Bootstrapping Brilliance Highlights

Yielding More Brilliant Outcomes

While the opportunities, problems, and challenges we face grow increasingly complex and urgent, finding exponentially more powerful ways to collectively address important challenges is both desirable, and crucial. Organizations, initiatives, regions, and nations that kick into gear on this sooner will likely surpass those that don't in leaps and bounds.

Bootstrapping Brilliance™ is a practical strategy for getting ahead of this curve, increasing innovation and transformation capacity, while continuously increasing Collective IQ. Five organizing principles offer unique insight, alignment and accelerative leverage for yielding more brilliant results at scale. This strategy dovetails seamlessly to extend existing innovation/design/ agile strategies, and serves as a template for *networked improvement communities* (NICs).

1. Network your community of stakeholders, innovators, alliances

Form your group – who best to inform your pursuit, join your expedition, your network?

- Beyond your core group, engage key stakeholders, end customers*, thought leaders, allies.
- Emphasize diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, skills, with entrepreneurial, pioneering spirit.
- Be a networked improvement community (NIC) on a mission, exploring a new frontier.

2. Leverage group smarts

Equip your network – ask how best to engage, interact, capture, exploit your Collective IQ?

- Establish how your team/network will leverage its collective ingenuity and follow-through - your shared vision, process, enabling tools – this shapes your dynamic knowledge ecosystem (DKE).
- Key driver of Collective IQ is the quality of interactions between people, knowledge, and tools within the DKE; seek best of breed practices and tools, especially evolvable, open 'hyper' tools (OHS), yielding ever more brilliant outcomes.
- Be the faster, more flexible, insightful and effective initiatives of the future.

3. Target whole capability

Frame your quest – ask which essential capabilities you will cultivate, augment, improve?

- Beyond products/services, identify your target capability, map its human and tool elements.
- Design your minimum viable prototype (MVP**) accordingly, keeping both human and tool in sync.
- Cultivate as a whole system, an *augmentation system* of co-evolving human and tool elements.

4. Push the Frontier

Launch pilot expedition(s) – ask how far out can you push, how fast? - rapid prototyping, 'co-evolution' are key

- Iterate your MVP** using build-test-learn approach, with special emphasis on co-evolving the human and tool elements to more quickly surface deeper insights, inform next steps.
- Use pilot expeditions to enhance exploration, keep human-tool in sync.
- Key driver to speed frontier penetration is "co-evolution" – cultivate that, accelerate that.

5. Bootstrap Your ABCs to transform at scale

Improve how you improve to get that multiplier-scaling effect

- Map your network or organization into A-B-C Activities: (A) business as usual, (B) improving how A work gets done, (C) improving how B work gets done, i.e. improving how improving gets done
- Start small at C, as a NIC (per #1), equip your NIC, target "improving how to improve," your MVP is the human-tool ecosystem for doing that, be the pilot expedition to bootstrap results. Iterate #1-5.
- Join forces in a NIC of NICs to share learnings, joint research, pilot experiments.

Q: *How "bootstrappable" are you?* The more your work product helps leverage collective IQ, the more walking your talk will yield a bonus multiplier effect - the essence of *bootstrapping*, your greatest point of leverage.

You can apply any of these five accelerators to any project to improve innovation in that project. The idea is to start small and scale up. Applying all five in a networked initiative offers the greatest leverage, especially at level C, especially in a NIC of NICs. In any case, you can greatly extend your efforts by networking with other like-minded initiatives as a NIC to bootstrap and share results. See [Your Bootstrapping Brilliance Toolkit](#) for details.

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*Customer – here including all those who are served by your efforts, whether or not you have paying customers, for example clientele, constituents, end-users, patients, students, beneficiaries, etc. [[read more](#)]

**MVP stands for Minimum Viable Prototype or Minimum Viable Product – a prototype with just enough features to be piloted or sold to get early feedback from real end users or customers.