126.7 MHz

The Flight Deck Newsletter- Thanksgiving Edition!

NEW: Book Review Initiative

Fabiano Micoli, The Flight Deck Liasion Officer

The staff who run and support the RCAF Flight Deck are committed to providing an excellent work experience for all co-op students. We want to benefit from their ideas, energy and enthusiasm, but we also want to help set them up for success for the future. Perhaps this explains why Waterloo Works is reporting a 9.6 score for co-op satisfaction with the Flight Deck, higher than some very famous tech companies. Nevertheless, there's always room for improvement, and for that reason, I suggested that the co-op students review The Wisdom of Teams. Team-based work is a fact of life for many, and so obtaining a deep understanding of what makes teams perform or not perform would give the co-op students extremely valuable insights that could be used for the rest of their careers, wherever they end up working.

I first read this book years ago in a university course and realized then it was a winner. It's written by two McKinsey and Co consultants who had worked with many organizations around the world on improving organizational performance. They synthesized everything they learned about teams and team performance into this one book that is loaded with both common sense and uncommon sense findings. They go well beyond the typical talk of empowering teams and calling every group a team! What is a team? How does a team differ from a working group? Why do some teams excel while others falter? How does one analyze team performance? These and many other questions are answered in this book.

The format will be simple: read a chapter or two a week; review the key ideas for about ten to fifteen minutes--that's it.

I'm excited about the opportunity to help the co-op students discover the rich insights of The Wisdom of Teams. Not only will the students benefit, but I will too as this gives me an opportunity to review this fine book again and learn a thing or two from the students, as teachers often do.

THE 100,000-COPY NATIONAL BESTSELLER

THE WISDOM OF TEAMS

Including the Team Question and Answer Guide

Creating the High-Performance Organization

"You'll be hard-pressed to find a better guide to ... the essential building block of the organization of the future."
—John Byrne, *Business Week*

JON R. KATZENBACH
DOUGLAS K. SMITH

Co-op Corner

Jessica Peter, Full Stack Developer

Hi everyone! I'm Jessica, one of the full stack developers on this team. I just finished my second year of computer science at the University of Waterloo. In my spare time, I really enjoy hiking, reading, baking, and crocheting. I'm currently reading Sapiens, and would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in learning the history of humanity.

Seasonal Cyphers

Joshua Oh, Full Stack Developer

Each letter in the cypher stands for another. The cypher is **NOT** random. The same rule is applied to translate each letter. Can you translate the message and determine the rule?

```
The Cypher:
ZSDJRF QPYSYPRD
SMF HTSBU
The Message = ?
```

HINT 1: A=S, B=N, C=V (Message to Cypher)
HINT 2: Look down
The answer is at the bottom of Page 3!

Tech Tips

Arista Mueller, Full Stack Developer

Ever struggle to get the Google search results you're looking for? Here's some helpful syntax to narrow down search results:

site:theflightdeck.ca returns only results from the specified site

-word excludes results with the word after the dash

$5..$10 only returns results in the specified price range

filetype:pdf allows you to specify the file type of results

Sliding Back Into the Lab!

Garret Tracey, Business Development Coordinator

For the last year and a half our team has worked completely remote- that is, until now! With the reopening of Ontario and the vaccine rollout, Communitech has opened its doors again and given us a space to work in. Our three Full Stack developers, Arista, Jessica, and Joshua, got a full tour from a fantastic staff member from Communitech that we met during our Co-op Basecamp. What's the best part about being back in person? None of our homes have a slide like Communitech's! We look forward to more in-person opportunities as the province makes a safe transition back to normal.

Want to be featured in our newsletter, recommend 'friday favourites' or just want to chat?

Contact us at
hello@theflightdeck.ca