

# Seriously Playing



with Identity

## The Innovation Identity Concept

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# Agenda

1. Innovation & Identity?
2. Creating an Innovation Identity
3. Using Serious Play
4. A Practical Case
5. Discussion

# 1. Innovation & Identity?

Two distinct concepts?

Innovation: CHANGE

Identity: CONSTANCY



**Coca-Cola®**

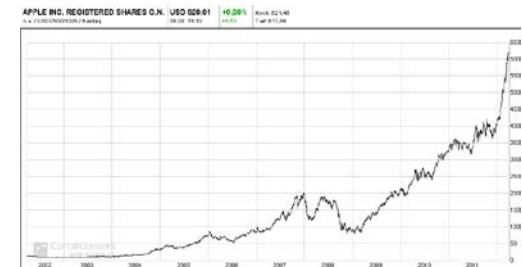
# 1. Innovation & Identity?

Are (business) identities really invariable?



# 1. Innovation & Identity?

Change happens – and seems necessary!



# 1. Innovation & Identity?

Identity change = necessary self-disruption?



Afraid to disrupt  
its own business



Disrupting its  
own business

# 2. Creating an Innovation Identity

How can we support necessary self-disruption?

## Existing Identity

- stays untouched
- organization & processes remain undisturbed



## Shadow-Identity

- can be used to experiment
- offers possibility for risk-free innovation
- playing with new paradigms
- disruption w/o destruction

# 2. Creating an Innovation Identity

Examples of a separate entity innovation model



Lockheed / skunk works

GM / Saturn

Ideo

EDF Business Innovation

*Oticon,  
Decathlon*

*Gore*

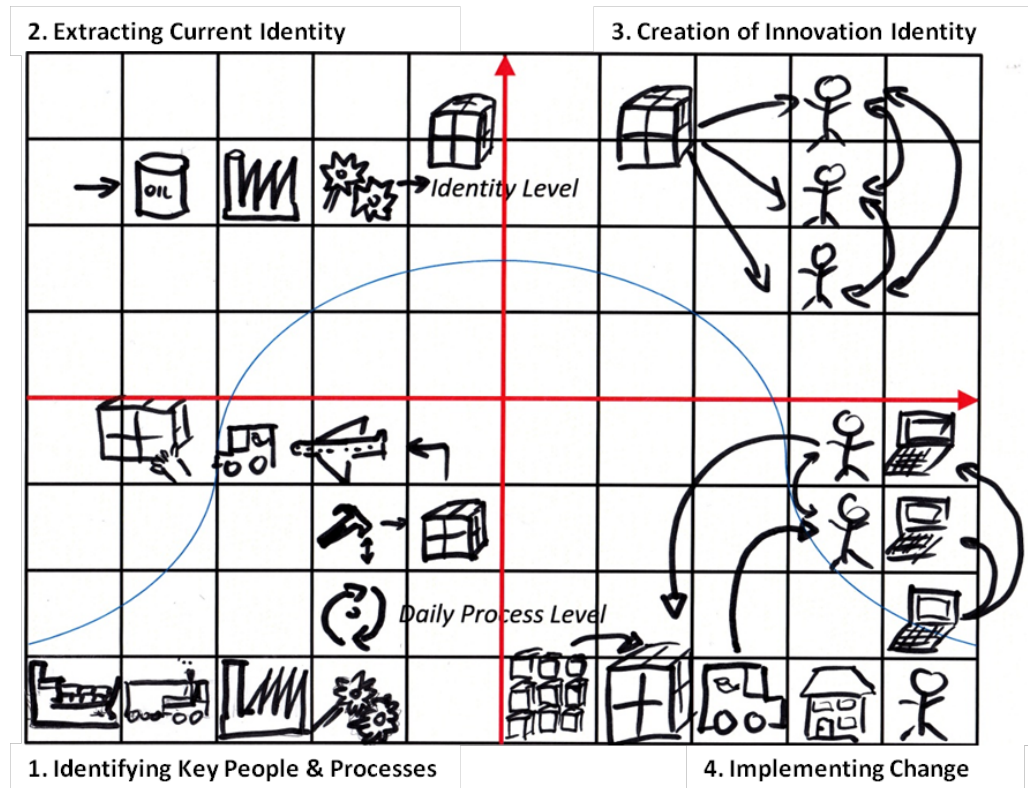
*Google*

*Apple*

} The Ambidextrous Organization  
(with 2 DNAs, O'Reilly/Tushman)

# 2. Creating an Innovation Identity


## Stages of creating an innovation identity



# 2. Creating an Innovation Identity

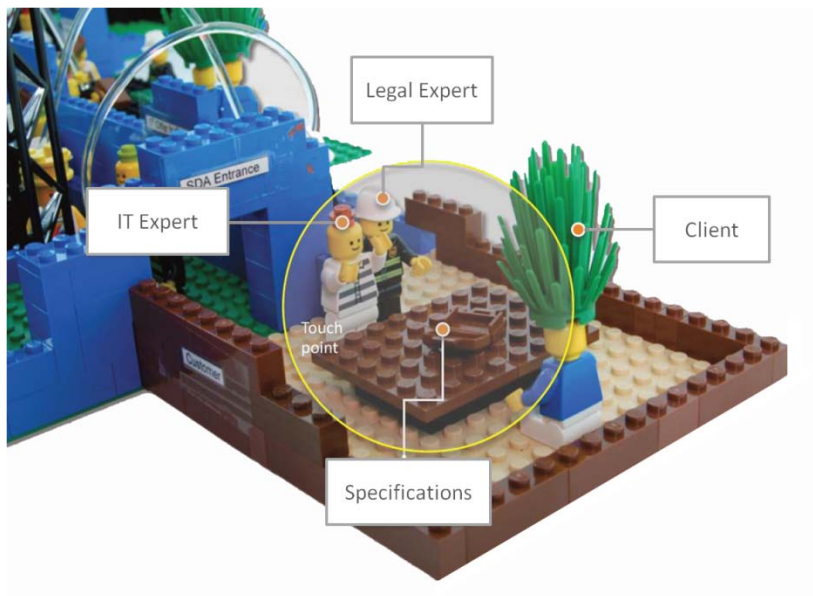
## Methods to create an innovation identity

Can be supported  
by Serious Play  
methods

- 
- (1) Identifying key people & processes
    - observation
    - special interview techniques
    - internal crowdsourcing
    - social network analysis
  - (2) Extracting current identity
    - mapping of different perspectives on people & processes
    - identifying center of gravity within the map (greatest overlap)
  - (3) Designing an innovation identity
    - defining promising “margins of identity” by using business model modification, algorithm thinking, inter-industry-matchmaking, and design of generic industry identities
  - (4) Implementing change
    - identifying the “adjacent possible” within identity margins
    - staffing a pilot project with the right “intrapreneurs”

# 3. Using Serious Play

If you're looking for identity, don't believe *just* words

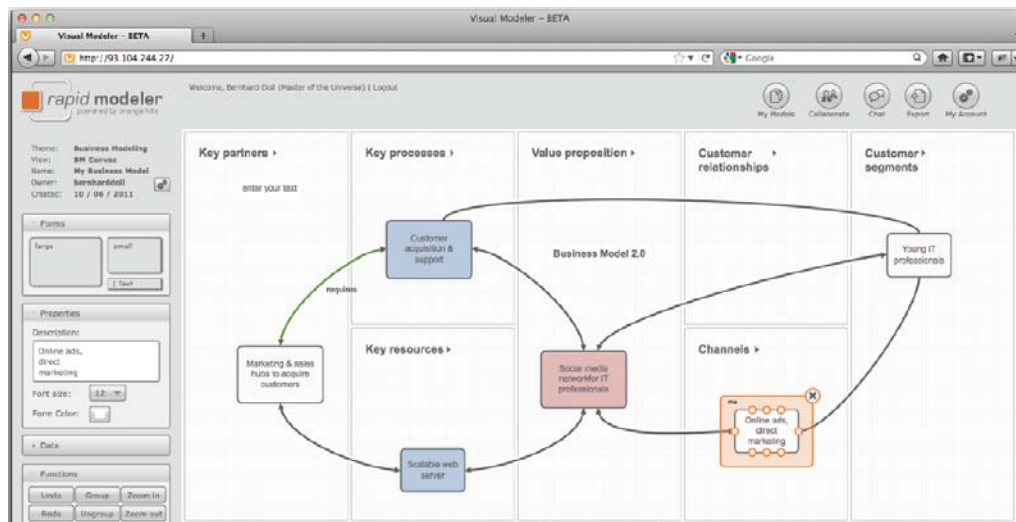


Using LEGO ® Serious Play to

- identify the real key player & processes within an organization
- understand different perspectives onto the organization
- quickly create new business model scenarios
- design generic industry identities
- prototype proposed change processes before piloting them

# 3. Using Serious Play

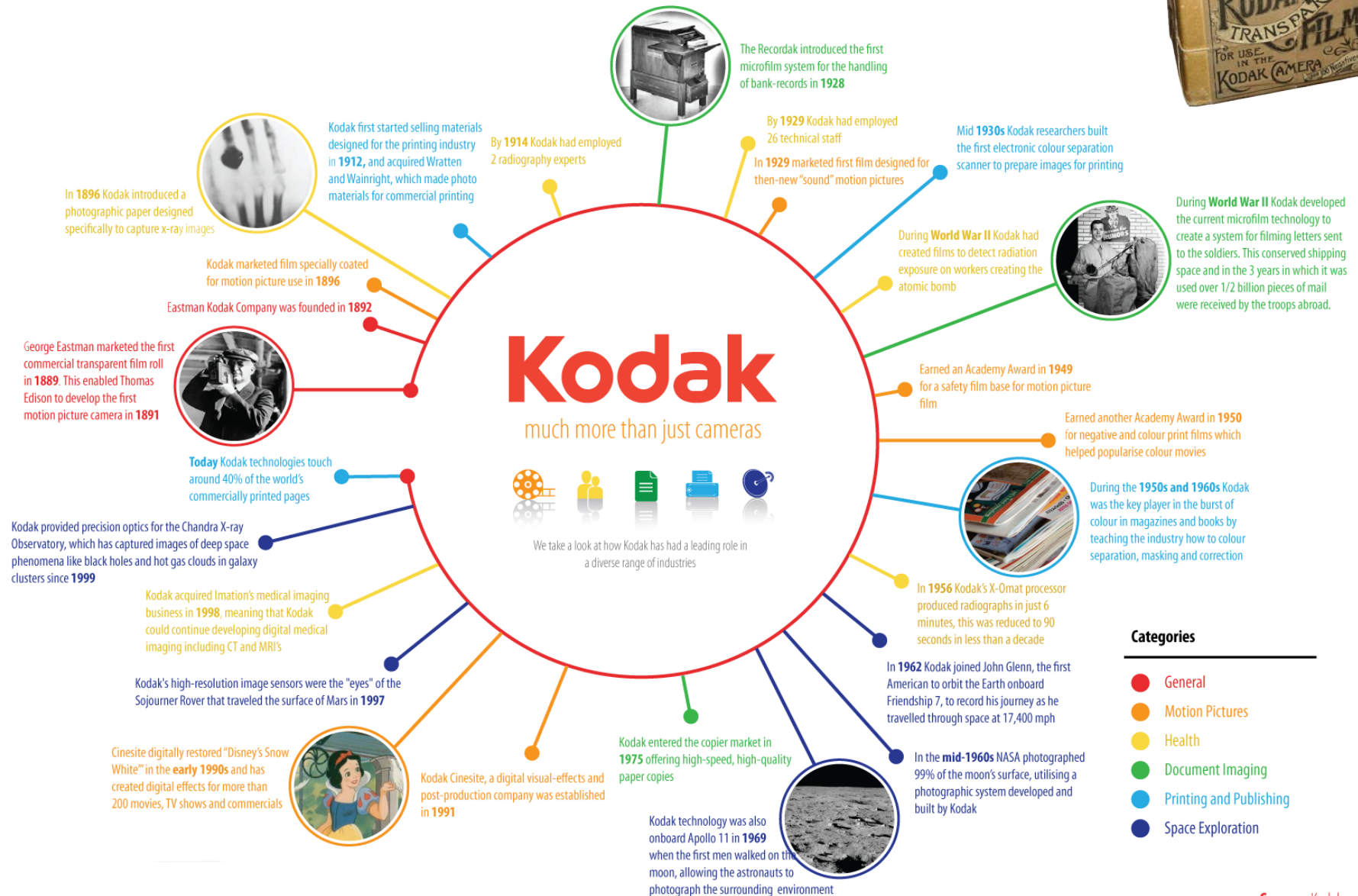
## Virtual extension of Serious Play: Rapid Modeler



### A Virtual Collaboration Tool to

- bridge the physical gap between employees from dispersed locations
- document the whole process of identity change
- constantly gather new material and research for specific change projects

# 4. A Practical Case



## Categories

- General
- Motion Pictures
- Health
- Document Imaging
- Printing and Publishing
- Space Exploration

Source: Kodak

# 4. A Practical Case



## Kodak, around 2000

### The Situation:

VP Don Strickland did not leave the company in 1993 but kept on pushing the idea that Kodak needs a bold strategy change with regard to digital imaging and photography. He convinces the board to start into the new millennium by exploring some uncharted options and possibilities for the company. Don hires you to develop a feasible strategy.

### Taking Action:

- (1) developing a compelling *innovation identity for Kodak*
- (2) *implementing change*
  - translating the innovation identity into executable business processes
  - transposing these processes into successful innovation

# 4. A Practical Case

# Kodak

## (1) Transforming the strategy into an innovation identity

1.1 Identifying key people & processes ✓

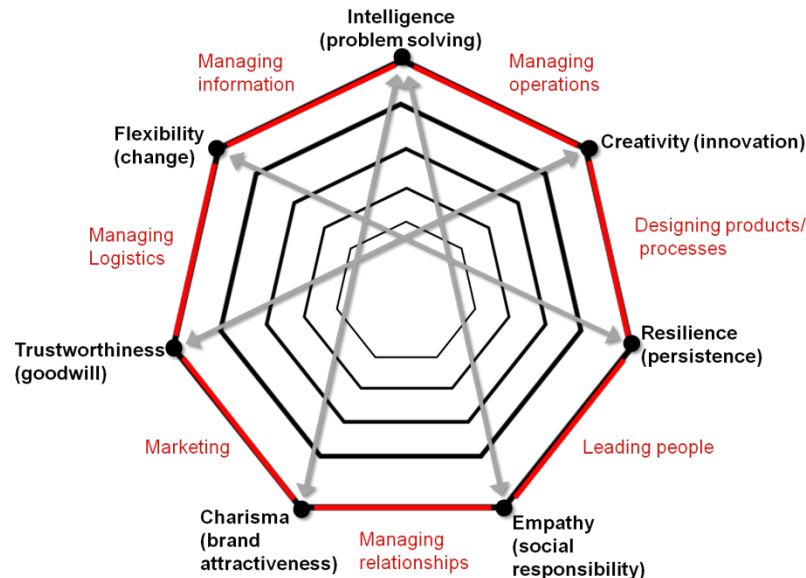
1.2 Extracting current identity by mapping different perspectives

Existing values (black points)

Trustworthiness (goodwill)  
Charisma (brand)  
Creativity (innovation)  
Intelligence (problem solving)  
Empathy (social responsibility)  
Flexibility (change)  
Resilience (vision)

Value creation (red lines)

Designing products/processes  
Managing logistics  
Managing people  
Managing relationships  
Managing operations  
Managing information  
Marketing



opposing view

Exercises (juxtapositions)

Internal vs External  
Formal vs Informal  
Local vs Global  
Short-term vs Long-term  
Routine vs Flexible  
Opportunities vs Risks

# 4. A Practical Case



# Kodak

## (1) Transforming the strategy into an innovation identity

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# 4. A Practical Case



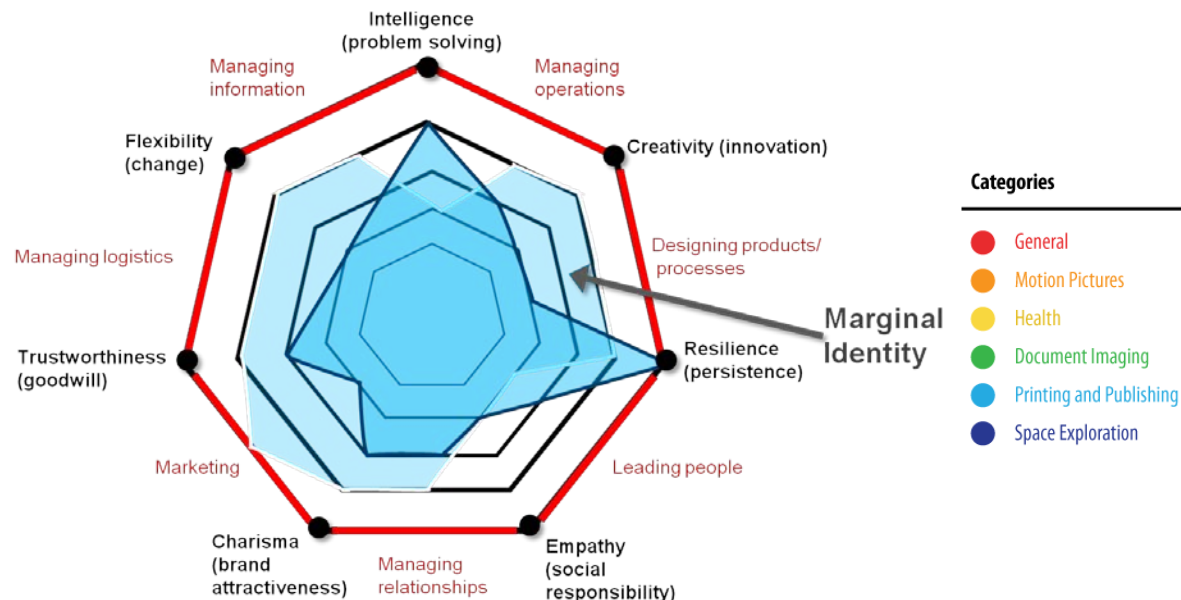
# Kodak

## (1) Transforming the strategy into an innovation identity

- 1.1 Identifying key people & processes ✓
- 1.2 Extracting current identity by mapping different perspectives ✓
- 1.3 Designing an innovation identity by defining promising margins of identity ✓

### Exercises (juxtapositions)

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# 4. A Practical Case

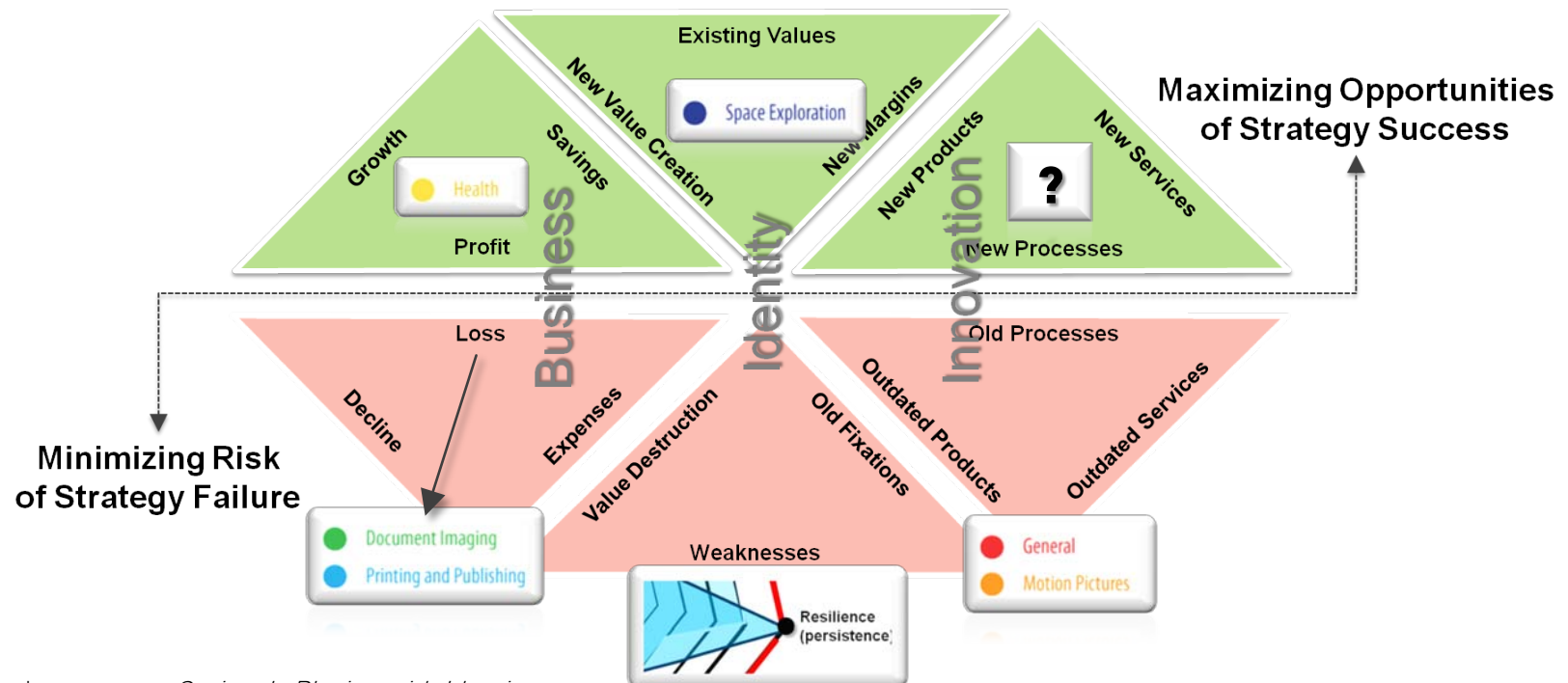
## Categories

- General
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- Health
- Document Imaging
- Printing and Publishing
- Space Exploration

## (2) Implementing change

2.1 translating the innovation identity into executable business processes ✓

2.2 transposing these processes into successful innovation ✓



# 5. Discussion

What aspects of the concept need clarification?



- What is an innovation identity?
- How can such an identity foster disruptive innovation?
- How can an innovation identity be generated?
- What role does Serious Play have in this context?
- How can an innovation identity approach be implemented?
- What benefit does this approach practically yield?