STRATECHIA

Lean Process Optimization

Scaling Through Simplicity

Lean manufacturing. Lean thinking. Lean startup. The operative word is *lean*, defined as "absence of waste."

Originally meant to convey the essence of the Toyota Production System, lean has evolved well beyond the factory floor to become an organizing principle that engages people in creating and delivering the highest possible value through the pursuit of "better." Processes are streamlined and problems are solved, with the ultimate goal of freeing customers from the tyranny of excessive complexity.

Excessive complexity is an insatiable beast that kills the entire experience from every imaginable perspective. It bloats your ranks, exhausts your capacity, and drains your resources, leaving you vulnerable to a leaner offering.

Lean centers on the simple philosophy that less is best, and that making more room for what truly matters by eliminating what doesn't is life-changing. It's a subtractive approach to continuously improving and simplifying even your most complicated workflows.

> *"Perfection is achieved not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away."*
>
> **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

You start by defining the ideal, then little by little removing everything blocking the path to achieving it. Done right, it's a never-ending, relentless endeavor.

It's a different way of thinking, demanding a *mindshift*. That's why so many companies can't get lean, no matter what they do.

Nearly a decade of working closely with Toyota makes our lean engagements unique and authentic: they come from being an integral part of the Toyota culture.

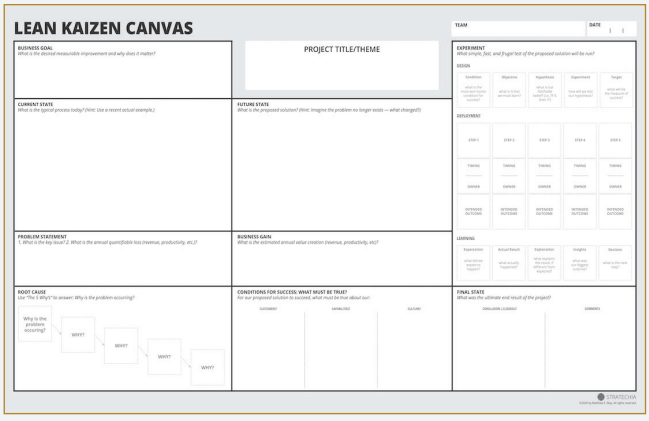
THINKING LEAN

Based on Toyota's lean principles of workflow design and coupled with continuous improvement methodology (aka *kaizen*), our lean services are perfectly suited to operational process redesign.

Participants are first introduced to lean thinking through the official Toyota Production System (TPS) simulation, developed during our tenure with Toyota, enabling them to observe and experience lean principles in action.

The TPS simulation is followed by an exercise designed to identify problem and opportunity spaces based on real world issues facing the participants, thereby setting up a *kaizen* session enabling them to apply lean thinking tools and techniques to solving an actual problem.

Lean sessions can be easily customized to a half-day (TPS simulation only), 1-day, or 2-day bootcamp for teams in which the second day is a *kaizen* session aimed at solving a real problem. The work product of a *kaizen* session is captured on our proprietary Lean Kaizen Canvas.



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