

The slide features a purple and blue border. In the top left corner, there is a small circular logo with a yellow '8' inside a blue ring. The main title 'The 8 Omega Framework' is centered at the top in a bold, black font. Below the title, the date 'December 2004 - Overview' is displayed. To the right of the date is a large, 3D-style circular logo with a blue background and a yellow '8' inside a yellow ring. Below the date and logo is the BPM GROUP logo, which consists of a blue globe icon with four arrows pointing outwards, followed by the text 'BPM GROUP' and 'THE CATALYST FOR CHANGE' with the website 'www.bpmg.org' below it. At the bottom left, there is a smaller version of the BPM GROUP logo with the word 'TRAINING' in a pink box. On the bottom right, there are three navigation links: '▶ BPMG community web site', '▶ 8 Omega Education', and '▶ 8 Omega home at BPMG'.

8 Omega Online Training: “Understanding Business Challenges”

by Doug Kirkpatrick

8 Omega Online Training has arrived! “Understanding Business Challenges”, the first course in the online series from the Business Process Management Group, exudes rich content for the busy executive who wants to get up to speed fast on the hottest topic in business today, Business Process Management (BPM). There is a LOT of serious content here for those who are ready to take the next step and rigorously comprehend the business drivers of BPM.

A user can easily absorb the simple directions for using the online training in a minute or two. Simplicity is a key strength of this training: directions are crystal clear, module segments are repeatable, and there is a pause button for user-defined breaks. Significantly, the structure and flow of the courses and modules is smart--very smart.

As someone who has tested and reviewed other online training products, my advice to users is: eliminate distractions, don't rush, repeat segments as needed, and take good notes! I managed to scribble eight full pages of letter-sized-legal-pad notes on the first course, and that didn't include ancillary “footnotes” squished into the margins. Taking

notes powerfully reinforced my own learning process, and created a useful outline to boot.

The first course has four descriptively-named modules, consisting of 1) Business Challenges, 2) Functional Organizational Models, 3) Reliance on Technology Silver Bullets and 4) Clarity of Direction. Each of these modules, taken separately, constitutes an argument for an effective framework to holistically address business needs. Taken together, they are another forceful reminder that businesses must either successfully adapt to change or die.

Benefits of the 8 Omega approach are made clear at the outset: corporate health, adaptability to market changes, and competitive advantage. The framework is comprehensive, cross-functional, sustainable and enabling. It is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Of course, the “end” never really arrives, since business process management and improvement is a never-ending virtuous cycle of enhanced business performance.

Users should think of their own business challenges while training online. My hunch is that the training will unleash a torrent of ideas regarding the user’s business—while the training is underway.

8 Omega Online Training is elegant, simple, content-rich and beneficial. It should be considered by all businesses seeking to improve performance in a strong and sustained way.