Hi

My name is Gail Sturgess from TalentAlign.com. This workshop is about IT Talent Attraction and Retention and was held at, and sponsored by, Simba South Africa, Gauteng on the 29th May 2007
A BIG thanks to Simba South Africa for sponsoring this workshop. Simba sponsored the venue and a really wonderful lunch, I gave of my time free of charge.

This means that delegates are not charged a fee for attending so we had a good turnout of people from a number of different companies.

Thanks to you as well for your constructive and information input.
The first three slides don’t really have much to do with IT Talent Attraction and Retention, but are here to remind us just how far we, South Africans, have come in the past 15 years.
This slide and the next one come from a presentation of Guy Lundy of Dimension Data Business Solutions. He has traveled widely and is concerned that South Africans don’t seem to have a sense of pride in their country and in being South African. He takes us through a number of “successes” that …
… we have achieved in a really short period of time - relatively.

So these slides are included in the presentation more to remind us what it means to be a South African so that we can be truly Proudly South African!
The program for the morning is something like this.

Initially I will give some feedback from the Competency Management workshop held in Johannesburg (hosted by SAB) in November 2006.

Then I will present the findings of a number of research documents from a variety of sources relating to the situation of skills scarcity that we are facing at present and into the future.

We will then break and have a discussion between us on our own experiences and how we addressed them.

I will then summarise and present the recommendations from the research documents, which are surprisingly similar – or maybe not THAT surprising!
First, feedback from the Competency Management Workshop.

The workshop outlined what Competency Management is about and a company presented their findings on attempting to use NQF Unit Standards as the basis for their Competency Management.

After the workshop, in compiling the Role Descriptions available on TalentAlign.com, I have compiled a comprehensive list of competencies “used” in IT – 93 IT Competencies and 78 Non-IT Competencies.

The next task is to create the assessment criteria for each of the competencies over the four levels. If any organisation would like to be part of this process I would appreciate the input to ensure an accurate and usable output that can be incorporated into Competency Management systems.
These are “samples” of the IT competencies. They are structured into “families”. So this shows the applicable family, some of the “competencies”, and the competency description.
These are samples of Non-IT competencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Competency Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budgets</td>
<td>Principles, methods, techniques and tools for the preparation and monitoring of budgets to minimise costs and ensure cost-effectiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Characteristics</td>
<td>The functional structure of businesses and other organisations, their mission, objectives, strategies and critical success factors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Environment</td>
<td>The business environment relating to own sphere of work (own organisation and/or closely associated organisations, such as customers, suppliers, partners), in particular those aspects of the business that the specialist is to support (i.e. localised organisational awareness from a technical perspective).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Process Management</td>
<td>A systematic approach to reviewing and improving business processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Processes</td>
<td>Sets of coordinated tasks and activities, conducted by both people and equipment, that will lead to accomplishing a specific organisational goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Budgeting Techniques</td>
<td>The techniques used in the process of planning expenditures on assets whose cash flows are expected to extend beyond one year. E.g. DCF, NPV, IRR, Payback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Management</td>
<td>The management of the process of implementing major changes in IT, business processes, organisational structures, and job assignments to reduce the risks and costs of change, and to optimise its benefits, focusing on the issues of managing the resistance and discomfort experienced by people in an organisation when new processes or technology are introduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching</td>
<td>The process of assisting individuals to set goals then support the execution of the goals through establishing strategy and providing feedback, insight and guidance to enable the individual to reach their fullest potential.</td>
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</table>
Competency Management is the foundation for nearly all “workforce development” initiatives especially the important issues of understanding the competencies needed to drive strategy and where and in what numbers these competencies exist in the organisation.

We will see later in the workshop how this becomes important for IT Talent Strategy.
And now onto the workshop topic “IT Staff Attraction and Retention”. And what we are really trying to address is how to get better at attracting and retaining the core talent needed by the organisation – in a period of scarcity!

This quote from Lee Iacocca reminds us that without good talent in a good team, organisations will not achieve the products and profits that they strive to achieve.
So … What’s Happening Out There?

What is happening is the result of negative population growth rates in developed world countries since the end of the second world war. The “baby-boomers” are about to start retiring but there is just not the talent available to take their place. In 1997 McKinsey & Company coined the term “the war for talent” as a result of research on talent management at the time. In 2000 they conducted a second round of surveys and came to the conclusion that the “war for talent” would persist for at least the next two decades, i.e. until at least 2020.

There are also fewer students going to universities and following “technical” qualifications. So, there just are not sufficient, qualified and experienced people to replace those who will be retiring over the next 5 to 15 years.

This is going to impact on the ability of organisations to grow in line with business plans, and can even impact the economic development prospects of countries.
The impact on the IT Industry is significant with considerable current and forecast shortages of IT talent, and declining university enrolments – on a GLOBAL basis – even in South Africa!
The impact on South Africa can be devastating.

Our IT talent will be sought out by the developing world countries, and they will leave. NOT because of anything bad in South Africa, not because of crime, not because of lack of opportunities – BUT because they CAN! Exciting opportunities with big salaries attached will be on offer. And business in South Africa will find it extremely difficult to compete.

Two years does not make a trend, however the increases in emigration between the 2005 and 2006 IT Salary Surveys of P-E Corporate Services indicates that there well could already be increased emigration starting to happen.

The 2010 World Cup has shown shortages of high level skills in the engineering world – a close relation of ICT, and the impact on our ability to achieve the required economic growth has already been reported in the press. This will impact on our ability to reduce unemployment and the results of this could have dire consequences.
The impact on business is financial.

Higher compensation packages as organisations compete for scarce skills and resources and higher cost of recruitment. The staff turnover time cycle will increase – it is going to take much longer from the time one employee starts looking for a position to the replacement employee being fully operational. So, longer periods of lower productivity and more pressure on the remaining staff.

All this will impact on the ability of IT to delivery in terms of organisational strategy, putting pressure on the organisation as a whole.
The impact on the talent of the organisation, and it’s management, is already becoming apparent.

IT employees remember well the employment cycles that have dominated the industry since the early 1990s. The “blood letting” of IT talent in the early 1990s as organisations “down-sized” / “right-sized”, the scurry for experienced skills leading up to Y2K, the release of staff post Y2K, another short-lived scurry for web-enabled staff as dot.com became a “flavour of the day”, the release of skills with the “dot.bomb” reality, and the hiatus of job opportunities leading up to 2005.

This has resulted in a complete break-down of trust between employer and employee as far as “loyalty” is concerned. And it will never come back – at least not the way it was.

Employees now want more than a “job”, they want opportunity and they want flexibility. Younger generations want more time for child care while older generations want more time for elder care as the older generations are now living longer than before.

And a new feature of our “employee marketplace” – the falsification of qualifications to “qualify” for a position.
There is more diversity in the workplace today than ever before – diversity in terms of age, gender and culture.

So organisations need to start to address the needs, goals, attitudes and financial requirements of this diverse workforce.

The “one-size-fits-all” policies and procedures of traditional HR systems are just no longer relevant. Strategies, policies and procedures need to be reviewed to take into account the needs of the workforce today and going into the future – up to 2020 in fact.
Earlier studies talked about employee “attitude”, later studies talk about employee commitment, and more recent studies have coined the phrase “employee engagement”. Employee engagement is defined as the “emotional commitment that an employee has to the success of the organisation”. A couple of definitions are included in later slides.

But this important research undertaken by Gallup tested the impact on the organisation of the level of commitment or “engagement”.

Basically …. engaged employees:

• Produce 38% higher customer satisfaction
• Have 22% higher productivity
• Produce 27% higher profits

These figures will be supported by other research in later slides.
Around 2000 the Center for Effective Organisations (CEO) undertook research amongst 4500 knowledge workers and managers. These questions are not the questions asked, they are the questions that they wanted the research to answer.
The research defined Retention and Commitment (now Engagement).
The research groups were given a number of job “qualities” and they were asked questions relating to these “qualities”
The research results were separated into:

1. What employees SAY is important
2. What actually drives Retention
3. What actually drives Commitment/Engagement

This slide shows the results of the research by Career Stage. Early Career (Generation Ys), Mid-career (Generation Xs), and Late Career (Baby Boomers)

What is interesting is the significance of “pay-for-organisational-performance”, “strategic clarity” and “career advancement”. This is supported by most other research in this area.
This slide shows the results of the research by Gender across all age groups. Again “pay-for-organisational-performance”, “strategic clarity” and “career advancement” are important.
This final slide on this research shows the results by Gender for the Mid-career group. This is the group that needs to take over the positions that the baby boomers will vacate.
So … what does an “engaged employee” look like. This slide comes from research undertaken by IES and provides another, similar definition of “engagement”.

- Belief in the organisation
- Desire to work to make things better
- Understanding of business context and the ‘bigger picture’
- Respectful of, and helpful to, colleagues
- Willingness to ‘go the extra mile’
- Keeping up to date with developments in the field

“Engaged Employees’ are emotionally connected to the organization and cognitively vigilant”

Source: IES
You will remember the Gallup results in a previous slide, this is one of the follow-up slides.

The research indicated that:

- 29% of employees are “engaged” in their jobs
- A staggering 54% are “not engaged” in their jobs
- 17% of employees are actively disengaged – this does not necessarily mean that they are looking for another job!
What do “Dis-” and “Unengaged” employees look like.

Basically that want to be told exactly what to do, and that is exactly what they do – right or wrong. They do not consider any other possibilities to achieve the outcomes, in fact the only outcome that concerns them is that they complete the job exactly as told. They do as little as possible to achieve this.

They also don’t have productive relationships with management especially, or with colleagues and they mistrust management.

The important aspect of this behaviour is that it damages the effective functioning of the organisation.
So .. Where to from Here?

Well – the one thing we all know for sure is “things” must change!

But what, and where to start?

All research on this topic indicates that there are two starting points:

• Leadership, and
• Strategy.

It is important that the organisations “leaders” (not managers!) understand that “talent strategy” is a strategic corporate focus – and cannot merely be left to an HR department to define and implement.

A “strategy” is about a process for continual “performance improvement” that enables the organisation to achieve its mission and objectives.
This is one of my favourite definitions. Human Capital is about the “performance capability” within the organisation that can be used to generate wealth – or investor return on investment. From the “people” aspect, it is the knowledge and experience of the workforce that creates this “performance capability”.

Using the results of the New Century Financial Corporate in conjunction with the results of the Gallup survey we looked at earlier, the following unfolds:

- 17% of employees produce 28% less revenue than the “engaged” employees, and
- 54% of employees produce 23% less revenue than the “engaged” employees.

Just a 5% difference!!!

Another favourite quote is this one by Peter Drucker – especially the second sentence.

Leadership is:

- lifting a person’s vision to higher sights
- Raising of a person’s performance to a higher standards
- The building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.

If your “leadership development” programs don’t achieve this – they are “management programs” – NOT “leadership programs”!
Leadership has 3 basic responsibilities:

Direction – leading the organisation towards its chosen destination taking mission and values into consideration,

Purpose – ensuring that the workforce is “engaged” with the vision, mission and goals of the organisation, and

Alignment – ensuring that the attitudes, drives, dreams, goals and abilities of the workforce are aligned with the needs of the organisation - and visa versa.
There has been for some time – and there continues to be – much “noise” about “management” vs “leadership”. All the past writing about leadership style has focused on how different styles affect the motivation and productivity of employees. When we question the conventional purpose of leadership and offer a different foundation, we get a very different conception of leadership.

The new purpose of leaders is to ensure that new futures are created as rapidly as their external markets evolve. All organisations now have two equally important tasks: to deliver today’s results, and to create the future. The principle of division of labour suggests that there are two separate functions for these very different tasks. Management takes care of today’s business, and leadership champions changes to enhance competitive advantage.

Management focus is also changing. No longer will management be concentrated on “controlling people”, but rather on controlling business processes, through people. The emphasis is changing to delivery – away from control.

From the book “Here today, Here tomorrow” by Greg Smith, this is the suggested list of competencies for Leadership and for Management.

Can managers be leaders? Yes indeed. Must managers be leaders? Not necessarily. Can anyone be a leader? Absolutely! Leadership, as defined by creating the future, can come from ANYWHERE in the organisation.
Strategy for continuous performance improvement is an iterative process. This does not mean it needs to be done 6-monthly, annually, every second year – or at any specific set interval. Evaluation should be a continual process that, if shortfalls are identified lead back to analysis.

The analysis identifies the “as is” situation across organisational, management, physical and technical, and human and social systems in the organisation, defines the “to be” situation, and calculates the “gaps”.

Only once the “gaps” are identified can “interventions” be designed, developed and implemented.

Then the review process should take place at a pre-determined time in the future, and the cycle continues.

The Performance Improvement Strategy is about having a clear understanding of where the organisation is at present, where it intends to go, and how it intends moving from the “as is” to the “to be” – across a broad range of focus areas including organisation, management, physical and technical, and human and social systems within the organisation.

Only once this is done can strategies and activities be designed, developed and implemented.

But the important aspect is also the need to evaluate on a continual basis, which takes the process back to the “analysis” step.

“Continuous Improvement” is a “continuous process”.
What should be taken into account for an effective “Talent Strategy”?  

The order presented in this strategy outline is deliberate and based on research shown later on in this presentation.

Firstly the organisation’s mission, values, goals and strategies need to be well understood and well communicated. These form the foundation of any strategic initiative that the organisation embarks on.

Then, the organisation should be structured in such a way that it is able to deliver in terms of its mission, values, goals and objectives. No matter the structure of the organisation, it should take into account BOTH organisational AND career management needs. If one is missing, the structure will fail.

A good performance management strategy should be in place, whether BSC (Balanced Score Card) or a derivative of BSC. But the performance management system MUST be aligned with the goals and objectives of the organisation, and performance measures should lead back to contribution to organisational performance.

Competency Management is fairly new. The concept of “competency-based” organisations as opposed to “job-based organisations” was first introduced by the Center for Effective Organisations in the 1990s. From the structure of the organisation, job (or role) descriptions should be produced and competency profiles generated that link the competencies needed to the requirements of the job (role). These Competency Profiles are used to assess the competencies of staff in the organisation as well as new recruits. This forms the “Competency Inventory” of the organisation.

Once this is done, key, strategic competencies can be identified and vulnerabilities can be assessed.
From the overall strategy and the Competency Inventory, a Strategic Workforce Plan can be undertaken to assess the competencies needed by the organisation to achieve its goals, not only over the next 12 months, but for the next 5 years.

This plan brings into play the Staffing and Acquisition Strategy, the Learning and Development Strategy, and the Career Management Strategy. Leaders can do a “best fit” analysis to decide how to source the right skills at the right time.

All other strategies can be affected by the Compensation Strategy, so organisations need to become more creative in terms of compensation strategy, especially the use of incentive bonuses.

The Benefits Strategy is probably where most “flexibility” can be incorporated to accommodate the diversity of any given workforce.
This “Learning and Talent Management” process is the creation of Bersin and Associates. The process starts with the goals and objectives of the organisation, which leads directly to the organisation structure and the definition of roles and competencies required to perform those roles. These are central to the Talent Management processes.

This leads to the Workforce Plan, which leads to Recruiting and On-boarding – introducing the new employee to the organisation in a positive and constructive way. How many of us have arrived for our first day at work, only to find that the receptionist knows nothing about us and has to spend the next half-hour or so finding out where she is supposed to send us. Then the “manager” concerned is busy in a meeting, so you have to wait some more. Sound familiar???

This is NOT the way to introduce a “scarce resource” to the organisation. They will be on the “next bus” right back out the door.

From on-boarding to performance management, training and performance support, and succession planning.

This is all underpinned by the Compensation and Benefits Strategy.

Then, establishing the Competency Inventory of the organisation, and back to the Plan.

The important aspects of this process are the alignment with organisational strategy, the flow between the different aspects of the overall “Talent Strategy”, and the alignment between the different elements.

It makes no sense to have the best Performance Management system if the Compensation and Benefits Strategy is not in alignment.

It is an overall “plan”, an overall “process” for attracting and retaining, especially the core competencies needed by the organisation.
But … What do IT employees Want?

The information on this slide does not come from any particular research, but a combination of all the research results surveyed in producing this presentation. It is also not in any order except the order that the research used indicated to be a priority.

IT employees are, generally, creative, learn easily, like to be at the fore-front of technology, and want early recognition and upward mobility.

They need to understand and “buy into” the strategy and expectations of the organisation, and they need early development opportunities that will lead to career advancement.

Financial rewards are important – especially in an environment in which THEY are the “scarce resource”!
Work / Life Balance and the concepts of flexible work hours and flexible work days have been important for IT employees since the days of the first computers. A new concept made entirely possible with technology today is telecommuting.

It is not employees that have a problem with telecommuting, but the old style “manager” who has the problem. The manager that believes that they need to “see” the employee between specific hours, the manager that believes that if they don’t “see” the employee they don’t have “control” over them – THEY have the problem. But this is precisely the “old style” of management that just won’t work in the world of “scarce” skills – and LEADERSHIP. Manage the PROCESS, and let the employee manage their input and output. Provided the process deliverable is delivered on time, what does it matter WHERE the employee was located in the delivery process? It is the lack of effective Process Management that leads to bad “people” management.

IT people also like to be involved in the decision-making process if it involved them or aspects of their work, and they do not like to be “micro-managed”. They need to have the “room” to do their job. Good process management reduces the need for close people management.

Finally, IT people like to be recognised for their “talent” in their sphere of work and they enjoy new and different challenges, especially challenges that allow them to grow.
We mentioned this research earlier in the Talent Management Strategy part of this presentation. Bersin & Associates conducted research to establish the key drivers of business value from a ‘human capital’ point of view. These are the results.

At the number 1 position is Performance Management. But performance management linked to organisational objectives and goals – not the traditional “performance appraisal” that generally is not really taken that seriously, or, even worse, allows for too much subjectivity and “opinion” of the manager.

Coaching and mentoring is in the second slot. Coaching and mentoring is highly recommended for people development these days, and especially for assisting employees in their career management. Internal and external coaches and mentors are used, depending on the area of development. External coaches are, generally, preferred for “leadership” coaching.

Third is line is Competency Management. Starting with a good and comprehensive description of the job, and the competencies needed to fulfill the responsibilities, tasks and outcomes of the job. Getting to understand what core competencies are needed and where they exist in the organisation helps with recruiting and development planning and is a core requirement for both of these activities.

Sourcing and Recruiting is 4th on the list followed by Learning and Development, with Competency Management providing the input data to these activities to ensure that the right “insourcing” strategy is used and that the right development and performance support programs are put in place.
Before we break for a general discussion, ask yourself these questions.
Don’t cheat now – answer all the questions for yourself BEFORE moving on.
Workshop Discussion

- Participants all agreed - problems sourcing and retaining good IT skills
- Skills “poaching” a problem, especially BEE talent
- Some have tried different strategies, others battling with “corporate” policies
- The Gen Ys are VERY different to Baby-boomers and Gen Xs, they want:
  - Technology gadgets and gizmos
  - Shopping vouchers
- Some working with SETAs, mainly at “entry” level – problems with “growing” people within the organisation
- CSSA is introducing a “Professional” qualification later in 2007 – watch out for this. Could be used as “internship” with SETAs.
This section of the workshop, after the general discussion, presents the suggestions made by the different researchers in this topic. The aim of this section is to help you to compile your ideas of what you would like to implement for “effective IT staff attraction and retention”, and to create a plan to achieve it.

First, back to McKinsey & Company’s “The War for Talent”. As a result of their research, they identified these five elements of a successful talent formula.

1. The need to “instill” a talent mindset at ALL levels of the organisation – starting with senior (executive) management.

2. The need to create a “winning” EVP that attracts scarce talent – and KEEPS them by means of:
   - Exciting work
   - Good management
   - Remuneration commensurate with the value that they create (look at the Platinum mine situation in South Africa right now!)
   - Growth and development opportunities.

3. Be “on the prowl” for top talent – don’t let good talent slip through the corporate fingers. There are organisations that will employ “good talent” even if they don’t have an immediate position for them!

4. Realise the tremendous amount of human potential already in the organisation by developing and growing leaders – great leaders!

5. Don’t treat all staff the same – they don’t all contribute the same! Leading companies assess their talent and differentiate in how they invest in their top performers and in their poor performers. This investment can include development opportunities, job opportunities, and challenging growth opportunities. It is not limited to “money”!
McKinsey & Company’s “The War for Talent”, suggest these statements to identify the organisation’s level of “Talent Mindset Maturity”.

We suggest that you use it as an “action plan” for achieving a Talent Mindset in the organisation. It’s no “cake walk” – it will take time, planning and energy.
A relatively new concept in Talent Management is the Employment Value Proposition (EVP).

Most organisations have, over the past few years, incorporated a Customer Value Proposition into their mission, values and objectives, and most sales organisations will know of “Unique Selling Propositions”.

The EVP is a statement of what the organisation will offer current and prospective employees and what it expects from these employees. As such, it is the “brand” by which the organisation wants to be known – the “preferred employer” brand if you will. It is the “agreement” between what an employee may expect from the organisation in return for their performance on the job.

Necessarily, the EVP may be different depending on the needs and requirements of different areas and roles within the organisation.
Employment Value Proposition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Old Way</th>
<th>The New Way</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Talent Mindset</strong></td>
<td>Having good people of one of many important performance levers</td>
<td>Having the right talent throughout the organisation is critical source of competitive advantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HR is responsible for people management: recruiting, compensation, performance review, succession planning</td>
<td>Every manager is responsible and accountable for attracting, developing, exciting, and retaining talented people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVP</strong></td>
<td>We expect people to pay their dues and work their way up the line to get top jobs and big money</td>
<td>We think of our people as volunteers and know we have to try to deliver on their dreams to keep them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We have a strong value proposition that attracts customers</td>
<td>We have a distinctive EVP that attracts and retains talented people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This slide and the next one presents a comparison between the “old” way of looking at the employee / employer relationship, and the new way.

It compares the differences in “Talent Mindset” – the traditional way of letting HR deal with all “people” issues with the understanding today that “talent” now is a critical source of competitive advantage.

There was no EVP in the “old” way, but there were some unspoken promises (that may or may not have been honoured).
It compares the “old” way of looking at recruiting with the new need for a “resourcing strategy” and shows the move from development training as a kind of “corporate perk” to development training focussed on deliberate competency requirements.

In the “old” way it was thought disruptive to the team dynamics to single out the good performers. In the “new” way, it is crucially important to identify and acknowledge the top performers (always provided that the measures are objective and linked to organisational strategy). It is equally crucial to identify those that are NOT performing optimally. They need to either become “engaged” with the organisation (through deliberate development interventions), or they need to be “out-placed”!

Remember the Gallup and New Century Financial Corporation research results!!!!! If your employees are not engaged you are not achieving the customer satisfaction, productivity or profitability the organisation is capable of achieving!
This is an example of an actual Employment Value Proposition. It is not shown here as good, bad or indifferent – it is just an example.

It is from a “faith”-based organisation, but the identity of the actual organisation and the particular faith have been removed – this is just not important right now.

This should give SOME idea of what to include in the EVP.
From their research, the Center for Effective Organisations offer these four criteria for creating BOTH Organisational Effectiveness AND Employee Satisfaction.

1. Once again the need to have a mission, objectives and strategy for the organisation and for this to be communicated effectively throughout the organisation so that employees understand exactly what they are working towards and why.

2. An environment that allows for more “freedom” and more “flexibility” and respects their ideas and input.

3. Challenging work assignments that challenge employees to push the bounds of their capabilities.

4. A reward system that links, at least a part, of the employees remuneration package to their contribution to organisational achievement.
The Center for Effective Organisations also offer these “10 Steps to Successful Talent Strategy”.

Once again – the need to COMMUNICATE strategy throughout the organisation is paramount, as is the need to identify the “core” competencies needed to drive and deliver strategy.

The ability to manage the diversity in the workplace on a more “flexible” basis also comes up over and over.
The concept of “multiple career paths” is not new, but, since the early 1990’s has become even more important because the traditional “up the ladder” now has fewer positions. But employees need to feel that they are “progressing”.

The need for line management to be responsible for retention and performance is fairly new, especially in IT, but also appears consistently throughout the research for effective talent management.

The suggestion that an organisation should mount a take-over bid on the basis of taking over the skills base of another organisation might seem a bit foreign to South African organisations – a whole new take on “Barbarians at the Gate”!! I watch with anticipation.
Greg Smith in his book “Here today, Here tomorrow” lists these 8 elements of High-retention companies.

I won’t list in detail, but some are worth noting – for their repeated appearance on these unassociated researches

• communication of organisational goals and mission
• flexible benefits
• performance management – linked to organisational performance!
Another article on this subject provided this “roadmap” to employee engagement – an important element of retention.

The article suggests that effective communication leads to engaged employees which leads to loyal customers which leads to improved profitability!
IES provide this “diagnostic tool” for employee engagement. They suggest that engagement is dependent on the employee “feeling valued and involved”. The elements of Talent Management are listed in order of importance.
Ivey Management Services provide the “10 C’s of Employee Engagement”
10 C’s of Employee Engagement

- **Contribute** – Enable employees to feel involved and valued
- **Control** – Create opportunities for influence, autonomy and self-management
- **Collaborate** – Build a strong team culture
- **Credibility** – Ensure management maintains company’s reputation and demonstrates high ethical standards
- **Confidence** – Create confidence in the company by example and high performance credibility and standards

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Ivey Management Services
Gallup created their Q12 questionnaire for surveying “employee engagement”. Q12 is the copyright of and trademarked to the Gallup Organisation.

Derivatives of this questionnaire have been developed, one by Accord Management Systems. They suggest that a questionnaire be developed covering 3 “tiers”:

- **Basic** – addresses the basic needs of the jobs
- **Intermediate** – addresses growth and development needs, and
- **Advanced** – addresses organisational commitment needs.

Above is an example of an employee engagement questionnaire based on these three tiers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Job</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I know what is expected of me in my job</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have the materials and equipment I need to do my job well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My manager is fair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My manager values me as much as he or she values our customers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotions are handled fairly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in my work group are protected from health and safety issues</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth and Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of career opportunities in our company that are appropriate to my interests and abilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>My manager helps me with my development needs and career progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My manager actively listens to me and is open to my suggestions and concerns</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Our recognition system promotes both individual and team performance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment</td>
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<tr>
<th>Organisational Commitment</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I understand my company’s long-term goals and priorities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would recommend my company as one of the best places to work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When management tells us they will do something, they do it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior management gives employees a clear picture of the direction in which the company is headed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is co-operation between my work group and other work groups in the company</td>
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Derivatives of this questionnaire have been developed, one by Accord Management Systems. They suggest that a questionnaire be developed covering 3 “tiers”:

- **Basic** – addresses the basic needs of the jobs
- **Intermediate** – addresses growth and development needs, and
- **Advanced** – addresses organisational commitment needs.

Above is an example of an employee engagement questionnaire based on these three tiers.
The “last word” (at least in terms of this workshop) comes from “Here Today, Here Tomorrow” by Greg Smith. From his many years experience specialising in this field, he has found that it is important to “institute” a formal retention program to:

- Help focus on and prevent the issues that cause people to leave, and
- To transform people into more productive employees.

These are his “6 steps” to a retention process.

1. The first step is recognising that HR is NOT SOLELY responsible – others share the responsibility for finding, keeping and motivating the workforce. But HR remains responsible for creating new an innovative strategies that encourage people to perform at their maximum performance level.

2. Next is implementing assessments to identify potential retention problems. Both regular, informal assessments by management and formal twice yearly written assessments. All performance assessments should be done taking into account other “life changes” that an employee may be going through, such as change in marital status, deaths in family, births, etc.

3. “What gets measured, gets done”. Good measurement can identify customer satisfaction, time to fill vacancies, promotions from within, etc – to identify possible causes of staff turnover.
4. Employees need to feel a sense of “ownership”, they need to “know” that their contributions have a direct impact on the performance of the organisation.

5. The relationship between organisation and employee starts in the first week of employ. “Inboarding” is an important element of employee retention.

6. Finally, create “intervention” strategies that help to identify possible “leavers” early in their “job search” cycle, that “keep the doors open” as often employees DON’T solve their “problems” by going to a new job, and conduct review 60- and 90-days AFTER the employee has left. This will help to establish the REAL reasons for their turnover.
I leave you with this thought.
The Human Capital element of most organisations today is the “source” of revenue and growth. Organisations from now onwards need to understand better how to maximise this resource for the benefit of BOTH the organisation AND the resource itself.
About TalentAlign.com

The role of HR is fast changing. It is no longer an administrative function, but is fast becoming a strategic role to ensure return on the organisation’s investment in human capital.

TalentAlign.com is set up to provide information on IT Talent Management to assist the HR professional with the alignment of IT Talent Strategy with Organisational Strategy.

There are a number of articles, presentation, etc. that are “free-to-view”. These will provide information that is general to HR, but applied specifically to the IT organisation.

As with any “business” there has also to be a “revenue-generating” opportunities.

To this end we have created over 120 “Role Profiles” for specific, definable “roles” in IT. These are roles that can be expected to be found in ANY IT organisation, irrespective of size. Organisations will structure these roles into jobs, depending on the needs of the organisation – including size. These Role Profiles are customisable online so that our clients are able to produce comprehensive Job Descriptions for virtually any IT role in the organisation – including “multi-skilled” roles.

Also available is our incredibly useful “IT Role Progression Matrix”. This document shows how roles progress over a number of popular grading systems used by organisations. This is extremely useful for Career Management as well as Remuneration Planning.

In producing the IT Role Descriptions, we also produced a Competency Framework – a framework of competencies applicable to IT. It consists of 87 IT competencies and 72 non-IT competencies required in an IT environment. This framework is available for incorporating into an organisations Competency Management System.

We are in the process of incorporating our IT Competency Framework into a Competency Management System for organisations that do not have such a system.

We also perform consulting services for our clients including:
• Assistance with IT Organisation Design
• Creating Job Descriptions
• Creating Competency Profiles
• Remuneration Strategy
• Talent Management Strategy
• Performance Improvement

For information on the IT Competency Framework, the Competency Management System or our consulting services, please email us on info@talentalign.com.
These are my contact details should anyone want to get in contact with me to discuss this issue further, or if you would like to enquire about the IT Role Profiles and Competency Framework available on www.talentalign.com.