MINDFUL PRODUCT LEADERSHIP

Geoff Watts
WHAT IS PRODUCT LEADERSHIP?

“THE ABILITY TO INSPIRE, GUIDE, AND ENABLE THE CREATION AND DELIVERY OF A VALUABLE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF CUSTOMERS AND THE BUSINESS, WHILE FOSTERING A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT.”
WHAT IS MINDFULNESS?

“THE PRACTICE OF DEVELOPING SELF-AWARENESS AND SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS, ALLOWING US TO BE FULLY PRESENT AND CONSCIOUSLY CHOOSE OUR ACTIONS, WHILE RECOGNISING AND UNDERSTANDING OUR THOUGHTS, EMOTIONS, AND BEHAVIOURS.”
WE CAN LEARN TO MANAGE OUR TRIGGERS, PREFERENCES, FEARS, AND BIASES, AND RESPOND TO SITUATIONS IN A MORE INTENTIONAL AND EFFECTIVE WAY.
FAFFIRMATIONS
JOURNALING
FEAR SETTING
COACHING
# Product Leader 12 Trait Assessment

For each of the traits on the left, think briefly about how “underdone” or “overdone” this trait is for you in your work as a product leader. Don’t overthink it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Underdone</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Overdone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impostor Syndrome</td>
<td>I have total confidence in my abilities as a Product Manager. The problem is everyone else not realising their incompetence.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I constantly feel like a fraud and fear being exposed. All of my successes and achievements in product have been down to other people, luck or being in the right place at the right time</td>
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<td>People Pleasing</td>
<td>My job is not to make friends so I tell it like it is. I seldom consider team or stakeholder satisfaction, focusing solely on product goals and outcomes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I hardly ever say no to requests, often compromising on product vision and goals to keep other people happy.</td>
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<td>Going To Excess</td>
<td>Minimum Viable is my favourite mantra as a Product Manager. Get something “done” then move on quickly.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>110% is not enough and burnout is not for me! Great products don’t come easy. When I start something I’m “all in”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fierce Independence</td>
<td>I heavily rely on others to make decisions or to carry out tasks, even those that fall under my responsibility as a Product Manager.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>It’s my product, my vision and my neck on the line so it’s up to me to decide. Getting other people’s opinions is often unnecessary and just slows us down.</td>
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<td>Cynicism</td>
<td>It’s all good. I am overly trusting and optimistic, accepting ideas and feedback without question or critical evaluation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You won’t fool me. I constantly question and doubt the motives of team members, stakeholders, and even the value of the product.</td>
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<td>Driven By Fear</td>
<td>I have no real sense of urgency and tend not to see the problem with our current status quo. I’m happy to keep things as they are as long as I can.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>There’s so much wrong that needs fixing and so many ways we can potentially get things wrong. The fear of failure or criticism drives my decisions as a Product Leader.</td>
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EVERY DYSFUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOUR IS A SYMPTOM OF AN UNMET NEED
WE ALL HAVE INNATE RESOURCES TO HELP US MEET OUR NEEDS

- EMPATHY
- IMAGINATION
- A REFLECTIVE SELF
- A DREAMING BRAIN
- RATIONAL MIND
- MEMORY
- EMOTIONS & INSTINCTS
- ABILITY TO KNOW
- SENSE OF HUMOUR
No two-day class can prepare you for the **complex** world of product leadership.

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**Classroom • Coaching • Community**

"The time that you invest in the Pathway is definitely worth it. So many hours of training are wasted by leaving a classroom and not even picking up the book. This brings the everyday back to the learning."

Tracey Stephens, Head of Product, Arco Safety

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