

## From the Chair / Un mot du président

A blog by / un blog de Richard Arthurs

### Disrupt Yourself

Happy New Year!

As we start 2019 and consider new resolutions or continuous improvement opportunities, I challenge everyone to put some thought into proactively disrupting yourself and your Internal Audit functions.

Disruption is simply the impact of change. The speed of innovation and its adoption are dictating how fast this change or disruption will happen. In 2018, we constantly heard about block chain, cryptocurrency, augmented intelligence, machine learning, advanced analytics, robotics, drones, semi and fully autonomous vehicles, voice controlled personal assistants, smart homes, facial recognition, and much more innovation that is on the way.

When you apply all of this to disrupting yourself proactively, I would suggest taking the same approach as used with Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). When implementing ERM you should always start with a well-developed strategy (not risk). Your ERM priorities should then be linked to strategic risk, what could get in the way of the enterprise achieving its strategy and goals.

The starting point of disrupting yourself should be your personal strategy. Do you have one? Do you know what you want to achieve personally and professionally in 2019? When I create my personal strategy, I always take trends into account. As a wise mentor once said to me, "Trend is your Friend". One trend that is certain is the disruption of business models. Many new ones are being created and just as many are becoming obsolete.

When you proactively disrupt yourself you learn new things, experiment with new business models, processes, systems, technology, etc. You essentially change yourself and maybe even your profession, job, location, etc. The secret is to prioritize change that has the most significant impact on allowing you to achieve your personal strategy.

When this is applied to your IA function you also need to develop a strategy and proactively disrupt the function to expedite success with your IA strategy. This could equate to dedicating time for your team to learn relevant new skills every month. It could mean a change in your recruitment strategy. It could change the mix of skills on your team. Also, you may implement new methodologies such as agile internal audit, data analytics, and utilization of AI tools.

Disrupting yourself and your IA function can be very rewarding. My philosophy is that being proactive is often better than being reactive. Those who choose to just react to disruption will be left asking “What just happened??”

I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.