

## Virtuous Cycles, Vicious Cycles and Flexiscribes

**Flexiscribes** (mechanisms that code for flexibility) can enable **virtuous cycles** in business. Think of how the electric part of a hybrid car engine provides an alternative power source to petrol - the hybrid engine is an automated flexiscribe. The more vehicle miles covered using self-supporting electric power, the less reliance on finite, fossil fuels. And the less vehicle pollution emissions too. The less reliance & pollution, the more demand for the hybrid car will grow. Hence the virtuous cycle. Then if you add say automated business premises monitoring & video conferencing technology (two more automated flexiscribes), fewer commuter car journeys are needed too. Causing even less reliance on fossil fuels & pollution emissions.

Virtuous cycles don't have to be invigorated using just combinations of **automated** flexiscribes. Combinations of **automated & manual** flexiscribes (courier home deliveries & automated business monitoring), or combinations of **purely manual** flexiscribes (courier home deliveries & flexitime work practices) can be invoked also.

A key point is that the best chance of solving complex problems may be to turn explicitly to flexiscribes for answers. At worst, they'll be a catalyst. At best, they can be a self-adjusting solution and salvation.

Likewise, inserting flexibility into a **vicious cycle** doesn't just have to lead to an alternative form of 'death spiral'. But can act to convert vicious spiral into virtuous cycle. What are a few examples of such flexiscribes?

- Counter-balances (the keel of a sailing boat, the ABS brake system in a modern car etc).
- Business risk hedging devices e.g. insurance or portfolio risk diversification are another example.

Food for thought?

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