



THE CHAOS INC.™ SIMULATION AND SEMINAR

***A "Table Top" Simulation and Seminar Exploring Chaos and Complex Systems
Dynamics in Organizations***

Event focus: An improvisational, collaborative adventure into chaos and complexity dynamics in real-world organizations.

Topic areas: Leadership • strategic/ scenario planning • knowledge management • information technology (IT)/ business integration • Net-Centric Transformation • operational redesign • complex adaptive systems change • nonlinear enterprise restructuring. Especially powerful used in conjunction with innovative enterprise initiatives.

Appropriate Participants:

Leaders at all levels of the enterprise (including multi-systems enterprises), consultants, and graduate-level students and researchers in business, systems engineering, IT management, group/ system dynamics, public administration.

Time: 1-Day - 7.5 hours, 2-Day - 11-15 hours (adapted to specific organizations)

Number of Participants: Minimum -10 ▪ Optimum -18 ▪ Maximum -30

Participant Materials:

Includes workbook, simulation role, simulation materials, and ***Chaos Inc. Handbook*** to support transition of principles to actual organizations. Participants receive certificate and exclusively designed accessories.

Presenter Certification: Presenter Certification Process (***described below***)

About the CHAOS Inc.™ Simulation and Seminar

Originally designed Fall 1990, the Chaos, Inc.™ simulation and seminar is a unique experiential exercise based on the New Science of chaos and complexity as applied to real-world social and organizational systems. Chaos, Inc.™ draws on techniques of jazz, improvisation, collaboration, and experiential group dynamics to provide a reality-based experience to engage, observe, and shape complex adaptive systems.

As systems practitioners, we had found ourselves interested in how well organizations handle the increasing “whitewater” of turbulence, unpredictability, and change. We designed Chaos, Inc.™ to stimulate and provide a kind of safety zone in which to test fresh ideas that would better meet 21st century challenges. Presented over the past decade and a half to a wide variety of organizations in business, the military, government, education, and academia, the Chaos, Inc.™ Simulation and Seminar itself continues to evolve into a robust and relevant instrument for looking at and building new, more powerful organizational strategies.

Chaos, Inc.™ creates a simulated “company” subjected to typical events and pressures encountered in organizations (**). In response to these encounters, the “company” takes varied routes to far-from-equilibrium or chaotic states. Participants find themselves facing multiple dilemmas. Simulation companies may become mired in dead-end solutions or they may evolve into new and more “chaos-adaptive” or change-resilient structures. Unlike most organizational simulations (but like real-world organizations) this seminar is a true experiential laboratory.

Also, as in the real world, participants are not provided with “canned” answers or predetermined outcomes. Indeed, no one yet knows how to predict how **any** organization will respond to uncertainty. However, there are lessons to be learned from “retroactive observation” that can lead to strategic foresight. Chaos, Inc.™ participants are challenged to reinvent their simulated company to create a more adaptive, evolvable, or sustainable organization. Then, they have the chance to test their new strategies -- all the while building assets and new approaches they can leverage to their actual organizations.

Contact us for further information about conducting Chaos Inc.™ in your organization.

(**) One participant said: “My only criticism of this workshop is that it was too much like my real work life! And now that I’m looking more closely, I see there are several things I can do differently that will yield more creative approaches to my situation.”

Another said: “I actually decided to move into organizational consulting to avoid encountering the real challenges my clients experience every day. This simulation places me smack in the middle of those challenges and forces me to wrestle alongside my clients, rather than just giving them advice from outside their business concerns.”

Following a presentation engaging a cross-section of graduate students in business, public administration, and systems engineering, Peter Vaill (then director of the Ph.D. program at George Washington University’s School of Business and Public Management) said: “In one day, this simulation taught my students more about actual organizational life than any of our classes usually do in a semester! This experience accelerated learning about the issues that our graduates will have to grapple with on a daily basis.”

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES FOR CHAOS INC.™

1. Link complex systems and chaos to real-world experience (Chaos, Inc.™ requires no previous knowledge of the field).
2. Engage in an environment created specifically to explore realities of organizational systems under pressure of true-to-life “chaotic” and adaptive systems events.
3. Identify what happens at each stage of organizational turbulence and uncertainty, the special challenges at each stage, and why traditional responses are failing.
4. Explore adaptive approaches to complex systems and how to integrate with traditional management to create new truly complex enterprises that can successfully address such conditions as:
Strategic Planning □ **Turbulent Markets** □ **Changing Business Models** □ **Restructuring** □
Organizational Transformation □ **Disaster Planning and Mitigation**
5. Map simulation experiences to “back-home” organizational challenges to identify new assets and approaches that can be applied to actual organizational situations

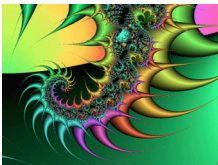
PRESENTER CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR CHAOS INC.™

The Chaos, Inc.™ Simulation and Seminar certifies qualified practitioners as presenters of the Chaos Inc.™ Simulation and Seminar. We are now expanding our Chaos Inc. Presenter Cadre and will be providing a certification workshop in Fall/Winter 2006.

The Certification Process includes a 3-Day training course:

- Organizational Assessment and Alignment of Simulation
- Training of the core Complex Systems Dynamics Concepts
- The logistics of running the planning and running the simulation
- Facilitation of the discussion to maximize participant insight
- Adapting the simulation and facilitation to variety of learning and organizational objectives

In addition to certification as an authorized Chaos Inc.™ Presenter, VOLVOX will provide a trainer’s manual and a set of training tools, props, and all materials you will need to conduct the CHAOS Inc.™ Simulation and Seminar. Please contact us for more information.



VOLVOX Inc. www.volvoxinc.com

John W. and Jo Lee Loveland Link

P. O Box 610

Middletown, VA 22645

540-465-1491

JLLoveland@aol.com

johnwlink@hotmail.com

***VOLVOX** is an actual biological organism, a micro-colony of independent cells that form into an elective, globe-shaped dynamic system. These miniature “planets” cooperate internally for the good of the entire organism, propel on their axes toward light, and generate new life forms through whole-system effort. **VOLVOX** -- the consulting firm -- is dedicated to bring such emergent organizations into reality.*