

# Fred Nickols, CPT

Managing Partner Distance Consulting LLC

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# Presenting

#### Fred Nickols

- Experienced
- Insightful & creative
- Skilled problem solver
- Proven track record
- National reputation





# Here's What I Offer

- Significant, measurable and valuable improvement in the performance of...
  - People
  - Processes
  - Organizations
- Successful implementation
- Change that "sticks"
- Transfer of know-how to you and/or your staff





# Currently

- Providing ongoing advice and counsel to the CEO of a software startup
- Assisting with the marketing and messaging for a new achievement management system
- Writing a regular column about Knowledge Work for ISPI
- Creating tools for use by Knowledge Workers

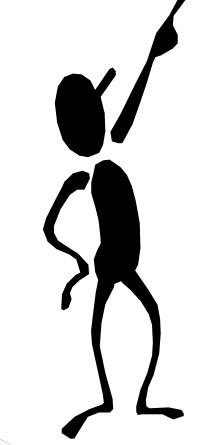
- Assisting the GM of an Australian healthcare association with a "big data" visualization project
- Developing job aids for use with a healthcare management system
- Refining a proprietary business problem-solving process
- Articulating a control theory view of human behavior and performance

# **Representative Efforts** Distance Consulting LLC

- Advice, counsel & assistance re Communities of Practice
- Training module on delegation skills
- Various invited presentations
- Job aids related to using a massive healthcare database
- Developed a strategic decision making model/process
- Self-instructional materials for problem solving, consulting, time management

- Executive level briefing re Knowledge Management
- Writing services in support of a corporate blog
- Design & facilitation of a strategic planning session
- Consulting services supporting the establishment of a consulting practice
- Acting GM of a subsidiary of a German conglomerate
- Analysis of distribution issues

### **Areas of Potential Contribution**



- Business Planning & Strategy Development
- Knowledge Management
- Organization Development
- Performance Improvement
- Process Improvement
- Productivity Improvement
- Solving Particularly "Wicked" Problems
- Systems Development
- Training & Development

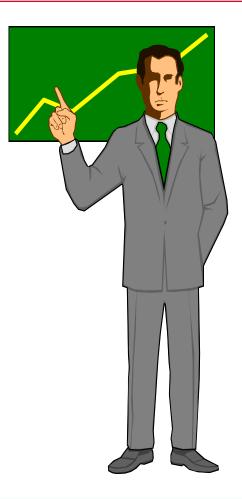
### **Qualifications**

- Demonstrated Performance
  - Accomplishments speak louder than credentials
- Work Experience
  - The best predictor of future performance is past performance
- Education & Training
  - Preparation is half the battle



### **The Bottom Line**

- A lot of value already contributed
- A lot of value to be contributed
- Inquiries, referrals and leads appreciated







# **Example #1** Optimizing SAT Test Center Staffing Levels

- An algorithm used to staff
  SAT test centers
  - yields the lowest staff cost per administration
  - satisfies all security requirements
  - saves \$800K/year
  - saved more than \$10 million so far





#### Example #2 Reducing A Reject Rate

- Reduced the reject rate in an important processing operation from an average of 60-70% to less than 10%
- Primarily a matter of educating the applicants and giving them the proper tools
- Savings of \$250K/year





#### **Example #3** Scrubbing A "Dirty" Database

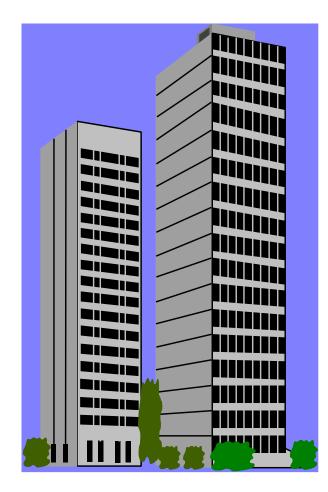
- A database conversion
  - VAX to Oracle
  - Problem: "dirty" flat files
  - IS&T estimate = 360K
  - Alternative: a PC-based "scrub" of the database
  - Program direction accepted
  - The savings => \$300K
  - The client was very happy





## **Example #4** Fitting 20 Pounds into a16-Pound Sack

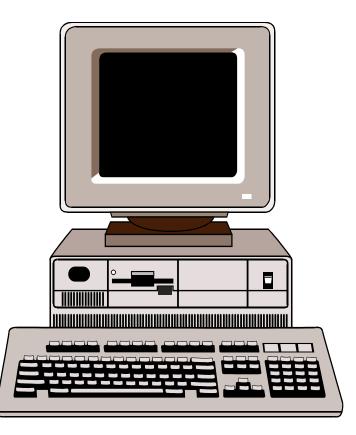
- Collapsed 20,000 square feet of assigned space into 16,000 square feet
  - improved the productivity of the 16,000 square foot space by 25%
  - reduced space charges by \$160K per year at a onetime cost of \$16K
  - introduced an innovative paper filing, storage and retrieval technology





### **Example #5** A Variable Life Insurance System (NYC)

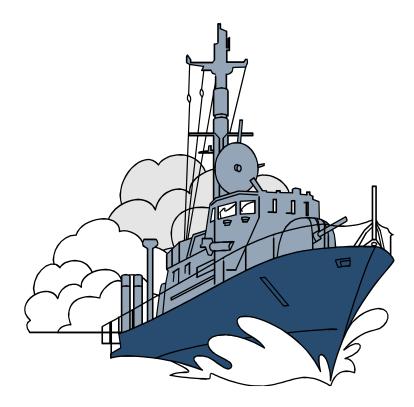
- The client had been promised a new product
- The IT mainframe shop said
  - 18 months
  - \$2 million
- It was up and running "live" on a PC/LAN in 89 days for \$250K
- The client was very happy





#### Work Experience United States Navy (1955-1974)

- Weapons System Technician
- Classroom Instructor
- Test Developer
- Programmed Instruction Writer
- Instructional Systems Developer
- Internal OD Consultant





# Work Experience Consultant (1975-1986)

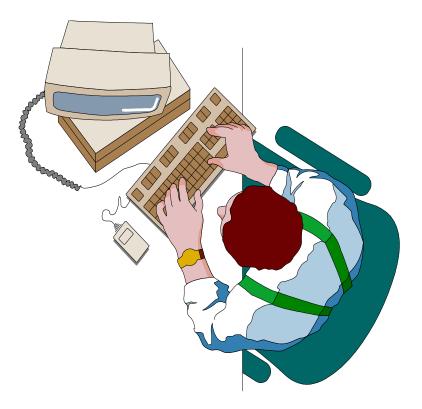
- Sales training
- Management training & development
- Performance improvement
- Productivity & process improvement
- Systems development & roll out
- Change management





### Work Experience - Monarch Sr VP, Systems & Operations (1987-1989)

- Developed PC/LAN-based systems for financial products
- Reengineered the systems development process
- Reengineered the product development process
- Chief troubleshooter for CEO





# **Assignments at ETS** Executive Director (1990-2001)

- Consultant on Staff
- Custom Operations Division
- Chief of Staff, Operations
- Finance (Renewal)
- Strategic Planning
- Research
- New Business Development
- IS&T Business Intelligence
- IS&T Project Management





# **Major Accomplishments at ETS**

- Reengineered the FAF frontend
- Developed optimum staffing algorithm for SAT administrations
- Engineered several sizable cost savings

- Helped trigger the 3-year ETS financial turnaround effort
- Redesigned ETS's business planning processes
- Wrote two approved business plans



# **IT/Systems Work Experience**

- Worked on guided missile R&D at White Sands Missile Range
- Wrote the AT&T Handbook for Total Systems Development
- Developed AT&T Long Lines' Systems Analysts Training Course
- Analyzed the Human-Machine Function Allocation Process at Bell Labs

- Developed a Systems Selling Training Course for AT&T Marketing
- Documented a Common Systems Architecture for ETS
- Developed a Database Designers Training Course for CENTEC





# **More IT/Systems Work Experience**

- Developed a PC-based QC auditing system for Community Mutual Insurance Company
- Developed two PC/LAN-based variable life insurance systems for Monarch Financial Services
- Outsourced the PC-based insurance illustration systems for Monarch & managed the vendor
- Developed job aids for AT&T Long Lines computer systems

- Carried out several process documentation efforts for a variety of clients, including ETS, Citicorp and others
- Supported two very large system roll outs for BC/BS
- Developed a prototype knowledge management (KM) corporate intranet for Warner Lambert



# **Education & Training**

- High School Graduate
- Extensive technical training (USN)
- Extensive training as an instructor/developer (USN)
- Extensive training as an OD consultant (USN)
- Ongoing self-development

- Undergraduate work in psychology & statistics at USIU
- Conducted numerous invited presentations and colloquia at several colleges & universities
- Voracious reader
- Published extensively



#### 200+ Articles, Columns, Papers (Diverse Topics & Publications)

- training
- education
- evaluation
- technology
- problem solving
- change management
- knowledge management
- communities of practice

- business analysis
- productivity improvement
- performance improvement
- performance management
- performance architecture
- process improvement
- systems development
- strategy



**Appearing in...** 







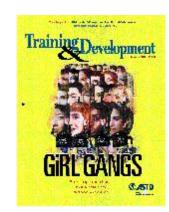




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT Performance Improvement Journal



THE TECHNOLOGY SOURCE





JOURNAL OF THE ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



# These too...

- The 2000 Knowledge Management Yearbook
- The 2001 ASTD Training & Performance Yearbook
- Journal of Knowledge & Process Management
- Journal of Systems Management
- JSAS Journal of Selected Documents in Psychology
- People Today



# Various Professional Affiliations

#### Currently

- Association for Talent
  Development (was ASTD)
- International Association for Performance Improvement (ISPI)
- Organization Development Network
- Columnist: ISPI

#### Previously

- Academy of Management
- American Management Association
- Editor/Columnist: Journal of Management Consulting
- Board of Advisors: School of Business, College of NJ
- Reviewer for HRD Quarterly
- Society for Human
  Resources Management

# **Contact Information**

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