

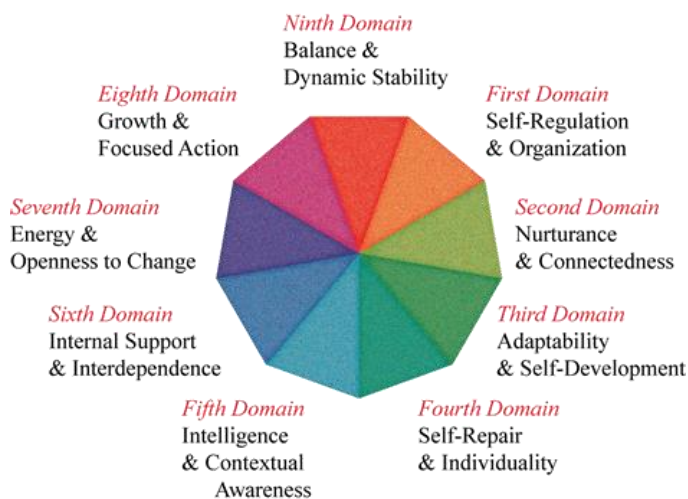
NINE DOMAINS

The Nine Domains are the nine essential components of **complex systems**, be they natural or designed by humans. When each of the Nine Domains are present *and* they are in balance, the entire system thrives. Domains can, however, be missing or distorted. Such imbalances not only diminish the performance of a system, but may also threaten its survival.

The Nine Domains are a new way of talking about a complete whole with interrelated parts. As such, they are a “check list for completeness” (**Don Riso**) and can be applied to the:

- development of a team,
- analysis of a particular problem, or
- evaluation of an entire complex situation or crisis.

The following are the **archetypal elements** of each Domain. Many other words and concepts also apply to each Domain, depending on the level of analysis or application one wishes to make in an actual case.



These 18 Key Words are simply a beginning point for understanding and using the Nine Domains in a wide variety of settings. The following table gives a few more of each Domain’s qualities to fill in the picture of the range and depth of each Domain.

Don Riso who conceptualized The Nine Domains

Approachsm, is respected throughout the world for his work with the Enneagram. With his writing and teaching partner, Russ Hudson, they have discovered many previously unknown aspects of the Enneagram. They are known for conceptual breakthroughs in Enneagram theory that have wide-ranging practical applications. The Riso-Hudson tradition of profound insights, creative thinking, clear writing, and engaging teaching are carried forward by the Nine Domains Group (Monika Adelfang, Barry Coltham, Joni Peddie, and Joyce Stenstrom).

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Domain Integrity | Honesty, fairness, impeccability, wisdom, impartiality, discernment, conscientiousness, congruence, truthfulness, purpose |
| 2nd Domain Service | Nurturance and self-nurturance, unselfishness, empathy, attunement to others, concern, appreciation, encouragement |
| 3rd Domain Self-Development | Inner-direction, modesty, self-acceptance, authenticity, self-assurance, admirability, poise, accomplishment, focus |
| 4th Domain Self-Expression | Introspection, self-awareness, intuition, sensitivity, honesty with self, discretion, emotional strength, meaningfulness |
| 5th Domain Knowledge | Profundity, curiosity, pioneering, insightfulness, objectivity, perceptiveness, originality, inventiveness |
| 6th Domain Mutual Support | Groundedness, interdependence, fortitude, reliability, preparedness, faithfulness, devotion, mutuality |
| 7th Domain Energy | Appreciation, receptivity, satisfaction, joyfulness, enthusiasm, resilience, vivaciousness, productiveness, versatility |
| 8th Domain Decisive Action | Courage, self-surrender, majesty, self-confidence, strength, action-orientation, empowerment, protectiveness |
| 9th Domain Dynamic Stability | Self-possession, serenity, presence, peacefulness, flow, naturalness, optimism, humility, inclusivity, patience |

Remember, the Nine Domains are abstract expressions of human activity, thoughts, beliefs, and universal needs. They encompass the whole of our personal and interpersonal lives.

Each Domain is absolutely necessary for a thriving and surviving system. One can be assured that when working with the Nine Domains material, you will not be overlooking an important element of a possible solution. With confidence in the completeness of the Nine Domains, one has the freedom to “unpack” problems or challenges, and not merely address symptoms. We can go as far as we need to with this conceptual vehicle. As such, this approach becomes a “**check list for completeness**” and can be applied to the development of a team, the analysis of a particular problem, or the evaluation of an entire complex situation or crisis.

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 8/21/2022