The best CEOs mix daring and healthy streak of paranoia

Companies must be willing to take risks to survive, but always have eye on risk of ruin

Commentary

Howard Yu

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The best CEOs are the ones that take risks, but they don’t do it blindly. They have a healthy streak of paranoia, but they also have the daring to pursue innovation. This is what makes them outstanding leaders.

Daring

Daring is about taking calculated risks. It’s about being willing to fail, but also about being willing to succeed. It’s about being willing to take a chance on something that might not work, but might just change everything.

Paranoia

Paranoia is about being aware of the risks. It’s about being aware of the potential pitfalls. It’s about being aware of the potential dangers. It’s about being aware of the potential consequences.

The best CEOs are the ones that balance these two. They are the ones that take risks, but they also understand the risks. They are the ones that are willing to fail, but also willing to succeed.

If you prioritise longevity over everything else, eventually a favourable event will happen

This is a classic tug of war between the short-term and the long-term. The short-term is about maximizing profits, the long-term is about building a sustainable business.

If you focus too much on the short-term, you might miss out on opportunities in the long-term. If you focus too much on the long-term, you might miss out on immediate profits.

It’s about finding the right balance. It’s about understanding that the short-term and the long-term are not necessarily in conflict.

So, if you are a CEO, what are you prioritizing? Are you focusing too much on the short-term or the long-term? Are you finding the right balance?

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