



Re.engineer Hacks

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEN IS IT OK TO STEAL BY JAKE HARRELL

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Introduction

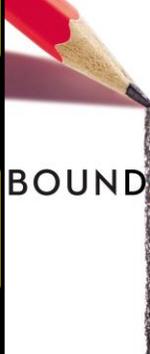
Most of the barriers you will experience in life have already been experienced by somebody else. In most cases, they have been resolved successfully...many different times...and are waiting to be leveraged.



Hack 1

Rules of Engagement

There are only two limiting factors to applying this hack, 1 Actual Theft & 2 The Ego Barrier. Obviously it's not ok to steal intellectual property. *Yeah, that's wrong*, but there are tons of free information circulating in the world. In terms of our egos, it is often pride that inhibits us from imagining that another person's solution is superior to our own.



Leveraging Examples

Let's examine two examples where stealing or leveraging a solution is ok.

① Jairo is tasked with creating a project plan. He does a quick internet search and finds a free template. He uses it to great success and solves his problem.





② Mark is tasked with organizing a tool area in the warehouse. He tours a different warehouse in a different industry, and liked the way the area was organized. Mark emulates this setup



Kill the Ego

The ego barrier is another risk when stealing or leveraging a solution. You may very well be tempted to examine the data and say "that doesn't work!"

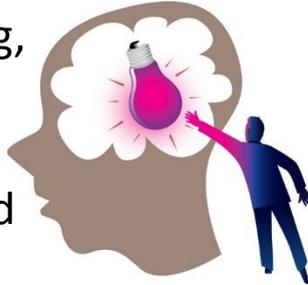


"OK, now that we all agree, let's all go back to our desks and discuss why this won't work."

It can prove **difficult to police our own biases**, but having the self-awareness to recognize when your ego is getting in the way is incredible helpful. There is nothing more important than removing your excellence barrier – not your pride, your ego, or your personal biases. Take the solution proposed and try it anyway.

Iconic Thieves

Sam Walton, the founder of Walmart, was famous for telling people that he never had an original ideas in his life. He recognized **the value of “stealing” good ideas**. Alexander Graham Bell, Mark Zuckerberg, William Shakespeare are just a few iconic people that leveraged ideas from sources outside of themselves. They found inspiration from other colleagues, research, or by just hanging out at the patent office, looking for ideas.



“Good artist copy, great artist steal.

We have always been shameless about stealing great ideas”
– Steve Jobs



It's ok to STEAL

So many solutions are just hanging from the world's lowest tree branch **waiting to be plucked** and are usually good enough to move the ball forward with minimal effort. When it comes to solving excellence barriers, there are thousands of books, articles, and videos designed to help you succeed. Use them!



Conclusion

This **HACK** has provided a few perspectives on how to leverage value from other thought leaders.

This content is only a portion of guiding principles from Jake Harrell's latest book, “Chasing Excellence”. You can find it on Amazon starting 8/31/2020. Happy Re.engineering!