Technical Validation Report

Sales “Closer” Model

Dr. Douglas Waldo, SPHR
February, 2011

Technical Validation Report for the
Sales “Closer” Model
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Note: The contents of this report are conveyed in a manner reflective of the Principles for the Validation and Use of Personnel Selection Procedures, published by the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (www.siop.org).
Identifying Information

Author:
- Dr. R. Douglas Waldo, SPHR*
  *The author acknowledges the efforts and expertise of Dr. Kizzy Parks and Dr. Robert Wharton who contributed to the research described herein.

Dates of the Studies:
- Original Development Study (Call Center Sales Reps): April, 2010
- Concurrent Criterion Validation Study (On-property Sales Reps): August, 2010
- Predictive Criterion Validation Study (Call Center Sales Reps): September, 2010

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this effort was to develop and validate a means of scoring participants’ responses to the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP), based on which employment-related decisions could be made. The scoring method described herein was specifically developed to support the selection, coaching, training, and development of sales professionals. The operationalized version of this scoring method is referred to as the LDP Closer Work Style (see Appendix B for a copy of this version).
Analysis of Work

As indicated, there were three samples included in this effort, comprised of Call Center and On-property Sales Representatives. Employers from the respective samples conducted job analyses and reported essential characteristics for each job at the time the data were collected.

The employer indicated the primary characteristics and functions of Call Center Sales Reps included:

- Call on prospects via automated dialer
- Sell pre-determined packages
- Good communication skills
- Ability to handle rejection
- Good rebuttal skills

The employer indicated the primary characteristics and functions of On-property Sales Reps included:

- Greet and interact with prospective buyer in-person
- Determine prospective buyer’s interest in product options
- Customize/deliver presentation
- Answer objections
- Close and process sales

As job analyses were conducted previously by employers from the respective samples, the specific job analysis methods, participants and results are not known by researchers. Based on information provided by the employers, proper and timely job analyses were previously conducted, with the resulting essential job elements reported above. It appears clear that sales representatives from both samples were required to:

- Introduce product
- Conduct needs assessment
- Deliver presentation
- Respond to questions and objections
- Close the sale

Given these job characteristics, the samples included in this report appear reflective of the job domain for traditional sales professionals.
Search for Alternative Selection Procedures

A number of alternative selection procedures are available for screening and evaluating candidates for sales professions. For the purposes of this validation effort, four alternative assessments were identified and compared, due to their widespread utilization in evaluating or developing sales professionals:

- Hogan Personality Inventory (HPI)
- Craft Personality Questionnaire (CPQ)
- DiSC
- The Big Five Test (Big Five)

The constructs measured by these assessments are widely considered to be job-related and valid in identifying characteristics or behaviors that influence one’s propensity to achieve high sales performance. As such, researchers deemed it valuable to statistically analyze the relationship between the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) score and the construct measures provided by these assessments. The correlation statistics derived from this analysis are indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Correlation to LDP Closer Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hogan Personality Inventory</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sales Potential Score</em></td>
<td>( r = .78, p &lt; .01 ) (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Craft Personality Questionnaire</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Financial Services Sales Model</em></td>
<td>( r = .46, p &lt; .01 ) (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DiSC</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dominance</em></td>
<td>( r = .52, p &lt; .01 ) (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Influence</em></td>
<td>( r = -.12, p = ns ) (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Steadiness</em></td>
<td>( r = -.50, p &lt; .01 ) (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Conscientiousness</em></td>
<td>( r = -.14, p = ns ) (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Big Five Test</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Extraversion</em></td>
<td>( r = .39, p &lt; .15 ) (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Openness to Experience</em></td>
<td>( r = .55, p &lt; .01 ) (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Agreeableness</em></td>
<td>( r = -.31, p &lt; .10 ) (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Conscientiousness</em></td>
<td>( r = .06, p = ns ) (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Neuroticism</em></td>
<td>( r = -.02, p = ns ) (30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results indicated strong evidence of convergent validity, whereby the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) score exhibited statistically significant correlation to the sales-related construct measures of the alternative assessments. Given the substantial research literature that exists regarding the validity and
utility of these assessments within a sales-related job domain, the results reported herein offer substantial evidence of the job-relatedness and construct validity of the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP). Given operational and economic considerations, these results further provide evidence of the suitability of the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) as a selection or development procedure for sales professionals.
Selection Procedures

The Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) is a personality inventory designed to provide measures of two primary factors (Achievement Drive and Relational Drive) as well as ten supporting dimensions (described in Appendix A). A theoretical “ideal scoring range” was derived for each of the two primary factors (in the original development study) for the purposes of establishing a scoring model. This model, referred to as the Closer Work Style, is shown in its operation form in Appendix B.

The ideal scoring ranges were established in the original development study and then cross-validated in the second (concurrent, criterion-related) and third (predictive, criterion-related) studies. To test the validity and utility of these ranges, researchers followed two approaches.

First, the ideal ranges (derived from curvilinear constructs) were converted to a linear scale, whereby a peak score was established within the ideal range. On either side of the peak score, the score declines in equal increments toward the end points on either extreme of the factor. In this manner, an individual’s placement within or outside of the ideal range was represented by a score that would indicate their relative proximity to the ideal. By applying a linear scale to the curvilinear factors, the model is operationalized as a comparative score. Although preferred ranges for the ten supporting dimensions also were evaluated, the two primary factors provide the basis for the score reported.

Second, the model score was simply coded as “Upper Band” for those individuals scoring within the ideal ranges (refer to Appendix B for a depiction of these ranges) or “Lower Band” for those individuals scoring outside of the ideal ranges. Utility was analyzed by comparing the sales performance of those scoring in (“Upper Band”) and out (“Lower Band”) of the ideal ranges for Achievement Drive and Relational Drive.

The Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) was administered to incumbents in two forms:

- a 63-item abbreviated Form A (also referred to as the Leading Profile Grid)
- a 95-item Form B (also referred to as the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP))

These forms use the common items and algorithms required to generate the 2x2 grid, on which the four distinct personality styles are presented (where Achievement Drive is plotted on the x-axis and Relational Drive is plotted on the y-axis). In addition to the 2x2 grid presentation of the four styles, the 95-item Form B also provides measures of ten behavioral characteristics (referred to as Achieving Dimensions and Relating Dimensions). More information regarding this framework is provided in Appendix A.
The reliability of primary factors and supporting dimensions was evaluated using two common methods: Cronbach’s Coefficient Alpha and Test-Retest Reliability Analysis. Results are indicated in the tables that follow:

Cronbach’s Alpha Coefficients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor/Dimension</th>
<th>Alpha Coefficient</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Factors:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement Drive</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational Drive</td>
<td>.80</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test-retest Reliability: 11-week average time between administrations (n=49)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor/Dimension</th>
<th>Correlation Statistic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Factors:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement Drive</td>
<td>r=.79, p&lt;.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational Drive</td>
<td>r=.76, p&lt;.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The LDP factors and supporting dimensions generate a percentile outcome based on a comparison of the individual’s responses against a normative distribution of scores. This distribution was derived from the scores of all participants who had taken the LDP at the time of the calibration studies. Normative scores are indicated in the following table:

Normative Scores by Primary Factors (n=1981)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor/Dimension</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>St.Dev.</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Factors:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement Drive</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational Drive</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement Drive describes the focus and intensity with which an individual approaches common activities as well as long-term goals. At opposite ends of the Achievement Drive continuum, are two primary approaches: Methodical and Urgent.

**Sample Item:** *I am intensely focused on surpassing the accomplishments of my peers.*

Relational Drive describes the extent to which an individual engages emotionally in common circumstances. At opposite ends of the Relational Drive continuum, are two primary approaches: Guarded and Expressive.

**Sample Item:** *I am more likely than others to respond when someone is in need of encouragement.*
Relationship to Work Requirements

A tremendous body of research exists to support the rationale for applying personality measures to employment decisions within the sales profession. A comprehensive literature review was conducted to determine the relatedness of personality constructs to the job content domain of sales professionals. Several studies have demonstrated support for leveraging constructs within, or related to the Five Factor Model, such as Achievement Drive and Relational Drive. Only a fraction of these studies are indicated in the reference section of this report (Furnham & Fudge, 2008; Barrick & Mount, 1991; Furnham & Miller, 1997; Salgado, 1997; Barrick, Stewart, & Piotrowski, 2002; Churchill, Ford, Hartley, & Walker, 1985; Crant, 199; Conte & Gintoff, 2005; Vinchur, Schippmann, Switzer, & Roth, 1998, Brewer & Garder, 1996; Jenkins & Griffith, 2004; Dawson, Soper, & Pettijohn, 1992; Amyx & Alford, 2005). Given the unique behavioral aspects of sales-related job functions, it is clear that an assessment of personality characteristics (measuring task or achievement-oriented behaviors as well as people or relationship-oriented behaviors) is well supported by exhaustive psychological research and practice dating back several decades.
Criterion Measures

Employers from the respective samples provided performance data for the studies described herein. Although a variety of performance-related criteria may be of research interest, researchers identified “total sales” as the criterion most representative of the job domain, as well as the criterion offering the broadest application to users of the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP).

The following specific derivatives of the criterion measures were analyzed for their relationship to the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) score:

Call Center Sales Representatives

- Total Sales
- Total Sales/Tenure
- Total Sales-7 Weeks

On-Property Sales Representatives

- Total Sum Sales
- Total Sum Net Sales
- Total Sales Per Prospect

No information was provided by employers regarding the reliability or potential deficiency, contamination, or bias of the criterion measures. Performance data were provided to researchers for incumbents who had taken the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP). Although incumbents were at differing points of job tenure at the time of the studies, researchers attempted to control for the impact of tenure on performance as much as it was feasible to do so. Thus, some bias related to tenure and previous sales-related experience or training may be inherent in the criterion measures.
Research Sample

This study concerns three specific samples, involving call center sales representatives and on-property sales representatives. In each case, the sample was provided by the employer for purposes of determining whether the LDP’s two primary factors could differentiate between lower and higher levels of sales performance.

In the first study, the employer provided a sample of call center incumbents (both day and night shift) who had taken the LDP for purposes of developing a scoring model. Researchers examined the results of incumbents on the two primary factors and then developed a model reflective of the average scores of the highest performing sales representatives.

For the second study, the employer provided a sample of incumbents from two locations who were fully engaged in selling. These incumbents represented diverse amounts of sales experience and tenure within the employer. The employer provided total sales production during the accounting period immediately preceding data collection. As such, this study involved a concurrent design.

In the third study, the employer provided a subsequent sample of call center incumbents (both day and night shift) who had taken the LDP during the employer’s recruiting process, then as candidates. This was considered a follow-up study to the original model development effort. Performance data were provided for incumbents who had completed training and orientation, and who were actively engaged in selling. The employer provided sales criteria for the seven-week period immediately preceding data collection. Since these participants completed the LDP as candidates and were later evaluated based on subsequent job performance, this study involve a predictive design.

In each of these studies, the employer provided nearly all of the available incumbents within the respective positions. As such, there was no evidence of bias or contamination in the data provided by the employer. A potential restriction in the range of criterion measures may exist to the extent that lower performing incumbents may have been removed from the population prior to gathering each sample. This is least likely to be the case in the second and third studies, due to the wide variance in criterion measures reported.
Results

Correlation Statistics

Correlation Statistics (Call Center Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Total Sales (n)</th>
<th>Total Sales/Tenure (n)</th>
<th>Total Sales-7 Weeks (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LDP Score</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r=.175, p&lt;.05 (131)</td>
<td>r=.195, p=ns (47)</td>
<td>r=.296, p&lt;.10 (42)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tenure <= 180 days (hired since implementation of the LDP)

Correlation Statistics (On-property Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Total Sum Sales (n)</th>
<th>Total Sum Net Sales (n)</th>
<th>Total Sales Per Prospect (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LDP Score</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r=.212, p&lt;.10 (71)</td>
<td>r=.257, p&lt;.05 (131)</td>
<td>r=.184, ns (71)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tenure not provided by the employer.

Utility (Bands)

Score Bands (Call Center Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Total Sales (n)</th>
<th>Total Sales/Tenure (n)</th>
<th>Total Sales-7 Weeks (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LDP Closer Score</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Band</strong></td>
<td>4.47 (89)</td>
<td>0.10 (30)</td>
<td>11.12 (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Band</strong></td>
<td>7.07 (42)</td>
<td>0.13 (17)</td>
<td>15.63 (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Difference</strong></td>
<td>+2.60</td>
<td>+0.03</td>
<td>+4.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Difference</strong></td>
<td>+58%</td>
<td>+30%</td>
<td>+41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tenure <= 180 days (hired since implementation of the LDP)

Score Bands (On-property Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Total Sum Sales (n)</th>
<th>Total Sum Net Sales (n)</th>
<th>Total Sales Per Prospect (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LDP Closer Score</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Band</strong></td>
<td>22.54 (47)</td>
<td>$154,363.71 (47)</td>
<td>$2,736.81 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Band</strong></td>
<td>34.37 (23)</td>
<td>$245,857.15 (23)</td>
<td>$4,892.92 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantity Difference</strong></td>
<td>+11.83</td>
<td>+$91,493.44</td>
<td>+$2,156.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Difference</strong></td>
<td>+53%</td>
<td>+59%</td>
<td>+79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoring and Transformation of Raw Scores

As stated in a previous section, the ideal scoring ranges were established in the original development study and then cross-validated in the second (concurrent, criterion-related) and third (predictive, criterion-related) studies.

The ideal ranges include:

- Higher Achievement Drive, specifically indicated as between a 50% normative score on the lower end and a 100% normative score on the higher end of the factor.

- Lower to moderate Relational Drive, specifically indicated as between a 25% normative score on the lower end and a 70% normative score on the higher end of the factor.

These ranges are indicated as shaded areas on the report provided to users (see Appendix B for a sample of this report). Further, a green or yellow-colored indicator is provided to convey the individual’s relative proximity to the ideal range.

For purposes of this validation effort, each factor score (derived from curvilinear constructs) was converted to a linear scale, whereby a peak score was established within the ideal range. On either side of the peak score, the score declines in equal increments to the end points on either extreme of the factor. In this manner, an individual’s placement within or outside of the ideal range was represented by a score that would indicate their relative proximity to the ideal. By applying a linear scale to the curvilinear factors, the raw score is transformed to a comparative score.
Normative Information

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive Statistics (Call Center Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>St. Dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tenure (days)</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>71.55</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>29.98</td>
<td>38.00</td>
<td>151.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sales</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>5.31</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>9.85</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>99.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sales/Tenure</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>.11</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.11</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sales-7 Weeks</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>12.83</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>14.58</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>99.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement Drive</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>73.69</td>
<td>78.00</td>
<td>20.55</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational Drive</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>63.37</td>
<td>73.00</td>
<td>24.51</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Descriptive Statistics (On-property Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>St. Dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Sum Sales</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>18.94</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>25.44</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>144.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sum Net Sales</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>129,019.84</td>
<td>49,135.00</td>
<td>20,7835</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1,190,709.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sales/Prospect</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>2,875.37</td>
<td>911.03</td>
<td>5,829.88</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>35,598.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement Drive</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>64.04</td>
<td>71.00</td>
<td>25.44</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>99.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational Drive</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>57.24</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>29.03</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normative Information

Norm Table (On-property Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent at Cutoff Score</th>
<th>Lower Band</th>
<th>Upper Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Norm Table (Call Center Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent at Cutoff Score</th>
<th>Lower Band</th>
<th>Upper Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Expectancies and Practical Value

Expectancy Table (Call Center Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales Performance Group</th>
<th>LDP Closer Score</th>
<th>Bottom Half</th>
<th>Top Half</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Band</td>
<td>48 (54%)</td>
<td>41 (46%)</td>
<td>89 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Band</td>
<td>19 (45%)</td>
<td>23 (55%)</td>
<td>42 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tenure <= 180 days (hired since implementation of the LDP)

Expectancy Table (On-property Sales Representatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales Performance Group</th>
<th>LDP Closer Score</th>
<th>Bottom Half</th>
<th>Top Half</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Band</td>
<td>25 (53%)</td>
<td>22 (47%)</td>
<td>47 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Band</td>
<td>9 (39%)</td>
<td>14 (61%)</td>
<td>23 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

Given the evidence described in this report, including criterion-related validity and convergent-construct validity, users can be assured of the validity demonstrated by the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP). In addition, the exhaustive body of research conducted in recent years provides ample support of the job-relatedness of the LDP to sales positions. With this in mind, researchers recommend that users leverage the LDP’s primary factors and supporting dimensions to gain insight regarding the general style or approach with which an individual may likely perform sales-related job duties.

Each of the four styles (also referred to as sales profiles) reported by the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) can be effective and successful in a variety of sales roles. The suitability of a given style for a particular job should be established via local validation procedures aimed at evaluating criterion-related validity within a specific job setting. Under certain circumstances, users can leverage transported validity as a means of apply generalized validity findings to a particular job of interest. LDC can advise users regarding the technical feasibility of local validation as well as the appropriateness of transporting validity evidence.

Cautions Regarding Interpretations

Although multiple studies have yielded evidence for the validity, reliability, and job-relatedness of the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP), users should be cautioned against using any score or result from the assessment as a primary rationale for employment decisions. Specifically, users should not screen, select, deselect, promote, transfer, or terminate any individual based in whole or in part on the results provided by the Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP). Users are directed to deploy the assessment and utilize its reports in a manner that is compliant with local, state, and federal regulations regarding employment procedures, and in keeping with professional best practices for the use of personnel selection procedures.
References


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Appendix A

The Leading Dimensions Profile (LDP) is a personality inventory designed to provide measures of two primary factors as well as ten supporting dimensions, described below:

- **Achievement Drive** describes the focus and intensity with which an individual approaches common activities as well as long-term goals. At opposite ends of the Achievement Drive continuum, are two primary approaches: **Methodical** and **Urgent**.
  
  - The **Methodical** approach may be described as approaching tasks and goals in a cautious, measured, and contemplative manner. Rarely impulsive, **Methodical** individuals are typically very deliberate in their actions and prefer to consider all possible outcomes before choosing a specific course. They are inclined to seek clarification and order so they fully understand both needs and consequences within the circumstances they face. Others may view **Methodical** individuals as very practical and consistent in decision making, leveraging logic over intuition in reaching conclusions.

  - The **Urgent** approach may be described as spontaneous, competitive and adaptive. Spontaneous in nature, **Urgent** individuals are typically very comfortable with ambiguity and do not shy away from taking action, even without a clear plan. Their desire for recognizable accomplishments and need for change may cause them to work at a faster pace than their peers. **Urgent** individuals are often very concerned with “what’s next”, and may be seen by others as very intense and confident in approaching most circumstances.

  The scoring model described in this report places emphasis on higher (more **Urgent**) Achievement Drive as the ideal range for sales representatives.

- **Relational Drive** describes the extent to which an individual engages emotionally in common circumstances. At opposite ends of the Relational Drive continuum, are two primary approaches: **Guarded** and **Expressive**.

  - The **Guarded** approach may be described as reserved, private, and distant in their interactions with others. Often considered quiet or shy by others, **Guarded** individuals are typically very careful about confiding in, and sharing personal information with, others. They are inclined to maintain a formal and distant approach in most personal interactions, until others gain their confidence and trust. **Guarded** individuals will often
prefer to work alone rather than collaborating with others, and they may be considered impatient or disinterested when working within a team setting.

- The *Expressive* approach may appear more outgoing, gregarious, and collaborative in their interactions. Outgoing in nature, *Expressive* individuals are drawn to personal interactions and opportunities to affiliate with recognized groups. They are often considered very approachable by others, and will likely prefer teamwork over individual effort. *Expressive* individuals are often seen as sensitive and cooperative in their approach, and they will attempt to influence others based on an emotional persuasion rather than cold facts or direction.

The scoring model described in this report places emphasis on lower to moderate (at the convergence of *guarded* and *Expressive*) *Relational Drive* as the ideal range for sales representatives.

Within this framework, these primary factors interact to generate four distinct personality styles:

- The combination of *Methodical Achievement Drive* and *Expressive Relational Drive* is referred to as the *Collaborative Style* (known as the *Counselor Profile*).
- The combination of *Urgent Achievement Drive* and *Expressive Relational Drive* is referred to as the *Adaptive Style* (known as the *Coach Profile*).
- The combination of *Urgent Achievement Drive* and *Guarded Relational Drive* is referred to as the *Directive Style* (known as the *Driver Profile*).
- The combination of *Methodical Achievement Drive* and *Guarded Relational Drive* is referred to as the *Contemplative Style* (known as the *Advisor Profile*).

These profiles are used to describe the style with which individuals influence one another in communication, leadership, conflict, negotiation, learning, sales, consulting, career guidance, and in other related applications.

The scoring model described in this report places emphasis on the *Coach Profile* and *Driver Profile* as offering the behavioral styles with the greatest propensity for high sales performance in the samples evaluated.

This framework was operationalized by an initial version of the LDP (Form A), whereby only measures of the two primary factors were generated. Participants’ results were reported on the 2x2 grid shown, where *Achievement Drive* is plotted on the x-axis and *Relational Drive* is plotted on the y-axis. The grid was divided into four quadrants, labeled as follows:

- The *Collaborative Style* (the *Counselor Profile*): upper left quadrant, comprised of *Methodical Achievement Drive* (on the lower extreme, ranging from 0-49%) and *Expressive Relational Drive* (on the higher extreme, ranging from 50-100%).
• The **Adaptive Style** (the **Coach Profile**): upper right quadrant, comprised of **Urgent Achievement Drive** (on the higher extreme, ranging from 50-100%) and **Expressive Relational Drive** (on the higher extreme, ranging from 50-100%).

• The **Directive Style** (the **Driver Profile**): lower right quadrant, comprised of **Urgent Achievement Drive** (on the higher extreme, ranging from 50-100%) and **Guarded Relational Drive** (on the lower extreme, ranging from 0-49%).

• The **Contemplative Style** (the **Advisor Profile**): lower left quadrant, comprised of **Methodical Achievement Drive** (on the lower extreme, ranging from 0-49%) and **Guarded Relational Drive** (on the lower extreme, ranging from 0-49%).

After further data collection and factor analytical procedures, it was determined that the two primary factors may be comprised of, or related to, a number of smaller factors (smaller in terms of the number of items used). Repeated analyses confirmed that between six and ten factors may exist within the framework, in addition to the two primary factors. Over time, these additional factors became known as **Achieving Dimensions** and **Relating Dimensions**. They have since been used to describe how individuals achieve tasks and relate to others, supporting the **Achievement Drive** and **Relational Drive** factors, respectively.

The LDP framework is deployed in three forms:

- a 63-item abbreviated Form A (also referred to as the Leading Profile Grid)
- a 95-item Form B (also referred to as the Leading Dimensions Profile)
- a 95-item Form C (a version of Form B in which participants answer each item using two formats: a “perfect employee” answer and their “actual” answer)

These forms use the items and algorithms required to generate the 2x2 grid, on which the four distinct personality styles are presented (where **Achievement Drive** is plotted on the x-axis and **Relational Drive** is plotted on the y-axis). In addition to the 2x2 grid presentation of the four styles, the 95-item Forms B and C also provide measures of ten behavioral characteristics (referred to as **Achieving Dimensions** and **Relating Dimensions**). These ten dimensions are segmented into five dimensions which help to describe an individual’s approach to achieving goals (**Achieving Dimensions**) and five dimensions which help to describe an individual’s approach in relating to others (**Relating Dimensions**).

While each of the supporting dimensions helps to explain how an individual’s **Achievement Drive** and **Relational Drive** may be observed, these are not necessarily considered psychometric facets of the two primary factors. The dimensions do share a number of common items with the primary factors, but only some were derived from factor analytical procedures involving **Achievement Drive** and **Relational Drive** items directly. The remaining dimensions emerged as the authors discovered scales outside of the two primary factor structure, and later discovered these offered sufficient validity to be reported as independent measures.
The five supporting scales, referred to as the *Achieving Dimensions*, include:

- **Work Intensity**, which is defined as the drive to extend effort in meeting or exceeding expectations when performing common tasks. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Work Intensity* is described as operating at a *Measured* pace, while higher *Work Intensity* is described as operating at a more *Intense* pace.
- **Assertiveness**, which is defined as the level of confidence in approaching one’s work and in asserting opinions. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Assertiveness* is described as *Shy* and higher *Assertiveness* is described as *Confident*.
- **Uncertainty Avoidance**, which is defined as the propensity to take risks in making decisions or taking actions in uncertain situations. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Uncertainty Avoidance* is described as *Bold* and higher *Uncertainty Avoidance* is described as *Cautious*.
- **Adaptability**, which is defined as the likely response in the face of changing or unplanned circumstances. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Adaptability* is described as *Reluctant* and higher *Adaptability* is described as *Flexible*.
- **Perception**, which is defined as the extent to which one relies on intuition and experience (versus methodical analysis) in making decisions. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Perception* is described as *Analytical* and higher *Perception* is described as *Intuitive*.

The five supporting scales, referred to as the *Relating Dimensions*, include:

- **Consideration**, which is defined as the awareness and propensity to contemplate others’ feelings and needs. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Consideration* is described as *Distant* and higher *Consideration* is described as *Nurturing*.
- **Openness**, which is defined as the desire to learn and share personal information with coworkers or strangers. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Openness* is described as *Private* and higher *Openness* is described as *Confiding*.
- **Affiliation**, which is defined as the desire to collaborate or affiliate with others in work and common activities. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Affiliation* is described as *Independent* and higher *Affiliation* is described as *Social*.
- **Status Motivation**, which is defined as the drive to be personally recognized for efforts and accomplishments. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Status Motivation* is described as *Cooperative* and higher *Status Motivation* is described as *Competitive*.
- **Self-Protection**, which is defined as the level of trust in the intentions or reliability of others. This dimension is reported on a continuum where lower *Self-Protection* is described as *Trusting* and higher *Self-Protection* is described as *Skeptical*.
Appendix B