

# Managing Change & Transition

V.G. Young School for County Commissioners Courts

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## Change is Constant

What are some changes you've noticed in your lifetime?

What changes are coming in your future?

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### TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

What's that? →

**It's a hard disk in 1956**

In September 1956, IBM launched the 305 RAMAC, the first computer with a hard disk drive (HDD). The HDD weighed over a ton and stored 5MB of data.

**\$3200 per month RENTAL, used 1956 to 1969**



**Makes you appreciate your \$8, 4 GB USB flashdrive, doesn't it?**

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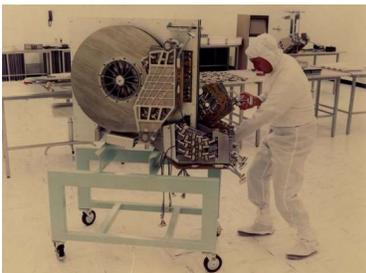
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**1970-1981**  
**250 MB,**  
**\$100K**



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**1981-1985**  
**IBM 3380:**  
**2.52 GB, \$81K**

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**1985 (back)**  
**\$40K, 2GB**  
**but smaller**



**Each on in**  
**the row is 4-5**  
**years apart.**

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## ECONOMIC CHANGE

- 88% of the Fortune 500 companies in 1955 no longer exist.
- 40% of Fortune 500 TODAY will be gone in 10 years.
- Since 1980, Fortune 500 companies have eliminated 3.8 million jobs.

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## SOCIAL CHANGE

1900	2021
<b>Men</b> outnumbered <b>Women</b> 38.8M versus 37.2M	<b>Women</b> outnumbered <b>Men</b> 167.51M versus 164.38 mil.
<b>IN THE WORKPLACE</b>	
Women 18 % Men 82 %	47 % 53 %
<b>HOUSEHOLD</b>	
4.8 people	2.6 people

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## A Brief History of Time



Things used to change very slowly and we did not live very long. People did not experience a lot of change during their lifetimes

But, today things change very fast and we live much longer ! So people experience a lot of change during their lifetimes.

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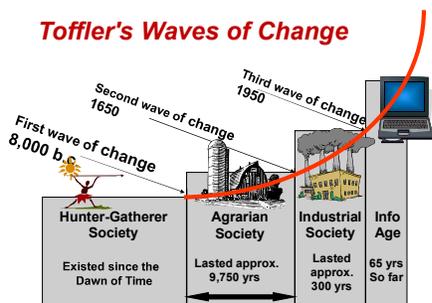
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## Change is Accelerating

### Toffler's Waves of Change



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## Change is Accelerating

In his book, *Future Shock*, Alvin Toffler notes:

- if you were to take the time that human beings have been in existence (about 50,000 years) and
- divide this time into 62-year average lifetimes
- you would get approx. 800 lifetimes.

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**Of those 800 lifetimes:**

650 of them have been in caves.

It is only in the last 70 lifetimes that humans have been able to communicate across generations.

It is only in the last 14 that there has been the printed word, 9 with a printing press.

It is only in the last 5 that we have been able to measure time with any accuracy.

It is only in the last 3 that there has been the electric motor, 2 with automobiles.

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**The Experience of Change**

When our work changes we may be asked to:

- Take on more responsibility
- Learn new skills
- Work in different ways
- Change our VALUES

Many of these changes *we do not want* and would not have chosen for ourselves.

We may feel *unprepared, unwilling, or unable* to make the changes asked of us.

How does it feel when things are changing?

Feelings of loss, grief, anxiety

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**Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts.**

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### The Experience of Change

- But, we know we must adapt.
- Change is actually a process of transition.
  - Transition is the time between the announcement of the change, response, a period of adjustment, and finally adaptation to the new way.
- People move through the process of transition at different speeds.

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### Reactions to change are *influenced* by:

- Life experiences
- Beliefs and Ideas
- Individual acceptance of change




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### Change “announcement” is not “change management”

1. Recognize that people move through a process when adapting to change.
2. Explain why change “announcement” is not “change management”.

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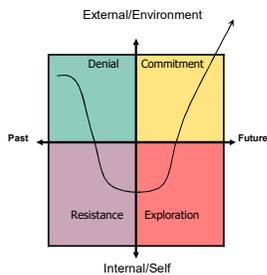
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### Transition Curve

- 4 phases of transition
- Denial
- Resistance
- Exploration
- Commitment




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### Recognizing Resistance

People do not resist Change...  
 ...They resist Loss

Why?

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How do YOU resist change?

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### What options do you have ?

- 2 Categories that change/stressors can go into.
- 3 ways people tend to respond to the things in those categories.
- Responses, including emotional ones, are based on NARRATIVE. So is CHANGE HEARTINESS.

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### Letting go: The problem isn't new

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. (Serenity Prayer (Christian) from AA)

If there's a remedy when trouble strikes, what reason is there for dejection?

And if there is no help for it, what use is there in being glum? (Buddhist)

And they said: At the head of all understanding – is realizing what is and what cannot be, and the consoling of what is not in our power to change. (Jewish-The Talmud)

Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens. Some things are up to us and some things are not up to us. Our opinions are up to us, and our impulses, desires, aversions-in short, whatever is our own doing. Our bodies are not up to us, nor are our possessions, our reputations, or our public offices, or, that is, whatever is not our own doing. (Epictetus—Greek, "Stoics")

For every ailment under the sun  
There is a remedy, or there is none;  
If there be one, try to find it;  
If there be none, never mind it.

(Mother Goose)

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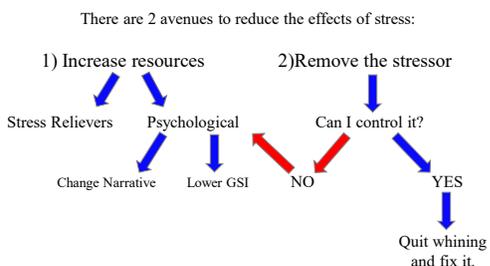
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### Managing Stress : Tom's Decision Tree



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## Build a Support Network

- **Work Network**

- **Family**

- **Friends and Community**

- **Does this mean complaining?**

- Reality-checking
- Perspective
- Alternatives
- Validation
- Emotional support
- Relevant information

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