



This year... So far, so good?

How time flies, I can't believe it's spring already! Spring is a time of renewal in nature and for some of us this can be a good time to renew our resolve, especially if our January goals have fallen by the wayside.

Goals are sometimes discarded when they are unrealistic or too many other things are demanding our attention. If you are too busy with one thing and another, it will be all too easy to get caught up in thinking "I'm just too busy to plan". This is not uncommon amongst small business owners, especially those who run micro businesses. There is so much to juggle and before people know it, the business runs its owner rather than the other way round. Not managing never ending distractions can 'clutter' our thinking, and results in fire fighting when trying to deal with urgencies and crises.

The solution to this kind of 'busy-ness' is actually easy, but the irony is that it involves setting aside some *time* to think about the business!

If you are not 100% happy with your progress right now, it may help to reconnect with the original purpose of the business and its long term vision. When you then revisit the original business plan, check that it outlines realistic and achievable milestones for every area of the business. Sometimes it is necessary to assess and rewrite previous goals, to make sure that all business activities are in line with your current reality and moving the business in the right direction.

All this may sound a bit too fussy to busy people. However the paradox is that it's this very planning process that helps people strip away the virtual clutter from the "I'm too busy to plan" kind of thinking, and enables them to prioritise.

How about looking at it this way: My husband, who is an airline captain has a flight plan for every single trip. Since shortcuts between point A and B are sometimes available they are an opportunity to make the flight much more fuel efficient and save the airline money.

When it comes to your destination, having a plan means you have a guide and a satellite navigation system that takes you not only in the right direction, but manage the ups and downs efficiently along the way.

The **key to creating a plan** that you want to refer to again and again, a plan that helps you monitor your progress and stay in control, is to use a "*Simple & SMART*" approach: Think simple... keep it short.... take small steps!

Using the SMART acronym, make your goals **s**pecific, **m**easurable, **a**chievable (& attractive!) as well as **t**ime bound!

May I ask what *you* do to help you feel in control? Why not share a tip or two with other Success Network ladies on our blogging page at www.successnetwork.wordpress.com

I look forward to hearing from you!
Best wishes
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