

Virtual R&D Team

WELCOME

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In a rapidly evolving industry with so many choices before you, how do you decide where to focus your time to maximize your results, evolve your business and reputation, and create an environment that continues to inspire you?

Creating a Virtual R&D Team can mean the difference between investing your resources in an idea that never flies and investing your resources in an idea that catapults you to the top of your game.

This 3 Step Training is for anyone who wants to learn how to create and manage a Virtual R&D Team. After completing this module, you will know how to create a R&D Team, what projects you could use them for, and how to manage your R&D Team so that the team itself benefits and is continually evolving itself, your business, and you.

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Virtual R&D Team

QUICK QUIZ

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Instructions

Circle NT if not true, T if sometimes true, VT if very true. Total your 'score.' Go for a perfect 30.

NT T VT

Statement

1 2 3

1. I enjoy brainstorming.

1 2 3

2. It is fun to help other people develop and tweak their ideas.

1 2 3

3. I like sharing input without having to be the decision-maker or involved in the final product.

1 2 3

4. I'm pretty good at articulating my ideas in a concise manner.

1 2 3

5. People often seek my input.

1 2 3

6. I don't get upset if my ideas are not acted upon.

1 2 3

7. Contributing to the success of others is important to me and feels good.

1 2 3

8. I thrive when I am part of a creative, fast, sometimes intense group of thinkers and doers.

1 2 3

9. I am a great team player.

1 2 3

10. The thought of being on a R&D Team is very cool to me.



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Virtual R&D Team

CLIENT GUIDE

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Introduction

Virtual R&D Teams are exciting. Not only are they great for the host - they can be great for you, the Team member!

What is a Virtual R&D Team?

A Virtual R&D Team is a team of people who "meet" and discuss ideas via electronic means - email, phone conferencing, webconferencing, etc. R&D stands for Research and Development. This means that you are part of the team that helps come up with ideas and approaches, as well as developing and tweaking them. It does not mean you have to do a lot of work. Your value to the host is YOU - who you are, how you think, your experiences, wisdom and knowledge. While there are always opportunities to volunteer more of your services, that's not a requirement for being on a Virtual R&D Team.

How is a Virtual R&D Team different from a traditional R&D Team?

While a traditional R&D Team meets in person for hands-on work and brainstorming, a Virtual R&D Team meets only via email, telephone, and/or webconferencing. It is likely that you will never meet the other team members, except through shared ideas and summary of feedback.

What are the benefits of being on a Virtual R&D Team?

- Keeps you energized and on the leading edge of creativity, thus enhancing your own creativity.
- Get to see things first - get the inside scoop by being close to the source.
- Enhances your self-image as a creative thinker and professional.
- Making a meaningful contribution to someone else's success and their profession.
- Learn more about yourself, your ideas, and your own profession - and you get seriously engaged in your own learning process.
- Learn how to create your own intellectual property.
- Tap into the power and energy of a virtual mastermind of creative thinkers.
- Teaches you to think on your feet and let go of perfectionism.
- Understand the new paradigm of the creation cycle - fast, fast, fast!
- Expand your awareness of cultural diversity by hearing feedback from an international team.
- Be continuously stimulated by new thought.
- Experience a sense of community unlike any other.
- Increase your self-esteem by supporting others in reaching their goals.

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What are the distinct advantages of being on a Virtual R&D Team?

No added expenses

Obviously you are working from your computer or phone, so you don't incur travel or away-from-office expenses.

You get to play with an international team

An opportunity not available to everyone.

Fast-paced

By virtue of the team being virtual, you can respond immediately to ideas - within seconds sometimes - and see the rapid evolution of ideas that ordinarily would have taken weeks or months. Way cool.

Time commitment flexible

Depending on your schedule you can fully participate or back off. No performance burden should other projects come up or your time is limited.

How can you get the most out of being on a Virtual R&D Team?

Think about how YOU benefit from participation. See the list above and add your own benefits. If you know why you're doing it, it will be more fun, more stimulating, and your contributions will be better.

Set up your email software to assist you in noticing R&D Team emails. Most email programs allow you to set different parameters to highlight emails when they come from specific people or with certain words in the subject line (such as "R&D Team") - colors, bolded, automatically going to a specific folder, etc. Your R&D Team host will let you know how they will identify R&D Team emails.

Know your own style. Do you like to respond instantly, off the cuff, or do you prefer to take time to think about your answers? Know your style and use it.

Respond when you have something to say, and time to say it. Don't feel pressure to respond every time - the host doesn't expect this. And don't waste your time - or the host's - by responding with things that don't add value. You'll feel silly and won't feel inspired to respond next time. The host knows you are there, values your time, and knows you will respond when you are stimulated to do so. Non-response can, in some ways, be a response.

Be clear and concise - as much as possible anyway. You want your idea to be heard. Make it easy - consider using bullet points or phrases. Don't worry about perfection.

Read the follow-up/summary emails. This is a great way to see how your ideas are being used, and to tap into the power of a major think tank.

Interested in your creating your own Virtual R&D Team for your business?

Talk to your coach about setting one up! S/he'd love to help.

Read the accompanying Coaches guide to this module.

Join someone else's R&D Team and learn from how they setup/run their team.

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