

# WHOLE-BRAIN LEADERSHIP:

**THE NEW RULES OF  
ENGAGEMENT FOR THE  
C-SUITE**



**OUTLOOK FOR TECH 2020**

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# PRESSURES ARE **CONVERGING** ON THE C-SUITE

Disruptors through the eyes of the C-suite increasing in impact and intensity...

**85%** Say disruptive impact of **new technologies** has increased

**74%** Say disruptive impact of **constantly shifting customer demands** has increased

**72%** Say disruptive impact of **new market entrants** has increased

**62%** Say **investors** are among their most disruptive stakeholders

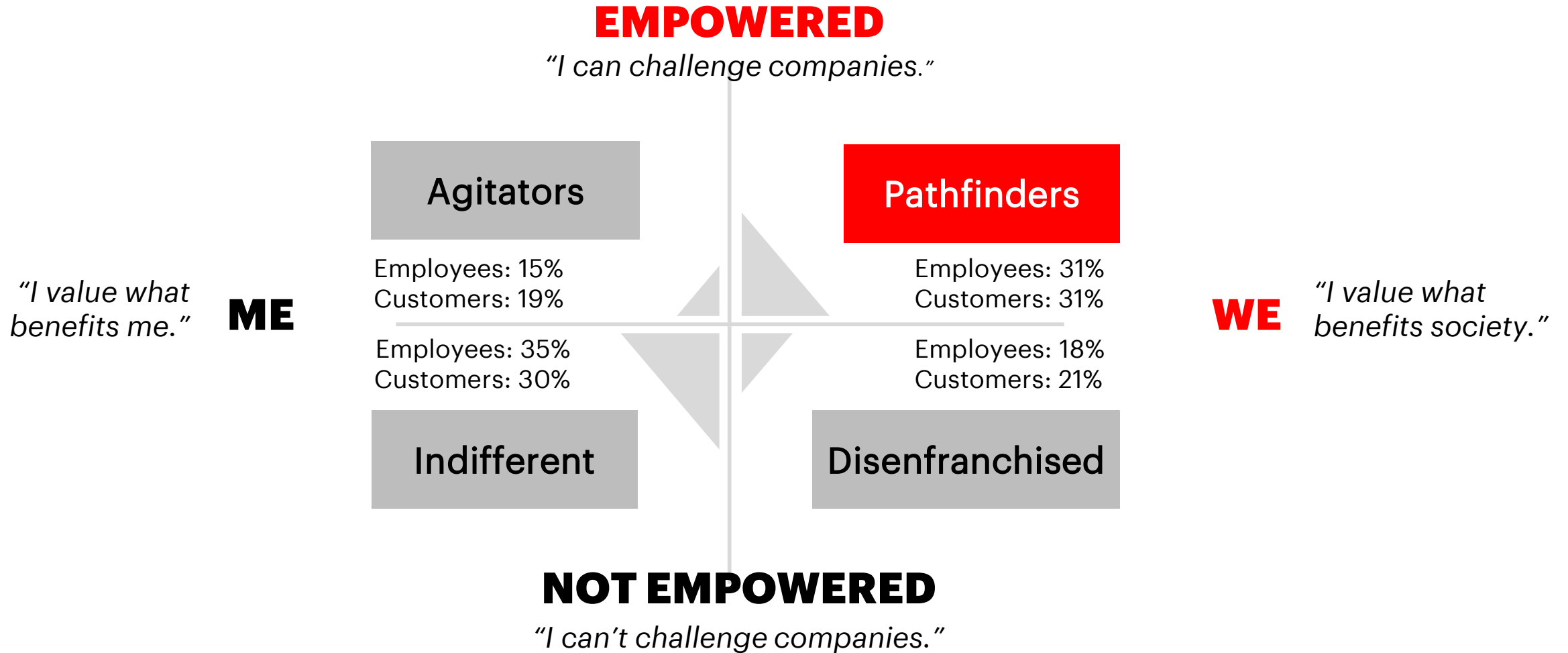
**49%** Say **employees** are among their most disruptive stakeholders

...and creating a combinatorial effect.

“Today’s operating environment is more complex...I think there is a **compounding effect** of market conditions, political stress, and regulatory intervention that takes the **complexity to a considerably higher level** than we operated in let’s say 10 or 20 years ago.”

— Board Member, Banking / **UK**

# ADDING PRESSURE: ENTER THE PATHFINDERS



# A SUPER GROUP WITH SUPER POWERS...

Their composition defies conventional wisdom

Not gender specific

**52%** Female      **48%** Male

Not generation specific

**48%** 40+      **52%** >40

Both customer & employee

**49%**      **51%**

A group you cannot afford to ignore

**>2x**

...as employees more likely to be on the **fast track to leadership** and possess **critical skills**

**84%**

...as consumers more likely to be in the **top 10% of household incomes**

Have clear and different expectations of leadership

**57%**

...as employees more likely to place a particular emphasis on **working for companies** who have a **clear purpose** they can relate to

**67%**

...as consumers more likely to place a particular emphasis on **buying from** companies who **contribute to society**

# ...AND THEY HAVE CLEAR EXPECTATIONS OF THE C-SUITE

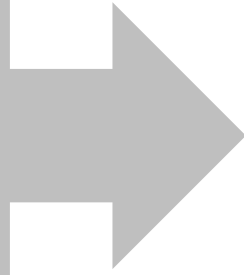
**Pathfinder  
view of  
importance  
of a whole-  
brain skillset  
for C-suite**



# MANAGE THE RISK BY **CLOSING THE GAP**

View of key skills required of leadership:

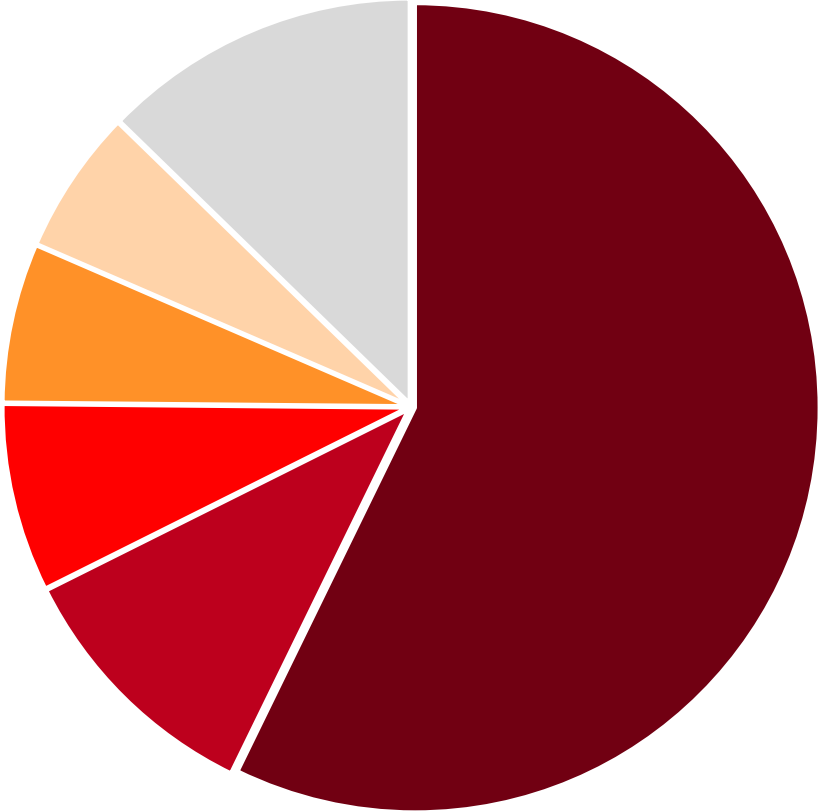
- **Pathfinder**
- **C-suite**



# C-SUITES RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN ORIENTATION

**89%**

of the C-suite have formal training in left-directed degrees



- Business, Finance, Economics
- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- IT
- Other

# THE C-SUITE'S **SELF-DESCRIBED GAPS** CLEARLY DEFINE THE STARTING POINT

**65%**

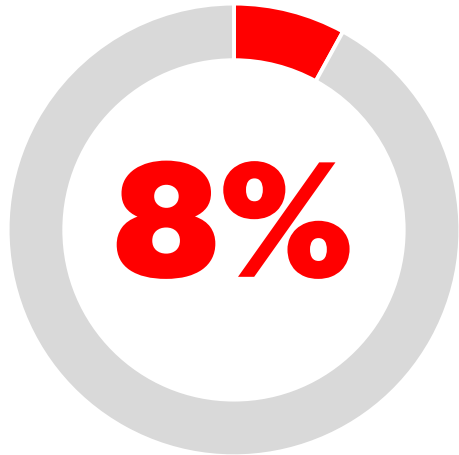
of the C-suite say a right  
brain skill is their weakest

- **Intuition**
- **Empathy & self awareness**
- **Vigilance to the external environment**

...and compounds the impact of a continuing left-brain weakness:  
**Understanding of new technology & having the right tech skills to advise teams**



# IT'S WORTH THE EFFORT: THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A **BOTTOM LINE IMPACT**



Use a whole-brain approach today...

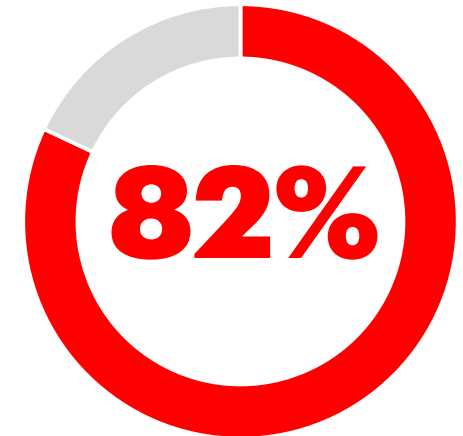
**+22%**

avg 3-yr  
**Revenue**  
growth

**+34%**

avg 3-yr  
**Profit (EBITDA)**  
growth

...and they report stronger average growth & profitability



Intend to use a whole-brain approach in the next 3 years

# MAKE THE PLAN, WORK THE PLAN: SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

1. Change the mix by diversifying the C-suite's strengths.
2. Relinquish some traditional leadership to gain currency and relevancy.
3. The enterprise potential of whole brain: greater than right + left

# #1. CHANGE THE MIX

Diversify the C-suite strengths

**9 in 10**

of C-suite executives are  
already addressing current  
skills gaps

**55%**

re-skilling C-suite members

**46%**

bringing in new talent from  
outside

# SIGNS OF RECOGNITION + ACTION

## Deutsche Telekom levels up its executive team

Deutsche Telekom launched a unique, year-long training program for its executives worldwide, to give them the leadership skills and methods required for the complexity and ambiguity of today's operating environment.

“Managers today are facing truly unprecedented pressures to make changes. The pace of digitization is producing organizations that are more agile. As a result, **leadership methods and behavior are being redefined.**”

*Christian P. Illek, Chief Human Resources Officer*

# #2. RELINQUISH SOME TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP **FOR RELEVANCY** AND CURRENCY

HIGH RISK

**5x**

more likely to take action in numbers against their employer

HIGH REWARD

**2x**

more likely to be completely motivated to give their best for their employer

**61%**

have already taken disruptive action, voicing their disappointment as a customer

**2x**

more likely as a customer to choose a more expensive brand because they prefer what it stands for

# HARNESSING THE POWER

Airbnb harnesses an ecosystem of stakeholders

“

What makes Airbnb so different is the fact that **we're a community**...there's many home rental websites, there's not many communities.

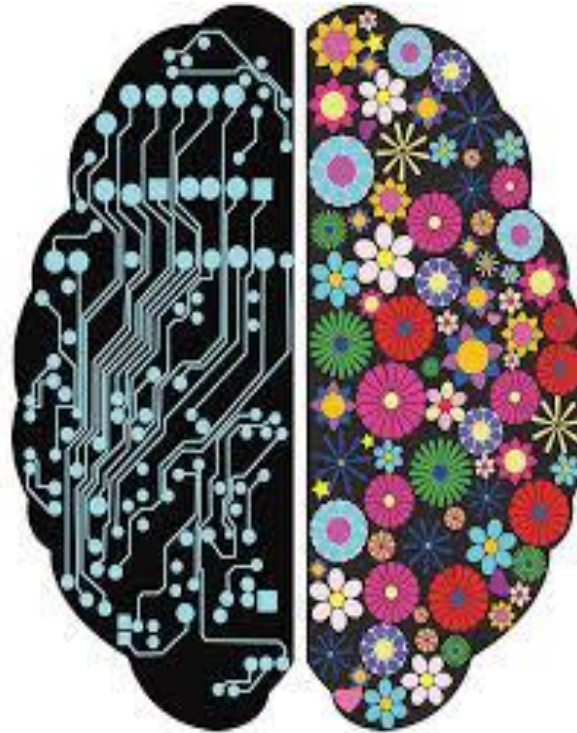
*Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky*

In that vein Airbnb has employed local mobilizers to organize home sharing clubs for hosts in cities around the world. Airbnb uses these as an opportunity to educate hosts about regulatory and political challenges, and to facilitate letter-writing campaigns, media interviews, public rallies, and meetings with politicians.

# #3. THE ENTERPRISE POTENTIAL OF WHOLE BRAIN: **GREATER THAN** RIGHT + LEFT

## Applying new, richer depths of the left...

- ⊕ Data science
- ⊕ Analytics
- ⊕ Visualization
- ⊕ Machine learning
- ⊕ AI



## ...with more tangible applications of the right...

- ⊕ Creative thinking
- ⊕ Experimentation
- ⊕ Innovation
- ⊕ Empathy
- ⊕ Intuition

**...to solve the highest value problems with data-led and human centric design approaches**

# WHOLE BRAIN LEADERSHIP AT WORK

How Microsoft's CEO built a growth mindset and culture across the company

“

The CEO is the curator of an organization's culture. Anything is possible for a company when its culture **is about listening, learning, and harnessing** individual passions and talents to the company's mission. Creating that kind of culture is my chief job as CEO.

*Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella*

To overcome the company working in siloes and to ultimately **drive a growth mindset**, Nadella began with **deep listening**, and focused on gaining his people's trust. It took time, patience, and **emotional intelligence**, but eventually Nadella won them over.