

Business continuity quotations...

Continuity Central has been collecting quotations which provide some wisdom or a quirky thought about business continuity. .

Business continuity planning wisdom

“The more the words, the less the meaning...”
Ecclesiastes 6v 11

“He who fails to plan, plans to fail.”
Dr. Esdaille

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”
Alan Lakein

"A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow."
George Patton

“Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised.”
Denis Waitley.

“It is far better to foresee even without certainty than not to foresee at all.”
Henri Poincare.

“A clever arrangement of bad eggs will never make a good omelette.”
C S Lewis

“To be a leader is to be awake and alert, to be dissatisfied at all times”.
Peter Koestenbaum

Keep it simple

“Out of intense complexities intense simplicities emerge”.
Winston Churchill

“Complexity creates confusion, simplicity focus.”
Edward de Bono

“Our life is frittered away by detail.. simplicity simplicity, simplicity.”
Henry Thoreau

“It takes courage and skill to be unambiguous and clear.” Peter Senge
“Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex ... It takes a genius- and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction.”
E E Schumacher

“If there is a way to do it better... find it!”

Thomas Edison

The need for an open mind

‘Fundamentalism is a kind of decision not to change your mind about something...Many of us are fundamentalists...because it worked pretty well for us.’

Howard Gardner

“The goal of strategic planning is to produce a stream of wise decisions... it also accepts the possibility that the final product may not resemble what was initially intended”.

Patterson, Purkey and Parker

Business impact analysis

“Ten geographers who think the world is flat will tend to reinforce each others errors....Only a sailor can set them straight.”

John Ralston Saul, 'Voltaire's Bastards'.

“Everything important is already known, the only thing is to rediscover it.” Anon

“The faithful witness, like...Socrates, Voltaire, and Swift and Christ himself, is at his best when he is questioning and clarifying and avoiding the specialist's obsession with solution. He betrays society when he is silent...He is true to himself and to people when his clarity causes disquiet.”

John Ralston Saul 'Voltaire's Bastards'

“When I was young I thought that people at the top really understood what the hell was happening...now I know they don't know.”

David Mahoney

“How many times have we brought in an outsider to tell us what we already knew?”

Peter Block

“Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it... unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.”

Buddha

“Innovators are seldom easy to be around. The most creative members of an organization can be irascible, annoying, touchy, intolerant, prickly, self aggrandizing. Their lack of tact offends coworkers. It also makes them willing to speak up when other hold their tongues. What comes out of their mouths is often quite valuable, if not always easy to hear.’

Farson and Keyes, 'Whoever Makes the most Mistakes Wins’

Awareness raising and culture change

“When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade, plant trees. When planning for life, train and educate people.”

Chinese proverb

“You cannot carry out fundamental changes without a certain amount of madness. In any case it comes from non - conformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future. It took madmen of yesterday for us to be able to act with extreme clarity today. I want to be one of those madmen.”

Thomas Sankarra, African Congress.

Why testing, exercising and the business continuity lifecycle are important

“If anything is certain, it is that change is certain. The world we are planning for today will not exist in this form tomorrow.”

Philip Crosby.

“Plan to be better today, but don't ever plan to be finished.”

Carol Ann Tomlinson