

Pursuing Your Corporate Career as if You Own the Business.
Come in Every Day Prepared to Get Fired for Doing the Right Thing!
By Pete Warchol, Siemens Healthcare
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/warchol>

Did you just say that you want me to get fired? Well, no, of course not, but I do want you to work fearlessly.

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man." -- George Bernard Shaw

Many years ago, a former manager of mine had a poster in his office delineating the rules for entrepreneurship and "Come in Every Day Prepared to Get Fired for Doing the Right Thing!" was one of the rules. When I first read it, I reacted the way that I suspect that many of you just have. He explained that for him it meant that you needed to have confidence in your own judgment and proceed with actions based on that confidence.

"Life is a daring adventure or it is nothing" -- Helen Keller.

Far too many people, especially in a large organization, stay safe within the confines of their explicit job description. Even when they see a gap for which no one has claimed ownership of they are timid about addressing the issue or even commenting on it for fear of becoming the owner.

"Always do right - this will gratify some and astonish the rest". -- Mark Twain

We've all seen or heard of the cases of analysis paralysis, leaders so afraid of being wrong that they never make a decision at all and politicians that don't take a stand without checking the public opinion polls first. However, if these people were the owners of a sole proprietorship, they would either suck it up and make a decision or go out of business.

"Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." -- T.S. Eliot

Don't get me wrong, I'm not encouraging anarchy. I'm suggesting that you take charge. Display leadership and show initiative. I'm not saying that you should rock the boat, just for the sake of doing so. However, if you strongly believe that the way it's always been done is no longer working, have the courage to try to change it.

"I'm in favor of progress; its change I don't like." -- Mark Twain

Be prepared for pushback when you attempt to change the status quo. People frequently fear change and ideas that they didn't come up with on their own. In a very large environment it's frequently advisable to seek support one person at a time, and then present it to a larger audience. Many people are followers, so give them a crowd to follow!

"I have no regrets. I wouldn't have lived my life the way I did if I was going to worry about what people were going to say." -- Ingrid Bergman

In conclusion, be fearless, have confidence, take chances, reach beyond your comfort zone, challenge the status quo, build consensus and lead the way!

About the author

Pete Warchol has been in the Information Technology industry for more than 20 years. He has held many different roles, spanning software development, business analysis, project management, staff management, systems administration, systems security analysis, and most recently, systems performance analysis. He has earned more than 80 professional certifications, including MCITP (Microsoft), CPHIMS (HIMSS), VCP (VMware), CCA (Citrix), ASE (HP), CATE (IBM), Security+ (CompTIA), and CEH (EC-Council). He is employed by Siemens Healthcare and is a CMG Officer for the Philadelphia regional group (<http://regions.cmg.org/regions/phcmg/index.html>).