

The Weakest Link Sets the Pace for the Whole: Theory of Constraints

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Look at a factory's machines one by one, and most of them seem to be running busily, yet the finished products never come out as fast as expected. Parts pile up like a mountain in front of one machine, while the machines after it often stand idle with nothing to do. Everyone is working hard, but the speed of the whole is tied to the single slowest spot. The idea that puts this phenomenon at the center of management is the "Theory of Constraints." Simply put, the Theory of Constraints is "a management theory holding that the performance of any system is determined by its single weakest link, th