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A man in a dark suit and red tie stands between two large elephants, touching their heads with both hands. The scene is dimly lit, with the elephants and the man's silhouette clearly visible against a dark background. The elephants are facing each other, and the man is positioned in the center, bridging the gap between them.

Chad Green

Secrets of Conflict Resolution

CodeStock 2018
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Who is Chad Green



- Data & Solutions Architect at ProgressiveHealth
- Previous Positions: Service Delivery Manager, Product Delivery Manager, Project Manager, .NET Solution Architect, Developer
- Community Involvement
 - Code PaLOUsa Conference Chair
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A man in a dark suit and red tie stands between two large elephants, touching their heads. The scene is set against a solid blue background with a subtle reflection on the ground. The title 'Our Agenda' is overlaid on the left elephant.

Our Agenda

Who is Chad Green

Setting the Stage

Approaches to Conflict Resolution

Understanding Group Dynamics

Managing Conflict

Conclusion

By the numbers



Peace is not absences of
conflict, it is the ability to
handle conflict by peaceful
means.

Ronald Reagan



Setting the Stage

What is Conflict and Conflict Resolution

What is Conflict?

- A turning point during which an individual struggles to attain some psychological quality.
 - Can be a time of both vulnerability and strength, as the individual works toward success or failure
- **Real or perceived** threat or opposition to one's needs, interests, principles, concerns, or security

What is Conflict



Good discussion about the possibilities



Not too bad, but still not good



Things starting to fall apart

What is Conflict



Oh goodness, this cannot be good



Now this is really serious

What is Conflict Resolution?



What is Conflict Resolution?

- Way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them
- Methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending conflict
- Committed groups actively communicate information about their conflicting motives to the rest of the group
- Engaging in collective negotiation
- Typically parallel the dimensions of conflict in the way the conflict is processed
 - Cognitive Resolution
 - Emotional Resolution
 - Behavioral Resolution

Approaches to Conflict Resolution

Collaborating

Problem Solving, Confronting, Integrating, Win-Win Style

Description

- Incorporating multiple viewpoints and insights from different perspectives
- Involves a rational problem-solving approach
- Involves
 - Focusing on the issues
 - Looking at alternative approaches
 - Selecting the best alternative

When to Use

- Consensus and commitment of others important
- Collaborative environment
- Required to address the interest of multiple stakeholders
- High level of trust is present
- Long-term relationship is important
- Need to work through hard feelings, animosity, etc.
- Do not want to have full responsibility

Collaborating

Problem Solving, Confronting, Integrating, Win-Win Style

Advantages

- Leads to solving the actual problem
- Leads to a win-win outcome
- Reinforces mutual trust and respect
- Builds a foundation for effective collaboration in the future
- Shared responsibility of the outcome
- You earn the reputation of a good negotiator
- Outcome of the conflict resolution is less stressful

Disadvantages

- Requires a commitment from all parties
- May require more effort and more time
- May not be practical when timing is critical and a quick solution or fast response is required
- Involved parties must continue collaborative efforts to maintain a collaborative relationship

Compromising

Give and Take, Reconciling

Description

- Conflicting parties bargain to reach a mutually acceptable solution
- Lose/Lose

When to Use

- Both parties need to win
- Goals are moderately important / not worth the use of more assertive involving approaches
- Reach temporary settlement on complex issues
- Reach expedient solutions on important issues
- First step when involved parties do not know each other
- When collaboration or forcing do not work

Compromising

Give and Take, Reconciling

Advantages

- Faster issue resolution
- Can provide a temporary solution while looking for a win-win solution
- Lowers the level tension and stress resulting from the conflict

Disadvantages

- May result in situation when both parties are not satisfied with the outcome
- Does not contribute to building trust in the long run
- May require close monitoring and control

Smoothing

Accommodating, Obliging

Description

- Areas of agreement are emphasized
- Areas of disagreement are downplayed



When to Use

- Important to provide a temporary relief or buy time
- Issue is not as important to you as it is to the other person
- You accept you are wrong
- You have no choice or when continued competition would be detrimental

Smoothing

Accommodating, Obliging

Advantages

- Helps to protect more important interests while give up on less important ones
- Gives an opportunity to reassess the situation from a different angle

Disadvantages

- Risk of being abused
- May negatively affect your confidence in your ability to respond to an aggressive opponent
- Makes it more difficult to transition to a win-win solution in the future
- Some of your supporters may not like your smoothing response and be turned off

Forcing

Directing, Competing, Controlling, Dominating

Description

- Involves pushing one viewpoint at the expense of another
- Generates a win-lose situation
- Assertiveness is the hallmark of this approach
- Addresses the conflict head-on

When to Use

- All other, less forceful methods, do not work or are ineffective
- Need to stand up for your own rights, resist aggression and pressure
- Quick resolution is required and using force is justified
- As a last resort to resolve a long-lasting conflict

Forcing

Directing, Competing, Controlling, Dominating

Advantages

- May improve a quick resolution
- Increases self-esteem and draws respect



Disadvantages

- May negatively affect relationship in the long run
- May cause opponent to react in the same way
- May require a lot of energy and may be exhausting
- Cannot take advantage of strong sides of the other side's position

Withdrawal

Avoidance

Description

- Retreat or postpone a decision on a problem
- Usually not the best choice for resolving conflict
- Not giving up – sidestepping or postponing

When to Use

- Issue is trivial and not worth the effort
- More important issues are pressing
- Postponing the response is beneficial to you
- No change of getting your concerns met
- You would have to deal with hostility
- Unable to handle the conflict

Withdrawal

Avoidance

Advantages

- You may chose to withdraw and postpone your response until you are in a more favorable circumstance
- Low stress approach when conflict is short
- Gives the ability/time to focus on more important or more urgent issues
- Gives you time to be better prepared

Disadvantages

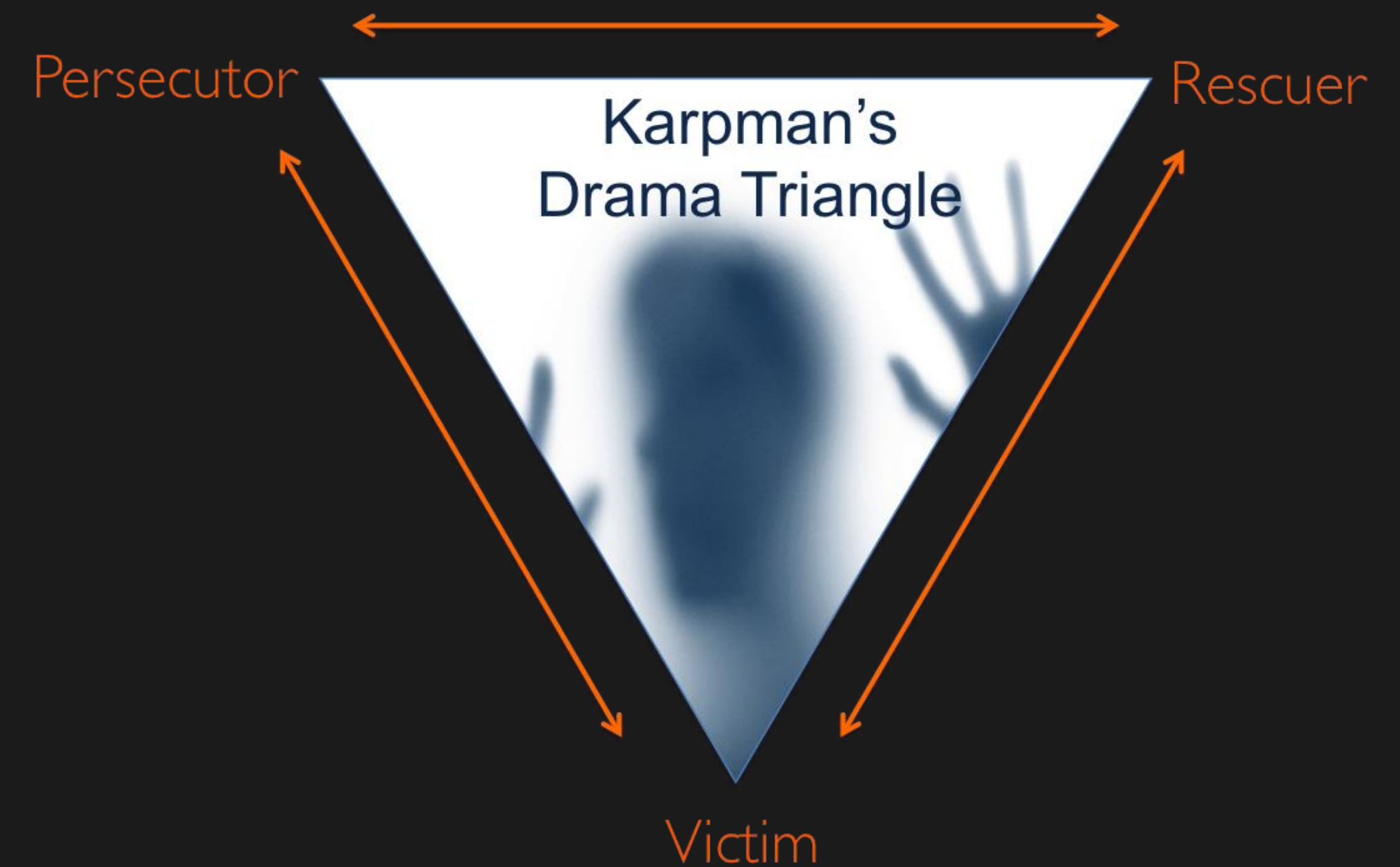
- May lead to weakening or losing your position
- Not acting may be interpreted as an agreement
- May negatively affect your relationship with a party that expects your action

Understanding Group Dynamics

Transactional Analysis

Karpman Drama Triangle

- Conflict has predictable pattern known as the Karpman Drama Triangle
- Models the connection between personal responsibility and the power in conflicts, and destructive and shifting roles people play
- 3 Roles
 - Persecutor
 - Rescuer
 - Victim



Persecutor

Karpman Drama Triangle

Rescuer



Persecutor



Rescuer



CRAIG BOLDMAN

Victim

Managing Conflict

10 Tips to Make you a Conflict Resolution Superstar

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7. Alert human resources



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7. Alert human resources
8. Find a mediator
9. Be introspective



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3. Practice active listening
4. Consider your role in the conflict
5. Organize a staff meeting
6. Seek first to understand
7. Alert human resources
8. Find a mediator
9. Be introspective
10. Expect conflict





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