CHAPTER ONE

Understanding Workplace Communication





Overview

- The importance of communication
- Three forms of communication in business
- Formal and informal networks
- The process of communication
- Basic truths about communication

The Importance of Communication Skills as Expressed by Business Authorities

"Top executives from Fortune 500 companies rate communications skills as the most important quality for business leaders."

--Business Section
New York Times

"There may be no single thing more important in our efforts to achieve meaningful work and fulfilling relationships than to learn and practice the art of communication."

--Max De Pree, Author
The Art of Leadership



Evidence of Communication Weakness in Business

"I'm surprised how so many people struggle with communication."

Michael Rook, Production Manager
 Hewlett Packard, San Diego, CA

"The first thing the Human Resources Department did was give me a writing book."

--Sam Reeves, IT Consultant AMS, Denver, CO



Main Forms of Communication in Business

- Operational
 - Internal
 - External
- Personal

JOHN DEERE Enterprise News Submit News Updated 9/30/2003 Leese Appointment Announced 11:34AM ET 2004 Enterprise Business Sept. 29 - Gail E. Leese has been appointed Director, New DE Last 52.59 Business Initiatives, Worldwide Parts Services effective SVA Scorecard: Updated through 3rd quarter Change -0.12 High/Low 52.77/52.26 Blue Bulletin 1631 Executive Volume 510300 Speeche 52-Wk High/Low 2002 Summary of Annual Reports Now Online 58.55/37.56 DJIA 9277.51, -102.73 Sept. 24 - The Summary Annual Reports for 2002 for all of the various Deere & Company benefit plans are now available online for U.S. S&P 500 995.91, -10.67 salaried employees. Law requires that these plans be made available to NASDAO 1795.87. -28.69 John Deere Promise employees. The reports are located on the Human Resources Web site, NYSE 5634.93, -50.42 accessed under Your Info on the enterprise navigation menu drop-All Quotes from CCBN 2003 Enterprise Business down. From the Human Resources Web site, the plans are located Objectives DE from Bloomberg under Benefits on the department menu drop-down Summary of Annual Reports Guidelines for the Intranet John Deere Worldwide Security News How to use John Deere Brand JOHN DEERE Weather John Deere Today: Business Intelligence Corporate Compliance Worldwide locations now Compliance Hotline Make John Deere Online Deere Direct Employee Self Service Factory Shutdown Schedule Learning & Development Library Archives EPDP John Deere Travel Outlook Web Access Position Analysis Questionnaire (PAQ) Perf. Mgmt. JD JOBS JD Supply Network 401(k) Options JD Health Employee Benefit Site John Deere MindShare Virus Center

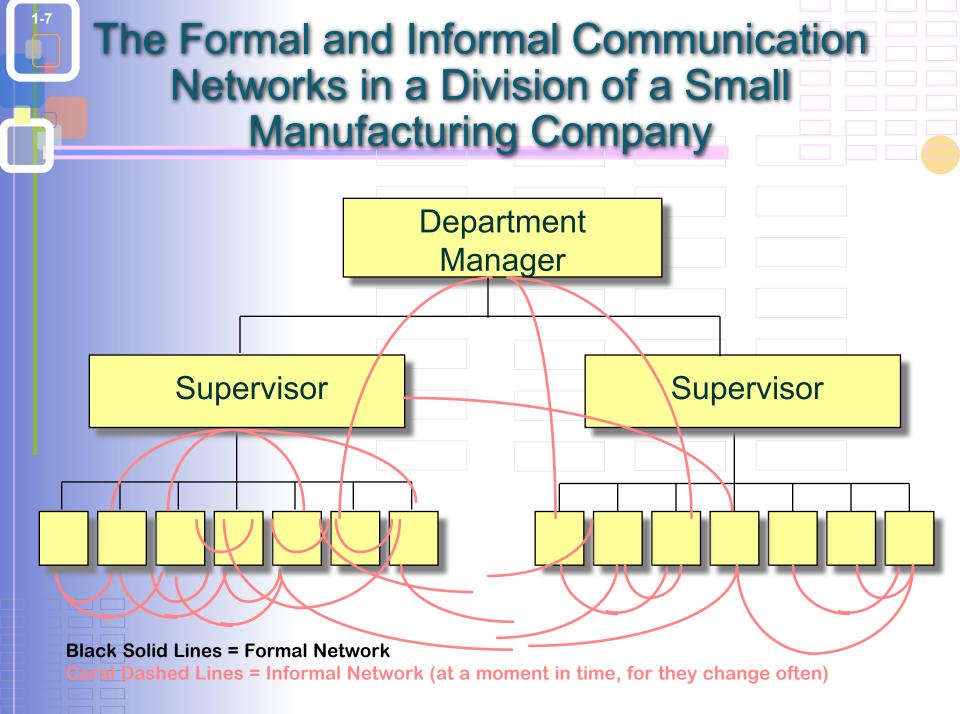
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Intranets (or portals) like this one from Deere & Company are used for internal communication.



Communication Networks

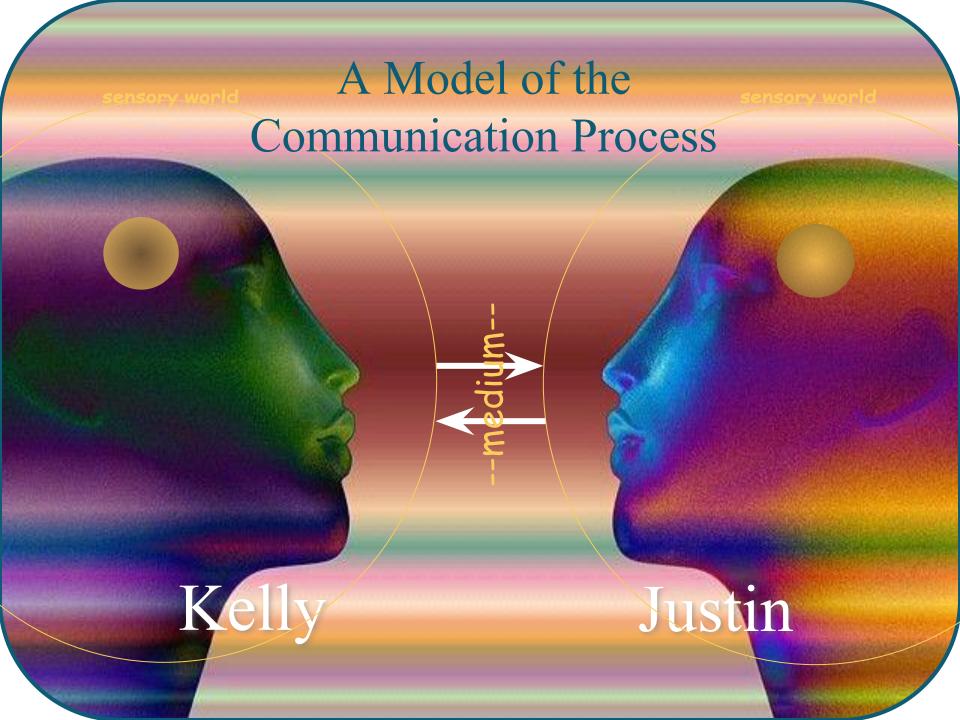
- Formal Network
 - well-established, usually along operational lines
 - planned
- Informal Network
 - complex
 - dynamic





Factors Affecting Volume of Communication in Business

- Nature of the business
- Operating plan
- People

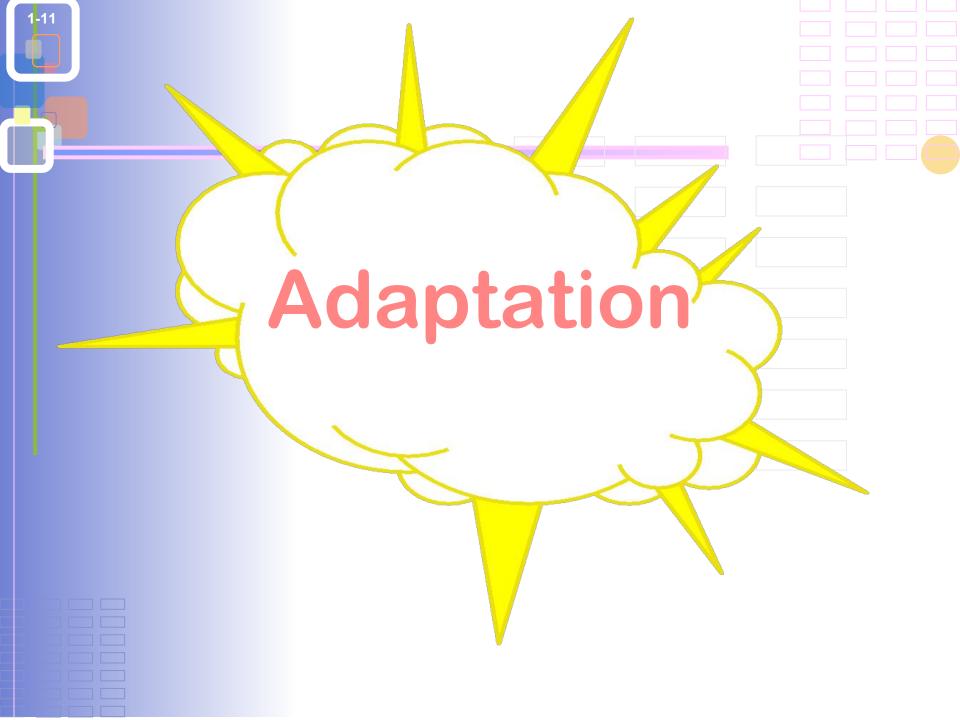




How Oral and Written Communication Differ

Written communication

- □ is more likely to involve creative effort,
- has longer cycles,
- and usually has fewer cycles.





Some Basic Truths about Communication

- Meanings sent are not always received.
- Meaning is in the mind.
- The symbols of communication are imperfect.



"Writing is thinking on paper. Anyone who thinks clearly should be able to write clearly about any subject at all."

--William Zinsser, Author

On Writing Well