Feed The Right Wolf

Over the past month I’ve been interacting with many folks from our team where we’ve been talking about the journey that we are currently on as an organization. In my conversations, I emphasize the tremendous opportunity that we have to help our organization evolve and find ways for our departments to come together. Although my intent (and belief) comes from a positive place, times of uncertainty can lead team members to have various reactions.

This reminds me of one of my favorite fables which goes like this:

One evening, a grandfather told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, “My son, the battle is between two ‘wolves’ inside us all. One is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.”

“The other is good,” he continued. “It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: “Which wolf wins?” The grandfather simply replied, “The one you feed the most.”

I think this is relevant, because as we think about our future, it conjures up different feelings for people. On one side, we have positive thoughts about new opportunities, coming together as a team, creating new and shared experiences. On the other, we have negative thoughts related to protecting territory, holding onto historical artifacts, or not wanting to change how we’ve done things.
I’m very optimistic about our future and we’ve recently kicked off some great initiatives related to Infrastructure Integration (Ray Frush, James Cizek, John Walker, and others) and Enterprise Project Management (Dave Hoffman, Candace Ramsey, Bill Gargan, & Suzi White) that will help us evolve. In the coming weeks we’ll be kicking off a Cloud strategy initiative as well as other strategic initiatives based on your feedback.

We are making good progress and turning our feedback into actions. If you are interested in getting more involved, I encourage you to talk to your managers. Soon, there will be more opportunities to play important roles and we’ll need engaged team members to help.

As we go forward, I’d ask you to remember that each of us get to choose which wolf we feed, or put another way, how we will act or react in the face of our evolving environment. I hope that you’ll join me in feeding the right wolf.

--Brandon