State of the Industry: The Consultant of the Future

Liz DeVito Nathan Simon



Housekeeping – Before we begin

- All phone lines are muted
- Submit questions through the Q&A Widget
- Recorded session with be available and sent to all attendees and registrants tomorrow afternoon
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Today's Speakers



Erick Burchfield Managing Director of Research



Liz DeVito Associate Director, Lead for HR Consulting Research



Nathan Simon Senior Director, Lead for Strategy & Operations Research





The Consultant of the Future – Why Now?

Business model reinvention and an emerging talent ecosystem are redefining the skills profile and career path for consultants







The Changing Consulting Business Model



What? The New Consulting Value Proposition





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Why? The Imperative to Get From Outputs to Outcomes



Faster

How to get to outcomes more quickly?

Better

How to coordinate across client's functional hierarchy and with external partners?

Stickier

How to ensure clients can sustain and build on gains?

Cheaper

How to scale consulting resources?





How? Business Model Change





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Demand: The New Consultant



The New Consultant Model













Supply: A Changing Talent Market







Diverse, Multigenerational Workforce

BABY BOOMERS



1946-1964

- Executives & Practice Leaders, Senior Partners, Partners
- Predominantly male presence in consulting workforce
- Accustomed to organizational hierarchies, up & out culture
- Strong work ethic
- Achievement oriented, competitive
- At or near retirement

GENERATION X



1965-1980

- Executives & Practice Leaders, Senior Partners, Partners, Principals
- Greater gender diversity in consulting workforce
- Independent, resourceful, selfsufficient
- Technologically adept
- Value work/life balance and flexibility

Talent

Management

GEN Y/MILLENNIALS



1981-1997

- Principals, Senior Associates, Associates
- Racially diverse digital natives
- Will trade high pay for fewer billable hours, flexible schedules, and better work/life balances
- Seek new challenges; prone to job-hopping
- Team-oriented

Culture

& Brand

• Prefer frequent feedback





Social

Contract

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Employee

Lifecycle

Professional Self-Determination

Human Drivers

- Digital natives accustomed to setting their own schedules
- Older generations working beyond retirement
- Anxiety about sustainability of livelihood

Organizational Drivers

- Flat organizational structures, shift away from corporate paternalism
- Process and labor automation

Empowered

Workers

 Social business models enabled by digital connectivity





Implications



Consultant of the Future

- Focused on the client's experience: listens actively, earns trust, solves problems
- Works collaboratively
- Cultivates business acumen
- Adopts global mindset & adapts to different cultures
- Achieves technical specialty/area of expertise
- Tells stories with data
- Takes intelligent risks
- Able to reinvent self
- Open to change
- Is digitally intuitive





Diverse Consulting Models Enable Self-Determination

The Firm



- Project management model
- Value proposition
 - Depth and breadth of capabilities and expertise
 - Strategy to execution
- Investment in talent
 development
- Diverse work opportunities
- Professional support (sales, marketing, knowledge management, R&D)

Closed Talent Network



- On-demand model
- Value proposition
 - Alumni with inside-out, outside-in perspectives
 - Target under-served markets
- Examples: EY's GigNow, Mercer PeoplePro, PwC Talent Exchange
- Talent exchange works on firm projects only
- Familiarity with brand and corporate culture

Open Talent Network



- Hybrid project management/ on-demand model
- Value proposition
 - Pure-play consulting
 - Senior talent with diverse consulting backgrounds
- Examples: Business Talent Group, Eden McCallum, Expert360, Werk
- Freedom from business development and constraints of corporate culture



Alternative Career Paths Enable Self-Determination









Developing Future Consulting Leaders

Democratized leadership development across all levels and functions of the business

Focus on collective rather than individual leadership

Cross-pollinate client and consulting talent through secondments and internships

Consider leadership a shared process rather than an individual skill set





Enablers and Alternatives



Consistency •





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Questions?



Questions



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