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Build Product Management Teams in IT Part 3: Transform Legacy Culture Mindsets



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Chad Walker

Principal, Advisory



Part 3: Mindset and Culture Change

1. Part I: How do we set up effective product teams?

2. Part II: How do we develop skills and competencies?

3. Part III: What are the Mindset and Culture Changes required?

Part 3: Mindset and Culture Change

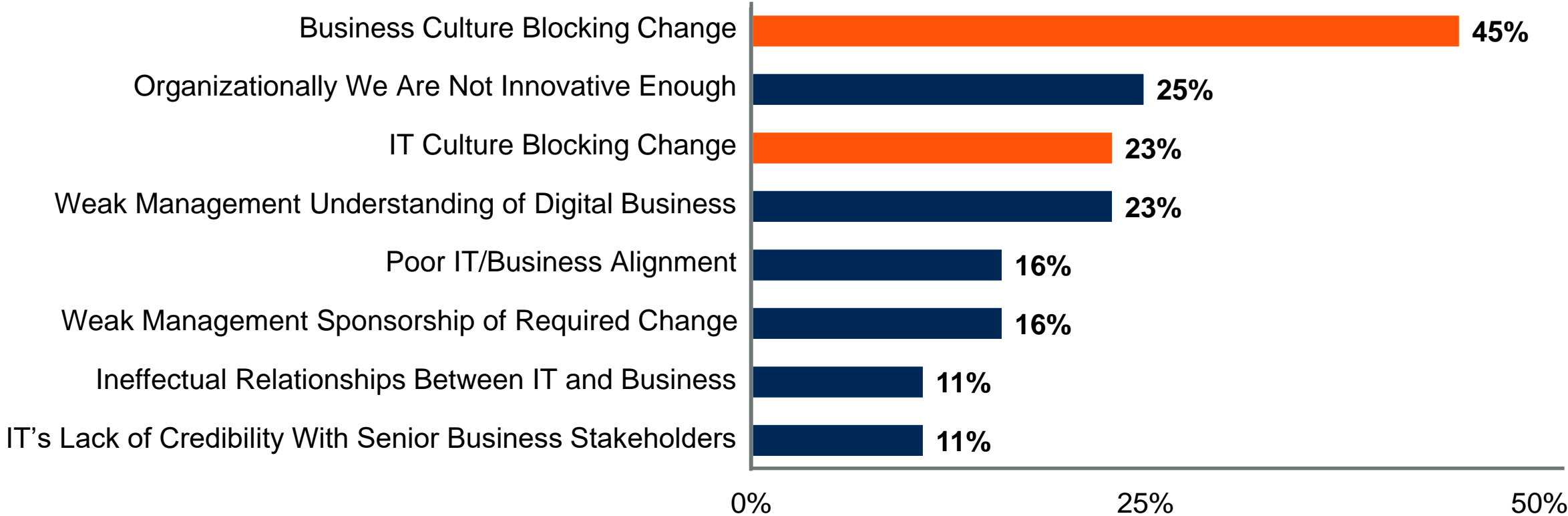
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Part 3: Mindset and Culture Change

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Culture Biggest Barrier To Achieving CIO Objectives

Significant Barriers to CIO Objectives
Percentage of Respondents



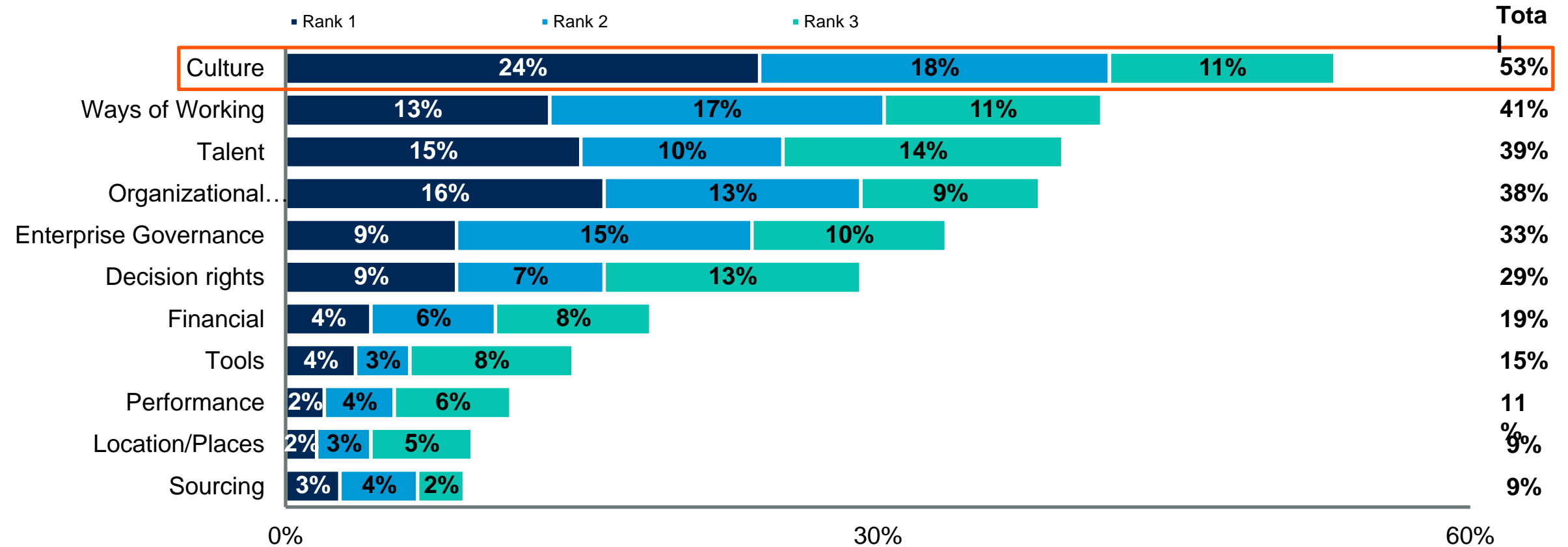
n = 44 Gartner Research Circle Members

Q. What are the most significant barriers to achieving your objectives as CIO? *Multiple responses allowed.*
Source Gartner CIO Research Circle: CIO Objectives and Barriers Study

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Culture Is The Most Challenging Component To Transform

Most challenging components of operating model to transform



n = 254, all respondents

Q13. Which components of the operating model have been most challenging to transform

Source: Gartner 2021 Business Benefits of Operating Model Choices

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How To Think About Culture

Culture

Culture is the set of behavioral norms and unwritten rules that shape the organizational environment and how individuals interact and get work done in that environment.

Values

- Principles
- Priorities
- Drivers
- Motivators



Practices

- Activities
- Rewards
- Routines
- Terminology



Mindsets

- Thinking
- Attitude
- Perspectives
- Viewpoints



Behaviors

Roadmap

**Help Employees
Understand The Mindset
And Behavior Shifts
Required**

**Adapt Performance
Metrics To Drive
Behavioral Change**

**Accelerate The Adoption
Of These New Mindsets
Through Culture Hack**

Roadmap

**Help Employees
Understand The Mindset
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Four Key Product-Centric Mindsets

Defining Product-Centric Mindsets

1

Customer
Centricity

2

Empowerment
and Agility

3

Outcome
Orientation

4

Cross-Team
Collaboration

Build Consistent Product Management Mindsets



T-Mobile's Product Management Principles to help explain the mindset changes it expects to see in its people

1

Center on our customers
Put our customers' needs at the center of your decision making.

2

Be empowered to make decisions
Own the outcomes of your product to continually evolve as context changes.

3

Own the experience of your product
Create the right experiences for your partners and customers.

4

Break down organizational silos
Accelerate collaboration to meet customer outcomes.

5

Accelerate consumption
Evolve our product technology and processes to accelerate time to value.

6

Iterate to sustain innovation
Test, learn and display creativity in pursuit of customer outcomes.

Source: Adapted From T-Mobile

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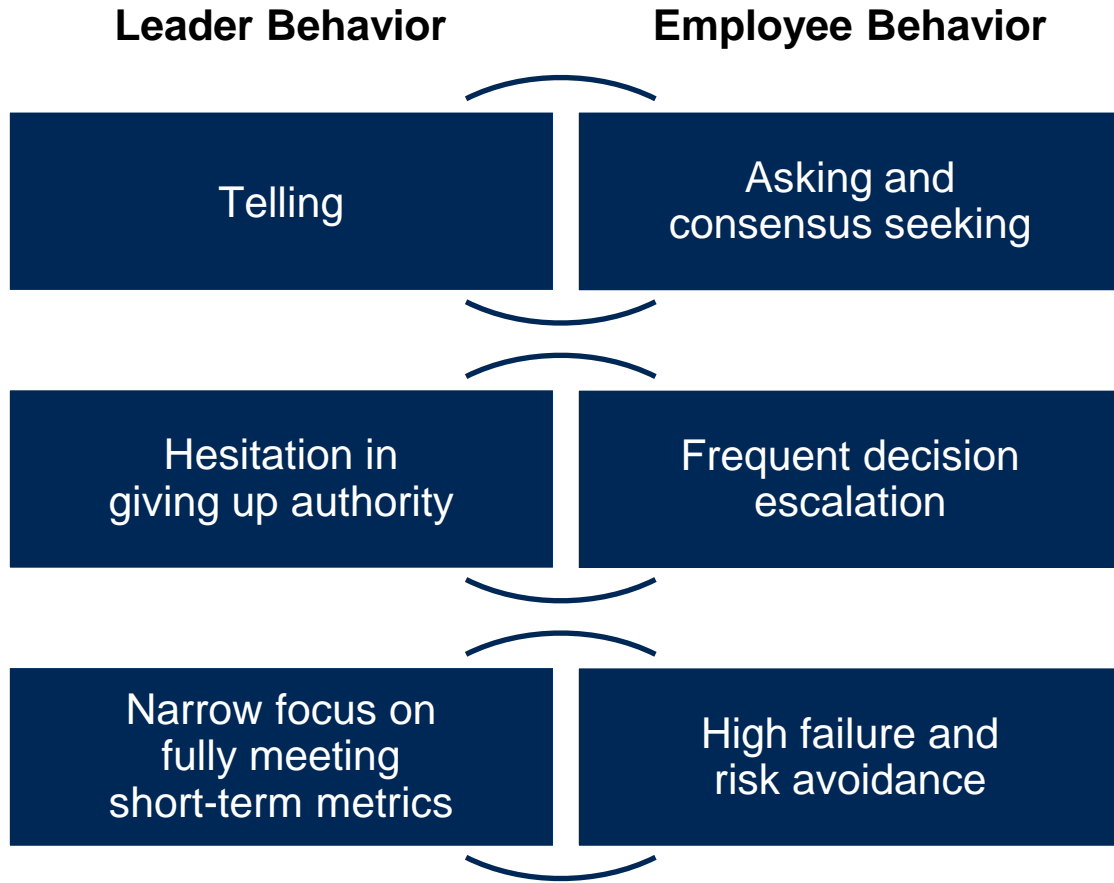
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Leaders and Employees Reinforce Each Other's Behaviors



Legacy Behavior Loops



Source: Adapted From 9Spring

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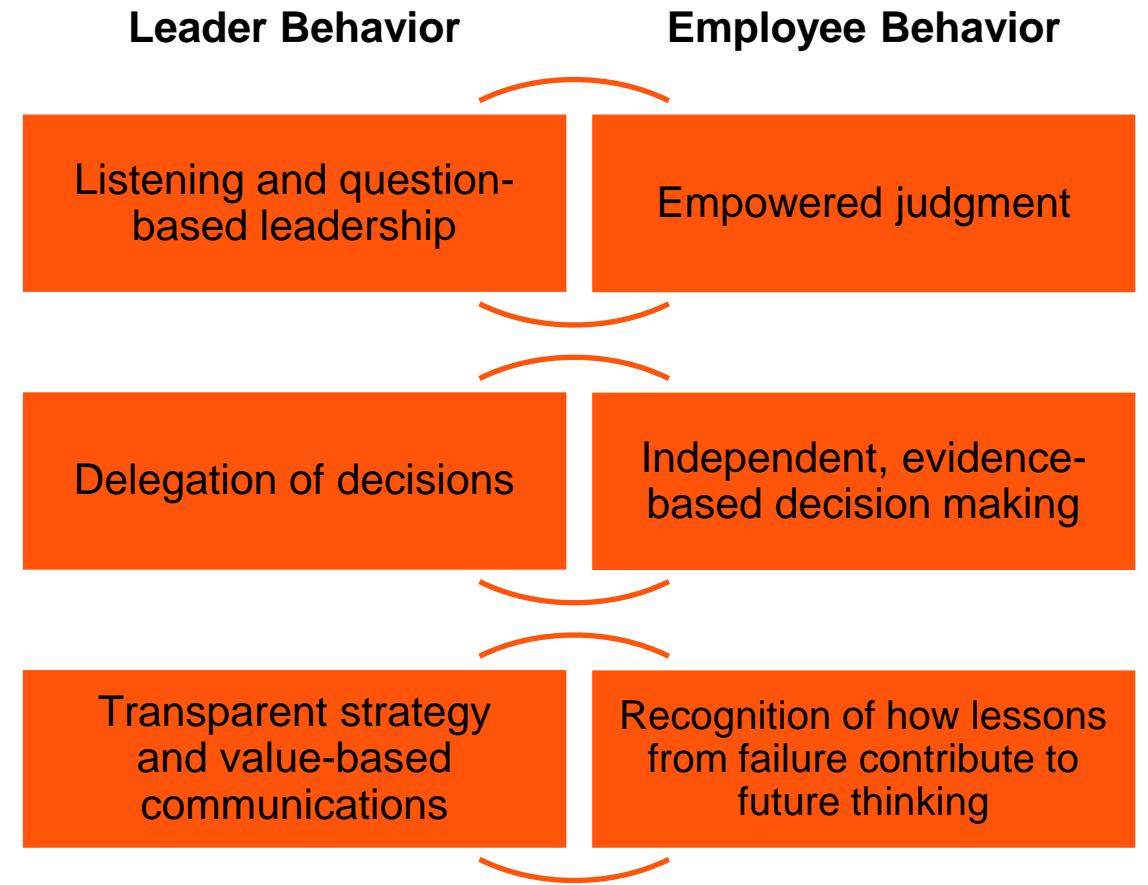
Leaders and Employees Reinforce Each Other's Behaviors



Legacy Behavior Loops



Desired Behavior Loops



Source: Adapted From 9Spring

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Roadmap

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Metrics for Measuring Product Team Performance

The Evolution of Metrics

Traditional project metrics

Project Inputs

- Percent of Schedule Target
- Percent of Target Scope
- Percent of Budget Target
- Spending on New Functionality
- Stage-Gate Compliance
- Methodology Compliance
- Volume of Code
- Key Application Availability

Progress in moving to product management

Product Marketing

- Usage (percent of product features being used daily)
- Adoption (current users as a percent of total potential user base)
- Cost per User
- Code Quality
- Cycle Time

New outcomes metrics

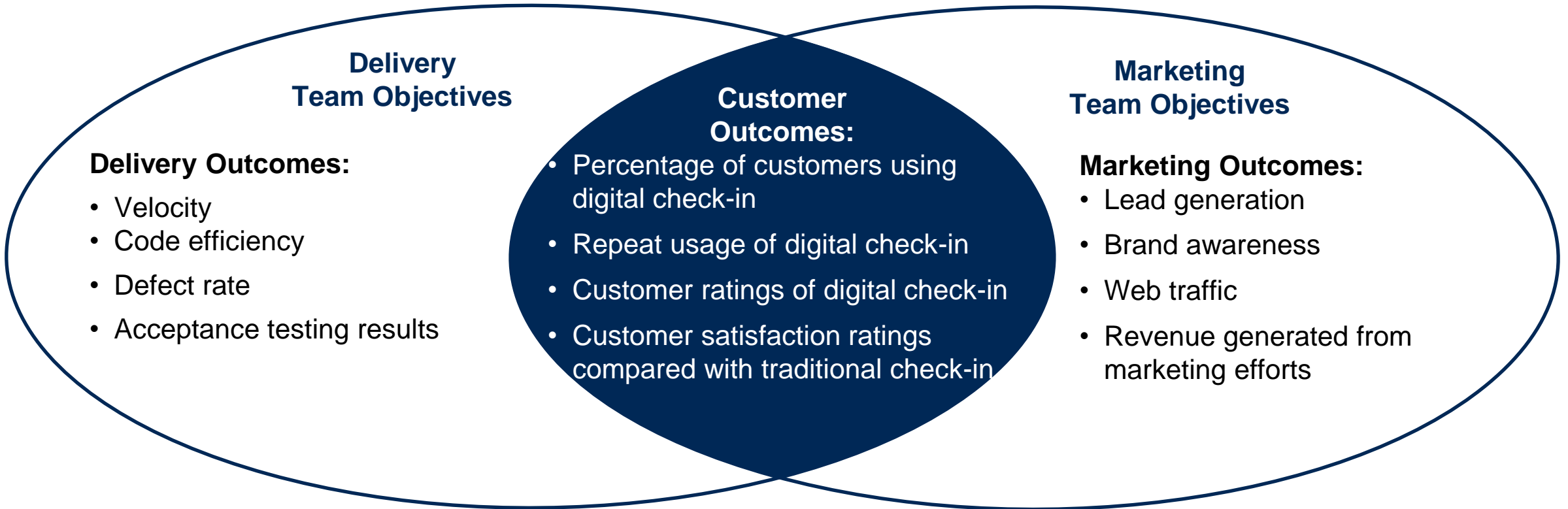
Product Outcomes

- Percent of Revenue Target
- Percent Change in Business Downtime
- Margin
- Customer Satisfaction
- Click-Through
- Renewal Rate
- Employee Satisfaction

Drive Customer Centricity Using Metrics

Hilton

Performance Objectives for Prearrival Product Line Staff, Illustrative



Source: Adapted From Hilton

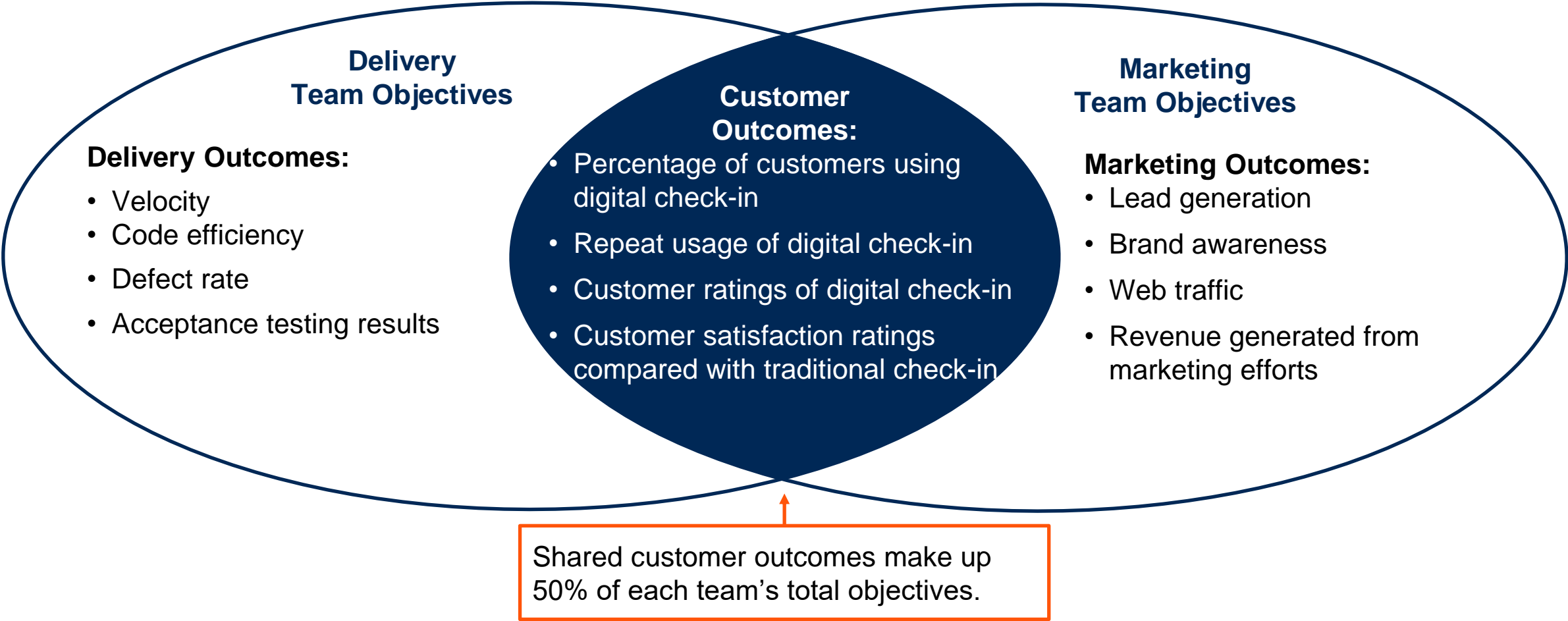
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Drive Customer Centricity Using Metrics

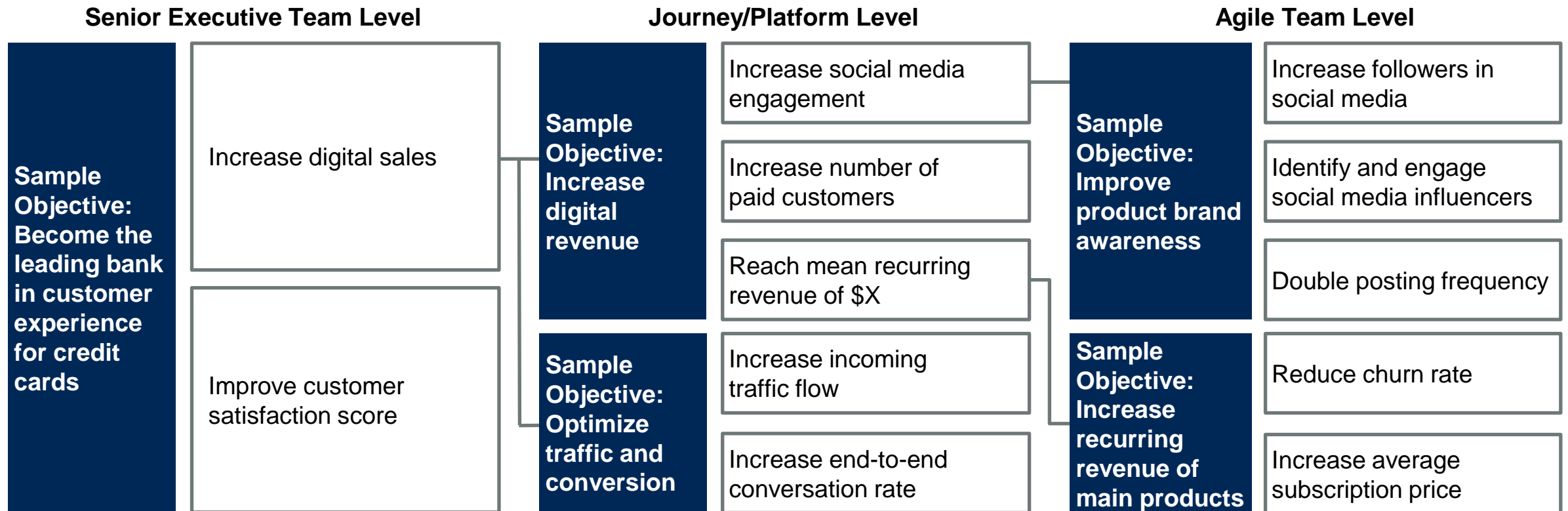
Performance Objectives for Prearrival Product Line Staff, Illustrative



Align Product Team and Business Objectives

A Cascade to Connect Team and Business Outcomes

Illustrative Example: Become a Leader in Customer Experience for Credit Cards



Source: Adapted From TD Bank

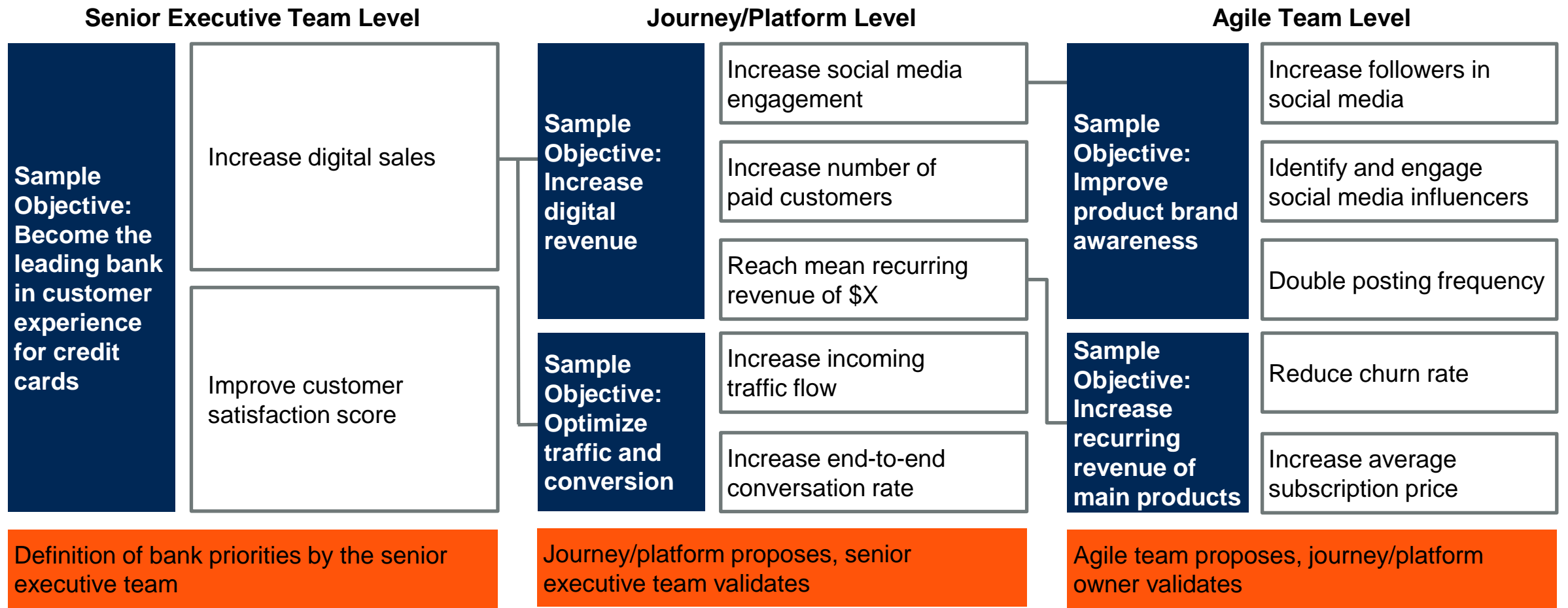
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Align Product Team and Business Objectives

A Cascade to Connect Team and Business Outcomes

Illustrative Example: Become a Leader in Customer Experience for Credit Cards

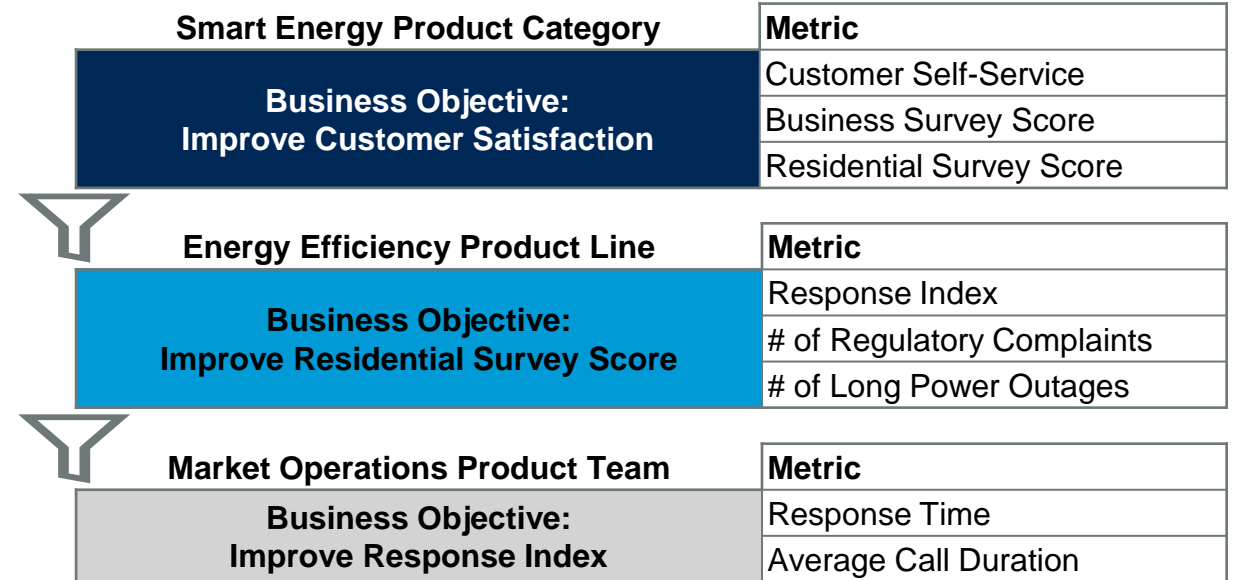
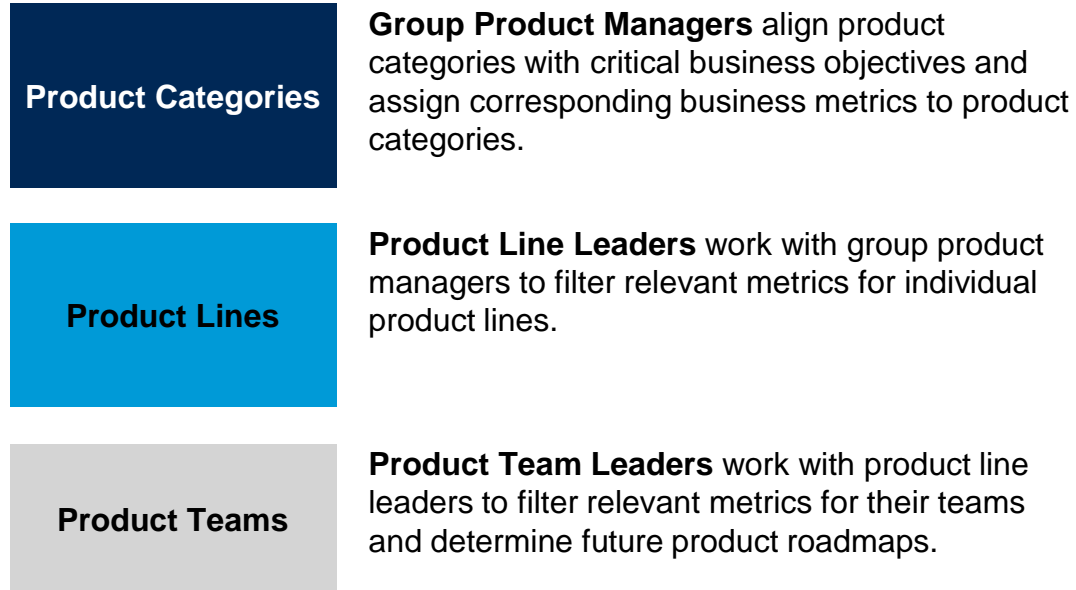


Source: Adapted From TD Bank

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Involve Product Teams in Filtering Best-Fit Business Metrics

How PSEG Cascades Business Metrics to Product Teams (Illustrative)



Criteria to Filter Best-Fit Business Metrics:

Level of Direct Impact

- Do existing products impact this metric?
- Do planned products impact this metric?
- Can we optimize existing or design new processes to impact this metric?

Level of Indirect Impact

- Can our product, or planned products, replace products that impact this metric?
- Can a byproduct of our current workflows impact this metric?
- Can we improve the **productivity** of teams who directly impact this metric?

Roadmap

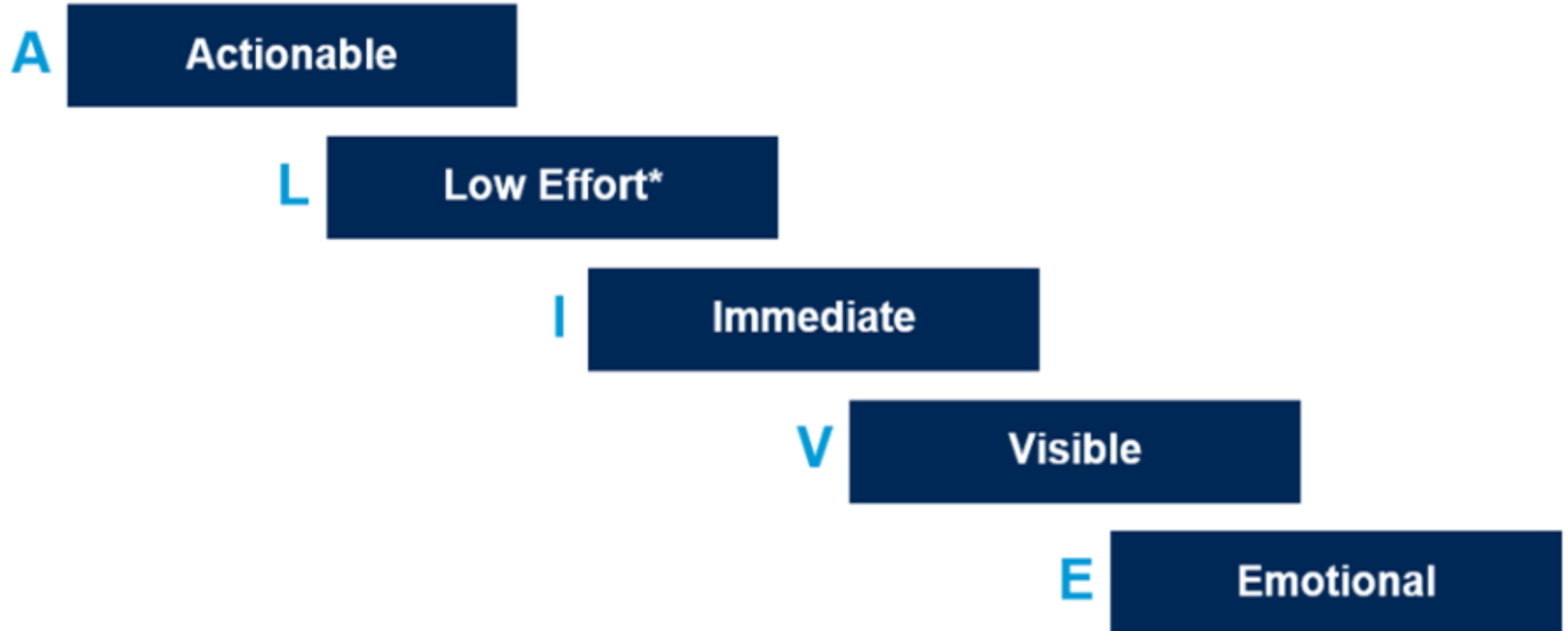
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Five Key Elements of Culture Hacks

Characteristics of Best-in-Class Culture Hacks



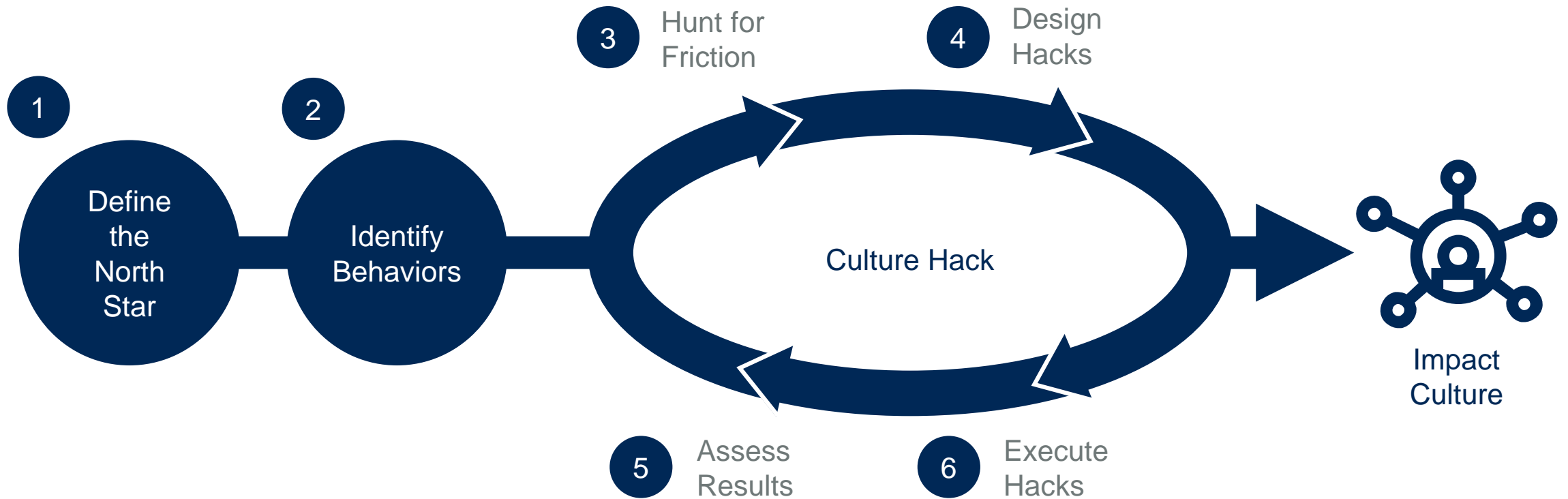
Source: Gartner

* But not low courage

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The Culture Hacking Roadmap



Source: Gartner

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Conclusion

To maximize the value of product management,

- Focus on cultivating mindsets of customer centricity, agility, outcome orientation, empowerment and cross-team collaboration.
- Follow the below roadmap for success in product management:

1



Socialize the mindsets and cultural shifts required by explicitly defining and socializing the “North Star” culture direction with both leaders and employees.

2



Next, adapt product team performance metrics to focus on business and customer experience outcomes

3



Throughout the change journey, accelerate the adoption of these mindsets by experimenting with different culture hacks.

Ask your questions



The image shows a user interface for asking a question. At the top, there is a horizontal navigation bar with four tabs: 'Ask a question', 'Attachments', 'Rate this', and 'Details'. The 'Ask a question' tab is highlighted with an orange border and an orange arrow pointing to it from the left. Below the tabs, the text 'Ask a question' is displayed. Underneath is a large text input area with a placeholder text 'Type your question here...'. At the bottom right of the input area, there is a 'Send Question' button, which is also highlighted with an orange border and an orange arrow pointing to it from the left.

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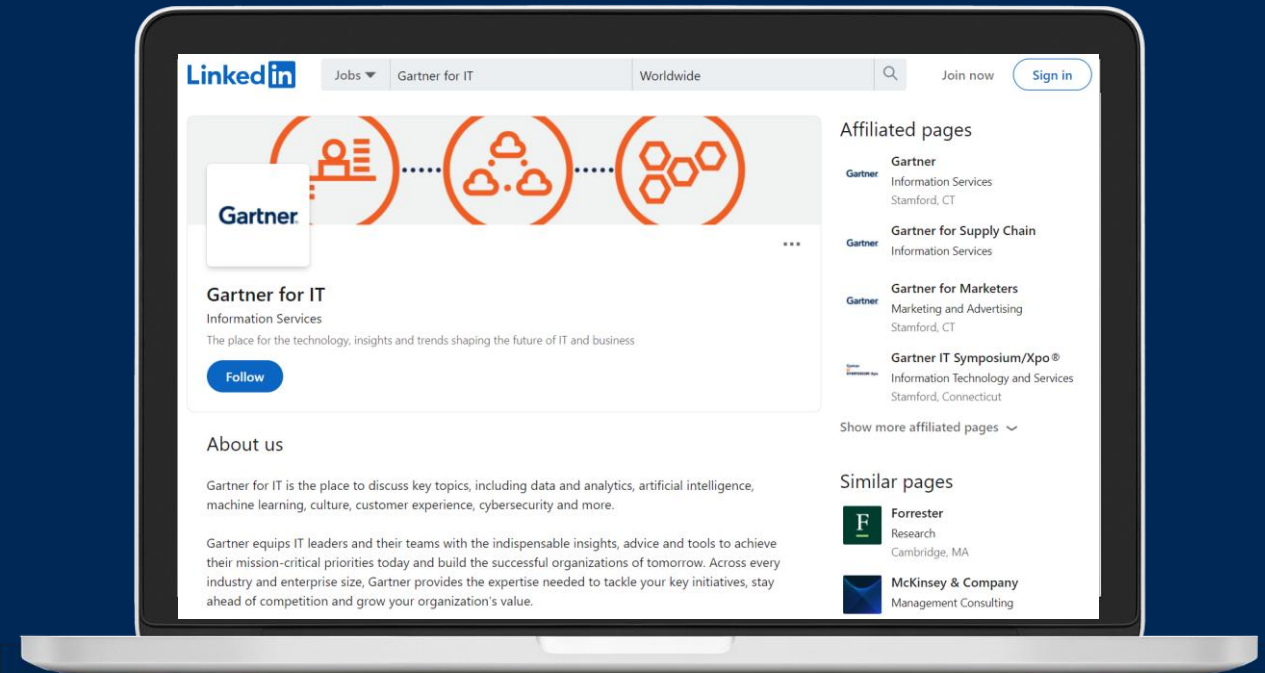


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Appendix

Culture Hacks to Promote Customer Centricity

Select Examples of Culture Hacks to Foster Customer Centricity

Culture Hack	Why Does it Work
<p>Use an Empty Chair for Your Customer: Leave an empty chair representing the customer in your leadership meetings. When the discussion reaches an impasse, everyone turns to the empty chair and asks, “What would be best for the customer?”</p>	<p>Keeps the organization from becoming inwardly focused, as the chair acts as a physical reminder of the customer. The physical element turbocharges the hack.</p>
<p>Stop Idea-Generation Meetings: Stop all idea-generation meetings or events, or change them to be focused on solving specific customer challenges.</p>	<p>Emphasizes that the customer must be at the center of all decisions and innovation.</p>
<p>Record Two-Minute Customer Video: Create an unproduced (that is, taken on a phone) one- to two-minute video of a customer struggling to use a system or process that the organization believes has no major issues.</p>	<p>Clarifies the problems of the customers and reiterates the need for focus on customer experience.</p>
<p>Use a Timer to Reiterate the Need for Customer Focus: Use a timer in meetings, and set it to 15 minutes without any explanation. When it goes off, note whether the customer problem has been discussed during the discussion. If not, then it indicates that the initiative lacks customer focus.</p>	<p>Signals the need for focusing on the customer, not technical needs.</p>

Culture Hacks to Promote Empowerment and Agility

Select Examples of Culture Hacks to Foster Empowerment and Agility

Culture Hack	Why Does it Work
Clarify What Decisions Staff Can Make Autonomously: Before embarking on a new initiative, explicitly communicate how you will push down decision making and what decisions rest with the rest and not on the leader.	Helps curtail leaders' legacy behavior of controlling decisions or employee behavior of frequently escalating decisions due to risk aversion.
"Break the Rules" Committee: Hold a weekly/monthly special hacking meeting, where you break the rules: scratch policies, cancel old procedures, empower people, connect people and so on.	Quashes the bureaucratic mindset and allows people to speak freely about what processes hinder empowerment and agility.
Define a Target Failure Rate: Set a minimum rate of failure for innovators, signaling that if the team isn't failing a minimum amount, it's not innovating properly.	Empowers staff to make decisions by removing the stigma of failure, and also sends a strong signal that failure-phobic behaviors won't be tolerated.
Ask — What Should We Stop Doing? In every conversation about embarking on something new, include an examination of what the team should stop doing, including behaviors, assumptions and habits.	Signals that the organization seeks a change that is real and immediate, including the killing of conventional, traditional behaviors.

Culture Hacks to Promote Outcome Orientation

Select Examples of Culture Hacks to Foster Customer Centricity

Culture Hack	Why Does it Work
Create a Business Outcomes Wall: Designate a wall to write the targeted business outcomes on an initiative. Every time a task is finished, place a note on the wall to report how you performed on that business outcome.	Reminds teams of the business relevance/outcome for each task posted on the wall and, over time, helps change their mindset.
Name Initiatives Based on the Desired Outcome: Name each initiative based on the desired outcome. For instance, “Triple Our Conversion Rate” or “Quadruple Web Traffic.”	Shifts the focus to the business outcome from technology features.
Ask: How Does This Meeting Further The Desired Outcome? The morning after a big change is announced, begin walking into meetings unannounced and ask, “How does this meeting advance the desired outcome we announced yesterday?” If people don’t have a good answer, cancel the meeting and ask people to hold the meeting once they can answer that question.	Reduces the enormous amount of inertia built up around things already underway and signals the need to reorient agendas and ways of working to desired outcomes.
Set a Stretch Goal: For instance, getting delivery time down from two weeks to two hours on some projects to spur associates to think big or remove operational constraints and assumptions.	Triggers more creative thinking, because the seemingly impossible goal moves constraints and encourages associates to question norms.

Culture Hacks to Promote Cross-Team Collaboration

Select Examples of Culture Hacks to Foster Empowerment and Agility

Culture Hack	Why Does it Work
Collaborate With Someone Outside Your Team: Make a rule that, for a certain initiative, at least one collaborator must be someone outside their team.	Boosts collaboration by nudging employees to work with colleagues beyond their team.
Work on a Cross-Team Initiative: Provide each employee with an opportunity to work on an initiative with another team at least once in a year.	Breaks down organizational silos and increases collaboration across the enterprise.
Use Internal Communications to Showcase the Human Side of Execs and Employees: Run a small campaign to create informal blogs, podcasts and intranet pages that reveal the human side of staff and senior leadership across silos.	Bridges the divide between different teams, and leads to communication channels that are more open.
Give Feedback to Other Teams: Have each team rate the other teams on their performance monthly/quarterly with red/amber/green rating.	Emphasizes the need for cross-functional collaboration.