

Staying beyond the borders

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Disclaimer

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- I just write this as a Keynote self-training
- So don't treat this slide set as a corporate message. Please.

Staying in “international” area is hard

- People may sleep better inside the borders
- International means clash of different ways of thinking, and different cultures
- No one will protect you
- You may become split-minded even if you don't have to manage split-horizon distributed database systems

Then why stay international?

- Staying outside of borders makes you see what's inside the borders more accurately
- You can get into whatever the area within the borders you want; and you have nothing to lose
- You don't have to pay taxes
- You won't get bothered by the peers of your nation
- Or maybe you've got nowhere to belong to

You've got to reach out of the borders of yourself

- Changing is the only way to survive
- Things get old, people get old, and **you** get old
- Fixation of the thinking patterns occurs much faster than you think
- The technology and environment surrounding you are always changing
- Continuous integration = continuous evolution

Unconscious borders within yourself

- Languages (spoken, programming, body, etc.)
- Behavior patterns (eating, walking, sleeping, etc.)
- Interaction patterns with people
- Self appreciation or denial
- Things that make you feel good or bad
- Things you believe you should do or you shouldn't
- ... and many other preoccupations

Breaking or penetrating the barriers within yourself

- Try learning another language
- Try behaving differently (like a stranger)
- Try interacting differently (like an actor)
- If you tend to deny yourself, quit and try to appreciate yourself more; if you don't feel you have anything to criticize yourself, reconcile and find at least three weakest points of yours
- Detach yourself from “should” type of thinking

Challenging your norms is the easiest way to change

- Aren't you sick and tired of the value systems occupying the world surrounding yourself?
- Have you calculated the energy and time you need to change the world surrounding yourself?
- Which do you think easier: changing the others or changing yourself?
- It's almost always easier to change yourself than to forcefully change the others

Change is scary

- Do you scare changing yourself?
- I do.
- But that doesn't mean you don't have to change yourself or evolve

Change \neq expansionism

- Evolution or changing does not necessarily mean expansion or expansionism
- The reality is that you would rather need **to shrink – otherwise you may disintegrate while you are trying to change!**
- You need to stay fit, stay sober, and stay rational, to accept change on yourself

Do I have to change?

YES

Do I have to get out of the borders of my society?

- When you feel weak, sick, or when you have to recuperate, you should stay in bed and forget thinking about the borders or nations or societies
- But when you feel stagnated, frustrated, or simply get stuck with the projects you've got to complete: it's time to get out of the borders and think inside-out
- You don't have to risk your life

Summary

- You need to change
- You need to evolve
- You need to get out of your borders to survive
- You don't have to get yourself deliberately alienated from what you belong to, but quite often breaking the barriers or borders around yourself gives you new way of thinking and perspectives

Thanks

- Send your questions/comments to my personal mailing address: kenji.rikitake@acm.org