

# OPTIMIZING OPERATIONS TO BUILD A HYPER-EFFICIENT FIRM

How To Build A High Growth, High Service,  
High Profit, High Happiness Practice



ADAM  
CMEJLA



# MODERNIZATION



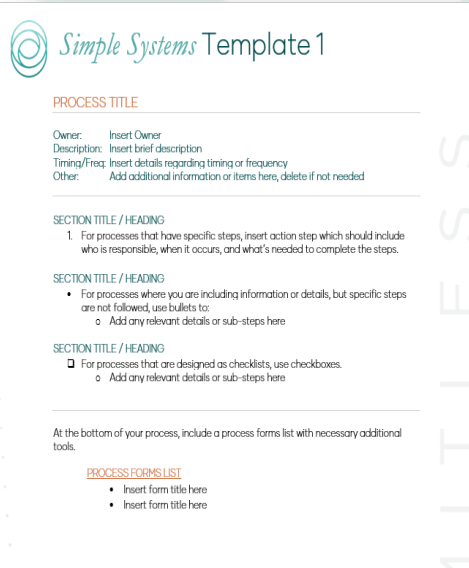
# No sizzle, all steak.

PROCESS

PEOPLE

PLATFORM

# PROCESS



# PLATFORM



# FOCUS WORK

Chief Executive Officer  
 Chief Growth Officer  
 Chief Planning Officer  
 Chief Investment Officer  
 Chief Operating Officer

Business Management  
 Marketing Management  
 Lead Advisor  
 Service Advisor

Relationship Management  
 Financial plan: input and initial analysis  
 Portfolio administration  
 Marketing administration

Meeting prep & follow up  
 Schedule management  
 Client service, general  
 Paperwork processing

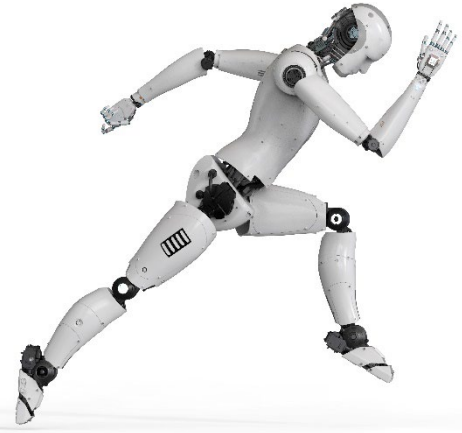
Data entry  
 Appointment scheduling  
 General administrative  
 Reception

# FACTORY WORK

# PEOPLE



THAT WAS THEN...



...THIS IS NOW





# BECOME BRILLIANT AT THE BASICS

## SYSTEMATIZE A HIGHLY-SPECIALIZED OFFERING

Manual

Modern

SCHEDULING	Email, Calling	SCHEDULING	Calendly, Acuity
TIME TRACKING	Timesheets, Excel, Manual Entry	SEGMENTED EMAIL SYSTEM	Harvest, Timely
ACCOUNT OPENING	Fax Machines, Paper Copies	COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN	Convert Kit, Active Campaign, Mailchimp, Marketo
FINANCIAL PLANS	Excel, Notepad	CRM	Salesforce, Redtail, Wealthbox
TASKS, WORKFLOWS	Word, Excel, Paper	SERVICE MODEL	Asana, Trello
FILE STORAGE	Paper, P2P, Office Servers	FILE STORAGE / DOC MGMT	AWS, Dropbox, Sharefile
SIGNATURES	Pen & Paper	FINANCIAL PLANNING SOFTWARE	eMoney, MGP, Right Capital
		SIGNATURES	DocuSign, HelloSign

# PREPARE FOR CHANGE

- Share motivation & purpose
- Set expectations
- Measure success
- Accountability check-ins

"It sounds like you are concerned about XYZ; what could we do to eliminate/mitigate that concern?"



# EVALUATE

## ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



WHAT'S THE GOAL?

- What am I solving for?
- Is there a better way?
- Will it change my life?
- If I had no other choice...?
- What are my limiting beliefs?



HOW IS THE CURRENT SYSTEM WORKING?

- How is it serving me?
- What's working?
- Where do we get frustrated?
- What are the bottlenecks?
- Which steps require the most time, cause the most delay?



WHAT SHOULD THE NEW SYSTEM DO?

- What are the benefits?
- What is MVP?
- How does it integrate with other systems?
- Will it change my life?
- What's the ROI?

PEOPLE



STEP 1: IDENTIFY

PROCESS



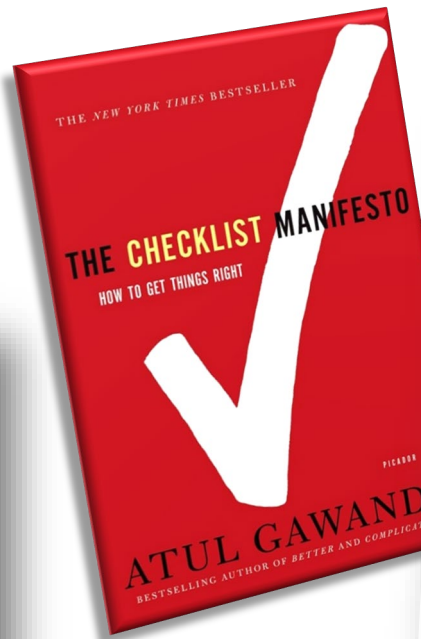
STEP 2: STANDARDIZE

PLATFORM



STEP 3: SYSTEMATIZE

What systems do I need?



**Retail Workflows**  
 Appointment - Annual Client Review Process  
 Appointment - Client Meeting  
 Appointment - Client Phone Call  
 Appointment - Client Review (Month)  
 Appointment - Employee Benefits Workshop  
 Appointment - New Prospective Client  
 Appointment - Prospective Client Pre-Discovery & Discovery Process  
 Client Account Service - 401(k) Distributions  
 Client Account Service - Additional Account Forms Required  
 Client Account Service - Adjust Cancel Deposit of Funds  
 Client Account Service - Adjust Stop Recurring Distribution  
 Client Account Service - Beneficiary Designation Change  
 Client Account Service - Change of Address or Email  
 Client Account Service - Change of Broker/Dealer  
 Client Account Service - Change of RIA  
 Client Account Service - Client Online Access  
 Client Account Service - Death of a Client  
 Client Account Service - Deposit Funds into Account  
 Client Account Service - Direct Rollover from Retirement Plan  
 Client Account Service - Distribution from Brokerage Account  
 Client Account Service - Move Money Form  
 Client Account Service - Name change  
 Client Account Service - Process IRA Investment and Insurance Checks (except Financial Planning Fee Prm's)  
 Client Account Service - Redemptions from 529  
 Client Account Service - Redemptions from Direct Account  
 Client Account Service - RIA Switch & Re-establish Standing Instruction  
 Client Account Service - RMD's - client list, establishing 1st RMD, adjust recurring \$  
 Client Account Service - Roth Conversion  
 Client Account Service - TDA Advisor/Client.com - link accounts  
 Client Account Service - TDA Signature Verification form  
 Client Account Service - Transfer of Assets  
 Client Service - Client Termination  
 Insurance - Additional Policy Forms Required  
 Insurance - Disability  
 Insurance - Fixed Annuity  
 Insurance - Life (Electronic Term or UL)  
 Insurance - Life (Paper)  
 Insurance - Life Insurance Death Claim  
 Insurance - LTV's  
 New Account - 401(k) Participant Enrollment (Online)  
 New Account - 401(k) Participant Enrollment (Paper)  
 New Account - 401(k) Qualified Plan Design & Implementation  
 New Account - 529 Plan  
 New Account - Master Template (Commission)  
 New Account - Master Template (Disseminated-Advisory)  
 New Account - Master Template (TDA)  
 New Account - Non-Traded Alternative Investment  
 New Account - SIMPLE IRA

Task Name	Assigned To	Due Date	Status
Review and Print Yearly Goals	Tucker McLaughlin	12/04/2019	In Progress
Run Needed Reports	Assign to me	12/04/2019	In Progress
Confirm Meeting with Client	Client Service Team (Team)	12/04/2019	In Progress
Run Plan Report from Planning Software	Jack Burton	12/04/2019	In Progress
Review Day Items	Completed on: 12/05/2019	Due by: 12/11/2019	Complete
Prep Conference Room	Assigned To	Due Date	Status
Prep and Gather All Relevant Paperwork	Client Service Team (Team)	12/11/2019	Completed
Review Follow Up	Tucker McLaughlin	12/11/2019	Completed
Enter Meeting Notes	Assigned To	Due Date	Status
Make and Record Adjustments	Tucker McLaughlin	12/13/2019	Not Started
Follow Up Call	Client Service Team (Team)	12/13/2019	Not Started

**BUSINESS SYSTEMS INVENTORY**  
 Instructions: Update to include the business systems in your firm. Then, for each business system, identify the current status (red, yellow, green), process owner, review frequency, process update, target date and the last updated date. For descriptions of each of those, select the title cell. Use this tool to identify projects to include as upcoming business initiatives to be completed.

Business System	Description	Area	Status	Process Owner	Review Frequency	Target Date	Last Updated
Vision & Goals	Process to establish strategic vision and tactical goals for the firm.	Position Strategy	●		Annually November		
Strategic Planning	Process to set strategic priorities for the firm.	Position Strategy	●		Annually November		
Business Plan Blueprint	Process to define the business model and business strategy for the future.	Position Strategy	●		Annually November		
Performance & Benchmarking	System for regular measurement of performance relative to goals.	Position Strategy	●		Quarterly, 1st Mo.		
Brand Guidelines	Standard brand and guidelines to maintain brand consistency.	Packaging: Brand	●		3 years		
Website & Collateral	Process to ensure website and collateral are modern and relevant.	Packaging: Brand	●		3 years		
Value Proposition & Messaging	Standard for core messages to prospects and clients.	Packaging: Brand	●		3 years		
Office Environment	Standards for the physical office environment.	Brand Promotion	●		2 years		
	Process that defines how a		●				

# WHO

...(NOT HOW)

SOLOS



HYBRID



FULL  
OUTSOURCE



# WHERE TO START?



Map Current Systems & Tech Stack



Evaluate & Prioritize Improvements



Prioritize into 1-Page Business Plan

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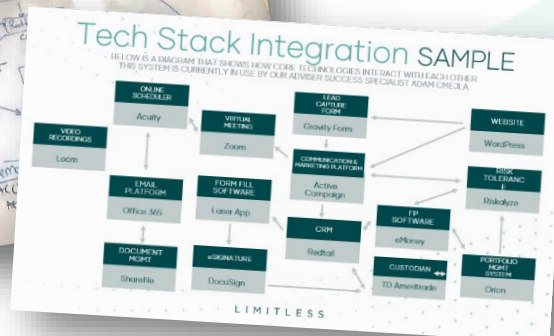
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Strategic Planning	Process to set strategic priorities for the firm.	Position Strategy	●		Annually November		
Business Plan/Budgeting	Process to define the business model and business strategy for the future.	Position Strategy	●		Annually November		
Performance & Benchmarking	System for regular measurement of performance relative to goals.	Position Strategy	●		Quarterly, 1st Mo.		
Brand Guidelines	Standard brand and guidelines to maintain brand consistency.	Branding	●		3 years		

**Tech Stack TEMPLATE**

USE THE BELOW CATEGORIES TO IDENTIFY YOUR CORE AND ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES. THE BELOW TECH ARE STANDARD, BUT NOT ALL ENCLUSIVE. AS YOU EVALUATE YOUR SYSTEMS AND FIND ONES NOT INCLUDED HERE, SIMPLY ENTER A NEW CATEGORY AND NAME. LOOK FOR HOLES AND GAPS TO HELP DETERMINE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

CORE TECHNOLOGY	ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY
CATEGORY: TECH	CATEGORY: TECH
CLIENT FILE SHARING & HOSTING	INTERNAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CRM	INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGY
COMPLIANCE EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA ARCHIVING	NOTE-TAKING & WRITING
CUSTODIAN	PASSWORD MANAGEMENT
DOCUMENT CREATION & MGMT	SOCIAL MEDIA
FINANCIAL PLANNING	VIDEO RECORDING
EMAIL PLATFORM	WEB FORM / SURVEYS
EMAIL MARKETING PLATFORM	OTHER
EMAIL HOSTING	
eSIGNATURE	
ONLINE SCHEDULER	
PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (BILLING & PERFORMANCE REPORTING)	
RISK TOLERANCE	
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MEETING	
WEBSITE HOSTING	

- Level of effort to complete
- Highest value or impact
- Biggest pain points / gains
- ROI, and return on time and experience



- Due diligence
- Select vendors
- Intentionally implement

# YOU NEED A SYSTEM FOR YOUR SYSTEMS

- Simple systems are successful systems
- Every project or product has owner
- Who, what, how, how long and by when
- Team involvement = Team investment
- Commit & Carry Through

## Example Process

### WEEKLY TEAM MEETING PROCESS: SAMPLE

Owner: CSA  
Description: Process for preparing for, conducting and following up after weekly team meeting  
Meeting date: Every Monday at 10 – 11 am.

ACTION STEP	WHO	BY WHEN
1 Update the Weekly Team Meeting Agenda in preparation for Monday meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add any weekly win or shout out, these can be your own or for someone else</li><li>Update the status to reflect if a priority is Green = On track, Yellow = Issues to discuss, Red = Significant issues deadline in jeopardy</li><li>Each team member adds their most critical issue for discussion to Top Issues and remaining issues to Remaining Issues</li></ul>	Team Members	End of day Friday
2 At	Team Members	Monday in meeting

### BUSINESS SYSTEMS INVENTORY

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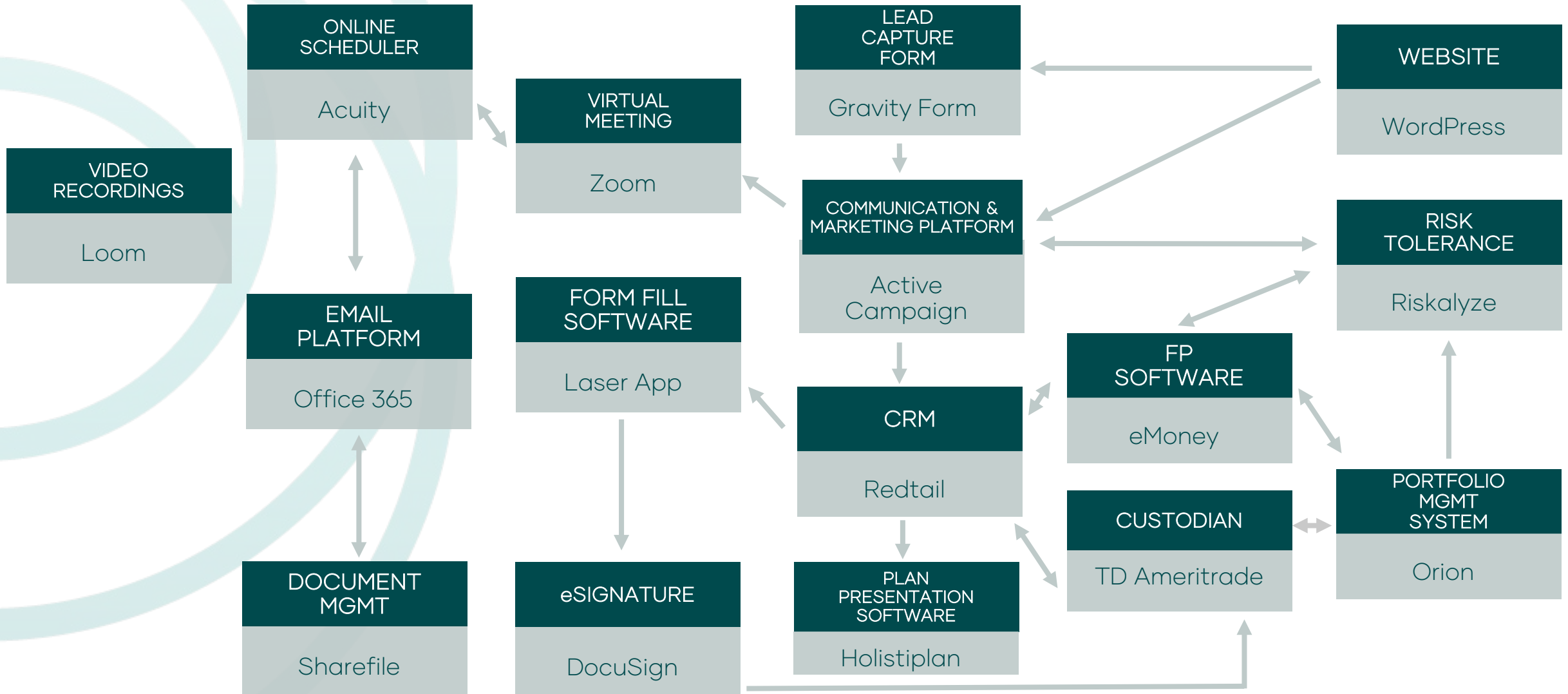
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### Operations Project Plan

#	Task name	Assignee	Priority	Status	Task Progress
▼ Planning					
1	Initiative goals and targets	David Sands	High	Done	Done
2	Finalize workback plan	David Sands	Medium	Done	Done
3	Set OKRs and quarterly goals	Reigan Rea...	High	Done	Done
4	Finalize external agreements and budget	Reigan Rea...	High	Done	Done
▼ Milestones					
1	Milestones:	Reigan Rea...			
2	Hold kickoff meeting	Blake Pham	Medium	Done	Done
3	Gather marketing and sales input	David Sands	Medium	Deferred	Deferred

# TECH STACK: ADAM

How Core Technologies Interact With Each Other



# IN-PRACTICE

Could a robot figure it out?



Task Name	Assigned To	Due Date
Obtain Document signatures, provide EMX access & Get Organized scheduling link	Completed on: 04/22/2022	Due by: 05/19/2022
1 Create email with scheduling link & documents needed list	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Send email or print Documents for signatures	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Send DocuSign envelope, if applicable	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Send Wealthplan (EMX) invitation	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Get Organized mtg scheduled?	Completed on: 05/03/2022	Due by: 06/06/2022
1 Meeting scheduled?	Client Service (Team)	06/06/2022
1 Adjust Target date to that of meeting	Client Service (Team)	06/06/2022
1 Data Entry	Completed on: 05/18/2022	Due by: 05/17/2022
1 Data Entry	John Bohnsack	05/17/2022
1 Add to Active Campaign, Tag Groups, & Keywords in CRM	John Bohnsack	05/17/2022

Task Name	Assigned To	Due Date
1 Get Organized meeting		
1 Advisor & Client meet	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Schedule Additional Get Organized Mtg	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Dictate notes	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Provide review month (s) [update UDF only]	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Update Keywords, Tags, UDF's & Active Campaign	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Schedule additional Get Organized meeting, if needed		Due by: 05/19/2022
1 If not scheduled, send scheduling link	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Additional Get Organized Mtg, if applicable		Due by: 05/31/2022
1 Advisor & Client meet for additional Get Organized meeting	John Bohnsack	05/31/2022
1 Dictate notes	John Bohnsack	05/31/2022

# EXPECT IMPERFECTION



- "WTF?!?"
- "This is never going to work."
- "Bunch of idiots!"
- "What else is F-ed up?!?"

- Where did this go wrong?
- Show me the holes.
- What do we need to do to improve?



## LEARN MORE

- The Coming Technology Divide Between Investment & Financial Planning Firms, Michael Kitces
- The 8-Step Process for Leading Change, John Kotter
- The Best Technology to Adopt First as a Solo Financial Advisor, Michael Kitces



## ADAPT & APPLY

- Read the Optimizing Operations Guidebook and review all resources
- Use the Tech Stack Tool to map your current systems
- Implement the Business Systems Inventory to review systems as part of your One Page Business Plan



## TAKE ACTION

- Continue to revisit your Tech Stack and assess your systems and processes