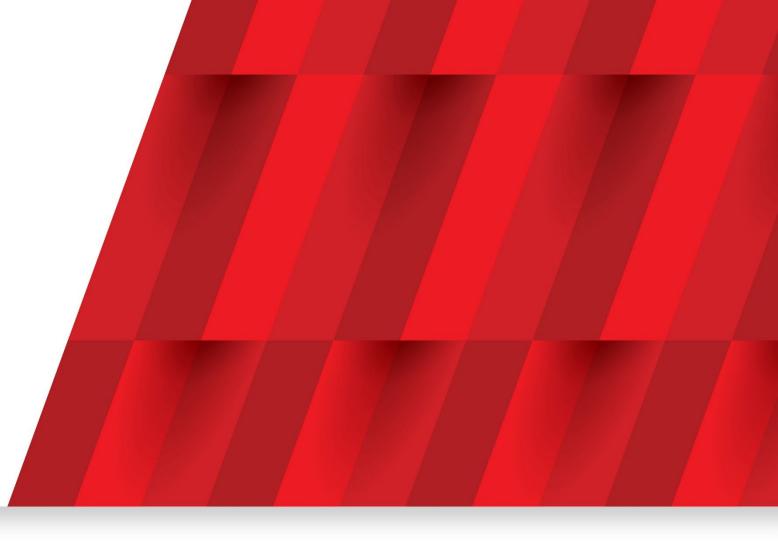


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Founder's Syndrome: How to Survive & Thrive

August 18, 2022

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Meet the Presenters



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In This Session

- 1. Famous Founders
- 2. Definitions
- 3. Impacts on Various Stakeholders
- 4. Case Studies
- 5. Strategies & Possible Solutions



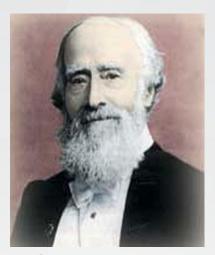
Famous Founders



Clara Barton



Millard & Linda Fuller



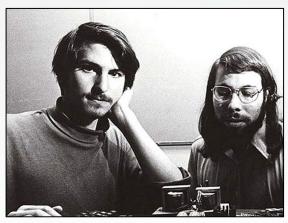
George Williams



Blake Mycoskie



Paul Allen & Bill Gates



Steve Jobs & Steve Wozniak

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Definitions

What is it?

Founder's Syndrome occurs when a person, typically the founder, insists on running (or controlling) the organization according to their personal preferences—even if that style hinders the organization from being effective & efficient.

Who can have the syndrome?

Founder

Long-time leader (at least seven years, but probably longer)

Board member

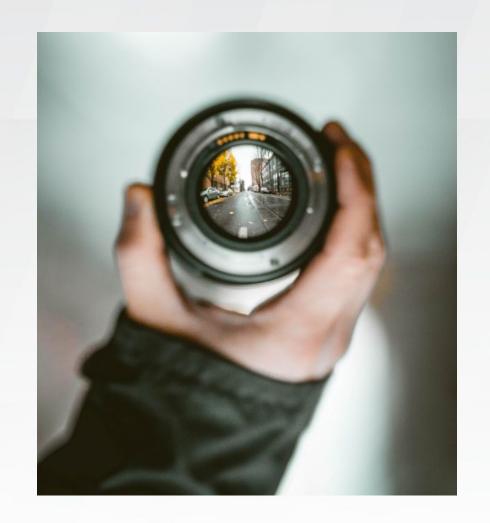
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Interpersonal Impact

- Founder or Leader's perspective
- Board members' perspective
- Staff members' perspective
- Donors' perspective







Financial Reporting Impact

- Reporting to the Board
- Lack of financial/accounting expertise
- Reports may be exaggerated







Mission Impact

- New ideas or tactics are discouraged
- Innovation seen as threat to legacy or heritage
- Feelings versus data & measurable outcomes





Case Studies

True stories of Founder's Syndrome







Strategies to Avoid Founder's Syndrome







Solutions—How to Deal with the Syndrome

- Board performance
- Honest discussions & accountability
- Equalize power & decision making
- Listening & responding to stakeholders





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