

### DEE MADDOX, MBA Chief Excellence Officer DMX Consulting, LLC

# From Resistance to Readiness: Breaking the Change Barrier

Insights and Strategies from "SWITCH"

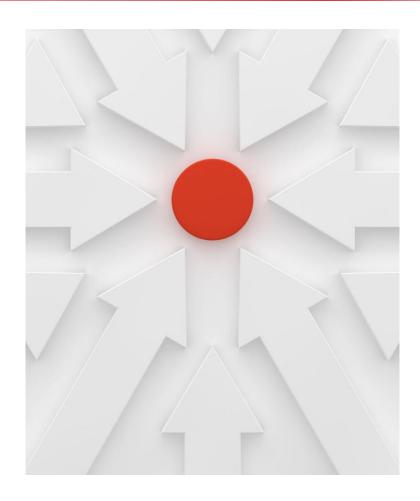
May 7, 2025





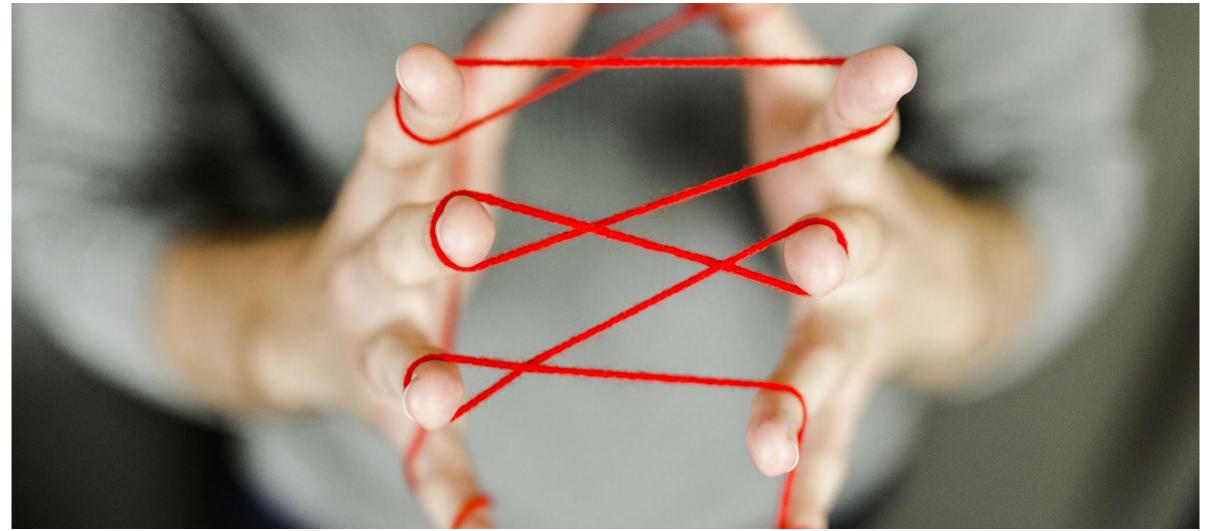
## **Objectives**

- 1. Recognize and reframe resistance as a natural part of change
- 2. Develop practical strategies for influencing both rational and emotional drivers of change
- 3. Design a readiness plan that engages emotion, logic, and environment
- 4. Understand "Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard."
- 5. Create actionable plans to implement change.



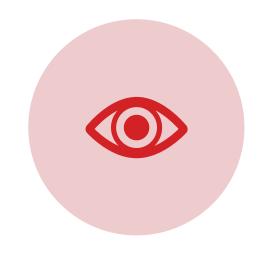


### **From Resistance to Readiness**



### From Resistance to Readiness







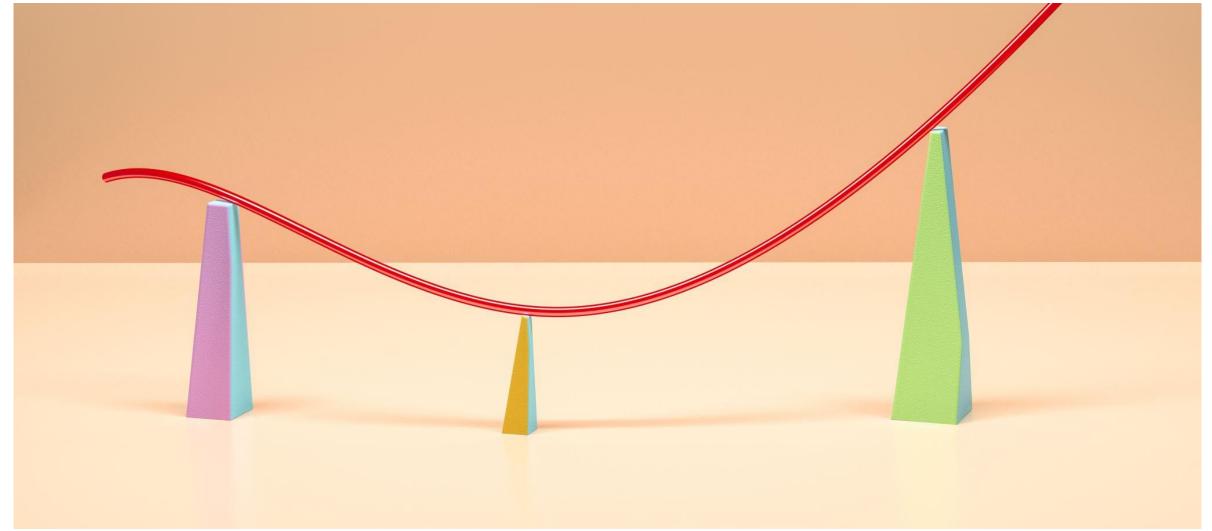
ACKNOWLEDGE THE EMOTION BENEATH THE RESISTANCE

CLARIFY THE CHANGE VISION

INVITE EARLY PARTICIPATION



# **Breaking the Change Barrier**





# **Breaking the Change Barrier**

- 1. Direct the Rider (Rational Mind)
- 2. Motivate the Elephant (Emotional Drive)
- 3. Shape the Path (Structural Support)



# **Breaking the Change Barrier**

### **Understanding the Rider, Elephant, and Path**

**Direct the Rider**: Rational decisions, provide clarity

Motivate the Elephant: Emotional side, motivation

**Shape the Path**: Situation and environment





# Understanding the Rider, Elephant, and Path Framework

**DIRECT THE RIDER**: Rational decisions, provide clarity

#### 1. Find the bright spots

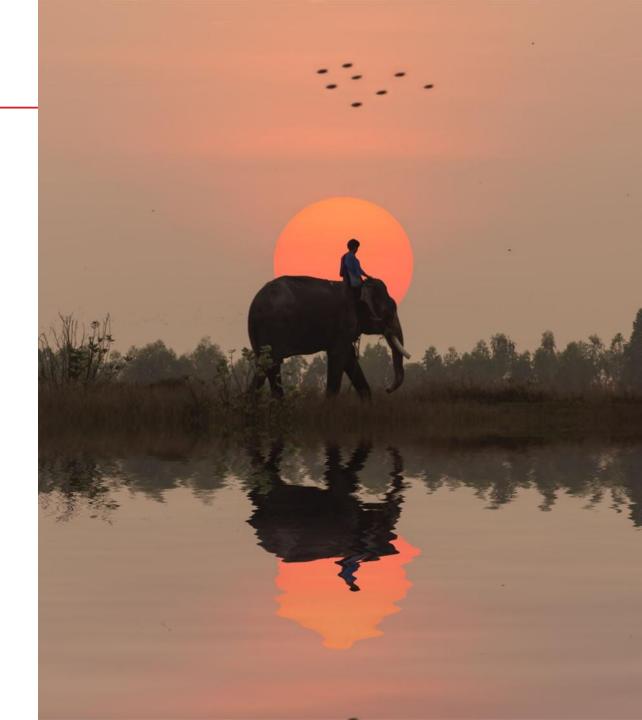
 Identify and replicate existing successes instead of focusing on problems

#### 2. Script the critical moves

 Reduce ambiguity by providing clear, simple steps

#### 3. Point to the destination

Strategic planning, process optimization



### **Direct The Rider**

**DIRECT THE RIDER**: Rational decisions, provide clarity

#### Find the bright spots

- Identify and replicate existing successes instead of focusing on problems
  - Best practices
  - Continuous improvement
  - Analytical thinking, analysis, and planning





### **Direct The Rider**

**DIRECT THE RIDER**: Rational decisions, provide clarity

#### **Script the critical moves**

- Reduce ambiguity by providing clear, simple steps
  - Strategy
  - Process optimization
  - Communication





### **Direct The Rider**

**DIRECT THE RIDER**: Rational decisions, provide clarity

#### **Point to the destination**

- Strategic planning, process optimization
  - Vision setting
  - Goal alignment
  - Leadership





# Understanding the Rider, Elephant, and Path Framework

**MOTIVATE THE ELEPHANT**: Emotional side, inspire change.

### 1. Find the feeling

Engage emotions to drive action

### 2. Shrink the change

 Reduce resistance by providing clear, simple steps

### 3. Grow your people

Cultivate identity-based change and a growth mindset





## **Motivate the Elephant**

**MOTIVATE THE ELEPHANT**: *Emotional side, inspire change.* 

### 1. Find the feeling

- Engage emotions to drive action
- Employee motivation
- Customer engagement
- Empathy





## **Motivate the Elephant**

**MOTIVATE THE ELEPHANT**: *Emotional side, inspire change.* 

### **Shrink the change**

- Reduce resistance by providing clear, simple steps
  - Incremental progress
  - Habit formation
  - Coaching





## **Motivate the Elephant**

**MOTIVATE THE ELEPHANT**: *Emotional side, inspire change.* 

### **Grow your people**

- Cultivate identity-based change and a growth mindset
  - Organizational culture
  - Personal development
  - Resilience





# Understanding the Rider, Elephant, and Path Framework

**SHAPE THE PATH**: *Environment, Route* supports change

#### 1. Tweak the environment

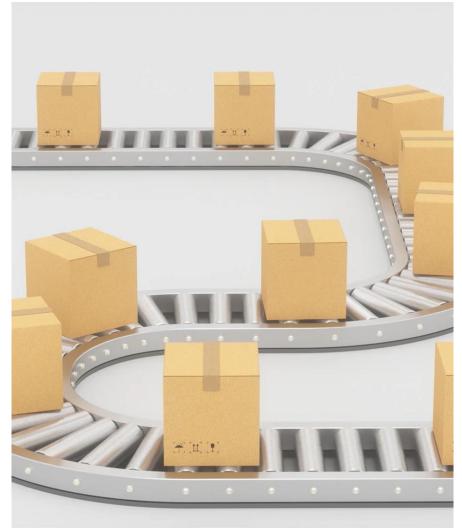
 Adjust surroundings to make change effortless

#### 2. Build habits

 Reinforce change through routines and automatic behaviors.

### 3. Rally the herd

 Use social norms and peer pressure to reinforce new behaviors



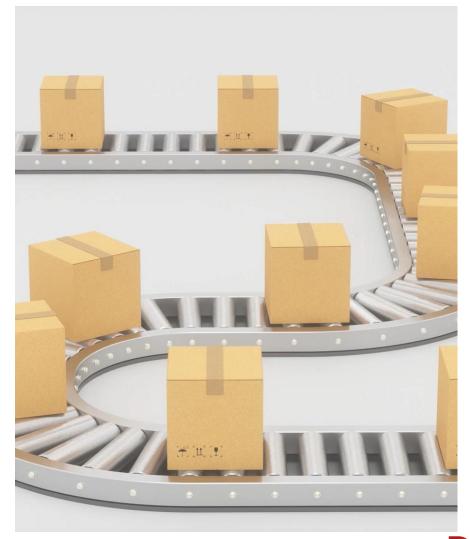


### **Shape The Path**

**SHAPE THE PATH**: *Environment, Route supports change* 

#### 1. Tweak the environment

- Adjust surroundings to make change effortless
  - Workplace design
  - Process improvement
  - Problem solving



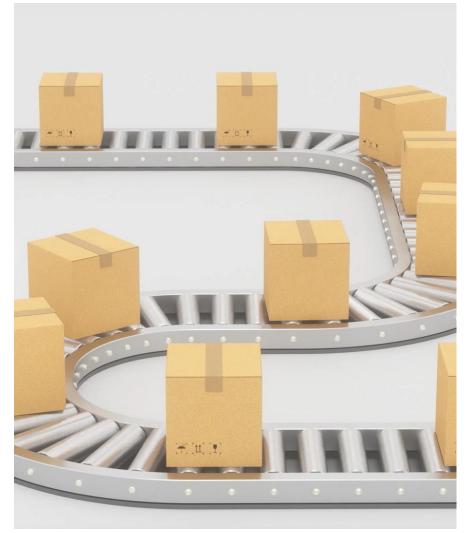


### **Shape The Path**

**SHAPE THE PATH**: *Environment, Route supports change* 

#### **Build habits**

- Reinforce change through routines and automatic behaviors.
  - Behavioral economics
  - Operational efficiency
  - Time management





### **Shape The Path**

**SHAPE THE PATH**: *Environment, Route supports change* 

#### Rally the herd

- Use social norms and peer pressure to reinforce new behaviors
  - Team dynamics
  - Organizational change
  - Collaboration



### Barrier Broken, Behavior Unlocked

Sustain the change by embedding it into the culture.

- Change management
- Leadership
- Adaptability

Lasting change requires reinforcement and continuous adaptation.





### Wrap-Up + Q & A

- 1. Behavioral change is not just logical; it must be emotional and situational.
- 2. Small wins create momentum and make change easier to sustain.
- 3. Social norms and environmental tweaks can reinforce new behaviors.
- 4. Change leaders must simplify, inspire, and remove friction.
- 5. Success is not about willpower—it's about setting people up for success.





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# **THANK YOU**

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DEE MADDOX, Chief Excellence Officer DMX Consulting, LLC

<u>Demand Excellence in Everything You Do:</u> Your **D.E.E.D.** to Success®

- https://deemaddoxconsulting.com
- dee@deemaddoxconsulting.com
- (469) 423-0678



