

A Global Checkup: Diagnosing the Health of Today's Organizations

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Executive Summary

Nearly 50,000 surveys completed over two years by individuals around the world support one central hypothesis: Most organizations are “unhealthy,” meaning they cannot convert strategy into action. The most common impediment to execution is a “passive-aggressive” organization in which everyone says all the right things...and does none of them.

Between December of 2003 and November of 2005, Booz Allen surveyed over 30,000 individuals around the world about the organizations they work for. Respondents visited a website, www.orgdna.com, and answered 19 questions on decision rights, information, motivators, and structure. In addition, nearly 20,000 more surveys were completed by individuals at Booz Allen clients in the corporate, government, and not-for-profit sectors.

Represented in the data set are 23 industries, 100 countries, and eight internal departments/functions. We also have data related to the respondents’ position or level within the company as well as their organization’s size. This report highlights key findings from those data.

Most Organizations Are Unhealthy. Less than a third of the 30,000 respondents who filled out surveys on our public website report traits and behaviors consistent with a “healthy” organization. More than half the survey responses resulted in an “unhealthy” profile. In other words, by a margin of nearly 2-to-1, respondents declare that their own organizations are sick.

Some Countries Are Healthier Than Others. There are significant differences across regions and countries. For example, China reports one of the

highest incidences of organizational health; the U.S. one of the lowest. In fact, every European country reported greater organizational health than did the U.S.

Healthy Companies Reap Better Results. Not surprisingly, healthy organizations are twice as likely as their unhealthy peers to report better-than-industry-average profitability.

All Industries Suffer Significant Organizational Dysfunction. Even in the “healthiest” industry (real estate), less than half of survey respondents report healthy organizations. In the “sickest” industry (utilities), less than a quarter of respondents do so.

Unhealthy Organizations Lack Clear Decision Rights. Only 23% of respondents from “unhealthy” organizations report that people in their organization have a clear idea of the decisions for which they are accountable.

Insufficient Information Flows Plague Unhealthy Organizations. A mere 16% of those respondents who described their organizations as unhealthy believe information flows freely within their organizations.

Larger Organizations are Less Healthy. Responses from large companies (in terms of annual revenues) are more likely than those of smaller organizations to result in unhealthy profiles.

Altitude Determines Attitude. More than any other group in the organization, senior executives perceive their companies as high-functioning, reporting healthy profiles more than half of the time, in sharp contrast to lower-level groups who describe their organization as healthy only 30% of the time.

A Global Check-Up: Diagnosing the Health of Today's Organizations

Most organizations are inherently unhealthy. That hypothesis is inspired by experience, informed by economic theory, and now supported by hard data.

As management consultants specializing in organizational transformation, we have collectively spent decades helping clients identify and overcome the organizational impediments to effective execution. Based on that experience, we have distilled seven basic organization types—three healthy, four unhealthy—that together describe the persistent patterns of behavior we have seen in corporate, government, not-for-profit and/or academic contexts (see box “The Seven Types of Organizations”). These types, or organizational profiles, reflect different interactions between and among four basic organizational building blocks: decision rights, information, motivators, and structure.

We applied to this typology some of the pathbreaking theory on the economics of organizations¹ to help us create an online assessment tool called the *Org DNA Profiler*SM (see box “Research Methodology” page 10). This tool enables an individual working in any organization anywhere in the world to come up with a snapshot diagnosis of his or her organization's type in as little as five minutes. It's a “personality test” for organizations, if you will. When many individuals from the same organization take the test, the aggregate results reveal the root causes of many performance failures, and pinpoint the areas where a company can focus to improve its

ability to execute. Such diagnostic clarity is rare in the world of fixing organizations.

We launched the *Org DNA Profiler*SM at www.orgdna.com in December 2003. To date, more than 30,000 individuals have visited the site and completed the survey. In addition, nearly 20,000 more profiles have been generated on client-specific sites set up to facilitate work with our clients in corporate, government, and not-for-profit sectors. In each of these cases, we have created a customized, password-protected site for the client to collect employee input on their organization's decision rights, information flows, motivators, and structure. The resulting “deep-dive” data sets provide us with a slightly different perspective on how and why individual companies behave as they do, and allow clients to pinpoint the root causes of their organizational breakdowns so they can then fix them. We discuss a few of these client case studies in the box entitled, “How Healthy is My Company?”

We continue to collect data as new individuals visit the site and complete profiles. Periodically, research updates are made available on www.orgdna.com. This report highlights key findings through the fall of 2005.

The *Org DNA Profiler*SM data set cuts a wide swath across industries, geographies, and organizations. Represented are 23 industries, from banking to transportation to energy, and eight internal departments/functions (human resources, information technology, legal, etc.). We also have data on each respondent's position or level within the company (e.g., senior management, corporate staff, etc.) as well as his or her organization's size (see Exhibit 1 on page 3).

¹ See, for example, Michael C. Jensen and William H. Meckling, “Specific and General Knowledge and Organizational Structure,” in Michael C. Jensen, *Foundations of Organizational Strategy*, Harvard University Press, 1998, and *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance*, Vol. 8, No. 2, Summer 1995.

The Seven Types of Organizations

Based on our experience working with organizations and our research on how well or badly the four organizational building blocks—decision rights, information, motivators, and structure—are aligned within them, we have identified seven principal types of organizations; four unhealthy, and three healthy (see below):

Eighty-five percent of all responses to the *Org DNA Profiler*SM fall into one of these seven “personality” types, which not only describe an organization’s typical traits but also explain its shortcomings and even predict its behavior.

“Unhealthy” Profiles

“Unhealthy” Profiles		“Healthy” Profiles	
The Passive-Aggressive Organization	<p>“Everyone agrees, but nothing changes.” Congenial and seemingly conflict-free; builds consensus easily, but struggles to implement agreed-upon plans</p>		
		<p>“Succeeding by the skin of our teeth.” Inconsistently prepared for change; can “turn on a dime” when necessary, without losing sight of the big picture</p>	The Just-In-Time Organization
The Overmanaged Organization	<p>“We’re from Corporate, and we’re here to help.” Multiple layers of management create “analysis paralysis”; bureaucratic and highly political environment</p>		
		<p>“Flying in formation.” Often driven by a small, involved senior team; succeeds through superior execution and the efficiency of its operating model</p>	The Military Precision Organization
The Outgrown Organization	<p>“The good old days meet a brave new world.” Too large and complex to be effectively controlled by a small team; has yet to delegate decision-making authority</p>		
		<p>“As good as it gets.” Flexible enough to adapt quickly to external market shifts, yet steadfastly focused on and aligned behind a coherent business strategy</p>	The Resilient Organization
The Fits-and-Starts Organization	<p>“Let 1,000 flowers bloom.” Contains scores of smart, motivated, and talented people who rarely pull in the same direction at the same time</p>		

Source: Booz Allen Hamilton

With the addition of a “country” field in April of 2004, we began capturing information on geographic location, and we now have profiles submitted from more than 100 countries. The site has been translated into 12 languages, including German, Japanese, and Chinese. In short, the data are from an extraordinarily broad cross-section of global organizations and provide a robust sample with which to test our hypotheses.

Global Diagnosis: Most Organizations Are Unhealthy

Nearly 50,000 profiles completed over two years by individuals around the world are consistent with one central hypothesis: Most organizations are unhealthy. That is, most respondents describe their workplace as inherently ineffectual. Our “genetic marker” for an organization’s health is its ability to quickly translate important strategic and operational decisions into action: 54% of survey respondents answer that their organizations cannot.

Organizational health, in other words, is the ability to execute. Healthy companies get things done. Unhealthy companies do not. They stumble and, ultimately, stagnate.

Do these complaints sound familiar?

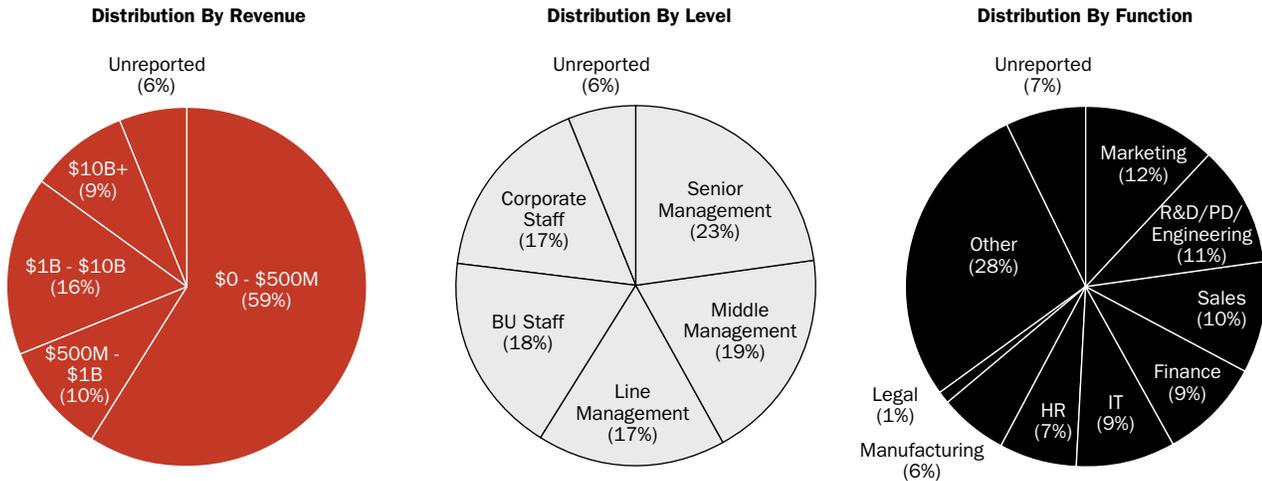
- *“Everyone agrees on a course of action, but nothing changes.”*
- *“There goes another opportunity while we wait for a decision.”*
- *“It’s a great idea; it’ll never happen.”*
- *“I’m either micromanaged or left holding the bag.”*
- *“The businesses and functions just aren’t working together to get results.”*
- *“I don’t feel motivated to go the extra mile. What’s in it for me?”*
- *“We have the right strategy and a clear implementation plan; we just can’t seem to execute.”*

These are some of the symptoms of organizational disease and dysfunction. These are the counterproductive behaviors that undermine an organization’s success and lead, ultimately, to its competitive marginalization.

The ability to execute, like health, is not something you can hire or mandate. It is inherent, embedded in the organization’s “genes,” and expressed in the thousands of individual decisions and actions that collec-

Exhibit 1

Org DNA ProfilerSM Database Includes a Broad Cross-Section of Organizations



Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 30,000 responses; Booz Allen analysis

tively constitute and define performance. The first step in resolving execution breakdowns is to understand how these fundamental traits of an organization influence and, in some ways, even determine, how each individual thinks and acts on the job. That behavior is what drives results.

As Exhibit 2 shows, less than a third of the 30,000 respondents who have completed surveys on www.orgdna.com report traits and behaviors consistent with a “healthy” profile. More than half the survey responses resulted in one of the four “unhealthy” profiles, Passive-Aggressive being by far the most prevalent (for more detail on the Passive-Aggressive organization, see “Passive-Aggressive Predominates” box). In other words, by a margin of nearly 2-to-1, respondents declared that their own organizations could not execute: strategic and operational decisions were not quickly translated into action. Hence our most salient finding is a very simple and sobering one: Most organizations, by their own employees’ admission, are sick.

Some Countries Are Healthier Than Others

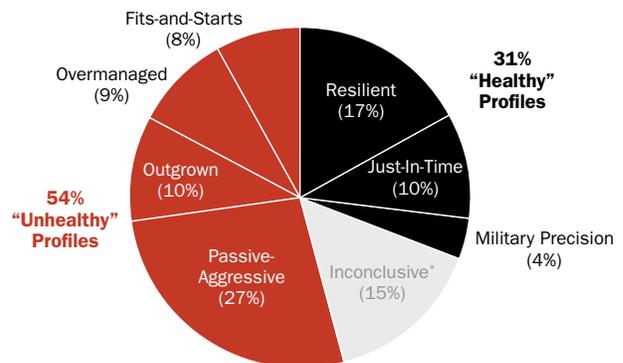
We began collecting data on respondents’ location several months after launching the website. Since then we have received more than 15,000 responses with complete location information, which reveal significant differences across regions and countries.

Twice as many identified Europeans have taken the survey as identified Americans, and their responses, overall, tend to be much healthier. In fact, comparing the proportion of healthy profiles reported across countries with sufficient data² shows every European country ranking higher than the United States (see Exhibit 3 on page 4). What’s more, this finding holds across all revenue segments and management/staff levels.

A second arresting finding is that China is one of the most robust nations when it comes to organizational health. More than half (54%) of all surveys completed in China resulted in a healthy profile, versus 31% in the overall sample³ and only 33% in the United States.

Exhibit 2

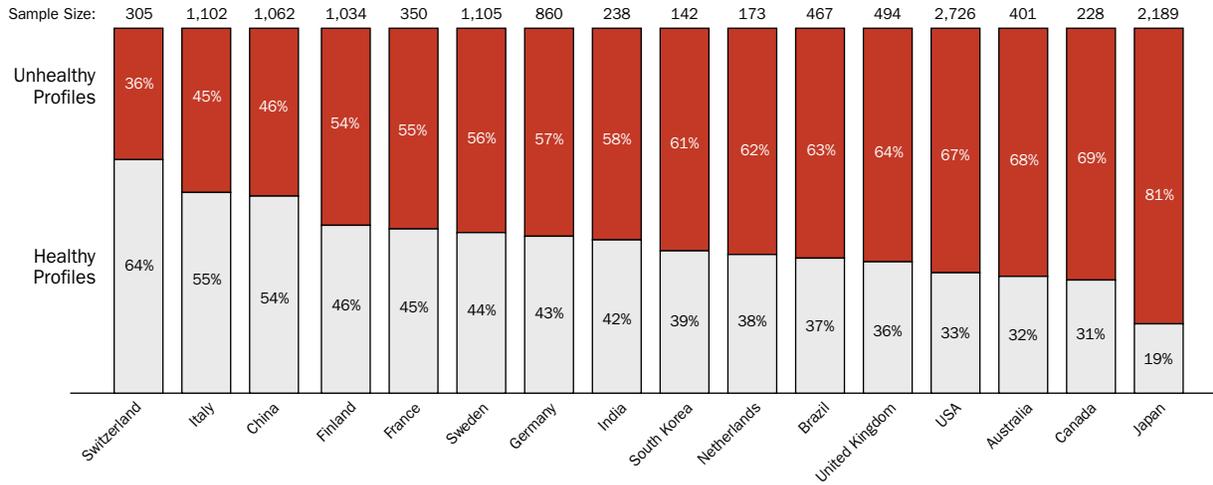
Unhealthy Profiles Outnumber Healthy Ones Almost 2-to-1



* Respondents who generated an “inconclusive” response reported traits and behaviors that either match multiple profiles or display uncommon patterns.
Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 30,000 responses; Booz Allen analysis

² Those with 100 observations or more
³ 30,000 responses.

Exhibit 3
Regional Distinctions in Organizational Health



Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 12,958 responses; Booz Allen analysis

Passive-Aggressive Predominates*

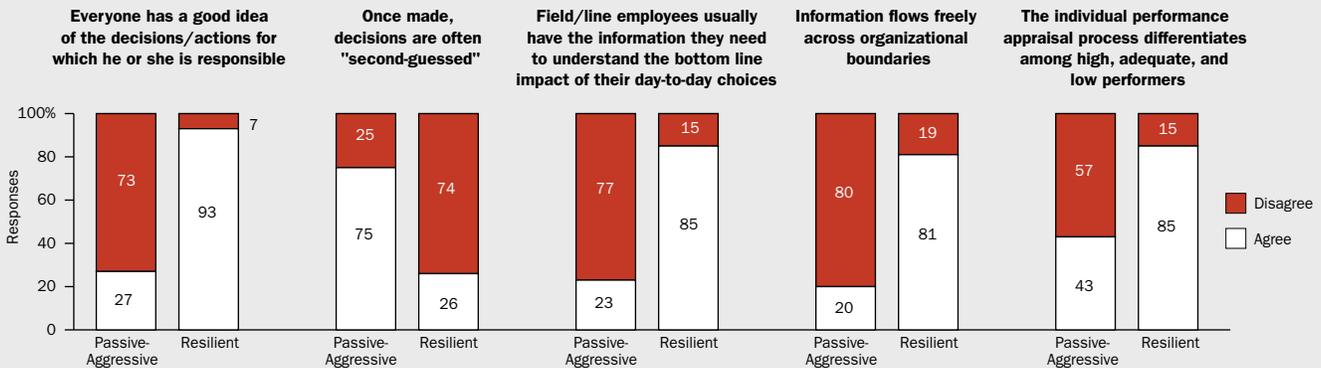
The largest number of *Org DNA Profiler*SM respondents—more than 25%—characterize their organization as suffering from a cluster of pathologies we place under the label “Passive-Aggressive.” The category takes its name from the organization’s quiet but tenacious resistance, in every way but openly, to corporate directives.

In Passive-Aggressive organizations, people pay those directives lip service, making only enough effort to appear compliant. Looking more closely at *Org DNA Profiler*SM question-level results, however, it is clear that execution is far from their highest priority. In contrast to responses from the healthiest Resilient organizations, people working in Passive-Aggressive organizations feel strongly that they do not know which decisions they are responsible for, that no decision is ever final, that good information is hard to obtain, and that

their performance is not accurately appraised (see chart below).

That said, the Passive-Aggressive organization is not one where bad outcomes can be attributed to individuals’ hostile or perverse intentions. It is, in fact, a place where mostly well-intentioned people are the victims of flawed processes and policies. Passive-Aggressive organizations are the result of entropy and expediency and historical accident, laced with the occasional bout of bad behavior left uncorrected. Ultimately an organization becomes Passive-Aggressive because that is the path of least resistance: it reflects a decision made by all the individuals in an organization, most of them well-intentioned, to not fight what they believe they cannot change.

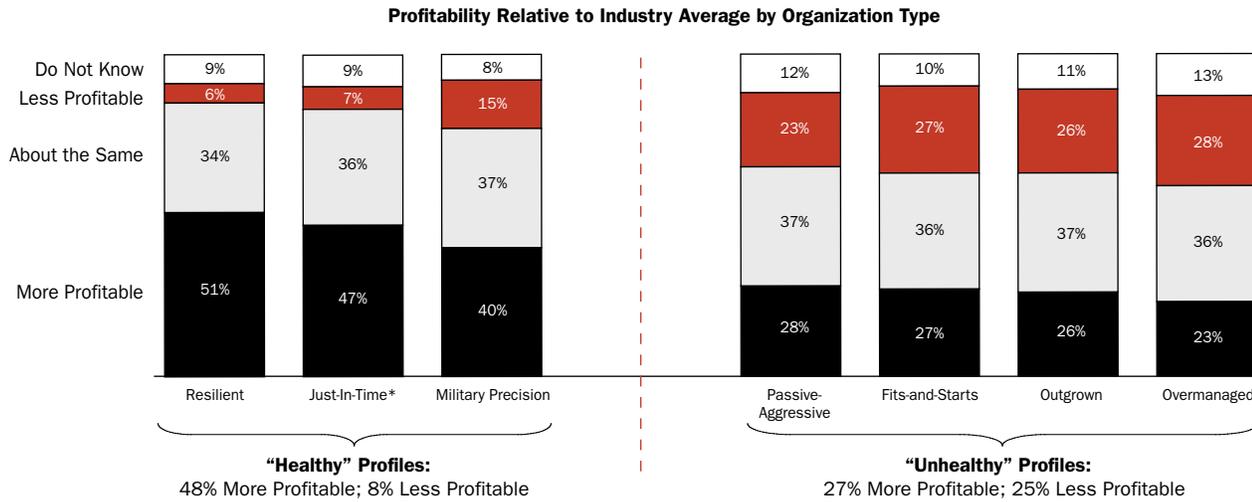
The Root Causes of Passive-Aggressive Behavior



* Adapted from Neilson et al., “The Passive-Aggressive Organization,” Harvard Business Review, October 2005.
Source: *Org DNA Profiler*SM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 30,000 responses; Booz Allen analysis

Exhibit 4

Healthy Organizations Report Greater Profitability



* Percentages do not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 12,465 responses; Booz Allen analysis

In fact the United States is among the most unhealthy of organizational environments according to our data. Among countries with sufficient data, only Japan, Canada, and Australia fare worse.

Analyzing the question-level data further, three traits appear to be especially strongly correlated with organizational health among respondents from the United States. Among U.S. respondents generating “healthy” profiles:

- 70% agree that “information flows freely across organizational boundaries.”
- 61% agree that “field/line employees usually have the information they need to understand the bottom line impact of their day-to-day choices.”
- 60% agree that “everyone has a good idea of decisions/actions for which he or she is responsible.”

Healthy Companies Reap Better Results

Not surprisingly, organizational health and financial success are correlated. In fact, healthy organizations are nearly twice as likely as their unhealthy peers to report better-than-industry-average profitability⁴: while 48% of respondents who generated healthy profiles report better-than-average profitability, only 27% of those who describe their organizations as unhealthy do so (see Exhibit 4).

A closer look at the results question-by-question reveals that the traits most highly correlated with

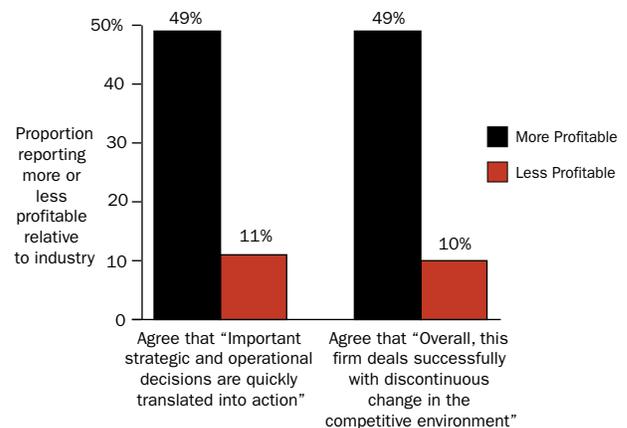
superior profitability are an ability to quickly translate strategic and operational decisions into action and the capacity to deal well with discontinuous change in the competitive environment (see Exhibit 5).

All Industries Suffer Significant Organizational Dysfunction

Looking across the entire data set, no industry emerges as particularly healthy. Even in the “healthiest” industry (real estate), less than half of survey responses result in a healthy profile. And it gets much worse: in the least “healthy” industry (utilities), less than one-quarter of responses indicate a healthy organization.

Exhibit 5

Execution and Adaptability Correlate with Superior Profitability

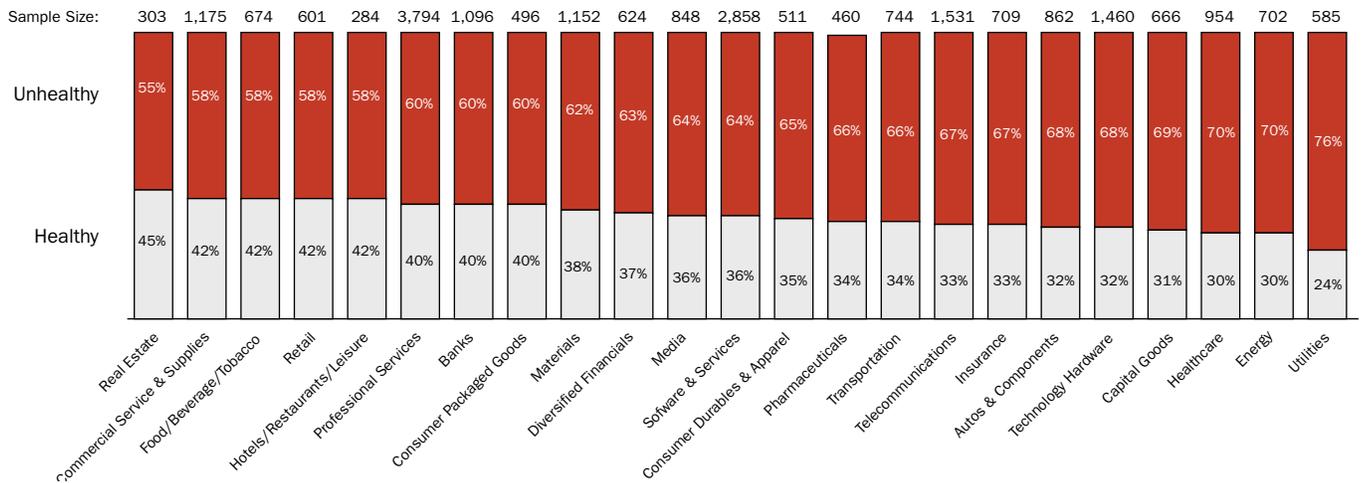


Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com; Booz Allen analysis, blank answers excluded

⁴Relative profitability is reported using a survey question that asks respondents to indicate whether their companies are: “more profitable” than their industry’s average, “less profitable,” “about the same,” or “unknown/inapplicable.”

Exhibit 6

Sector-Level Differences in Organizational Health



Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 23,089 completed observations; Booz Allen analysis

The unhealthiest industries are remarkably consistent across revenue segments, so organization size alone does not drive this result (see Exhibit 6). For example, as compared to other industries, utilities and health-care fall in the bottom “health” quartile in all four revenue segments. Capital goods and energy companies are among the bottom six industries in three out of four revenue segments. We believe that these unhealthy organizations survive because they compete in regulated and/or capital-intensive industries where high barriers to entry likely protect them from failure. In contrast, more “healthy” industries—professional services, commercial services, hotel and leisure, real estate—tend to be more openly competitive.

Unhealthy Organizations Lack Clear Decision Rights

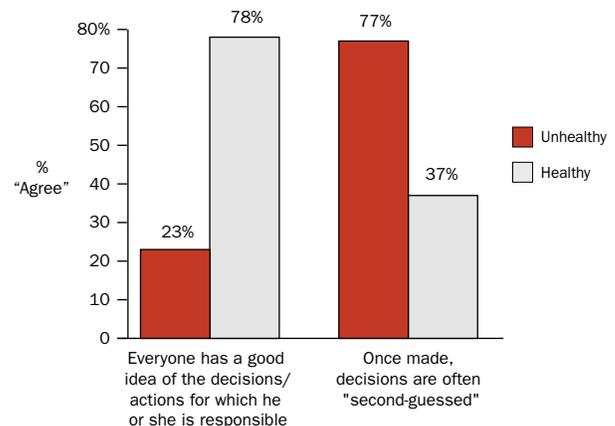
Despite their obvious importance in determining how an organization will perform, decision rights (i.e., who decides what) are poorly defined in a surprising number of companies. Only 43% of overall respondents believe that people in their organization have a clear idea of the decisions they are responsible for. Among “unhealthy” profiles, that number drops to 23%. Fewer than one in four people in these organizations know where their own job ends and another person’s begins. In contrast, nearly 80% of “healthy” respondents agree that everyone in their organization has a clear idea of the decisions/actions for which he or she is responsible (see Exhibit 7).

Still more evidence that decision rights are unclear in unhealthy organizations is that three out of four responses from “unhealthy” companies agree that decisions, once made, are often second-guessed, as compared to 37% of respondents from “healthy” companies. Second-guessing is a common symptom of ill-defined or poorly articulated decision rights.

That said, simply clarifying decision rights won’t serve as a cure-all. Decisionmakers cannot make effective decisions in the absence of accurate and relevant

Exhibit 7

Decision Rights are Unclear in Unhealthy Organizations



Source: Org DNA ProfilerSM data collected from www.orgdna.com; Booz Allen analysis, blank answers excluded

information. And, as the next finding indicates, incomplete or inaccessible information is a hallmark of the unhealthy organization.

Inadequate Information Flows Plague Unhealthy Organizations

Despite decades of advancement and investment in IT, most organizations still have difficulty getting information where it needs to go. The responses to *Org DNA Profiler*SM questions on information show a marked disparity between healthy and unhealthy organizations (see Exhibit 8).

A mere 16% of those respondents who described their organizations as unhealthy report that information flows freely within their organizations, and only one in five feel that field and line employees have the information they need to understand the bottom line impact of their day-to-day choices. More than three times as many “healthy” respondents agree with these statements.

Only two in five “unhealthy” respondents agree that line managers have the metrics they need to drive the business, that their organization rarely sends mixed signals to the market, and that important information gets to headquarters quickly. Healthy respondents are twice as likely to answer these questions in the affirmative.

Larger Organizations Are Less Healthy

While our data are cross-sectional rather than time-series, they suggest that “healthy” growth is hard to achieve. Specifically, examining profile distributions by

organization size (measured by revenues) shows that responses from small organizations are more likely than those from larger ones to result in a healthy profile (see Exhibit 9 on page 9). In other words, smaller organizations are generally more effective at executing. By contrast, large organizations are more likely to manifest dysfunctional traits and behaviors and report unhealthy profiles.

These results and our experience working with clients of all sizes suggest that organizational DNA changes, or mutates, as organizations grow and adapt to changes in their competitive environment, and that these changes are often for the worse.

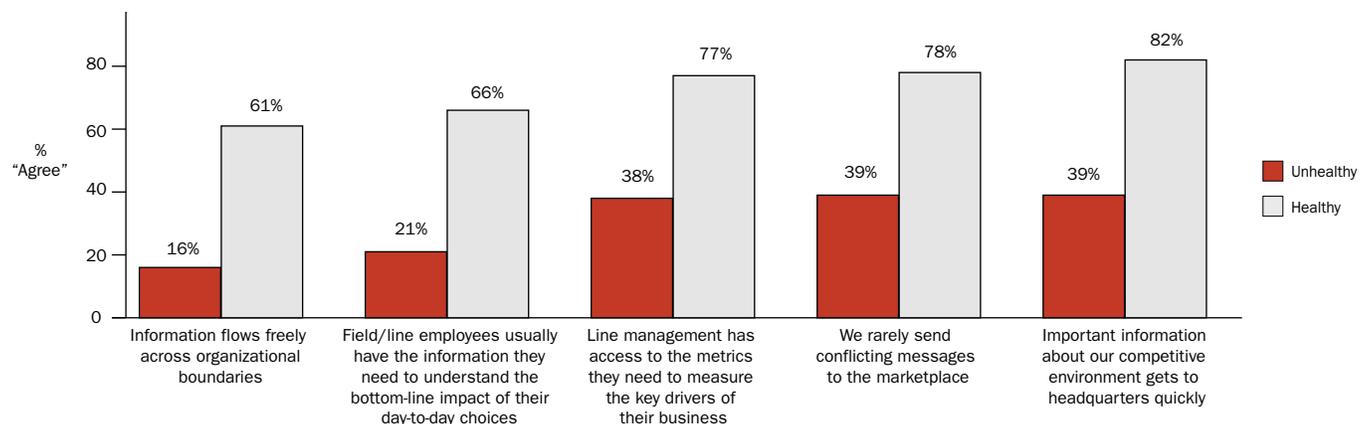
Altitude Determines Attitude: Senior Management Is High on Organizational Health

The *Org DNA Profiler*SM has generated interest at every level: 23 percent of respondents identify themselves as senior management, 19 percent as middle management, 17 percent as line management, 18 percent as business unit staff, and 17 percent as corporate staff. Our survey results indicate sharp differences, however, in perception between senior management and the rest of the organization. At the same time, the four non-senior-management groups show remarkable consistency in their outlooks.

More than any other group in the organization, senior executives responding to the survey perceive their organizations as high-functioning, reporting healthy profiles more than half of the time (see Exhibit 10 on page 9).

Exhibit 8

Information Stagnates in Unhealthy Organizations



How Healthy Is My Company?

To date, Booz Allen Hamilton has set up company-specific *Org DNA Profiler*SM sites for more than 30 clients around the globe in both private and public sectors. These custom sites are password-protected so that only invited employees (anywhere from 50 to several thousand) can complete a profile, anonymously.

We collect and analyze the data, cutting it many ways to yield a multi-dimensional diagnosis. First, we look at the breakdown of employee responses by profile and compare it to responses from peer organizations (e.g., in the same industry, of similar size, in the same country) and to the global dataset. We also examine the answers to specific questions to identify where the breakdowns are occurring in, between, and among the various organizational building blocks—decision rights, information, motivation, and structure—and how, again, that compares to peers and the overall dataset. We also frequently analyze the data by department or unit and by management level to tease out these distinctions (i.e., best and worst practices, differences in perspective), as well as other dimensions relevant for a particular client.

Not every employee in a given company will generate the same profile: each organization is a mosaic of different perspectives. However, there is invariably a strong center of gravity around which responses from a single organization cluster. On average, the most common profile generated at a single company, whether it be Passive-Aggressive, Fits-and-Starts, Military Precision or another type, will account for close to 40% of all responses in that company. The two most common profiles will account for more than 60% of responses, on average (see Exhibit A on page 9).

This broad consistency of responses holds true down to the question level. On an average 7 of the 19 questions, more than 70% of company respondents will choose the same response. By comparison, we don't see that high a level of agreement on *any* question in the public dataset.

Of course, the real power of the *Org DNA Profiler*SM data is what organizations do with it. Many clients have used it to great benefit to drive results. For instance, an outsourcing company based in India was worried that its organization could not accommodate its torrid growth. Front line managers were being hired so rapidly, senior management assumed they would quickly burn out and become disgruntled. They administered the *Org DNA Profiler*SM to every manager in

the company and were stunned to discover that, if anything, junior managers had a brighter outlook than their bosses and felt the company was very healthy, indeed Resilient. In fact, it was the founding team of senior executives who were much less likely to report a healthy profile—the opposite of our general finding that senior management tend to be more optimistic about organizational health.

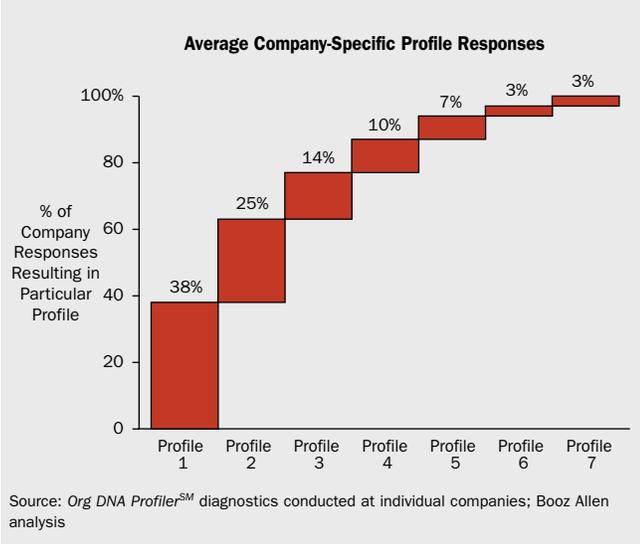
As part of a full-day, facilitated offsite, the senior team explored this result, among others, and concluded that, as the entrepreneurs who founded the enterprise, their expectations for its performance were exceptionally high; they were less tolerant of perceived shortfalls. The company has since built its entire strategic plan as well as its implementation program around the four DNA building blocks, specifically targeting weaknesses identified in their *Org DNA Profiler*SM results.

A second client, a global healthcare company, identified a number of organizational obstacles to optimal health using the *Org DNA Profiler*SM, including unclear decision rights, a complex and over-layered management structure, and an insufficient emphasis on performance differentiation and accountability. They are now in the process of clarifying key decision rights, simplifying their management structure, and renewing the performance appraisal process' focus on personal accountability for superior results.

Another client, a not-for-profit global relief agency, used the *Org DNA Profiler*SM to sample its staff in every corner of the world on their perceptions of the organization's efficacy. More than 3,000 responses from all divisions and all levels within the agency revealed sharp distinctions. For example, North American respondents reported fewer healthier behaviors as a rule, and divisions responsible for delivering aid tended to report healthier traits than those focused on fundraising. The agency was able to use these findings immediately to design programs tailored to the different needs of its various regions and divisions. Moreover, it uncovered and is now exploiting opportunities to share internal best practices.

In addition to serving as a useful diagnostic tool, the *Org DNA Profiler*SM is a springboard to action. It initiates a dialogue within organizations—among regions, divisions, management levels—that starts with a common understanding and leads to improved results.

Exhibit A
Any Organization Is a Mosaic of Types with a Clear Center of Gravity



In contrast, line and mid-level managers and business unit and corporate staff tend to be consistently pessimistic in their assessment of organizational effectiveness. Across the board, their responses result in unhealthy profiles 70% of the time.

Digging into the question-level data, it becomes clear that not only is senior management out of touch with the rest of the organization, but they don't know what they don't know. Nearly two-thirds of senior managers agree that "important information gets to headquarters quickly," whereas only half of their subordinates agree.

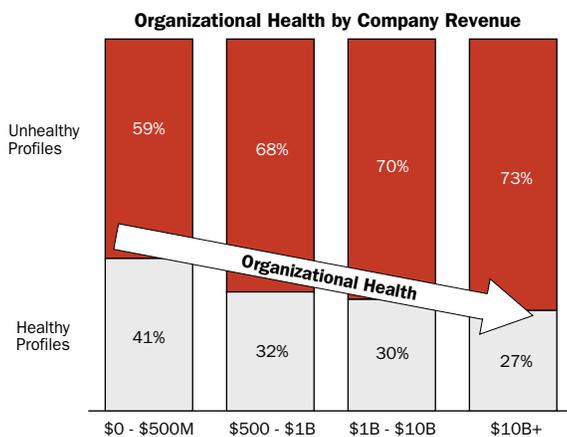
The executive floor at many companies would appear to be cut off in more ways than one.

Curing What Ails You: Organizing to Execute

Results from the *Org DNA Profiler*SM overwhelmingly support the hypothesis that most companies today suffer the ill-effects of unhealthy organizational design. In other words, they are being thwarted from within. But our research goes beyond discriminating between "healthy" and "unhealthy." Each individual respondent generates a profile that 85% of the time falls into one of seven specific organizational types, each with a distinct personality and set of distinguishing characteristics.

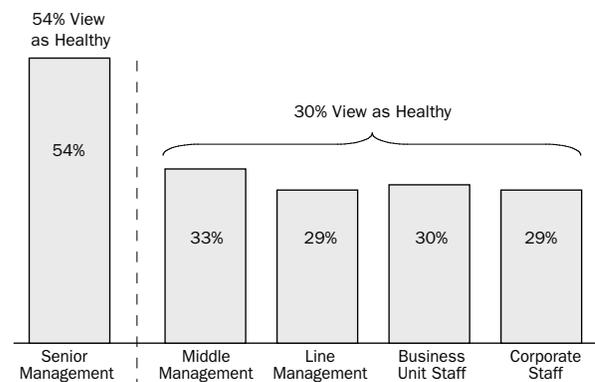
Four of these profiles—Passive-Aggressive, Over-managed, Outgrown, Fits-and-Starts—are "unhealthy," but each is unhealthy in a different way. Each exhibits a specific combination of dysfunctional traits and counterproductive behaviors. The first step in fixing these problems is to identify and isolate them. That is the purpose of the *Org DNA Profiler*SM. Using a framework that examines key aspects of an organization's design, the tool allows management to see what is working and what isn't, deep inside a highly complex organization. Moreover it serves as a "search engine," directing management to practical and actionable information on the remedies most relevant to their particular situation.⁵

Exhibit 9
Organizational Health Declines with Size



Source: *Org DNA Profiler*SM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 24,025 completed observations; Booz Allen analysis

Exhibit 10
Senior Management's Bullish Attitude Sets Them Apart



Source: *Org DNA Profiler*SM data collected from www.orgdna.com, based on 24,032 completed observations; Booz Allen analysis

⁵ For more information on remedies, see *RESULTS: Keep What's Good, Fix What's Wrong, and Unlock Great Performance*, by Gary L. Neilson and Bruce A. Pasternack, Crown Business, 2005.

Research Methodology

Similar in nature to familiar individual personality assessments, the *Org DNA Profiler*SM (www.orgdna.com) categorizes organizational character based on employees' responses to a 5-minute survey comprising 19 questions (see below). Responses to the questions are fed through proprietary software that assigns the organization described to one of seven prototypical profiles.

The website is open to the general public, and visitors can anonymously complete a profile of their organization. In addition to answering the 19 questions, respondents also provide demographic information (e.g., their organization's size and industry, their own level and department in the organization). We use these data to categorize responses

and identify differences across industries, functions, management levels, and the like. When we create a custom *Org DNA Profiler*SM for a client, we tailor the demographic questions to establish the comparison groups that are most relevant to that client's situation (e.g., what division/location a respondent works in, whether he or she came from an acquired entity, etc.).

On both the public site and the company-specific sites, individual responses are strictly anonymous: no names (company or individual) are requested or revealed. The data collected are used for analysis and comparison purposes only.

Org DNA ProfilerSM: 19 Questions Grouped by Building Blocks

Potential Responses

Structure

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 At the middle management level, the average number of direct reports is... | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or fewer |
| 2 Promotions include lateral moves (from one position to another on the same level in the hierarchy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 3 "Fast track" employees here can expect promotions... | <input type="checkbox"/> Every 3 years or more | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than every 3 years |

Decision Rights

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 The culture of this organization can best be described as... | <input type="checkbox"/> "Persuade & Cajole" | <input type="checkbox"/> "Command & Control" |
| 5 Important strategic and operational decisions are quickly translated into action | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 6 The primary role of corporate staff here is to... | <input type="checkbox"/> Audit the Business Units | <input type="checkbox"/> Support the Business Units |
| 7 Managers above me in the hierarchy "get their hands dirty" by getting involved in operating decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely |
| 8 Once made, decisions are often "second-guessed" | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 9 Everyone has a good idea of the decisions/actions for which he or she is responsible | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |

Information

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10 Overall, this firm deals successfully with discontinuous change in the competitive environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 11 Important information about our competitive environment gets to headquarters quickly | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 12 Field/line employees usually have the information they need to understand the bottom line impact of their day-to-day choices | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 13 We rarely send conflicting messages to the marketplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 14 Information flows freely across organizational boundaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 15 Line management has access to the metrics they need to measure the key drivers of their business | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |

Motivators

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16 If the firm has a bad year, but a particular division has a good year, the division head would still get a bonus | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 17 Besides pay, many other things motivate individuals to do a good job | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 18 The individual performance appraisal process differentiates among high, adequate, and low performers | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 19 The ability to deliver on performance commitments strongly influences career advancement and compensation | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |

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Booz Allen Hamilton has been at the forefront of management consulting for businesses and governments for over 90 years. Booz Allen, a global strategy and technology consulting firm, works with clients to deliver results that endure.

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