The HP Way

How HP Lost It -
The Hidden Message of Purpose: Wholeness & Implicate Order
WHAT DOES HP MEAN TO US?

- *Split today Merge Tomorrow, Old world tech being disrupted, Spin offs are the flavour of the season.*
- The headlines make the split up of HP appear as though it is little more another corporate ‘event’
- It is THE founding company of the Valley. This is a watershed moment for Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard’s firm.
- Astonishingly, 10-15 years can pass by in a blink leaving a storied institution like HP on its last legs.
- A tale of leadership/governance failures which haemorrhaged the HP Way, Culture, Coherence and Collaboration.
- Long-term value risks have an awkward way of compounding over time – no HP board meeting had that on the agenda
- Folks attribute colourful words like ‘Creative Destruction’ to these events, however it is more akin to a wilfully blind series of steps of Self Destruction made over time.
- We believe in laying bare these deep seated leadership problems rather than glossing over it.
- This way we can honour the life’s work Bill & Dave and choose not to repeat these blunders.
“I think many people assume, wrongly, that a company exists simply to make money”.

“While this is an important result of a company’s existence, we have to go deeper to find our real reason for being . . . .

A group of people get together and exist as an institution that we call a company . . . to do something worthwhile -- they make a contribution to society . . . .

Dave Packard; HP management training session in 1960
"If HP knew what HP knows, we'd be three times more productive."

- Lew Platt
WHAT LEW KNEW AND DID

- In 1999, HP sold Agilent Technologies the electronic instruments division closest to HP’s roots.
- HP’s legacy is inextricably linked to Agilent’s products.
- They represented the first product which the two engineers developed - an analyzer that tested sound equipment.
- However, this division took a backseat to the computer, printer and software business despite being profitable.
- Agilent comprises four divisions: test and measurement, semiconductors, health care solutions and chemical analysis.
- It sounds old economy until one considers what these things actually involve.
- Agilent is a quiet enabler of the communications revolution – the lifeblood of HP’s inventiveness and creativity.
1999- SEPARATION OF THE HP SOUL FROM ITS BODY
Lew Platt thought the company was too diversified and needed to concentrate on computers, storage, and imaging.

So the four divisions were spun-off into Agilent.

While it makes sense 'strategically' and operationally there were unintended consequences of that spinoff.

The spinoff meant the loss of HP's corporate soul, its instrumentation purpose and meaning of its innovation habits.

Hewlett Packard in 1999 was an instrument company that made money from printers, not a printer company that also built instruments.

Hewlett and Packard were instrumentation geniuses: they would have gone with Agilent.

It would be fair to conclude, if they were alive the spinoff would not have happened.
HOW TO LOSE YOUR WAY - I

SEVER YOUR SOUL

- We've all heard how Google allows its employees to spend 10 percent of their time working on their own projects.
  - Google didn't invent that: HP did.

- This process was instituted formally at HP with 10 percent time after lunch on Fridays. Friday afternoons in Palo Alto had every engineer working on some wild idea!

- The other part of the system was that those engineers had access to what was called “lab stores” — anything needed to do the job, could be taken without question on Friday afternoons from the HP warehouses.

- This enabled a flurry of innovation that produced some of HP’s greatest products including those printers.

- The Agilent spinoff unzipped HP, tearing one half of its creative culture from the other.

- Friday afternoon teams across product lines were decimated when the company was split along product lines.
Carly Fiorina, spent her tenure doing away with what she saw as stodgy management principles baked into HP’s DNA

She inherited a company with an identity crisis, which she rightly saw as a call to establish a new identity

An identity built around her, not around HP’s well-established traditions

Compaq deal gave HP great heft but sapped it of a cohesive corporate culture (whatever was left after Agilent).

Focus shifted to controlling sourcing costs at the cost of R&D

Morphed into a slave of the supply chain rather than a company obsessed with invention
HOW TO LOSE YOUR WAY - III

BECOME A DEVOTEE OF THE STREET

- Mark Hurd made PCs and server businesses that often lost money very profitable.
- Hurd hit Wall Street's revenue numbers in 21 out of 22 quarters and increased profits 22 quarters in a row.
- HP’s revenue rose 63 percent, while its share price doubled. Mark was also cutting costs and did a good job of it.
- However, HP’s internal technology systems were antiquated.
- Company had no attractive products to offer in high-growth areas such as mobile and cloud computing.
- By end of his tenure mice skittered in the corridors. Spiders fell from cracked ceilings.
- As the company cut back on trash pickups and in one location workers took garbage home in their cars.
- The company was close to an empty shell – hollowed out of its Purpose and Intangible Capital.
A DYSFUNCTIONAL BOARD

• A board gives a company institutional memory of what the company stands for and how it got to where it is.

• The HP board with Ray Lane at the helm seems to have lost the essence of what HP was about.
  • Not surprising considering steps I, II & III.

• They approved a controversial US$10 billion purchase of British infrastructure software vendor Autonomy.
  • 8.8 billion written down recently.

• HP also wasted millions buying Palm, and trying to sell a webOS-based tablet.

• Over the past decade HP squandered nearly $19 billion to buy myriad outfits that contribute only 7% to overall profit.
HOW HP LOST IT’S WAY

Sever your Soul, Purpose & Meaning

Scrub out the DNA + M&A

Become a Devotee of the Street

A Dysfunctional Board
FOOD FOR THOUGHT..

- Purpose & Meaning form the foundation of all strategy and operational efficiencies.
- While there are many options which seem ‘right’ in a situation, there are few which meet the Fit for Purpose Litmus Test.
- Most companies are oblivious of this Central Coherence Principle and undertake piecemeal strategies/tactics.
- Consequently Purpose led Architecture of a firm is fragmented over time.
- Boards are responsible to preserving the institutional memory of this Purpose led Architecture.
  - How many boards Litmus Test management decision making for Purpose Fitness?
- Growth in financial performance & market capitalisation is NOT a proof point for Purposeful wealth creation.
- The optimal size of a business is dependent on management ability to amplify Purpose across its functions & divisions
- Calls for a meta model to fuse Purpose into the Business Model and drive Long-term value creation
A CRISIS OF WEALTH DURABILITY
THE BODIES BURIED UNDER THE GROUND...

- The whole firm does not function as a whole; it is a set of separate functions/fiefdoms
- Loss of unity leading to disintegration of culture, values
- Yawning coherence gaps through which 'Vital Value' of brand & intangibles bleeds out
- Short-termism, self deception, poor 'bad news' flow
- Owner, boards and management teams work in isolation
- No meta model to forge these connections to comprehend the whole problem
Anton’s Syndrome/Anosognosia

Blind-to-our-own-Blindness
WHAT ARE WE FREEING CAPITALISM FROM?

• The world view of ‘Financial Capitalism’ is immensely influential because businesses have been so successful.
• It has brought humanity many benefits and touched all our lives through technology, products and experiences.
• Even so, when Financial Capitalism peaked in power in 2008, unexpected problems began surfacing fast.
• Chief among them, is the matter of heightened corporate mortality rates and the shortening of life spans of firms.
• Most business leaders believe these are temporary problems and unlimited growth will be back soon.
• We believe these are symptoms of a deeper malaise one which will continue to test businesses well into the future.
• Essentially, the current model of Financial Capitalism is in crisis both in operation as well as meaning.
• Financial Capitalism is being held back by assumptions which infiltrated it in many ways and hardened into dogmas.
• Capitalism & business would be better off without these dogmas – free to reach true potential, more fulfilling and inspiring for people.
THE DOGMAS OF FINANCIAL CAPITALISM

I. Everything in business is essentially mechanical - people are cogs in a wheel

II. Business is largely purposeless save the mission/vision to be the biggest in an industry or achieving higher financial goals

III. Business is devoid of any collective consciousness. It is merely a legal entity to make profit

IV. Financial capital is scarce and drives all measures of success.

V. The rules of finance and excel sheet models are fixed and ‘sacred’

VI. Intangible capital is illusory and difficult to map and quantify.

VII. Time is finite so being faster and faster gives competitive advantage

VIII. Business is a zero sum game, a dog-eat-dog world. There is no space for conscience, character, and collaboration.
REFLECTIVE CAPITALISM

- The Cartesian/Newtonian world view is embedded into most social and scientific endeavours over the past 200 years
- This reinforces the fragmented, reductionist and materialistic approach to dealing with the world
- A perceptual breakthrough is required to address the great predicaments of our times
- A Unifying Framework which fuses the Mind’s problem solving with Heart’s intuitive eye & the Timeless principles of the Soul
- The synthesis of the three foundational elements is the essence of Reflexive Capitalism
- It prepares a business to conduct self-enquiry, heighten contextual awareness of dogmas and generate unity of purpose
- Helps break the status quo and the conspiracy of silence to free up True Potential in Purpose led Business Models
Old Normal
Up till 2008

The Theory of
of a firm
Mechanistic, fragmented & materialistic ‘Machine’ . . .

The Shift to
Reflective Capitalism

. . . To a Purposeful, interconnected and relationship ‘Ecosystem’

‘Growth’ model
Quantitative – Size & Scale driven, seeking validation in ‘Valuation’ . . .

. . . To Qualitative growth for Superior, Sustainable Wealth Creation for Society

Approach
Objectivity & analytic rigour devoid of meaning . . .

. . . To Systemic frameworks which piece together the contextual and analytic jigsaw
Old Normal
Up till 2008

Conception of Time
Bound by finite chronological time – Running faster to compete

Architecture of a firm
The individual parts work in isolation to efficiently to meet goals.

The Model
Simplistic linear excel sheet analytics

The Shift to Reflective Capitalism

...To Purpose Stretchable Time & Space – Flow in SwiftSlowness

...The Coherence of the Whole is effectively greater than the sum of parts

...Non-linear, pattern modelling to explain human systems

LongBrand India
Old Normal
Up till 2008

Nature of Work
Atomization of knowledge through increasing specialization and silos . .

The Brain & Mental response
Incites the Reptilian fight or flight reflexes. Leads to Win – Lose decision making .

Success Paradigm of Capitalism
Extract /exploit financial capital in the shortest time leading to boom & bust cycles

The Shift to Reflective Capitalism

. . . To Unification of the moving parts through deeper purpose and shared meaning

. . . To Stimulation of the frontal lobes, the seat of self awareness and future orientation. Win – Win decision making

. . . To Cultivation of Intangible Wealth which is both Exponential & Enduring
A META MODEL –

ARCHITECTURE FOR COHERENT ENTERPRISES....

Introspection
Underserved Opportunities
Cohesive Execution
LongNow Outcomes

Quest for a Higher Purpose & Moral Vision
Piecing the Added Value Model
Brand led Intangibles
Non-linear Value Creation Planning & MIS

Axis of Unity

LongBrand India
The whole value stream is enterprise architecture

In its true state, this Meta Model is undivided and all enveloping

When broken into its components, it loses potency to add long-term value
DELIVERING POSTIVE
DISSONANCE FOR OVER
A DECADE...
Festina lente or speûde bradêōs is a classical adage meaning "make haste slowly".