



# ONE EIGHTY

A new perspective for your enterprise performance

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2014

## Bungee Jump

Training outside of the U.S. is like a paid vacation and real opportunity to see the world, experience new adventures, and to meet new people. The best way to do this is arrive a day or two early and stay a day or two after the training to see the country and explore opportunities.

A great experience was in San Jose Costa Rica where Jim Schmook and I were invited to teach a two day Activity-Based Costing seminar at INCAE University. As it turns out, Costa Rica has one of the 10 best bungee cord jumping sites in the world. Who could refuse that opportunity?

The jump is off the Puente Viejo (Old Bridge) over the Rio Colorado River 80 meters below. Looking down from the bridge it looked like 80 miles.

This isn't a jump where they lower you to the ground to take off your gear. Too far down and no way to get you back up. So... a line is dropped. You grab the line and you're pulled up from the canyon back to the bridge.

I couldn't help but notice that the pulley used to bring the jumper up was attached to the bumper of a rather old car. Once given the OK the car moves forward slowly to pull the jumper out of the canyon.

There are two ways to do a Bungee Cord Jump. It's a choice between jumping or diving off the bridge. I chose to dive and suited up, making sure that the harness was firmly attached. It took a few minutes for my cold feet to thaw out and the fear to subside before I did a bad image of a swan dive, pretending to dive into the river below.

The free fall doesn't last very long, maybe 20-30 seconds until the bungee cord is fully stretched like a rubber band and shoots you up in the air again and again. You keep going up and down until you're finally just hanging there.

It takes a minute or two to lower the rope so you can grab it and get pulled back to the bridge. Hanging there while trying to grab the line took some time and got more difficult as the wind picked up.

Finally snagged and ready to get pulled back up, a little panic sets in because nothing's happening, I'm just hanging there thinking the old car won't start and if I survive this experience I'll never do it again. Finally, tension and shortly thereafter I'm on the bridge.

My friend Jim decided not to jump and the instructor asked me if I wanted to jump again. Sure I said, but this time feet first.

*Think before you leap? ...  
John A. Miller*

## Upcoming Events

- APQC 2014 Knowledge Management Conference April 7-11 Houston TX
- Calculating and Reporting Customer Profitability Seminar.
  - Chicago April 14-15
  - San Francisco April 28-29
  - New York June 24-25

## People in the News

- Eyal Altman promoted to VP Finance & Strategic Management at Elkay Manufacturing
- Greg Siuciak promoted to VP Global Finance at Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Christian Babbini celebrating his 26 anniversary at Decimal