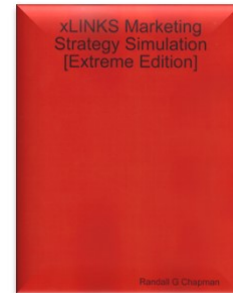


"I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand." - Confucius

The xLINKS Marketing Strategy Simulation [Extreme Edition] is a sophisticated, team-based, business management simulation. xLINKS combines marketing strategy elements from the LINKS Marketing Strategy Simulation and supply chain management elements from the LINKS Supply Chain Management Simulation to create an "extreme" competitive marketing strategy and supply chain management simulation.



LINKS firms are manufacturers in the simulated set-top box industry. LINKS industries may have as many as eight competing teams (four to six firms per industry are typical), with simultaneous parallel industries accommodating larger class sizes.

The xLINKS Marketing Strategy Simulation [Extreme Edition] engages participants in all aspects of marketing strategy and supply chain management: strategy (segmentation, market selection, differential advantage, and product-line portfolio management), analysis (of customers, segments, markets, competitors, and environment), planning, marketing mix management, and supply chain management (procurement, manufacturing, distribution, and transportation). It emphasizes product and service product-line portfolio management through indirect and direct channels in multiple categories and market regions. Managing the interrelationships between demand and supply is a major theme in the xLINKS Marketing Strategy Simulation [Extreme Edition].

Extensive marketing research resources are available to LINKS firms, including competitive benchmarking, market statistics, positioning analysis, customer satisfaction tracking, concept testing, price sensitivity analysis, market potential analysis, test marketing, conjoint analysis, market attractiveness analysis, value maps, and brand-switching analysis.

Learning Emphases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing marketing opportunities. • Formulating and executing marketing strategy (product-line management via segmentation, targeting, and positioning). • Market entry strategies and tactics. • Enhancing and encouraging fact-based analysis and decision making. • Marketing analysis and the interpretation of marketing data. • Competitive analysis, dynamics, and rivalry. • Coordinating marketing programs and operations capabilities. • Exposure to major supply chain elements and to their interactions. • Balance and managing trade-offs in supply chains. • Manage information flows and integration of information within supply chain management decision-making. • Coping with environmental uncertainty.
Target Courses	Marketing strategy, strategic marketing, marketing capstone, and business strategy courses where marketing strategy and supply chain management are central to the course focus and where a "substantial" simulation experience is desired.
Simulation Administration	LINKS Simulations provides web-based remote administration of LINKS events. There's no software to download/install. Participants use their favorite web browser to access the LINKS Simulation Database to input decisions and retrieve results (a Word doc file) after simulation rounds.
Instructor Support	Randy Chapman (Chapman@LINKS-simulations.com) provides direct-from-the-author support to instructors throughout LINKS events, including pre-course counseling and course design with LINKS.

LINKS resources, including the participant's manual and extensive instructor resources, are conveniently accessible via the LINKS website (<http://www.LINKS-simulations.com>).