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**6 Ways To Protect Your Business From Getting Hacked ... Are You Doing All Of These?**

**1. Know your data AND your risk.** What kind of data are you storing? Knowing your data can inform you of your risk, and when you know your risk, you can respond with a plan to secure that data.

Cybercriminals take advantage of this. Use strong passwords, two-factor authentication, and a different password for EVERY website.

projects. You become a micromanager who loses sight of the team and doesn't play to the strengths of the experts you hired to carry the load. If you're not delegating, projects move less efficiently and you miss important details.

**2. Have backups.** Losing data cripples businesses. Always schedule regular backups so you never have to worry about losing it.

**5. Maintain defenses.** Malware lurks in e-mails or unknown links on the web. It can harm your equipment, give hackers access to your data and hurt your business. Anti-malware software coupled with a firewall can help block these threats.

**You're not thinking creatively.** Because you miss crucial details, you lack perspective, and a lack of perspective makes it hard to think creatively, as research confirms. When a problem comes your way, you may not be able to solve it to the best of your abilities and you will end up creating a bigger problem.

**3. Encrypt your data.** Encryption helps to ensure that only those who have permissions can access and read your data.

**6. Educate.** Your team can be your best defense. They should be educated on cyberthreats and what to do/not do when it comes to their "digital responsibility" within your company. *CPO Magazine, 6/12/2019*

**Your business suffers.** One person can only do so much, and one person cannot scale a business successfully. If you want your business to grow, you MUST hand over much of the responsibility to others. Your business must be able to run without you in the building. *Small Business Trends, 2/12/2019*

**4. Get better passwords.** Most people use bad passwords or use the same passwords for every website.

**3 WAYS WORKING HARDER CAN SLOW THE GROWTH OF YOUR COMPANY**

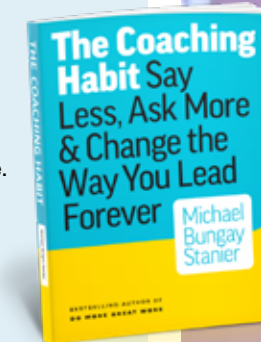
**You're not delegating.** When you work too hard, it becomes easy to "take over"



**The Coaching Habit: Say Less, Ask More & Change The Way You Lead Forever**

By Michael Bungay Stanier

Do you coach your team? Do you coach them every day? In Michael Bungay Stanier's *The Coaching Habit*, he gives you practical and accessible tools to turn coaching into second nature. Stanier has several methods to turn coaching into a real habit, from getting to the point in any conversation to understanding interpersonal issues.



It all comes down to asking the right questions, and Stanier has specific questions you should be asking: the Kickstart Question, the AWE Question, the Focus Question, the Foundation Question, the Lazy Question, the Strategic Question and the Learning Question — seven questions that will help you become a better coach.



**Top 4 Strategies I Learned From Daymond John To Improve Leadership And Grow My Business**

**September 2019**



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Trent Milliron, CEO of Kloud9 IT.

**"Do It Right The First Time"**

This past June, I got to hear the one and only Daymond John speak at a small private event. You may know Daymond as a successful entrepreneur who has appeared on the hit ABC show *Shark Tank*. Best known as the founder of the clothing brand, FUBU, he is also the author of *The Power Of Broke* — an insightful look into his life and what he did to find success.

Daymond brought a lot of that insight to the room. While he had a lot of great things to say, there were four business strategies that really struck a chord with me — strategies any business can learn from to improve.

**INVEST IN PEOPLE** This is the most important thing for a business to realize, as Daymond put it. He talked about how he (and the Sharks) invests in people, not companies. Think about it: companies come and go. In fact, most companies will go. On the other hand, people learn from their experiences (good and bad), and they grow. Putting your people first is what gives companies staying power. Your team matters, and your clients matter, and you should make every effort to ensure they know that.

**DON'T BE REACTIVE — BE RESPONSIVE** A lot of businesses are reactionary. This was

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a lesson Daymond learned working with prolific rapper and music producer LL Cool J in the late 1980s. When you react to something, you're already behind the times. Part of LL Cool J's success in the rap world was being responsive. He didn't just jump on trends, he helped

## “Daymond was able to market his clothing because he was doing things other clothing makers weren't.”

create them. He recognized the rap world was constantly changing in terms of sound, lyrics and style (including his fashion).

Daymond was able to market his FUBU clothing because he was doing things other clothing makers weren't. He was taking risks, working exceptionally hard (another one of Daymond's points was “always be hustling”) and was willing to respond to changes in the marketplace.

**BE TRUE TO YOUR WORD** When Daymond first got the call from Mark Burnett to join *Shark Tank*, Daymond knew he had to turn down the show. Signing onto *Shark Tank* meant he couldn't appear on any other shows, and he was already working with the Kardashians — a family who, at the time, wasn't quite the household brand name they are today.

Daymond told Burnett he was going to stick with the Kardashians because he had given them his word (and likely signed a few contracts with them). He wanted to help the Kardashians get their brands moving. He saw their potential. The family got word that Daymond had turned down the *Shark Tank* deal and said, “No, don't let us get in your way!”

Daymond also recognized that the Kardashians are savvy businesspeople. As he put it, “They know their analytics.” And that's true! That's why they found success on TV and in stores around the world where their many products are sold. But he wasn't about to leave them high and dry for his own gain. Eventually, they found a solution, and he joined *Shark Tank*, but he wasn't going to compromise his integrity. And that's something none of us should compromise on.

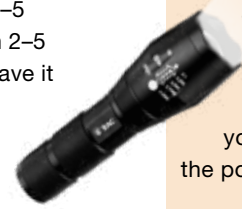
**REMEMBER, YOU ARE THE BRAND** The biggest brands are distilled down to three, four,

five words. People know these words by heart, including Nike (“Just Do It”) and Apple (“Think Different”). You should have your own 2–5 words. “If you can't describe yourself in 2–5 words and you walk into a room, you leave it up to us to interpret.”

Another thing to remember is that people associate your social media with your brand — whether you're a business intentionally posting content related to your brand or you're an individual posting about your last vacation. What you share on social media is shared through a lens — your lens. Pictures, posts, you name it — it's all a part of your brand.

That said, posting something negative will hurt that brand. It's always important to be mindful of what you post and encourage your team to do the same. Having rules and policies regarding what can and cannot be shared on social media will go a long way in preventing a catastrophe.

These four points only skim the surface of what Daymond talked about, but these are crucial things we all can learn from. It was great to hear him speak and to hear his story, and I send my thanks to him for all of his wonderful insights!



### SHINY NEW GADGET OF THE MONTH

## TC1200 Flashlight

Having a reliable flashlight can make a big difference, whether you're on the job or just at home when the power goes out.

Meet the TC1200 Pro Tactical Flashlight, a flashlight designed with incredibly high standards. Made with aircraft-grade aluminum, it's durable (it survived a 21-mile fall to Earth) and has a powerful beam that is 25 times brighter than an ordinary flashlight (it boasts five modes: low, medium, high, strobe and SOS — the strobe feature can even temporarily blind an animal or person, if necessary).

At 1200 lumens, this flashlight can shine a light on any situation. It uses three AAA batteries or one Li-ion rechargeable battery. Learn more at [bit.ly/2NGAGB5](http://bit.ly/2NGAGB5)!



## Do This First.

Many entrepreneurs will have written a book at some point in their lives. It's a great way to connect with prospects and clients and to grow your business. But you need to ask yourself a few questions before you sit down.

**Why am I writing the book?** Understand your purpose and the story you want to convey. Once you know why you're writing, you can focus on what you're trying to say rather than wasting precious time and words.

**Who is the book for?** You've identified your “why,” now you need to know your audience. By finding out who you're writing to, you can make sure that you don't get lost in translation along the way, giving you a better response.

**Do you need help writing?** Not all of us are authors (or have time). This is where ghostwriters come in. Many entrepreneurs rely on experienced ghostwriters to get their message across while capturing your voice and delivering your message. *Forbes.com*, 6/20/2019

## Cartoon Of The Month



How can you build your confidence as a CEO, investor or entrepreneur? New CEOs have imposter syndrome. Private equity investors who just raised another \$1 billion-plus fund read newspaper headlines about the coming recession and quietly gulp. Self-made billionaire entrepreneurs worry that their fortunes will take an embarrassing hit. Newly elected government leaders worry about whether their results will live up to their campaign promises.

We find that leaders are less confident when they obsess about things they can't control, rather than taking action in the areas they can control.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported the results of a new survey (6/16/2019) by the Conference Board regarding what is on the minds of 800 CEOs.

### External Hot-Button Issues

1. Recession
2. Global trade
3. Politics

### Internal Hot-Button Issues

1. Attracting and retaining top talent
2. Disruptive technologies
3. Developing the next generation of leaders

What this survey says to me is this: it's good to be aware of issues that are outside of your control — recession, global trade, politics. But it's even more brilliant to master the things that are within your control — hiring and retaining top talent, developing digital capabilities and developing the next generation of leaders.



Geoff Smart is chairman and founder of ghSMART. Geoff is co-author, with his colleague Randy Street, of the New York Times best-selling book, *Who: A Method For Hiring*, and the author of the No. 1 Wall Street Journal best seller *Leadocracy: Hiring More Great Leaders (Like You) Into Government*. Geoff co-created the *Topgrading* brand of talent management. He is the founder of two 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations. SMARTKids Leadership Program™ provides 10 years of leadership tutoring, and the Leaders Initiative™ seeks to deploy society's greatest leaders into government. Geoff earned a BA in Economics with honors from Northwestern University, and an MA and PhD in Psychology from Claremont Graduate University.

### HOW MUCH CONFIDENCE DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR TEAM?

If you have a high degree of confidence in your team, then keep doing what you are doing to hire and develop them.

But if you don't have a high degree of confidence in your team, you should focus on hiring, developing and retaining more of the right people who fit your strategy — who can achieve the results you seek. How?

There are three ways to build confidence in your team. You can invest the time to master the skills and best practices around hiring, developing and retaining top talent yourself. Or you can engage ghSMART to do it for you. Or, what most of our clients do is engage ghSMART to solve this problem immediately and build your skills in this area for your long-term success. (A quick side note — I'm very proud to report that my colleagues achieved 99% “high” client-reported satisfaction over the past 12 months. So, to go with this confidence theme, I have a very high degree of confidence that my team will help you solve your #1 problem!)

A great way to build confidence in yourself as a leader is to build your confidence in your team. If you are the CEO of a \$1 billion-plus revenue company or have raised at least a \$1 billion fund, please reach out if you would like my team to help you build confidence in your team to deliver the results you want to achieve for customers, employees and shareholders.