

Career Mapping Series

You've mapped out your goals, established some priorities, and now it's time to define a career roadmap. "Why do I need a roadmap?" you might ask. As the Roman philosopher Seneca once said, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." So, if you want to be "lucky," here are a few things to consider when planning for your next opportunity:

1. Do you know what you want to do long-term?

Do you want to start your own company, be a CEO of a large company or lead a sales organization? What steps are you taking, or do you need to take, in the short-term to accomplish your long-term goals?

2. Does what you are doing today energize and excite you? Are you good at it?

Sometimes we forget to ask ourselves these simple questions. We stumble into a job and 20 years later we are still scratching our heads looking for more. Have you found a mentor or someone you can talk to about what your career path looks like in light of your current position?

3. Are the goals you mapped out stepping stones to your long-term goal?

Of course, your goals can change over time and your career is a marathon, not a sprint. Is what you are doing today contributing to what you want to be doing tomorrow?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, a career roadmap can help. Take a skills or personality test to help point you in the right direction and ask others about their careers in order to discover new potential. The career you thought was a good fit is not always the career that is actually right for you. Do not be afraid to challenge the status quo!

The internet provides a ton of resources that can help. [The Muse](#) has compiled a good list of tests and quizzes that can guide you. The [ELFA Career Center](#) provides resources to help with learning, resume building and career coaching. You can also jot your ideas down on paper, in an email or on a whiteboard and have your friends or colleagues review them with you.

Now that you have a roadmap, you need to have a conversation.

We tackle that in the next step.

Step 2

Determine your career roadmap

By Garland Brooks, Business Enablement & Sales Optimization, Dell EMC/Dell Financial Services. Contributors: Kara Miyasato, Sr. Manager, Marketing, Stryker Flex Financial & Emily Latham-Bolt, HR Business Partner at DLL. Editor: Alexandra Dressman, Sales Coordinator 3 AVP, Huntington Equipment Finance.