



A Silo in the Field

Last week, as I was driving in the countryside on a quiet and idyllic Sunday morning, I noticed out of the corner of my eye a rustic silo sitting in the midst of a beautiful field. I remember thinking how I wished I had the time to stop and enjoy the simple beauty and serenity.

But time was pressing and so I continued on my way and made a right turn back onto busy Main Street USA.

Today a popular concept in business is "*breaking down silo mentalities*" to improve communication across organizations both functionally and cross-functionally. And, as a general management concept, I am a supporter of that approach and the work of Augur helps to achieve it.

However, not all silos are bad! There are those moments in our hectic and busy days when it might be beneficial for each of us to find that beautiful silo in the field and enjoy its serenity, peace and calm.

Life is a journey with many twists, turns and stops all of which may lead us to places where we've never been before ... if we are open to the possibilities. When we don't take the time to really enjoy those "scenes in the countryside", we may be depriving ourselves and humanity of beautiful insights and elegant solutions for some vexing problems in the "real world." As Michelangelo so aptly observed: "I saw the angel in the marble, and carved until I set it free" - but first he had to take time to relax and observe the possibilities in the marble and in nature.

At this time of year, when many of us have the opportunity to spend vacation time with family and friends, to enjoy surroundings and adventures different from our day to day routines, to recharge our batteries and our spirits, to evaluate where we are in the world and where we want to go and what we want to do, we must be alive to the possibilities around us. Enjoy them to the fullest - especially the simplest and most obvious of these beauties and insights which we tend to take for granted or, worse, entirely overlook in our usual hectic day to day lives.

So, enjoy the silos! Leave your computers and Blackberries behind (or, if you think you truly are indispensable, restrict them to very limited, defined periods of use) and reconnect with the essentials of life - human relationships and the beauty of nature in all its guises.

Enjoy and have a great summer!

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