

SYSC4106 Assignment 1

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Chapter 1:

Why would Carl Williams ask a non-technical manager to assume the CIO position?

I think that Carl Williams would ask a non-technical manager to assume the CIO position because although Jim Barton does not have much or any knowledge with technology, it's more important that they know how to do their job as a CIO. This includes being able to fix problems with the team, being a good leader and knowing how to manage a team.

If you were Jim Barton, would you take the job?

If I were Jim Barton, I would take the job because although I wouldn't have much experience with the technology field, all the other skills would translate into the work field way better such as leading and management skills as a CIO compared to having more experience in the technology field. The skills and knowledge that Barton has in management is way more important than his technology background.

What do the IVK Corporation exhibits (1-1 through 1-6) tell you about the current state of the company? Given this information, what does IVK need from a new management team under CEO Carl Williams?

Looking at the graphs and statements, it shows very clearly that the state of the company is in a very bad condition. Looking at the stock price for IVK Corporation, it's just been on a downwards trend beginning August. What IVK needs now is a new management team which can work well together, take a look at what went wrong with the old team and make changes to it. The team needs to be able to understand the market, risky and everything else associated with marketing.

Chapter 2:

How do you interpret the kid's advice, "You've got to know what you don't know"?

For me, that advice/phrase from the kid "You've got to know what you don't know" means that you might think that you know a particular topic really well but in reality there's actually so much more you don't know or could learn about. Another interpretation that I had was that for you to be able to succeed you need to know what you need to work on and understand to be able to improve.

Why do you think Davies got fired? How likely is it that Barton will be fired within the year?

I think Davies got fired because did struggle with managing the team and communicating with them. It also feels like Davies doesn't even care much about the company itself compared to Barton. Davies doesn't have enough of a passion compared to Barton to manage the company. With Barton's determination and his amazing mindset of planning and managing things as shown would really help turn the company around. If he keeps this mindset of wanting to know more and how he could do better as well as using his connections, it'll be unlikely that Barton will be fired within the year.

What kinds of questions should Barton be asking of CIOs, analysts, investors, customers, and other IT movers and shakers? How should he prioritize and organize these meetings?

The kinds of questions that Barton should be asking CIOs, analysts, investors, customers, and other IT movers and shakers should be general enough that he gets an idea of how to begin and where to start. The questions that he should be asking doesn't have to only pertain exactly to Barton's situation but could also be a similar situation that he could learn from. I think that he should prioritize and organize these meetings to be one on one, this will allow for both parties to be more open and express themselves more than in a group setting.

Chapter 3:

Do you think IT management is different from management of other functions?

I do think that IT management is different from management of other functions. This is because as Ruban said, "Technology moves fast". Compared to management of other functions, technology is always changing, new technologies as well as updated old technologies. Most management of other functions mostly stays consistent where if you know this one skill you can apply it to any other company looking for that same skillset. IT management is also correlated with each other in their different departments. IT management of how much time you would want to spend on something like security and hackers as Ruban mentioned as well plays a big part.

What did Barton learn from his trip to the bookstore and late night of studying?

Barton learned from his trip to the bookstore and late night of studying that there is way too many things to learn about technology. He realizes that there has to be another way to get things going and that he should rethink about his ideas of how management actually works. He came to the conclusion that he only needs to know the general idea of how things work and not the specific details.

What depth of IT understanding must a CIO leader have to be effective?

For sure a good understanding of the technology industry as well as the technological updates and trends are required. Technology is moving really fast so keeping up with every new technological advancement is too much and a waste of time. As Maggie says, "a general idea of what all that is all about will suffice". Should at least have a general understanding of the technological side of the industry.