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smart CEO

Required Reading for Growing Companies

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INDIVIDUALS. IDEAS. INFORMATION. on VACATIONS

the great get-away

TAKE A VACATION. YOUR BUSINESS WILL THANK YOU BY JEANINE GAJEWSKI

If the economy has taken a toll on you and your business this year, the last thing you need to worry about is finding time to take a vacation. Or is it? A vacation can do more than just help you unwind and improve your work-life balance – both of which are worthy goals for any CEO. Some business leaders have also found that taking time off gives them a chance to think strategically and gives their employees an opportunity to take on extra responsibilities. These CEOs share why taking a vacation is valuable and how they prepare themselves and their businesses for their time away from each other.



ALAN PLEVY, founding principal, SmolenPlevy

Why It's Important: I've always traveled, and it's a time for me to get away and clear my mind. Taking a week's vacation doesn't really do it because by the time you get to where you are going and you start to unwind, you start thinking about what you have to do when you get back. Longer vacations allow me to just forget about what's going on at the office.

How I Prepare: Those trips are planned nine months in advance. I make sure my calendar is cleared and everyone knows I am going. If I go away for three weeks, I generally will not allow anyone to schedule anything for the first week I'm back, so I can get caught up on what's happened.

My Advice: If you have planned a vacation and you haven't gone, then you have not planned a vacation. If you truly want to go away, block off the time, make your plans and you'll go. And you'll be better off for it. Nobody will come to your funeral and say, "I wish you had come to the office more often."

Alan Plevy
Founding Principal,
SmolenPlevy

Vienna, VA

Phone: 703-790-1900