

Spider and the Starfish

1. In the seventeenth century, why were the Spaniards unable to defeat the Apaches? What implications does this have concerning current, or future organizational competition?

The Spaniards attempts to defeat the Apaches were met with failure due to the fact that, unlike the Aztecs, they were organized in a decentralized society. When the Spaniards took out a leader more would spring up to take their place.

2. Briefly compare and contrast centralized and decentralized organizations.

In a centralized organization you have a strictly defined chain of command, so if you wanted to take out the organization you could strategically choose your targets. In a decentralized organization the idea of leadership is a much more fluid concept, there aren't any true key individuals and the more you attack them the more decentralized they become.

3. List a few of the traits of a decentralized organization.

- Not lead by a single leader
- Open communication between members
- Multiple member have decision making ability

4. From a technical perspective, what is the primary difference between Napster and Kazza?

Napster was more centralized with its own servers which made it a target when studio began cracking down on P2P piracy. Kazza on the other hand did not have its own central server clients were directly linked to other clients computers to download files.

5. Is this reading relevant to the current competition between new organizations such as Uber and Lyft and existing taxi companies? Why or why not?

Yes the reading is relevant in the case of businesses like Uber and Lyft vs taxi companies. In this case companies like Uber take the place of the Apaches and taxi companies the Spaniards. The taxi companies do what they can to keep out the other companies but by the time they push one out another is ready to take its place.