

INFOBYTES

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The following is an article that highlights the reasons why it is important for employees to have time to think outside of the box and away from the everyday mundane. It's suggested that having time to play actually increases workers morale and productivity.



The Top Ten Reasons to Play
by Linda Naiman

"We live in a workaholic society in North America. Being addicted to busyness is a product of low self-worth."

1. Play is the path to fun and profit.

Play opens up new channels of creativity and increases the level of satisfaction we experience at work. How employees feel about their company is directly related to their level of productivity and creativity. Research shows that highly motivated employees are up to 127% more productive than averagely motivated employees in high complexity jobs. — *Fortune Magazine*, January 1998.

2. "Fun is the new status symbol." *

Studies show, if you want to attract and keep talent, you need to have a fun, challenging and creative workplace environment. It's your talent that sets your business apart from the competition.

3. "Non-stop work is for losers" *

Play is as important as work. The quality of our work suffers if we don't take the time to play. We live in a workaholic society in North America. Being addicted to busyness is a product of low self-worth.

4. Even God rested on the 7th day!

And universities have a tradition of offering sabbaticals.

5. We need time to be idle.

Taking time to do nothing lets problems incubate and allows for creativity to flow. Children who are allowed to daydream develop a higher IQ.

6. Play helps us find our genius.

Your childhood passions are the key to our genius. In the midst of play we experience unlimited possibilities.

7. Play is crucial to attaining a work/life balance.

A work/life balance (not money) is the number one concern of employees at all levels, in Canada and the U.S. The ability to achieve this is the top determinant in whether they are happy on the job, and whether they stay or leave.

8. The bow kept forever taut will break. - Zen saying

Play helps us relax and let go. Play generates joy. Play replenishes and revitalizes our human spirit. It clears the mental cobwebs that keep us from thinking clearly.

Special points of interest:

- **Benefits of being creative**
- **TS recommended websites**
- **LGBTQA Website**

Inside this issue:

Reasons to Play continued	2
Get Creative	2
Creativity Day Website Choices	3
Website Choices continued	4
Website of the Month	4



Studies show to keep and attract talent you need a fun, challenging and creative workplace.

“We spend approximately 75% of our conscious time at work, it’s critical that we enjoy what we do as well as produce a good product or service.”



Continued from page 1

9. Play is smart corporate strategy for solving problems.

Play frees us from worry and stress, relaxing the brain and making it easier to be more creative. Solutions that seemed so evasive earlier now appear effortlessly in the midst of play.

10. Play keeps our passions alive in the workplace.

Studies show, if you want to attract and keep talent, you need to have a fun, challenging and creative workplace environment. It’s your talent that sets your business apart from the competition.

*Source: *Report on Business Magazine*, Aug. 1999
www.creativityatwork.com

Get Creative

By Jeff Brake

It’s pretty well known now-a-days that Google has some radical ideas about how to run a business. Two of our former employees now work for a company that’s just been purchased by Google and already the changes are starting. One of the most interesting concepts in the Google line of thinking is their 80/20 philosophy. All Google employees are required to spend 20% of their time on personal projects. That’s how we got Google Maps, Google Earth, Google Pedometer, GoogleMail, GoogleTalk, and a host of other really great web tools. Wouldn’t it be amazing if we could all take 20% of our time for creative thinking and getting outside the box?

Here at Tech Services, we’re just seem too busy to do that. I know that you’re familiar with that story. “I just don’t have time to try something new.” “I don’t have enough time to keep up with my current projects!” Well, we decided to try something this month. Creativity Day. We all know what it’s like to have spring cleaning in the office and clean out the inbox or shred old files. We did decide, however, that it is a priority for us to set aside one day to just, well, get creative. We had two in house trainings, tried out new software, brainstormed, and overall charged our creative minds as a group.

We spend approximately 75% of our conscious time at work, it’s critical that we enjoy what we do as well as produce a good product or service. I heard so much laughter and saw people working together and solving problems together on creativity day. That is what work should be about.

How do you and your staff take time to be creative and enjoy the work that you’re doing?

Creativity Day Website Choices

The internet has certainly transformed our lives. Here at tech services, we're plugged in to our keyboards all day long. When we need a break or some inspiration, we turn to the following websites for a break, a moment of insight, an idea, or just to laugh a little.

Keith

<http://cuteoverload.com/> It really is a cute overload – and the perfect cure for the jaded crabbies

<http://www.theonion.com/> A little wry satire is the perfect cure to the naive smileys

<http://allmusic.com/> My definitive source

Scott

<http://www.43folders.com/> about organization and productivity

<http://www.cssremix.com/> Good CSS Design examples

<http://del.icio.us/tag/umtechservices> all of our shared delicious links (just tag things with umtechservices on Del.icio.us to add things)

<http://www.alistapart.com/> good articles on design and usability

Therese

<http://www.seedsofhealth.co.uk/> - This is a really nice CSS site I came across.

<http://www.clusty.com> – A search engine that clusters the search information into sub categories.

<http://www.outside.in> – A really cool site that aggregates local news and information from external sites as well as internal, user-generated sources. It's also a social networking site where you can meet your "nearby neighbors".

<http://www.etsy.com/> - This is an awesome site for buying and selling handmade items. It lets you search for items by COLOR– how cool is that?

www.pandora.com – This is a very cool free online radio service where you enter an artist you like and Pandora picks similar artists or songs. It's a good way to discover new artists that you may not have learned about otherwise.

www.stumbleupon.com – An extremely extensive portal of online material that others have rated and reviewed. Beyond surfing the site, you can join StumbleUpon and download the toolbar and become a recommender yourself, and meet others ("stumblers") with similar interests.

Jeff

www.flickr.com

www.lifehacker.com

www.43folders.com

www.archive.org

www.liveplasma.com

www.wikipedia.org



“When we need a break or some inspiration, we turn to the following websites for a break, a moment of insight, an idea, or just to laugh a little.”

“It’s just ones and zeros”



LGBTQA

By Edie Andrew

The LGBTQA site was recently redesigned and has a more professional and colorful appearance. Behind the design a blend of CSS (cascading style sheets) and JavaScript provide easy navigation, helpful tooltips and convenient access to all the LGBTQA quick links. The content is much more comprehensive and includes FAQs, working definitions, domestic partner benefits, a site map and more. We hope you’ll visit <http://www.umich.edu/~lgbta/>!

Continued from page 3

Edie

<http://www.designmeltdown.com/>
<http://boagworld.com/>
<http://www.colorschemer.com/online.html>
http://www.siteprocentral.com/html_color_code.html
<http://www.riaforge.org/index.cfm>
<http://odeo.com/>
<http://mypage.bluewin.ch/yuppi/links/cheatsheets.html>
<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/>
<http://yotophoto.com/>

Matt

<http://www.arstechnica.com>
<http://www.gizmodo.com>
<http://www.43folders.com>
<http://www.interfacelift.com>

Maria

<http://www.wikipedia.org/>
<http://google.com/notebook/>
<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/>
<http://imagini.net/> (Click the start button for your own visual DNA, no registration required)
<http://www.quotationspage.com/>

Jen

<http://en.wikipedia.org/>
<http://news.google.com/>
<http://csszengarden.com/>
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=pVENWI8uBeg>

Amy Watson

<http://sfbay.craigslist.org/>
<http://postsecret.blogspot.com/>
<http://catsinsinks.com/>
<http://dailypuppy.com/>
<http://www.etsy.com/>
<http://writers.net/>

Amy Armstrong

<http://www.google.com/support.microsoft.com>
<http://itd.umich.edu/>
www.tmz.com
www.perezhilton

**TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES DIVISION
OF STUDENT
AFFAIRS**

530 South State Street
3410 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, Michigan
48109-1349

Phone: 734-647-0271
Fax: 734-647-1483
Email:
techservices@umich.edu

<http://techservices.umich.edu/>