

The background is a vibrant pink color, densely populated with small, cylindrical pieces of confetti in various colors including orange, yellow, purple, teal, and white. These pieces are scattered across the entire surface, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

a chance *of* awesome

how changing the way you
see changes everything

kotecki

a discussion guide *for* organizations *that* want to be *more* awesome

Questions to Ponder

I hope *A Chance of Awesome* has shed some new light into your life. This guide includes questions inspired by each chapter to help your organization – whether it's a start-up, non-profit, or a Fortune 500 company – take things to the next level of awesome. Use these questions to spark discussions on retreats and in staff meetings to become more innovative, productive, and profitable.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop for the 'J' and a cursive 'ason'.

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Weeds or Wishes (p. 1)

Where is Adulthood wreaking the most havoc in your organization right now?
What's ONE thing you could do help start to turn the tide?

a 100% Chance of Awesome (p. 5)

Think of something frustrating or unexpected that has happened in your organization recently. What is something positive that is now possible because it happened?

See With New Eyes (p. 11)

Do you consider your organization to be more near-sighted or more far-sighted?
When has that trait been helpful, and when has it been a hindrance?

Looking for Orcas (p. 17)

When in your life did you get something you wanted, even though at first it didn't look like it at the time?

Space Invaders (p. 21)

Think of something frustrating you right now. How can you make dealing with it or overcoming it into a game?

Get Up Faster (p. 25)

Where in your organization right now is there an opportunity to get up faster?

Enjoy the Woo (p. 33)

Even if you don't believe they'll happen, come up with 3 potential best-case scenarios for something in your organization that you currently feel anxious or uncertain about.

Bee Optimistic (p. 37)

What's one thing you could do to encourage someone else – a member, client, customer, supplier, or colleague, perhaps – who is currently fighting a hard battle?

Mind Your Own Monkeys (p. 45)

Think of the most difficult person you encounter on a regular basis. After reading this chapter, what plan of action seems to make the most sense in dealing with this person going forward?

Duck Duck Goose (p. 51)

What is one practical way you can create more thinking time in your work day?

Willing to Relocate (p. 57)

What area in your business or organization has gotten complacent or feels a little stale and could benefit from a relocation of some sort?

Draw Upside Down (p. 61)

Think of an important activity that you spend a lot of time on in your organization. How would Walt Disney approach it? What about Steve Jobs? Mother Theresa? Andy Warhol? Mary Poppins? Yoda?

Art vs. Science (p. 67)

Do you see yourself more as an Artist or a Scientist? What is something you could try to incorporate a strength often associated with the other?

This Ain't Kansas (p. 73)

What is something outside your normal area of expertise that you can mix in to a current product or service to help your current offering improve and stand out?

Best Practices Are for the Birds (p. 77)

What area of your organization feels and little bit too much like a “paint-by-number?”

What is a simple thing you could do to make it better or stand out more?

Hippoposterous (p. 85)

What’s your biggest goal that feels preposterous? Instead of telling yourself “No,” tell yourself, “Yes, if…” Now, follow up that “if” with what would be required to make your goal possible.

The Invasion of Nonsense (p. 89)

What is the biggest challenge you are dealing with right now? Make a list of 10 ridiculous solutions to that problem that could be accomplished with the wave a magic wand. After you’ve made the list, examine your answers for one clue that prompts a doable next step that might be worth trying.

More Cowbell Please (p. 93)

What is your organization’s biggest disadvantage or weakness right now? Brainstorm 10 ways you could turn it into an advantage.

The Good Old Days (p. 99)

Think of 3 opportunities your organization now enjoys that probably won’t last forever.

What will you do this week to make the most of those advantages?

Half Full (p. 109)

Think of a failure that you have experienced. What’s something good that ended up coming from it?

Doughnuts and Optimism (p. 115)

Think of something you are currently struggling with or worried about. What are five good things that might arise from this experience?

Must Be Nice (p. 119)

What are three of your “must be nices” (strengths, talents, natural advantages)?
How could you utilize them even more thoroughly than you currently are?

How to Be Lucky (p. 125)

What is one thing you can do this month to get better at something you’re already pretty good at? (i.e. Improve a skill, deepen your knowledge, increase your proficiency.)

The Night Light (p. 129)

What is your biggest fear or concern right now? Spend five minutes each writing out answers to each of the following questions: What is the worst-case scenario you can imagine? What is the absolute best-case scenario? What is most likely to happen in this scenario?

What if it Works? (p. 137)

What is something you’ve just begun or are thinking about undertaking that is freaking you out? What are three awesome things that could happen if everything goes well?

Not Sunk Yet (p. 141)

What is something positive you can begin this week that you will be happy you did one year from now?

Ready for Lift-Off (p. 145)

What is something you’re currently trying to accomplish that’s become more difficult or taking longer than you estimated? After reminding yourself that it’s ok (and probably normal), what’s one positive thing – no matter how small – that has happened since you’ve begun?

Keep On Fishing (p. 149)

Where do you feel like you've hit a dead-end? Can you think of three approaches you haven't tried yet? Or something you haven't tried in a while that might be worth trying again, or in a slightly different way? Who is someone you could talk to that might give you a new idea to explore?

Pie in the Sky (p. 153)

Where do the odds feel stacked against you? What does the situation have to look like before you're willing to throw in the towel? If you're not there yet, keep going. If you are, it's ok to move on and try something new. But you have to decide.

Wind In Our Sails (p. 157)

Who are the five biggest supporters that have served as wind in your sails? What can you do to honor them in some way to show your appreciation?

Look for Miracles (p. 161)

What failure, dead end, or disappointment that you're currently experiencing is the best candidate for becoming the foundation for something awesome?

What is Beautiful (p. 167)

Beauty comes in many forms: a coat of paint, a redesigned web site, a renovated office, the inclusion of more nature into your workspace, or a more user-friendly form, for example. How can you interject a little more beauty in your organization?

BONUS: What's one small thing that you could implement that would make your customers, clients, stakeholders, or employees happy?

How Many Licks? (p. 171)

If circumstances conspired to make this your organization's last year of existence, what would you do to make sure you had a lasting impact on the people you will interact with in the next 365 days?

BONUS: If this was your last year with the organization, what would you focus on in order to make sure the people you served and the colleagues you worked would remember your positive contribution twenty years from now?

Messes and Memories (p. 179)

What is something that would benefit your organization or the people you serve that you've been putting off because it's "messy?"

The Reason for Stonehenge (p. 185)

What's one thing you can do to make some element of your organization more fun? (A key relationship? An orientation process? Your e-mail signature? Your voicemail message? Your invoice? Your website? Your annual report? Team meetings?)

Why So Serious? (p. 189)

Good leaders know that you can take your work seriously without taking yourself seriously. What is one aspect of your organization that could benefit from a little less seriousness while maintaining a sense of professionalism?

Make Someone Happy (p. 195)

What's one thing you can do to make someone else's day a teeny bit brighter today?

Raspberries to Ya (p. 199)

What person, group, policy, or self-limiting belief is it time for you to start ignoring or let go of?

Shine On (p. 203)

What dark cloud has recently rolled into your organization? What does it make possible?

Enjoy the Ride (p. 211)

What is the one challenge, situation or relationship in your organization that would benefit the most from a change in your perspective?

