



The ProfileXT

Executive Summary



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of The ProfileXT™ Technical Manual

INTRODUCTION

In these days of change, one of the primary goals for business is staying a step ahead of unpredictability. To maximize certainty and reduce expenses, the key strategic advantage for most companies is maintaining the performance of their employees. Employees who are well matched to their position have higher attendance records, less turnover, higher job satisfaction and superior job performance. Both the employee and the employer share the benefits of enhanced job matching and the company is better prepared for changes in the business world.

One recent change at Profiles International, Inc. is definitely an *advantage* for companies looking to enhance their workforce: our flagship selection product, The Profile, has advanced to become the ProfileXT™. The ProfileXT is designed to facilitate achieving the best possible job fit. Our clients use The ProfileXT to make effective job placements, develop effective work teams, to design optimal training programs based on the trainees' style of learning, to help supervisors determine which approach will work best when working with a particular employee, to help develop succession plans, etc.

The Profile is a psychometric instrument whose roots extend over the last twenty-six years. More than one hundred and sixteen thousand job applicants and incumbents have participated in its development. These sample groups represent a diverse cross section of ages, ethnic groups, income levels, educational levels, job titles, companies and industries. The ProfileXT is the product of collaboration between several test development psychologists and specialists coordinated by Profiles International, Inc.

The ProfileXT investigates several areas (Behavioral Traits, Occupational Interests, and Thinking Style) as a part of evaluating how an individual fits into a particular job. By reviewing broad areas of occupational interests, behavioral traits and thinking style, we expand our ability to discover which areas will be most effective in determining job fit for a given position. By attending to each of the three areas, we enhance the opportunity to identify the factors that will lead to the best job fit.

USING JOB MATCH PATTERNS

The job match process for The ProfileXT is an effective approach that minimizes the time required to efficiently describe jobs, people, and their degree of match. The descriptive process usually starts by examining the score pattern of those who are most successful within a position and those who seem to be overly challenged by the position. From this information, a pattern of scores across the various dimensions measured by The ProfileXT may be developed to serve as the initial "success profile," or Job Match Pattern, upon which the job matching is based.

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The ProfileXT allows concurrent study of available incumbents, job requirement assessments by those who know the job, preliminary job patterns from the Profiles International pattern library and a combination of these. Even with a small sample, you will have a good place to start the process and an approach that will allow further refinement of the job pattern with on-going evaluation. It should be noted that this initial success profile is continuously updated as more empirical information becomes available. This is important as a part of continually maintaining the job relevance of any process used in employee placement.

Based on this “success profile” knowledge of what is necessary for success in a position, we can build a Job Match Pattern for each factor. This pattern consists of a range along each scale in which the scores of the most effective performers tend to fall. The farther outside this range (Job Match Pattern) a score falls, the less likely there will be a good fit of that individual to the job in regard to that particular factor. In the ProfileXT reports, job match is reported as a percent match to a specific Job Match Pattern. This allows for a variation between persons who may still share a good job fit to a position.

By using a Job Match Pattern, it becomes easy to quickly identify individuals that will tend to fit well into positions, and in what way they might have adjustments to make. This information is important for both job placement and job training.

The scores on each scale of The ProfileXT are reported on a STEN (10-point) scale starting with a one at the low end and going to a ten on the high end. The raw scores have been normed so that the distribution of scores for the typical working population will fall on each scale with a normal distribution. In other words, on each scale about 2/3rds of the scores will fall at 4, 5, 6 or 7, and as you move toward either end of the scale, the frequency of scores will taper off.

Once a good Job Match Pattern has been established, it may be used to evaluate the match to that job for anyone who has taken The ProfileXT. The Job Match Pattern is composed of a range of scores for each scale. Because they are not absolute, the typical pattern will be three to five units wide. This range represents the area in which those who are expected to fit most easily into the job will score. The farther outside this range (pattern) a score falls, the less likely there will be a good fit of that individual to the job in regard to that particular factor. As mentioned earlier, job match is reported as a percent match to a specific Job Match Pattern.

The range of reported job matches is reported from 25% to 95%. A match percentage is provided for each of the three sections (Thinking Style, Occupational Interests, and Behavioral Traits) as well as for the total match. The higher the match reported, the higher the expectancy that the individual will fit well in the job under consideration. While this Job Match Pattern approach to matching individuals to a job provides information of great value and should be an important part of the placement decision, remember that the results from any test should never make up more than a third of the final decision.

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THE THREE SECTIONS OF The ProfileXT

The Behavioral Traits Section

Description

The Behavioral Traits section consists of nine Behavioral Traits scales and a Distortion scale. The nine scales are Energy Level, Assertiveness, Sociability, Manageability, Attitude, Decisiveness, Accommodation, Independence and Objective Judgment. A description of each is found in the Technical Manual and the User's Guide for The ProfileXT.

The research for this section spans more than twenty years. Between 1992 and 1998 alone, more than 12,000 job applicants and incumbents were administered the Behavioral Traits scales. In the last year alone, this section has been administered to tens of thousands as part of its ongoing development and improvement including the maintenance of up to date norms. The Technical Manual summarizes the results of our validation projects, which examine the relationship between the Behavioral Traits scales and a diverse range of criteria.

The results of these projects provide consistent and substantial support for the predictive validity of the Behavioral Traits section. Correlations between Behavioral Traits scale scores and measures of sales success, management performance, customer service, conscientiousness, turnover and organizational status were consistently strong (correlation coefficients in the middle .40's).

As an example of the findings, the Energy Level scale and Assertiveness scale tend to be significantly related to sales success, management performance and organizational status. The ProfileXT's Attitude, Accommodating and Judgment scales tend to be significantly related to customer service effectiveness, employee conscientiousness and turnover.

Reliability

Reliability refers to how consistently an assessment measures what it measures. Acceptable levels of reliability are generally acceptable if .70 or higher. Reliabilities for the nine Behavioral Traits scales for a sample of 28,071 job applicants and incumbents were computed. Coefficient alpha reliabilities for the nine Behavioral Traits scales for this sample averaged .82, ranging from a low of .78 for the Energy Level, to a high of .89 for the Sociability scale.

Reliability analyses indicate that the nine Behavioral Traits scales are reliable and produce consistent results.

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Validity

With regard to the internal validity of the Behavioral Traits section, an analysis of the correlation among the Behavioral Traits scales indicated a pattern of converging and diverging relationships that are clearly consistent with expectations based on the constructs being measured.

Construct validity studies report good congruence with other measures of Behavioral Traits such as the California Psychological Inventory, the Guilford-Zimmerman Temperament Survey and the Gordon Personal Profile-Inventory.

Studies have shown that the Behavioral Traits scales are effective in making placements for a good job fit. To summarize the results of some of the studies reported in the technical manual:

- High positive correlation between related scales.
- Negative correlation between polar opposite scales.
- Insignificant correlation between unrelated scales.
- Good correlation between scale scores and measures of job performance

In summary, statistical analysis of the nine scales of the ProfileXT Behavioral Traits section clearly indicates that they provide a highly reliable and accurate measure of various relevant dimensions of normal adult personality that are useful for predicting a number of important business-related criteria.

The Occupational Interest Section

Description

It can be argued that the greater the degree of similarity between a person's interests and the occupational interests of those who have demonstrated success in a job, the more likely it is that there will be a successful match, which means that the person will be more satisfied, remain in their job longer and be motivated to perform the job better. The results of our studies clearly support this "Best Fit" job screening and placement strategy.

The Occupational Interest Section contains 110 activities in 55 paired sets. The test taker selects one activity from each pair to express his or her level of personal interest. This section of the ProfileXT was specifically developed to measure an individual's interest in the six major occupational themes. The six occupational themes are Enterprising, Financial/Administrative, People Service, Technical, Mechanical and Creative. They are also described in both the Technical Manual and the User's Guide for The ProfileXT.

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Reliability

Coefficient alpha is a statistical measure of reliability. The higher a test's coefficient alpha, the more consistent the questions are for that test. Coefficient alphas for the Occupational Interests scales range from .71 to .86. The average coefficient alpha for the six occupational scales is .80.

Validity

A diverse range of relevant criterion groups such as sales, financial, construction and architects tend to have occupational interest profiles that are consistent with the scale meanings. In addition, work outcome measures such as turnover and work performance have been demonstrated to be significantly related to Occupational Interest Section scale scores.

Analysis of the Occupational Interest Section has indicated the following:

- The Occupational Interest Section contains six scales that are internally consistent and independent from each other.
- The Occupational Interest Section is a highly reliable measuring instrument.
- The Occupational Interest Section has been shown to categorize or classify job applicants and employed individuals in ways that are consistent with the scale meanings.
- High point scale patterns have been shown to be significantly related to specific occupational groups.
- The Occupational Interest Section has been shown to predict statistically significant differences in average scale scores for diverse occupational groups and for work outcome measures.

The Thinking Style Section

Description

The Learning Index score in the Thinking Style section is a composite of four subscales: Verbal Skill, Verbal Reasoning, Numerical Ability and Numeric Reasoning. It is an index of expected learning, reasoning and problem solving ability. Typically, the more easily an individual processes information, the greater the pace at which they may learn those skills that are used on the job. Often, maximizing that learning means finding the approach that will make the most of their available learning skills.

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The relationship between Thinking Style section scores and job performance criteria has been demonstrated across a variety of positions in different industries. In the development of The ProfileXT, a sample of 3,260 individuals have been evaluated in 52 studies examining 110 job titles in 15 industries. The results reported support the effectiveness of scores on the Thinking Style section in predicting job performance.

In studies performed where the entire set of individual scores were considered through building an overall composite profile resulting in a profile score and/or general rating, the Thinking Style section scores demonstrated no adverse impact on any protected group.

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AN ILLUSTRATION OF The ProfileXT AT WORK

A study for a large, nationwide sales company is presented in the Technical Manual as a typical application for The ProfileXT. The results demonstrate how The ProfileXT produces information that significantly improves the employee selection and placement process within an organization. More importantly, this process improvement saves companies a substantial amount of money and time.

The employer initially provided a list of the 12 top performers so that they could be used to develop the Job Match Pattern. The criterion was from an in-house process that the company routinely uses to assess the performance of their sales people.

The standard software was utilized to build a Job Match Pattern using the 12 top performers. This was done using the software's integral Concurrent Study process. The resulting Top Performer Job Match Pattern was used for all subsequent job matching.

All subjects (including, but not limited to the original set of top performers) were matched against the resulting Top Performer Job Match Pattern with a 79% or greater match designated as an acceptable matching point. Analysis yielded the following results:

- Of those twelve Top Performers identified by the employer, 92% matched the pattern at or above the matching point.
- Of the 15 bottom performers (as identified by the employer), only 20% matched the pattern at or above the matching point.
- Of the remaining subjects who were identified as performing in the middle range, approximately one-half matched the pattern at or above the matching point (selection rate, 52%).

To summarize the study:

- Approximately 9 out of 10 of the top performers were selected as a good match to the Job Match Pattern while 4 out of 5 of the poor performers were not selected.
- While only 54% of the current sales people were selected as a good match to the Job Match Pattern, 92% of the most successful sales persons were included in that selected group, and only 20% of those who seem to be challenged by the position were included.
- More than half of the salespersons selected were proven top performers (52%)

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS—THE PROFILE

In conclusion, the concurrent and predictive validity data summarized in the ProfileXT Technical Manual consistently support the thesis that employees well matched with their occupations and with the organizations in which they are employed are inclined to be satisfied, to remain with their employer, and to be productive employees. A diverse range of relevant criterion groups such as sales, administrative, management and supervisors tend to have profiles that are predicted and are consistent with the scale meanings.

Work outcome measures such as turnover and work performance have also been demonstrated to be significantly related to scale scores. The ProfileXT provides accurate and useful information for pre-employment screening/placement and for occupational and career guidance.

The ProfileXT is designed to facilitate placing persons in the best jobs by building Job Match Patterns and using an Overall Match percentage when reviewing an individual for possible placement. By building Job Match Patterns with either actual top performers (concurrent study method) or by analysis of a job by those who know the job well (job analysis survey method) and with the aid of preliminary patterns from the pattern library, a valid job pattern may be developed.

Because the overall match to a Job Match Pattern blends information about an individual's fit in thinking style, occupational interests and behavioral traits, the impact of any one scale is only a small portion of the total. This helps protect against introducing any disparate impact into the placement process.

In one study presented in the Technical Manual, more than 500 ethnically mixed individuals (White, Asian, African-American and Hispanic) were matched to Job Match Patterns in four diverse jobs (Customer Service Representative, Administrative Assistant, Human Resource Manager and Sales). Using the government's rule of 4/5th as a criterion, no adverse impact was noted.

Taken all together, the full process used with The ProfileXT is designed to help one understand what is required for success in a job and then know how well a given individual will fit into that job. Employers enjoy success in making good job placements when they use The ProfileXT to find out what is relevant for success in a position and to measure those things well. As we said initially, the key strategic advantage for most companies is the performance of their employees. The ProfileXT has proven to be an excellent tool for matching employees to the jobs that will maximize their performance.