



“SLAPGAT”



Feb 2020

OBJECTIVES:

- To look at something that is a big contributor to the problems we face,
 - Something that many ignore, because it is less clear and concrete to establish as well as a sensitive topic;
 - On a lighter note, it is a “new” discovered specie, but actually not “new”, as it has been with us probably forever, well at least 3 000 years ago, as King Solomon talked a lot about it; and
 - It is probably the biggest input to the “Business Triangle”.
- To discuss something inevitable in life, namely “Change”, which will later be repeated, as there is a link between “Change” and the topic of this article;
- On a serious note, to provide some examples of “Slapgat”;
- To then return to “Change” and link it to “Slapgat”;
- To cover examples of the negative consequences of being “Slapgat”; and finally,
- To see what the Bible has to say about this topic:
 - From one of the most Wise human beings that ever lived; and
 - Then more importantly, from God.



LET US START ON A LIGHTER NOTE, BUT PLEASE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS ARTICLE

1. “SLAPGAT”

1.1 MOTIVATION

I started writing this article during lockdown @ home with yet another of many power failures, a notebook battery running low and an extremely slow Internet connection, which “motivated” me to speak my mind and write this article!

1.2 DEFINING “SLAPGAT”

For those in other countries reading this article, I will probably have to try and define this strange word!?

It is actually such a well descriptive and defined word in the Afrikaans language, that a person needs to use a long list of English words just to try and describe it, so here goes:

- Someone that does not care
- Someone that is lazy
- Someone that wants to do as little as possible
- Someone that is not motivated
- Someone that just wants to do something for themselves and the absolute minimum
- A typical couch potato
- Someone healthy, but call in sick, because they do not feel like working that day
- Even not abiding or wanting to follow rules and regulations, processes and procedures can be defined as “Slapgat” and
- Someone taking shortcuts due to laziness



1.3 A (PARTIALLY TRUE) STORY

A child was born earlier than planned, but his parents could not decide on a name, so when the hospital sent the birth certificate to the Department of Home Affairs, all detail was on it except the child's name! The Department of Home Affairs phoned and phoned the parents many times (this is in an ideal world where they would actually respond in this way) for a name, but no answer, as the parents were at Hospital due to the child being early born and very ill. The official at the department got tired of phoning and out of frustration, he wrote "Slapgat" as the child's name and this was captured on the system!

At hospital what concerned the parents most, was that their child would get convulsions, but when they rang the Bell, the nurses were slow and reluctant to respond, as if it was a great effort for them to get up from their chairs and come assist. At one stage a nurse did not bother to read the Doctor's instructions to place the child on a drip. After many needle pricks and wounds (the nurse did not seem to work with care on the baby), she found a blood vessel and linked the drip, but the convulsions became worse and fortunately the Doctor noticed that the child had been given the wrong drip!

The child luckily survived and when he was given an ID document, his parents noticed that his name was "Slapgat"! Out of shock the dad decided to go to the Department of Home Affairs and sort out the mess. On his first visit there was a note on the door: "Systems down, we cannot assist you" and he could see nobody was inside, all had gone home. On his second visit the power was down due to load shedding (for people living outside South Africa, this is a term used to turn off power in many areas to limit the demand and build up capacity. It is therefore a "deliberate" power failure) and the door was again closed and everybody went home early. On his third visit he decided to phone before going there and check if everything was OK, but the phone just rang all day, even if he tried some alternative numbers. His fourth attempt was a visit to their Web site to ensure they were open, but the system was down. His fifth attempt was also a failure, as on his way to the department, there was a strike in the city and traffic was brought to a standstill. On his sixth attempt, he decided to leave work earlier than his normal 15:30 "going-home-time" and arrived there at 14:30 to stand in the queue. As he got to the door at 14:55, he was told that they do not assist people after 15:00, as they needed to close out their work, so he was told to come back the next day.

Very frustrated, the father arrived at 6:00am and was 10th in the queue. He waited for the offices to open at 8:00, but was told they would only open at 9:00, as there was a staff meeting. At 9:30 he asked the guy at the door what was going on and he was told that the manager arrived late, so the staff meeting only started at 8:25 and they were running over their time due to disagreements about what coffee should be stocked in their kitchen. Eventually they opened the doors at 10:05am and being 10th in the queue, he was able to go in at 12:00. As he got to the counter, he was told that he was at the wrong counter?! The dad said "***but there is a notice board above your head saying birth registrations***". The man responded by saying "***yes, but they forgot to remove the notice board and place it at the other counter***". This meant another 20 minutes delay.

When he finally got to the correct counter this time, he was told that he needs to complete a form, but they were out of forms and were still waiting for the Government Printing Works to send a new batch that was ordered a month ago. He was sent home and told that he should come back in a week or try to download the form from the Web site. The dad rather waited 2 weeks and went back for the eighth time. This time he went to the "correct" counter (after 3 hours in a queue) and witnessed as the person needing to assist went to have tea. Waiting at the counter he could see the person chatting and drinking tea, but she did not make eye-contact. Eventually she slowly walked back to the desk and



asked in a frustrated manner how can she assist (the dad had cut her 60 minute tea break down to 30 minutes!). He asked the lady for the form (he now had accumulated experience and knew exactly what to ask for), but had to borrow a pen, as none of the pens worked and nobody bothered to refill them. After completing the form, he handed the form in together with a photocopy of his ID as well as his original ID book as requested previously and told the lady he wanted to change his son's name, as they never requested a name of "Slapgat"! The lady looked at him, looked at his ID book, looked at the photocopy of the ID book and although there was an exact 3 way match, said "*you need a certified copy of your ID, get it and come back tomorrow*"!!!!!! The dad turned around and never returned, so "Slapgat" had to remain his name...

Now "Slapgat's" parents set the example for him to follow. As he sat in the car while his father or mother was driving, he saw and knew that a seatbelt was not really necessary. If the highway was standing still because they were usually late, they could just put on their Hazards, drive on the yellow line and then push in somewhere right in front! At a robot (traffic light), a **Green Light** meant Go, an **Orange Light** meant Go and a **Red Light** meant accelerate, but take some care when driving through it! If they had to turn left, but the left lane was too long, the problem could easily be solved by going straight past all the cars and then turning left from the lane where the cars are supposed to go straight. He was told that some people would "hoot" at them, but later he would get use to it, just brush it off and later you would no longer hear the hooting.

"Slapgat" took note of the fact that when you want something and there is skill, cost, effort or cost involved, you can take short-cuts via a bribe. Dropping "Slapgat" at school was a breeze, as they never needed to look for parking, all they needed to do is to switch on those magic "Hazards" (there were many uses for it) and stop in the middle of the road to allow "Slapgat" to first greet his entire family, then slowly climb out, open the boot and remove his case (he was already getting immune to the hooting). However, very few people hooted at the school, as almost everybody was doing the same thing and causing traffic chaos, but it was not a problem, because most would be late for work in any case. "Slapgat's" parents therefore took almost 30 minutes to get out of the school area to dodge all the Hazard lights.

Now the story of "Slapgat" and all the (Slapgat) things his parents taught him could go on for another 200 pages, but I have to end this story, but I hope the message comes through...? One day "Slapgat" fell very ill and had to get an emergency operation, but unfortunately died in hospital, as the surgeon neglected to follow protocol and I will not go into that detail. However, in short, the Surgeon was also Slapgat and wanted to take short-cuts, because he did not want to stand too long operating, so skipped some required procedures.



1.4 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

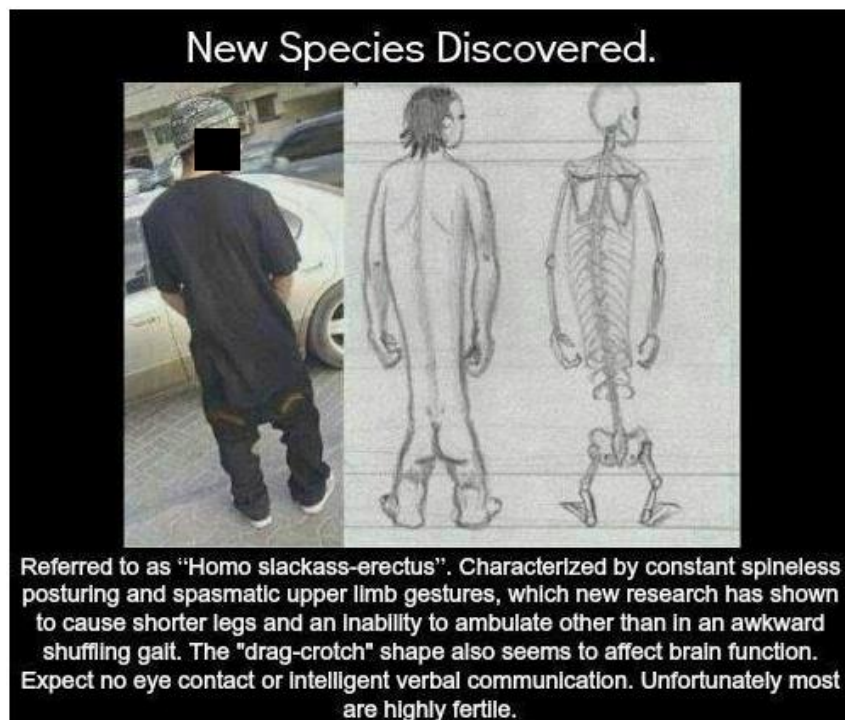
As an Auditor, we often need to come up with a “Root” cause analysis related to a finding and a specific firm we often perform work for, provides us with a drop down list of possible reasons (overall “root cause” categories), but unfortunately that list does not include “Slapgat” which is often the real reason!



Typical “Root cause” categories available usually cover tangible issues and not the fuzzy “soft” issues which are on the other side of the coin, like in the case of the Surgeon above, a machine, the technology system or the documented procedures often get blamed and not a person’s Slapgatness.

1.5 A “NEW” SPECIES?

Below is a humorous way of depicting this “new specie” called “Homo Slackass Erectus”, but in actual fact, it has been amongst us forever:



Source: <https://mcbrolloks.wordpress.com/2013/02/08/homo-slapgat-erectus/>

King Solomon would not have written about it 3 000 years ago if it was not already a problem then! Seems like the Human race has always had these species amongst us...?



1.6 THE BUSINESS TRIANGLE

A direct extract from the source below

(<https://www.smartsheet.com/content/people-process-technology>) states:

“As standalone components, **people**, process, and technology are necessary for organizational transformation and management. To achieve organizational efficiency, you need to **balance the three** and maintain good relationships among them.

As a term, people, process, and technology (PPT) refers to the methodology in which the balance of people, process, and technology **drives action**: People perform a specific type of work for an organization using processes (and often, technology) to streamline and improve these processes. This framework can help you achieve harmony within an organization and is most often used when deciding whether to purchase or implement new technologies”



The above source also states:

“If you have the right people in place, you should be able to trust them to make the right decisions for themselves and their work while following guiding principles of your company”.

“People” in the above Business Triangle is often referred to as the “Soft issues”, while Technology and Processes are the “Hard issues” (more tangible issues). Excuse the pun, but the “Soft issues” are often the “Hardest” to manage, because without motivated people, your business will suffer even if you have good technology and processes in place.

People are temperamental creatures, while a machine will do as told (if programmed correctly by people...!)

Below is a diagram depicting how important the “soft issues” (76%) are according to this source:

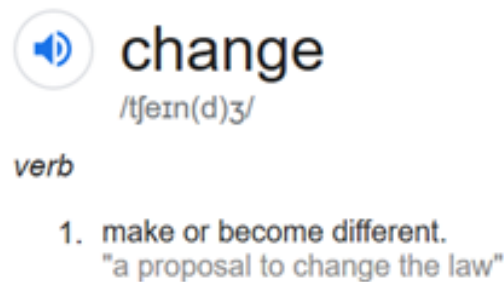




2. THAT INEVITABLE CHANGE

This is a forerunner to what will be covered later in paragraph 4 . The saying goes that the only things in life that are certain are Taxes, Change and Death!

2.1 CHANGE IS DEFINED ON GOOGLE AS:



2.2 WHY DO THINGS CHANGE?

One area scientists look at is “Entropy” which you can go Google, but change takes place in most areas.

- 1) **In business** due to new staff, new leadership, new competition and an area where most change seems to take place is in Technology, hence we moving into the 4th Industrial revolution which includes the Internet of Things, Cloud computing, Human/machine interface, Artificial Intelgelence, Big Data, Argmented reality, Smart Sensors, etc...
- 2) **In Nature**, mostly due to human intervention (the “blerry” Humans) such as de-forsting, Global warming/climate change, over-hunting, pollution and over-fishing, but also due to rain/moist resulting in oxidation, the sun resulting in the cracking and degrading of material and other factors such as the wind and even instects eating away at material.
- 3) **In our bodies** as defined below:

The process of aging refers to the decay of an organism’s structure and function, in which molecular and cellular modifications can have various effects at the individual level over the course of a lifetime. The accumulation of molecular errors that compromise adult stem cell functions occurs because of genetic and epigenetic interactions and depends on hereditary, environmental, and stochastic factors. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3295054/>

Later you will see the link between Change and “Slapgat”...



TIME TO GET TO THE SERIOUS STUFF!

3. SOME EXAMPLES OF “SLAPGAT”

The results from the Auditor General in South Africa on the 2018-2019 National and Provincial Government audits were made public by the Auditor General, Kimi Makwetu, and this is what he said (the words in **Green** clearly point to slapgat):

Government shows blatant disregard for finance laws as irregular spend

*The country has made disappointingly little progress in stemming irregular expenditure – and in some cases has even regressed. Makwetu said that there was a **severe lack of***

***accountability**, and no real drive from officials to implement reform recommendations – which, in some cases, were **simply ignored**. “We experienced that accounting officers and authorities have been slow in implementing our recommendations – and in certain instances even **blatantly disregarded these**.*

*“The financial health of auditees continued to deteriorate – with departments in particular struggling to balance their finances. **Unauthorised expenditure** remained high at R1.365 billion. There was an emerging risk of **increased litigation and claims against departments**. Over a third of the departments had claims against them in excess of 10% of their next year’s budget,” the report said. “**Fruitless and wasteful expenditure** continued to rise, with 223 auditees losing R849 million in the current year. Over the five-year period, R4.16 billion of government expenditure was fruitless and wasteful. Irregular expenditure increased to R62.60 billion from the R51 billion reported last year,” the report said. Among its key findings, Makwetu’s report shows that fruitless and wasteful expenditure **continued to rise**, with 223 auditees losing R849 million in the current year.*

Our State owned entities such as:

- Eskom
- The SABC
- SAA
- Denel
- Prasa
- Transnet
- PetroSA
- SA Express
- Road Accident Fund



"Slappat"



Seem to all be in trouble, especially financially, as reported by the Auditor General! There are obviously many reasons for this, but the "Soft issues" are often overlooked or ignored and are probably the biggest contributor, especially as Kimi Makwetu said "*severe lack of accountability, no real drive and blatant disregard*"!

The above findings are based on many different reviews and facts!

Some of the above may also be due to people not following rules and regulations and that is also a form of being "Slappat".



4. THAT LINK BETWEEN CHANGE AND “SLAPGAT”

4.1 DECAY

A person can say that our Public entities are in a state of decay, but what I actually want to cover here is how the wind, sun, rain, rust (exposure to the elements) all cause state owned properties/assets to decay! A vehicle, actually any machines that turn/work such as a generator, **needs to be maintained**, else it WILL decay. Is that what happened to Eskom’s power stations...? We constantly hear of a generator that is “shut down” due to a problem! We here of Police cars, Fire trucks, aircraft, ambulances, etc. that are broken down and not operative! How much of this is due to bad budgeting or mismanagement or just plain “Slapgat” to do something about them before they fall in a state of decay?



So yes, there may be many reasons for the decay which may not be directly linked to “Slapgat”, but “Slapgat” is a huge contributor!. Being involved in many Public sector assignments, hearing many stories and even analysing data, I am aware, seen evidence and observed:

- People constantly taking smoke breaks, not for a few minutes, but for hours per week, and standing around having long chats;
- People calling in sick on Fridays and/or Mondays many times during a year (our data analysis shows clear trends), so is this to take a long weekend?;



- People sleeping behind their desks, via many social media photos doing the rounds and I left out these pictures on purpose as not to embarrass them;
- People playing games on their computers, via observations and many social media photos doing the rounds and I again left out these pictures on purpose as not to embarrass them;
- People coming in late for work and/or leaving early (via many direct observations). There are often a huge incoming car congestions at boom gates not at the official start time of 7:00 am or even 8:00 am, but at 9:00 am, but the problem is that later on, there is a huge outgoing car congestions at boom gates not at 17:00 pm or even 16:00 pm due to so many starting late, but at 15:00 pm and even earlier... (most people seem to work much shorter hours than they should);
- People being on their company phone or cell phones for hours and hours on end (many via direct observations or during call data analysis as well as via submitted cell phone claims related to "business calls", while most do not interact with businesses or the public...?).
- People complaining about too much work, yet have very little to do or not finishing the little bit they have to do (observed and identified via workflow analysis);
- People chatting or having long lunch breaks while clients or the general public are waiting in long queues (just ask those in the queue); and even
- People who have just disappeared and nowhere to be found for hours on end, potentially in meetings or elsewhere (many visits and even meeting appointments with those individuals have turned out to be a waste of time, as these individuals just do not pitch and nobody knows where they are).
- I wonder if this is now x10 worse during lockdown!?

So many assets are decaying and clients want service, but some people are not at work or they are at work, but not doing what they are supposed to be doing.

4.2 THE LOGICAL LINK

Change is inevitable → things decay → things need to be maintained → some people are "Slapgat", so guess what, → things fall apart... [Do you now see the link?](#)





5. NOW SOME OF THE **NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES**

5.1 SOME EXAMPLES

Sorry, but let us use “Eskom” as an example! So let us not go into why we have power shortages, but this time cover what are just some of their impact (effects) as a result and the chain reaction of further events this causes in short bullet point format below (I am touching the “tip of the iceberg” here, else this article will probably become a 1000 page book):

- **Load shedding = Traffic lights are out and will further cause:**
 - An increased chance of an accident
 - People late for work
 - Traffic jams resulting in frustration and blood pressures going up

An increased change of an accident and the further consequences down the line	People late for work and the further consequences down the line	Traffic jams and Blood pressure increases and the further consequences down the line
If an accident: 	This could cause the boss to be frustrated 	A frustrated person with high blood pressure could have a heart attack and die or have a Stroke and die or live, but may not be able to work again
Then Car damage	This in turn means a loss in productivity	If the person survives and needs to go on early pension, their pension might not be good enough to survive financially
This in turn could mean someone does not have transport	Low productivity means a loss in profits	If the person dies, the family may suffer financially, some going to sleep hungry
This could mean they may take public transport and could be late for work or getting home late or needing to walk to work with an increased chance of being mugged	That person may be labelled as a poor performer	A child may miss an opportunity to study further, as the main income earner is no longer there
Car damage costs money and an insurance excess needs to be paid or if someone does not have insurance, they have to fit the bill themselves	Late for work could mean meetings are postponed	A person who survived a stroke may become difficult to work with or their personality may change to such an extent that a divorce is



"Slapgat"



An increased change of an accident and the further consequences down the line	People late for work and the further consequences down the line	Traffic jams and Blood pressure increases and the further consequences down the line
		inevitable
After being fixed, the car does not feel like new anymore	Postponed meetings may result in key decisions not taken	A divorce may result in children torn between families and have its own chain reaction of negative events
Panel beaters may not fix the problem well	Postponed meetings may lead to a loss in clients and them going elsewhere – this in turn results in a loss in profit...	Higher Blood Pressure means doctor visits and increased costs in medication
The above could cause fights and frustration and an increase in Blood Pressure	Other staff being frustrated, as they need to also do the work of the person being late	Traffic jams may result in people hooting at each other and even road rage involving guns, raising blood pressure further

The few examples above just because of traffic lights being out due to Load shedding due to a lack of maintenance due to slapgatness.... Some more examples below:

• **No power at home will cause:**

- Freezer to defrost
- No WiFi internet
- Security system compromised

Freezer to defrost	No WiFi Internet	Security System compromised
Food could go off and need to be thrown away	A child may not be able to complete a school project or perform ½ a job and get weak points	Family may feel unsafe and not have a good night's sleep
If someone is already suffering financially, they would suffer even more	An adult working from home may lose business and income	Thieves may gain easier entrance and steal property
Food like chicken might defrost and freeze again and defrost later and freeze again and eating that food may result in food poisoning	Clients may go to another person/client	Stolen property may lead to financial losses and insurance excess or if not ensured, major financial losses
Food poisoning may result in people landing in hospital with its own financial and family issues	There may be delays in work, frustration and blood pressure increases	Insurance premiums may go up and cause long term added costs
Food poisoning may result in someone being off	Blood pressure increases may have its own set of	Families may be attached, hurt, raped or even



Freezer to defrost	No WiFi Internet	Security System compromised
work with its own range of consequences down the line	consequences	killed
Food Poisoning may result in children not getting to school and missing key lectures they needed to know later in the exam	Missed email and other key communication. Even an urgent WhatsApp message received too late...	Victims of violent crime may in turn experience physiological trauma with its own long list of its own consequences

I can go on and on regarding all the consequences and the further chain reactions (the “Butterfly Effects”) of events in almost every sphere of life. Above I just touched on less critical things like a Traffic light and a Freezer and we could already see the potential consequences of these “minor irritators”.

What about critical services like the Police, Hospitals, Doctors, a claustrophobic person stuck in a lift and other areas being impacted?

What about huge firms being negatively impacted? Let us take one more example:

• **A Mine experiences excessive power failures (load shedding) which could result in:**

- Miners stuck underground
- Lifts not working
- Material not being processed

Miners stuck underground	Lifts not working	Material not being processed
Miners stuck underground results in stress	Lifts not working means that staff cannot get underground to work	No material brought up to the ground from within the mine means financial losses with its own set of challenges as seen
Miners stuck underground results in wasted time	Miners are therefore not productive	No material means the public is not getting goods
Miners stuck underground results in unproductive time lost	Non-productive miners mean loss in income	No goods mean the supply is low, but the demand is still constant
Miners stuck underground results in others needing to get them to the surface with added costs	Loss in income could mean job cuts	The Supply/Demand imbalance means prices could go up



"Slapgat"



Miners stuck underground	Lifts not working	Material not being processed
Miners stuck under or even above ground cause an overall standstill of the mine	Job cuts could mean families are negatively impacts	Price increases means the inflation goes up
Negative news media, even if it is not the Mine's fault	Job cuts could result in strikes	Increased inflation has its own long list of consequences...
Aircons not working could even cause miners below ground to suffocate or if extraction fans do not work, these miners could be exposed to poisonous gas	Miners underground can also not come up and this has its own set of further consequences	The miners may loose jobs

There are so many direct and indirect consequences and problems that many people very far down the line will experience and all this could be as a result of some people being "Slapgat" higher up the "service/supply chain"!

If those people who were "Slapgat" could hear and see all the consequences at all levels they may be responsible for, I wonder if they would be able to sleep at night?

Wherever your work, whatever you do, no matter what circumstances you work in, you need to do your best, because if you "Slapgat", the "Butterfly" effect means that somewhere, somehow you WILL **negatively** impact someone's life (actually many people's lives) directly or indirectly, yes very **NEGATIVELY!**. If you "slapgat", you will not know who, how and how many people you may have negatively impacted down the line and you would be leaving a very negative legacy! Look at what the Bible (God) has to say about this "slapgat":

"But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken" - [Matthew 12:36](#)

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or **bad**" - [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)*



"Slappat"



“because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” - Acts 17:31

“on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus” - Romans 2:16

The above does not only refer to the 10 Commandments, but any **Negative** Legacy or **Negative** Consequence you may be responsible for.



6. LET US LOOK AT THE BIBLE MORE CLOSELY

I did not start with the Bible, because I wanted all to see that even without the Bible's warnings, we can see the **negative** effects/consequences and problems around us due to slappatness!

The Bible warned about this thousands of years ago, but people either forget the messages, do not read the Bible, do not believe it is true or is "Unconsciously incompetent", or "blatantly ignore" it as the Auditor General mentioned people do?

6.1 FIRSTLY FROM A HUMAN'S POINT OF VIEW, FROM ONE OF THE MOST INTELEGTENT HUMAN BEINGS EVER:

Question: Ok, so who is this "intelligent Human being"?

Answer: ⁷ That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁸ Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. ⁹ Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰ Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

¹¹ God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, ¹² therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." **2 Chronicles 1**

So would you take note of issues from a Couch Potato or someone that was given more Wisdom than any other person?

How do we know he had been given great Wisdom? Well, if you read the book of Proverbs, you will LOGICALLY notice the Wisdom in all his words! (and remember that these things were written THOUSANDS of years ago and are still 101% relevant today!).



"Slapgat"



Ok, after receiving Wisdom, below are a few examples of what King Solomon wrote which can be directly linked to "Slapgat":

Solomon's text	General note
ALL TALK AND DREAMS	
<i>"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." - Proverbs 14:23</i>	Talk, talk and dreaming with no action
<i>Like a door on its hinges, a lazy man turns back and forth on his bed. Lazy people are too lazy to lift the food from their plate to their mouth. Lazy people think they are seven times smarter than the people who really have good sense. Proverbs 26:14-16</i>	
<i>Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense." - Proverbs 12:11</i>	
CONSEQUENCES OF BEING LAZY	
<i>"The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work." - Proverbs 21:25</i>	Consequences and more consequences
<i>Whoever is lazy regarding his work is also a brother to the master of destruction. Proverbs 18:9</i>	
<i>Lazy people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes. Fear of the LORD lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. Proverbs 10:26-27</i>	
<i>A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest³⁴ and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man. Proverbs 22:33 and 34</i>	
<i>Lazy hands bring poverty, but hard-working hands lead to wealth. Whoever harvests during summer acts wisely, but the son who sleeps during harvest is disgraceful. Proverbs 10:4-5</i>	
<i>If you love sleep, you will end in poverty. Keep your eyes open, and there will be plenty to eat! Proverbs 20:13</i>	
<i>Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty. Proverbs 21:5</i>	
<i>Despite their desires, the lazy will come to ruin, for their hands refuse to work. Proverbs 21:25</i>	
<i>The slacker does not plow during planting season; at harvest time he looks, and there is nothing. Proverbs 20:4</i>	



Solomon's text	General note
<i>Laziness throws one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will go hungry. Proverbs 19:15</i>	
ALWAYS AN EXCUSE	
<i>The lazy person claims, "There is a lion in the road! There's a lion in the streets!" Proverbs 26:13</i>	Always an excuse!
HOW IT IS SUPPOSE TO WORK IN THE END	
<i>Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor. Proverbs 12:24</i>	In the end, many people are caught out and thrown out of high positions because of their lack of performance
<i>Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave. Proverbs 12:24</i>	
EXAMPLE OF HARD WORK	
<i>You lazy people, you should watch what the ants do and learn from them. Ants have no ruler, no boss, and no leader. But in the summer, ants gather all of their food and save it. So when winter comes, there is plenty to eat. You lazy people, how long are you going to lie there? When will you get up? Proverbs 6:6-9</i>	With no motivation even insects work hard

6.2 NOW FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW

God's inspired text	General note
<i>"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" - Colossians 3:23-24</i>	So not only Solomon highlighted issues of laziness, but many other writers as inspired by God.
<i>Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14</i>	
<i>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that</i>	



God's inspired text	General note
<p><i>your labor in the Lord is not in vain.</i> 1 Corinthians 15:58</p>	<p>The bottom-line message is that whatever you do, you must do it to honour God. Even if you have a horrible boss and a horrible job, do it in honour of God and I am sure God will reward you and/or help you out of your situation later!</p>
<p><i>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.</i> Colossians 3:17</p>	
<p><i>And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.</i> 2 Corinthians 9:8</p>	
<p><i>May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.</i> Psalms 90:17</p>	
<p><i>Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.</i> 2 Timothy 2:15</p>	
<p><i>However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.</i> Acts 20:24</p>	
<p><i>God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.</i> Hebrews 6:10</p>	
<p><i>"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."</i> - Genesis 2:15</p>	
<p><i>"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom."</i> - Ecclesiastes 9:10</p>	
<p><i>"For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.' We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat."</i> - 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12</p>	
<p><i>Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy</i></p>	



God's inspired text	General note
<p><i>suffered outside her door. Ezekiel 16:49</i></p> <p><i>The thief must no longer steal. Instead, he must do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. Ephesians 4:28</i></p> <p><i>Then the servant who had been given one bag of gold came to the master and said, 'Master, I knew that you were a hard man. You harvest things you did not plant. You gather crops where you did not sow any seed. So I was afraid and went and hid your money in the ground. Here is your bag of gold. The master answered, 'You are a wicked and lazy servant! You say you knew that I harvest things I did not plant and that I gather crops where I did not sow any seed. So you should have put my gold in the bank. Then, when I came home, I would have received my gold back with interest. "So the master told his other servants, 'Take the bag of gold from that servant and give it to the servant who has ten bags of gold. Those who have much will get more, and they will have much more than they need. But those who do not have much will have everything taken away from them.' Then the master said, 'Throw that useless servant outside, into the darkness where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain.' Matthew 25:24-30</i></p>	



7. A VIRUS

"Slapgat" is like a very dangerous virus!

Why, because Mr Y sees a person "resting", taking long smoke breaks, always off work, coming in late or leaving early and/or finishing very little work within a day and guess what?

Mr Y starts arguing that if Mr X can be slack and get away with it, why should he do all the work and work so hard? Slowly Mr Y starts doing less and less and starts copying Mr X, then Mr A sees what is happening and starts copying the behaviour and soon the whole department is doing as little as possible. The "Slapgat Virus" has unfortunately spread and is duplicating...

This is unfortunately a Virus that does not have a well-defined solution or antidote!

There are some treatments, but they do not solve the problem, these include:

- **Motivational talks** – works for a while, but if the staff are not SELF Motivated, they fall back into their old lazy habit;
- **Higher Salaries** – works for a while, but then staff expects the same increases in future;
- **Bonus** – especially if linked to performance, but will force someone to only focus on their Key Performance Criteria and ignore the rest and if their KPCs are not well defined, it is also a problem. This is also not a natural way to keep people motivated and productive;
- **Overtime payments** – what is the chances that people will work slowly during the day and not finish their work, so that they have a reason to work overtime? Or what is the guarantee that they will work hard after hours?

We need a natural motivator (people should want to work hard naturally, not for themselves, not for their boss, but for GOD).

8. IN CLOSING

Apart from Solomon stating the many consequences of being Lazy, God really want us all to do our work (no matter what) with all our heart and pride as if working directly for the Lord and not for human masters... You should do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and he will reward you. If everybody does their work as if working directly for God, I am sure that "Slapgat" virus will die a horrible death!

The above will be the natural way of motivation and productivity as opposed to fabricated ways. All the negative consequences down the line as a result of "Slapgat" will be gone and our country and the world will be a better place.



We are humans, not animals:



Source: <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com>

Do NOT cause these examples:

<p>You do not obey the road rules, resulting in the following secondary impacts on others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone behind you gets frustrated • That person's blood pressure goes up • This in the long run will probably shorten their lives • The frustrated person behind you takes out their frustration on their spouse and children • This causes fights and arguments. The parent might say something bad that stays with that child for the rest of their lives (e.g. <i>"you will achieve nothing in life"</i> and negatively impact them • That child might one day develop depression and commit suicide • The argument between man and wife might be a catalyst for divorce • A divorce will impact the children 	<p>You do not help clients fast and well at a service counter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You probably cause frustrated clients • This also pushes up their Blood Pressure with the same secondary impacts as mentioned in the left column • They might start talking about their negative experience at company X • You and others could stop going to Company X as a result • Your Company X experience a drop in sales • Your Company X might pay smaller salary increases or smaller bonuses • Your Company X might even go so far to lay-off people • Laying off people have a string of secondary negative consequences • YOU and YOUR "Slapgat" attitude might be one of those laid off !
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You may not know it, but your "Slapgat" attitude could have many hidden and negative consequences!



RECAP QUESTIONS:

NO	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
1	After reading this article, give your own definition of "Slapgat"?	
2	After reading this article, what % (out of 100%) are you in terms of "Slapgat"?	
3	Name the three most important factors needed in Business?	
4	What is the link between "Slapgat" and Change?	
5	Take your business you work for and think of a number of negative consequences if most staff become "Slapgat" in your company?	
6		

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