

Justification For Your Next Vacation

A recent survey found companies that would perform well without their owner for a period of three months are 50 percent more likely to succeed versus those companies that would not perform well.

There is no better justification for taking a blissful, uninterrupted vacation than to see how your company performs in your absence. The better your company runs on autopilot, the more valuable it is.

To gauge your company's ability to handle your absence, start by taking a short vacation. Leave your computer at home and switch off your cell. Upon your return, you'll probably discover that your employees became resourceful and found answers to a lot of the questions they would have asked you if you had been just down the hall. That's a good thing and a sign you should start planning an even longer vacation.

You'll also likely come back to an inbox full of issues that need your personal attention. Instead of busily finding answers to each problem in a frenzied attempt to clean up your inbox, slow down and look at each issue through the lens of a possible problem with your people, systems or authorizations

People

Start with your people and answer the following questions:

- Why did this problem end up on my desk?
- Who else is qualified to answer this question and why was that person not consulted?
- If nobody else is qualified, who can be trained to answer this question in the future?

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Systems

Next, look at your systems and procedures. Could the issue have been dealt with if you had a system or a set of rules in place? The best systems are hardwired and do not require human interpretation; but if you're not able to lock down a technical fix, then at least give employees a set of rules to follow in the future.

Authorizations

You may be a bottleneck in your own company if you're trying to control spending too much. Employees may know what to do but do not have any means of paying for the fix they know you would want.

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