend the limits of what you know.

So what can you do to break out of your echo chamber? Try these three steps, which take time but little money (unless you have expensive extracurricular interests):

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About Us



Diana Del Bel Belluz President Risk Wise Inc.

Diana Del Bel Belluz, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., is a risk management advisor who helps executives in large organizations to implement systematic and sustainable risk management practices. Since 1990, Diana has been doing leading-edge risk work for companies in a wide range of industries and government organizations.

In addition, Diana advances the field of risk management by teaching university courses and management training seminars, speaking at conferences and authoring publications on a wide range of risk management topics.

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