

Can corporations care?

[Spoiler alert: no]

Jerry Davis
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To whom is a corporation obligated?

“The interests of a transnational company are not the same as those of the country from which it originates or of the workers it has historically employed. It has become, to coin a phrase, a ‘rootless cosmopolitan.’”

Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works*

Corporation ≠ organization: no fixed nationality

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WSJ.com

MAY 27, 2009

Accenture to Move Base To Ireland From Bermuda

By KATHY SHWIFF

Accenture Ltd. said its board has voted to change the consulting company's place of incorporation to Ireland from Bermuda.

Accenture incorporated in Bermuda in 2001 after the company did an initial public offering.

Several large companies have recently announced plans to reincorporate from Bermuda, helping them avoid what are expected to be significant changes in how the U.S. taxes multinational corporations. Earlier this month, drug maker Warner Chilcott Ltd. said its board approved a plan to relocate to Ireland from Bermuda.

Accenture shareholders will be asked to vote on the proposed move at meetings in the next three to four months.

"We believe that incorporating in Ireland will provide Accenture with economic benefits and help ensure our continued global competitiveness," said Chairman and Chief Executive William D. Green, adding that the company will benefit from Ireland's well-developed corporate, legal and regulatory environment.

The technology outsourcing and management consulting company doesn't expect any material change in its operations, financial results or tax treatment as a result of the change.

The company will continue to be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and its shares will continue to trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

Corporation ≠ organization: no fixed boundaries

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WSJ.com

LEADER (U.S.) | APRIL 15, 2008
PICTURE SHIFT

U.S. Upstart Takes On TV Giants in Price War

By CHRISTOPHER LAWTON in San Francisco, YUKARI IWATANI KANE in Tokyo and JASON DEAN in Beijing

But one upstart, Irvine, Calif.-based Vizio Inc., has largely surfed past the industry's woes. Its single focus: churning out low-priced flat-panel TVs.



Vizio is a fraction the size of Sony and Samsung Electronics Co., both leading brands in the U.S. flat-panel market. Yet Vizio shipped 12.4% of North America's liquid-crystal display, or LCD, TVs in the last quarter of 2007. That's just behind Sony's 12.5% share and Samsung's 14.2%, according to research firm iSuppli Corp. Overall, Vizio's sales have multiplied to just under \$2 billion last year, up from \$700 million in 2006 and \$142 million in 2005, according to the closely held company.

The California company's success illustrates the rise of a new business model in the fast-changing TV industry. Big Korean and Japanese consumer-electronics makers spent huge sums developing and marketing their own technology, creating a high barrier to entry for newcomers. They also built many key components in-house, including the all-important LCD and plasma display panels.

But panel technology is becoming ever more commoditized, meaning big brands aren't the only ones controlling the field. The shift has allowed nimble players like Vizio, which handles the design and marketing, to hook up with contract manufacturers and produce their own cheap TVs. At the same time, discount retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are increasing their sales in the electronics category, slashing prices in the process.

Vizio now has the largest market share of LCD televisions in the US (22%)—with 160 employees

Corporation ≠ organization: no fixed identity

May 9, 2007

ADVERTISING

101 Brand Names, 1 Manufacturer

The Mass Pet-Food Recall Reveals a Widespread Practice: Many Competing Products Come From the Same Factory

By ELLEN BYRON
May 9, 2007

(See Corrections & Amplifications item below.)

Pet owners have been reeling ever since tainted pet food led to the confirmed deaths of more than a dozen dogs and cats and likely sickened many more.

Some owners were also startled to learn that dozens of competing brands, from discount to premium, are all made by the same company, Menu Foods Inc. of Ontario.

Menu has recalled more than 60 million cans of pet food under more than 100 brand names ranging from Procter & Gamble Co.'s Iams and Eukanuba brands to Hill's Pet Nutrition Science Diet, owned by Colgate-Palmolive Co., to Ol' Roy pet food by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Each was apparently affected by wheat gluten contaminated with melamine, a chemical substance with no approved use in food.

Poisonous pet chow containing melamine from China was made by an Ontario-based manufacturer but sold under dozens of different brand names.

The global OEM model is not just for Nike anymore.

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Corporation ≠ organization: no fixed industry

National Information Center
A repository of financial data and institution characteristics collected by the Federal Reserve System

Top 50 BHCs as of 06/30/2006

Rank	Institution Name (RSSD ID)	Location	Total Assets
1	BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION (1073757)	CHARLOTTE, NC	\$2,256,055,674
2	JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. (1039502)	NEW YORK, NY	\$2,026,642,000
3	CITIGROUP INC. (1951350)	NEW YORK, NY	\$1,848,533,000
4	WELLS FARGO & COMPANY (1120754)	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	\$1,284,176,000
5	GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC. THE (2380443) ?	NEW YORK, NY	\$890,137,000
6	MORGAN STANLEY (2162956) ?	NEW YORK, NY	\$676,957,000
7	METLIFE INC. (2945824) ?	NEW YORK, NY	\$509,457,014
8	HSBC NORTH AMERICA HOLDINGS INC. (3232116)	METTAWA, IL	\$383,820,898
9	TAUNUS CORPORATION (2818306)	NEW YORK, NY	\$366,350,000
10	BARCLAYS GROUP US INC. (2914521)	WILMINGTON, DE	\$323,685,026
11	PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC. THE (1069778)	PITTSBURGH, PA	\$279,788,303
12	U.S. BANCORP (1119794)	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	\$265,560,000
13	BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION THE (3587146)	NEW YORK, NY	\$203,246,000
14	QMAC INC. (1562859) ?	DETROIT, MI	\$181,250,000
15	SUNTRUST BANKS INC. (1131787)	ATLANTA, GA	\$176,854,034
16	CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION (2277860)	MCLEAN, VA	\$171,911,307
17	CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP INC. (1132449)	PROVIDENCE, RI	\$163,304,291
18	STATE STREET CORPORATION (1111436)	BOSTON, MA	\$152,921,189
19	BBAT CORPORATION (1074158)	WINSTON-SALEM, NC	\$152,398,410
20	REGIONS FINANCIAL CORPORATION (3242838)	BIRMINGHAM, AL	\$142,824,610
21	TD BANKNORTH INC. (1249196)	PORTLAND, ME	\$131,355,762
22	FIFTH THIRD BANCORP (1070345)	CINCINNATI, OH	\$115,983,653
23	AMERICAN EXPRESS CO. (1976216) ?	NEW YORK, NY	\$114,076,164

What is a "bank"?

Corporation ≠ organization: no employees

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<p>Philips DVD Home Theater System</p> <p>Compare at: \$399</p> <p>\$239.97</p>	<p>Okidata Color LED Printer with Networking</p> <p>Compare at: \$399</p> <p>\$159.99</p>	<p>Hammer MoreSpace TB External Hard Drive</p> <p>Compare at: \$199</p> <p>\$74.99</p>

"Hermit crab organizations" maintain the brand but lose the people (e.g., Circuit City's 43,000 employees)

Corporations are legal fictions configured to make profits, not to care.



Apple to the Rescue?

Why President Obama should meditate on the career of Steve Jobs.

By RICH KARLGAARD

The seven-year drizzle of bad news had nearly destroyed American confidence. By Dec. 12, 1980, the prime-lending rate in the U.S. was up to 20.5%. One week later it would peak at 21.5%, the highest in U.S. history. In newly militant Iran, 59 Americans were enduring their 405th day of captivity. The hapless Jimmy Carter had 39 days to go in his presidency. But in truth Mr. Carter's presidency had failed 17 months earlier on July 15, 1979, the night he delivered his "Crisis of Confidence" address to the American people. It instantly became known as Carter's "malaise speech."

Malaise would die with Mr. Carter's presidency. A blast of fresh air preceded Ronald Reagan's presidency on Dec. 12, 1980, in the form of a thriller public stock offering, the largest since Ford Motor's IPO in 1956. That day, underwriters Hambrecht & Quist and Morgan Stanley sold shares of four-year-old Apple Computer to the public. The public snapped it up. Apple's stock spiked to nearly \$100 on day two and created more than 300 millionaire employees. Founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak were instantly rich. The great American renaissance—ignited by technology, entrepreneurs and a capital gains tax rate recently reduced to 28% from 49%—had begun.

Mr. Obama and his advisers need to grasp this essential fact: Entrepreneurs are not just a cute little subsector of the American economy. They are the whole game. They will give us tomorrow's Apples and the multiplier effect of small businesses and exciting new jobs that go with them. Entrepreneurs are necessary to keep our large multinationals on their toes. It's no coincidence that the entrepreneurial flowering of the 1970s forced a managerial revolution in large companies during the 1980s and 1990s. Without Steve Jobs, there would have been no Lou Gerstner to reinvent IBM in the '90s. Entrepreneurs like Steve Jobs make everyone better.

Analysts Expect iPad to Give lift to Asian Suppliers

By AARON BACK, JUNG-AH LEE And CHARMIAN KOK

Apple Inc.'s iPad device may significantly increase demand for components such as touch screens and memory chips, especially if it succeeds in creating a new product category and spawning competitors, according to industry analysts.

Apple suppliers in Asia

NAND flash memory:

- Samsung Electronics (South Korea)
- Toshiba (Japan)

LCD displays:

- LG Display (South Korea)
- Innolux Display (Taiwan)

Assembler:

- Hon Hai Precision Industry (Taiwan)

Touch-screen technology:

- Wintek (Taiwan)
- Sintek Photronic (Taiwan)

Source: Analysts

Analysts say that would be a boon to Asian suppliers, including display makers such as LG Display Co., chip makers such as Samsung Electronics Co. and Toshiba Corp.; touch-screen makers Wintek Corp. and Sintek Photronic Corp.; and assemblers such as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., which uses the trade name Foxconn. Shares of these companies all rose Thursday in Asia.

Apple hasn't identified its iPad suppliers and an Apple spokeswoman declined to comment.

Like many technology brands, Apple doesn't actually manufacture most of its products. It hires manufacturing specialists—mainly Taiwanese companies that have extensive operations in China—to assemble its gadgets based on Apple's designs. They, in turn, use parts from large and small manufacturers many in Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

The iPod and iPhone devices have already been a boon to component manufacturers in Asia, and many are hoping for a repeat performance.

The true component mix won't be known until Apple begins shipping the device and third-party analysts can

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May 25, 2010

String of Suicides Continues at Electronics Supplier in China

By DAVID BARBOZA

SHANGHAI — A 19-year-old employee was found dead Tuesday morning in what appears to have been the ninth suicide this year at a factory in southern China operated by Foxconn Technology, one of the world's largest contract electronics manufacturers, according to China's state-run news media.

Foxconn, which produces electronics and computer components for Apple, Dell, Hewlett-Packard and other global companies, has been struggling this year to explain a string of suicides among young workers at its huge complexes in the city of Shenzhen, where the company employs about 420,000 workers.

A spokesman for Foxconn, a unit of Hon Hai Precision Industry of Taiwan, could not be reached for comment Tuesday, and the Shenzhen police did not return phone calls. But Xinhua, China's official news agency, said the Shenzhen police had reported that a young man they identified as Li Hai had apparently jumped to his death at 6:20 a.m. Tuesday at Foxconn.

Wang Tongxin, vice chairman of the general labor union in Shenzhen, a government-controlled organization, said the Shenzhen police had alerted his organization to the death Tuesday.

"We have already sent an investigation team to the factory, and our city government is paying a lot of attention to this," Mr. Wang said by telephone.

Company executives say Foxconn is planning to hire psychiatrists, counselors and monks, and intends to bring in 2,000 singers, dancers and gym trainers to improve life on its two sprawling campuses in Shenzhen.

China's state-run news media also reported Tuesday that Foxconn was building tall fences at its dormitories to prevent workers from jumping to their deaths.

Corporations are not the only way to organize economic activity

- Producer co-operatives



- Consumer co-operatives



- Mutuels



The challenge for organizational scholars

- How can we build on legal and technological changes to create more humane non-corporate organizations?
 - Legal changes
 - L3C enabling laws
 - B corporation laws
 - Technological changes
 - ICTs and new methods of coordinated action
- The goal: the iPhone “workplace democracy app” that turns GM into a kibbutz