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Prime/OS
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Notes:

Prime/OS™ is a process change methodology that introduces change *gently* into a subject organization. Prime/OS implements a *passage-rite structure* that is bounded by two organization-wide Open Space events.

Prime/OS™ composes and leverages the following core elements:

- The Open Space meeting format
- Game Mechanics (goals, rules, depiction of progress, opt-in participation)
- Invitation
- Leadership Storytelling
- Cultural Anthropology (Passage Rite, complete with a “Master of Ceremonies”)

Prime/OS implements these various elements across a timeline spanning several months. Prime/OS implements a passage rite, which has a clear beginning, middle and end. It is important to note and understand that the Prime/OS passage rite is an org-level passage-rite process rather than an individual-level passage-rite process. The organization is best viewed as a single entity (a single *social system*, rather than a collection of individuals) when implementing Prime/OS.

The big picture of Prime/OS consists of 3 distinct “Phases”:

- **Phase1:** Introduction. The start of the passage rite process

- **Phase2:** Competence. Successful completion of at least a single Prime/OS passage rite, bounded by time and two distinct before/after Open Space events
- **Phase3:** Mastery. Successful completion of Prime/OS Phase2, as evidenced by several passage-rite “Chapters” spanning at least two Chapters

For details on the following about Prime/OS™ visit <http://www.Prime-OS.com> .

- Core concepts and facilities
- Glossary of Terms
- Checklists
- Guidance, forms and related documents

Prime/OS™: Core Elements

- 1. Prime/OS Phase1: Introduction. Experiencing engagement via opt-in participation and Open Space. This is the first level, the level of “introduction” to the basic concepts and facilities of the Prime/OS method: openness, invitation, and opt-in participation.**
 - a. Opening Consulting with Leadership by Coach/Consultant
 - b. Game Mechanics: Goal, Rules, Scoring, Opt-In
 - c. Invitation as the primary opt-in mechanism
 - d. OST-1 (initial Open Space meeting, which marks the start of the passage rite process)
 - i. Minimum of 1 day of Open Space (2 is preferred)

- ii. Minimum of 90 days of experiments and playing with practices, between the scheduled Open Space events
 - iii. Output is learning and some deliveries
 - iv. Leadership Signaling with Storytelling (and other highly symbolic behaviors.)
 - e. OST-2 (second Open Space meeting, which terminates “Chapter1” of the process-change and opens “Chapter 2” of the organizational “story” of change.)
 - f. FOLLOWUP. Closing consulting with leadership
 - i. Processing of Proceedings
 - ii. Leadership Signaling with Storytelling (and other highly symbolic behaviors.)
 - iii. Coaching consultant delivers specific coaching on what to (possibly) consider next
 - iv. Coaching consultant VACATES the org and does not communicate with it for at least 1 month, to trigger self-sustaining self-organization behaviors on the part of the org.
 - g. OST-3 if needed (all the steps above, repeated)
- 2. Prime/OS Phase2: Competence. Min 1 year: recurring OST events about 6 months apart (in January and June for example.) This is the stage of “competence.”**
 - a. Evidence must be present first that the org has processed and completed Stage1.
 - i. Several “Chapters” of learning, bound by 2 Open Spaces, may be needed for some organizations to reach this stage.
 - b. Repeat Prime/OS’s Open Space events approximately every six months, typically in January

and June until the org reaches Phase3: the true Learning Org, “all openness, all the time.”

3. Prime/OS Phase3: Mastery. No more scheduled events, due to a maturing of the orgs ability to sense, learn and respond.

- a. Instead of scheduling Open Space events on a fixed schedule, the org senses and responds to the need for periodic, “as-needed” Open Space events.
 - i. This is the stage of “mastery.”
- b. Evidence must be present first, that the org has reached Phase2, such as:
 - i. The scheduled Open Space events become less interesting, because the org is has an open culture that “is” open space in spirit and content.
 - ii. The org can consistently demonstrate a “safe-space”, open culture.
 1. The org has made substantial changes to HR policies with intent to support a Prime/OS Phase3 culture.
 2. The org is hiring and firing on culture fit
 - iii. The org has established norms for dealing with the ongoing conflict that is a natural consequence of independent thinkers working together in a volatile, high-change business environment.

Questions? Please call or email:

Daniel Mezick
203 915 7248
dan@newtechusa.net
