

Working seminar. n. Educational event for people who think for themselves, stimulating experience providing fresh ideas, great questions, and space to think. An entertaining and useful day.

“Creative alternatives for risk registers”

A working seminar devised and presented by Matthew Leitch

The secret of creativity is not lateral thinking or even consciousness altering drugs. The secret of creativity is a well stocked mind.

If you are involved with risk and control and want your mind to be chock full of good ideas for risk registers (in the broadest sense) then this seminar is for you.

The seminar is based on example designs developed from real risk registers to show additional techniques.

The designs you will see, analyse, and discuss are:

- widely applicable;
- very different from each other;
- packed with interesting techniques; and
- based on designs that have been used in practice.

Fresh ideas but this is not training

This event is not training. It is a seminar with cases, exercises, and discussion designed to prime your ability to design risk registers and similar

documents and processes to meet a range of different requirements.

Past seminars have shown that many interesting and useful contributions are made by participants and these are highly valued.

Expect to be tired but inspired by the end of the day. Read on for more details.

Illustrative outline content

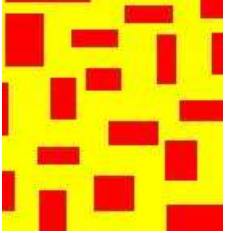
Here’s the sort of thing you can expect.

WARM UP

- Introductions and reasons for attending. Mention any specific design challenges or areas of dissatisfaction that you hope to deal with.

EXAMPLE 1: Classic auditor’s risk-control-assurance schedule – taken to the limit

- Brief presentation on the main points of the design.



- Quiet opportunity to think individually about the example risk register.
- Group discussion identifying elements of the design and covering personal experiences with techniques, the process behind the document, ideal applications and limitations of the techniques.
- Brief presentation on points not brought out in discussion.

(This is the discussion process followed for all examples.)

EXAMPLE 2: Integrated performance and risk management

- This example shows what can happen when performance management and risk management are integrated. There are implications for documentation and for the way both are done. This is an emerging theme.

EXAMPLE 3: Ultra lightweight uncertainty management

- This can be used in developing ideas for a project or product, for example. It demonstrates a number of ideas with wider application.

EXAMPLE 4: Controls design framework

- Risk registers are often seen as part of a process that designs internal control systems. A risk register designed from this point of view can look rather different from the usual, and offers some interesting advantages.

Implementation ideas

- Wider discussion of the issues and techniques that can be used to implement revised processes of risk management.

EXAMPLE 5: Page per risk

- While many risk registers aim to be tabular databases, some rely more on narrative and meaningful discussion of areas of risk and uncertainty. This example shows the discursive style.

Variations

The seminar will proceed at the pace we need so there is no guarantee that all sessions will be completed, and the order of the day may be varied to suit particular participants. (However, papers on all the material will be available.)

If you are interested in an in-house presentation of this seminar I can modify the selection of cases to make them more relevant to your current interests.

The Working Seminar format

It's not training. Training is where I tell you what to do and what to think and you accept it from me because I am an expert and you are not, and because what I am saying has the status of "generally accepted".

"Working seminar" is my name for an educational event to suit people who are already experts and like to think for themselves. It's also ideal for material that is insightful but not yet generally accepted.

It's "working" because you spend a lot of the time thinking, not just listening. There are examples, periods of individual thought, and group discussions. Some activities are normally done individually because social contact is distracting, but once completed they stimulate the ensuing group discussion.

It is a "seminar" because new ideas are injected, within the activity materials, my brief presentations, and of course by participants.

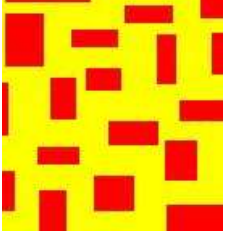
The pace is dictated by the group, not a schedule. Breaks are taken when needed and convenient.

I try to keep things entertaining and, occasionally, surprising, with variations in the pattern particularly in the afternoon.

The need for creative alternatives

Consult most official guidance on how to manage risk and you could be forgiven for thinking that there is only one way to do it, and only one way to document it.

In fact there are many ways. Risk management and internal control remind me of the early days of computing, with exciting innovations appearing all the time.



We need new ideas because so many of the problems of managing risk have still to be solved.

We also need the skill of designing risk registers and similar documents to meet a wide range of requirements. One process with one design will not work in all situations and even the most ardent proponents of enterprise risk management now seem to recognise that a wide range of techniques, applied appropriately, is essential.

The sources of creative alternatives

The design ideas incorporated in this seminar have come from various sources.

Risk registers and similar documents used in private are much more varied than those displayed in public, which tend to have a lot of the interesting information stripped out and resemble the designs seen in official guidance.

Just when I think I've seen everything I'll spot some simple, wonderful new idea that reminds me how much there is still to invent.

The presenter – Matthew Leitch

For more information about my work please visit one or both of my main commercial websites:

www.internalcontrolsdesign.co.uk

www.managedluck.co.uk

Intended audience

This event is designed for:

- Audit managers and heads of audit
- Risk managers and directors
- Directors (especially non-executive directors), trustees, council members
- Standard setters

Practical details

Duration is one day, 10am to 4pm, with rest and refreshment breaks.

Group size is normally 5 to 15 people. No need to bring laptops. This event will boost your mind, not your in-tray.

If you have a professional qualification and need some sort of document to confirm your continuing professional education points I can provide that.

For dates, locations, and prices please check other marketing material or contact me.

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