



ActKnowledge
Theory to Results

THEORY OF CHANGE ONLINE

Presentation Overview

- TOC Basics
- Issues with conventional methods
- TOC Online solutions
- When and Where to find it



ActKnowledge
Theory to Results

Introduction to TOC Online

Theory Of Change

...is a systematic exploration of the links between activities, outcomes, and context.



Elements Of A Theory Of Change

A pathway of change that shows the connections between long term, intermediate and early outcomes

Statements that explain how the intervention fits along the pathway of change

Justifications that explain why the initiative expects change to occur



Theory of Change: Why Develop One?

Participatory process

Creates realistic program expectations

Creates a safe place to be reflective

Can improve evaluation

Allows others to understand what you
are doing



Uses of Theory of Change

Decision-making: Whether to take on an activity or not

Alignment of program activities with goals

Communication of message

Evaluation



Other Advantages

Stakeholders are asked to be clear about their assumptions

Gaps between steps and outcomes become evident

Novel solutions may emerge

The initiative is more likely to be effective



And more...

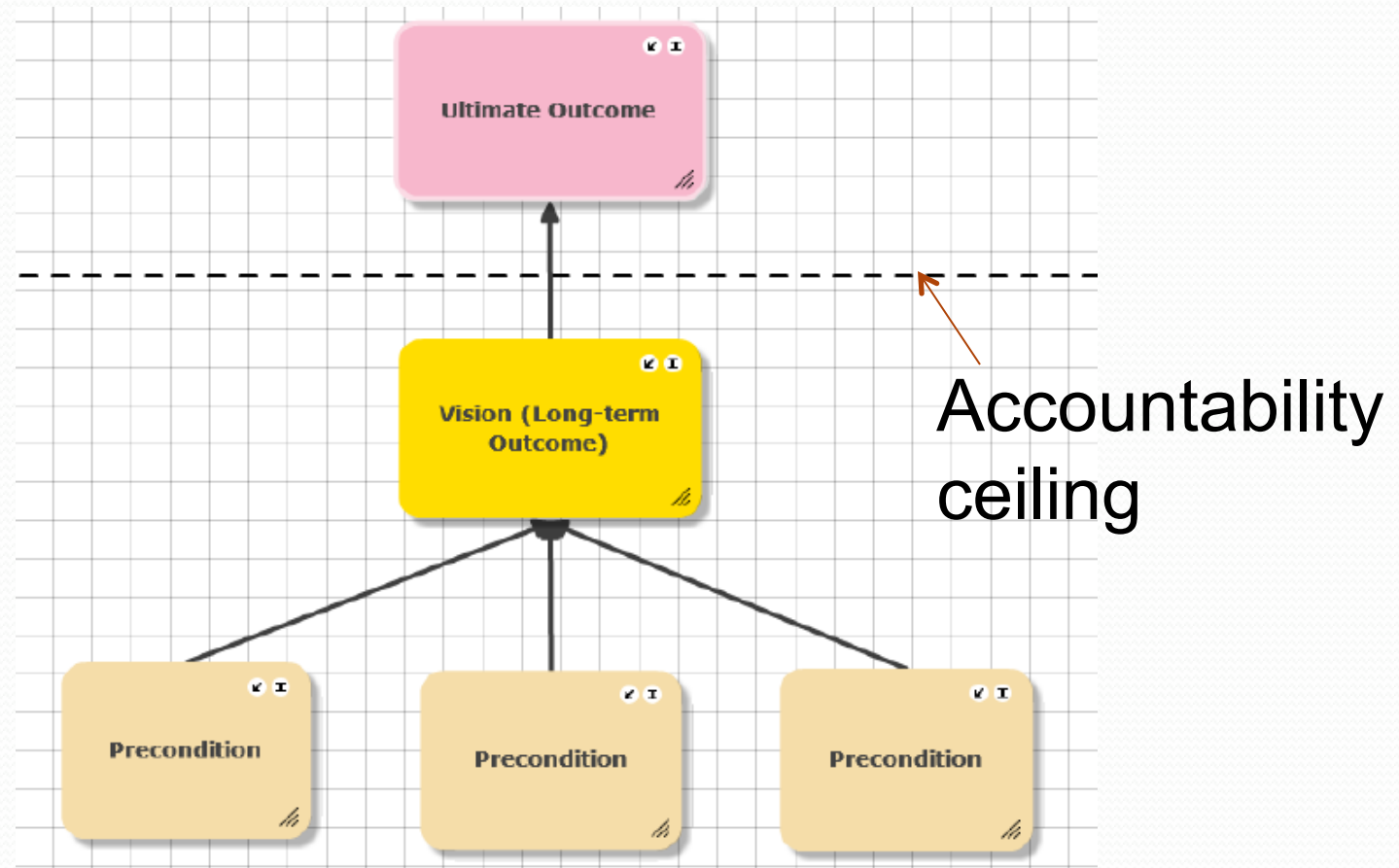
Evaluations based on a theory carry more weight

Evaluation plans and criteria are transparent to everyone

Creates a broader base of knowledge

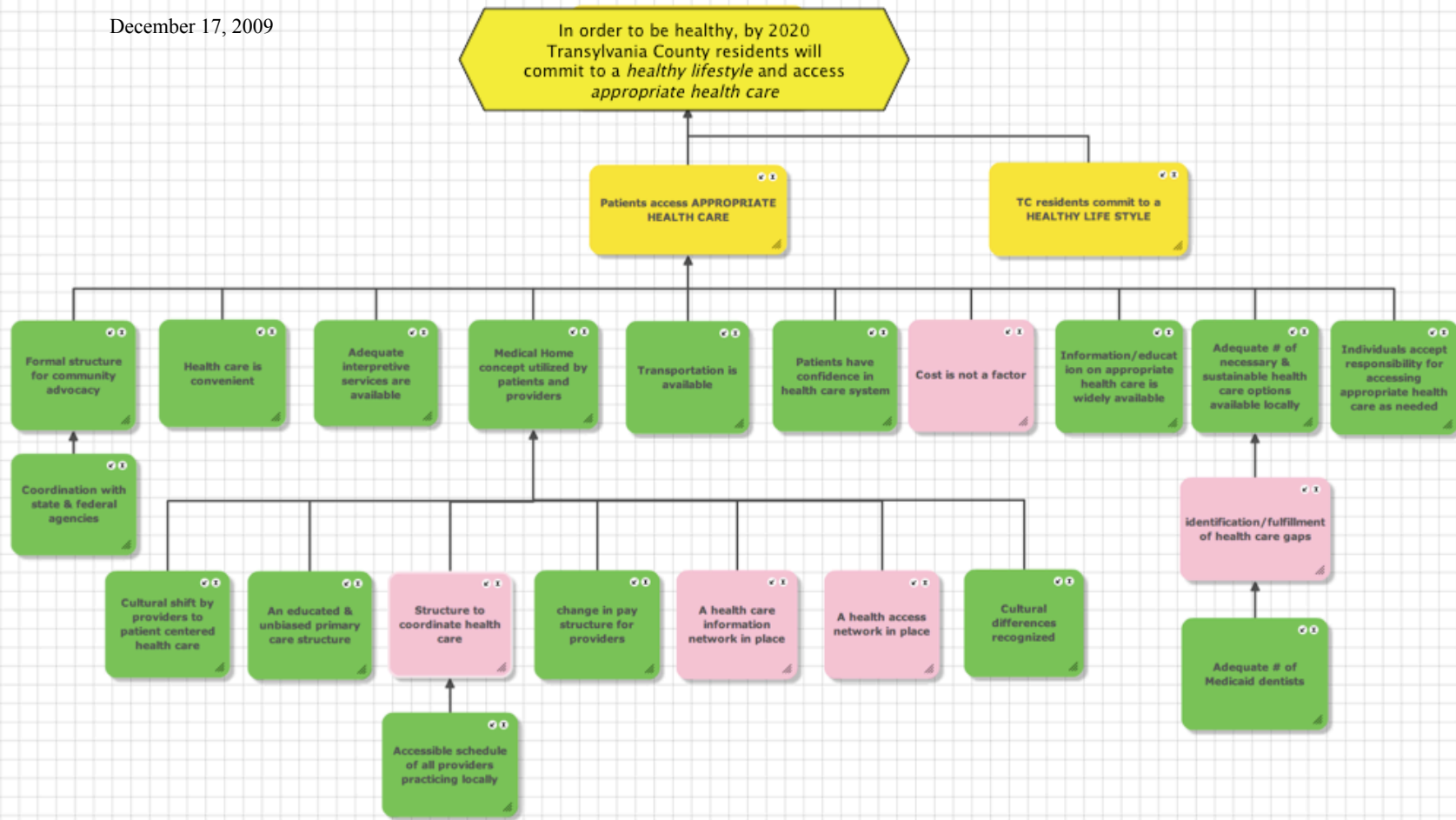


Visual Logic



Mapping a Causal Pathway

December 17, 2009



Issues with Conventional Methods of Capturing the TOC

Needs to be in electronic format for dissemination,
saving old versions, etc.

Continuous revision requires drawing software

Many pieces of information to store and organize

Difficult to get input from everyone who needs to
have say in theory construction

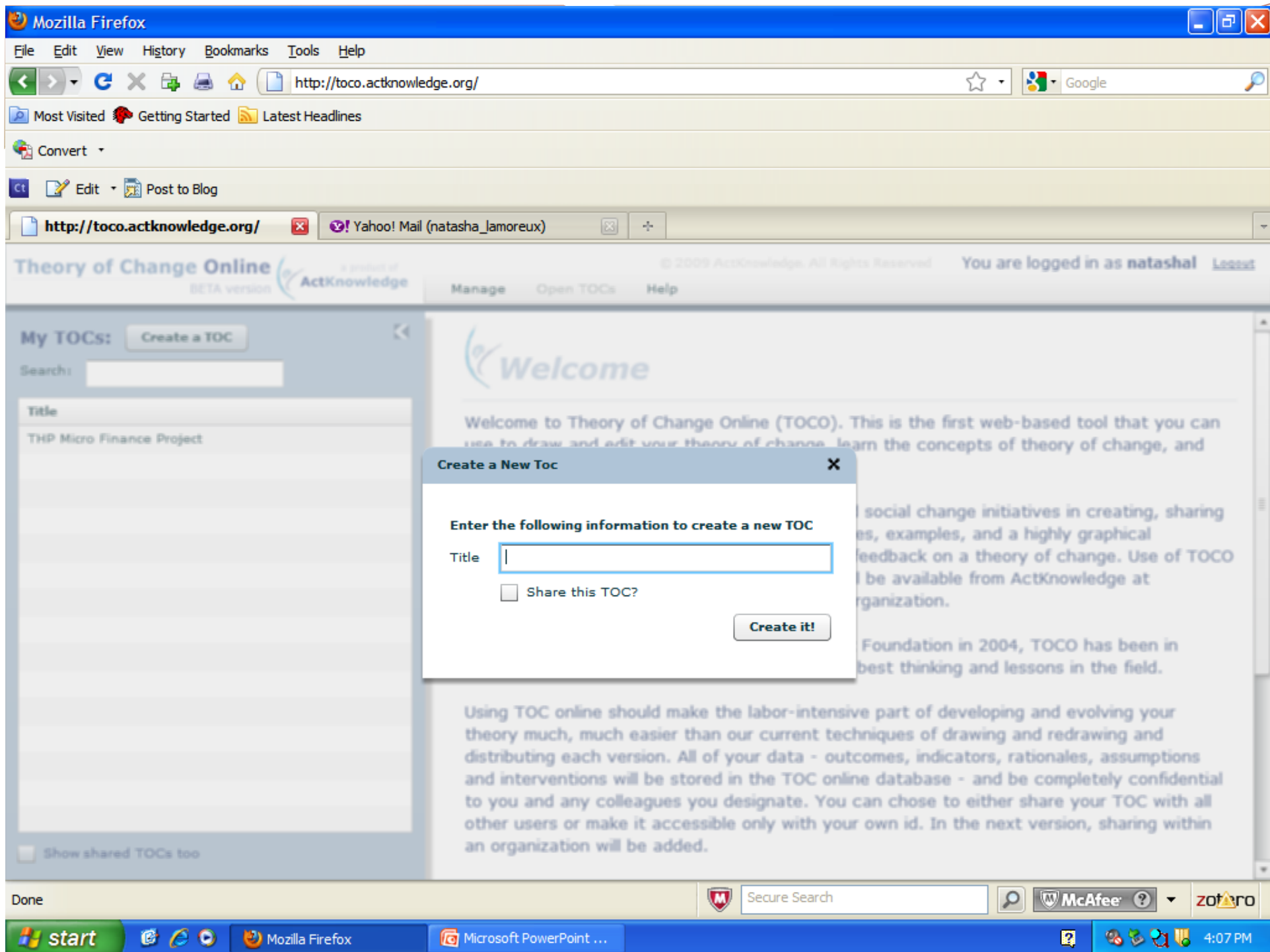


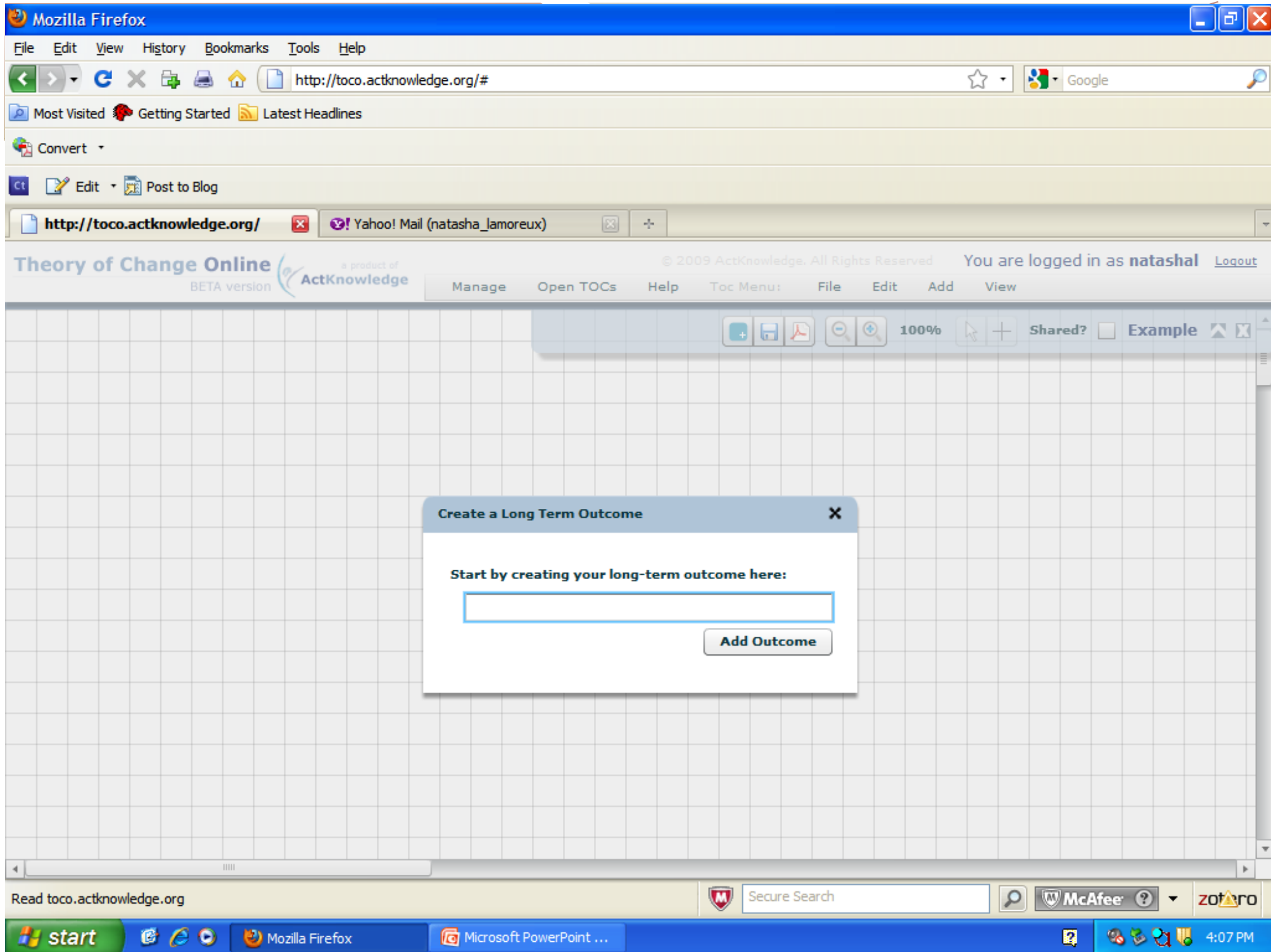
Theory of Change Online: A Tool

Theory of Change Online (TOCO) is a tool designed to address some of the issues with the Traditional Method.

- Create and edit TOC maps
- Storage and organization of information
- Maps can be shared







Outcome Editor

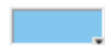
Basics Indicators

Title:

Ultimate Outcome

Description:

Color:



Done



Ultimate Outcome

Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://toco.actknowledge.org/#app=4f1a&4749-selectedIndex=1&b902-selectedIndex=0&24e-selectedIndex: Google

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines

Convert

Edit Post to Blog

http://toco.actknowledge.org/ (72 unread) Yahoo! Mail, natasha_jamo...

Theory of Change Online BETA version a product of ActKnowledge

© 2009 ActKnowledge. All Rights Reserved You are logged in as natashal Logout

Manage Open TOCs Help Toc Menu: File Edit Add View

Outcome Editor

Basics Indicators

1 In Progress

What Will Change?:

Who?:

How Many?:

How Much?:

Done

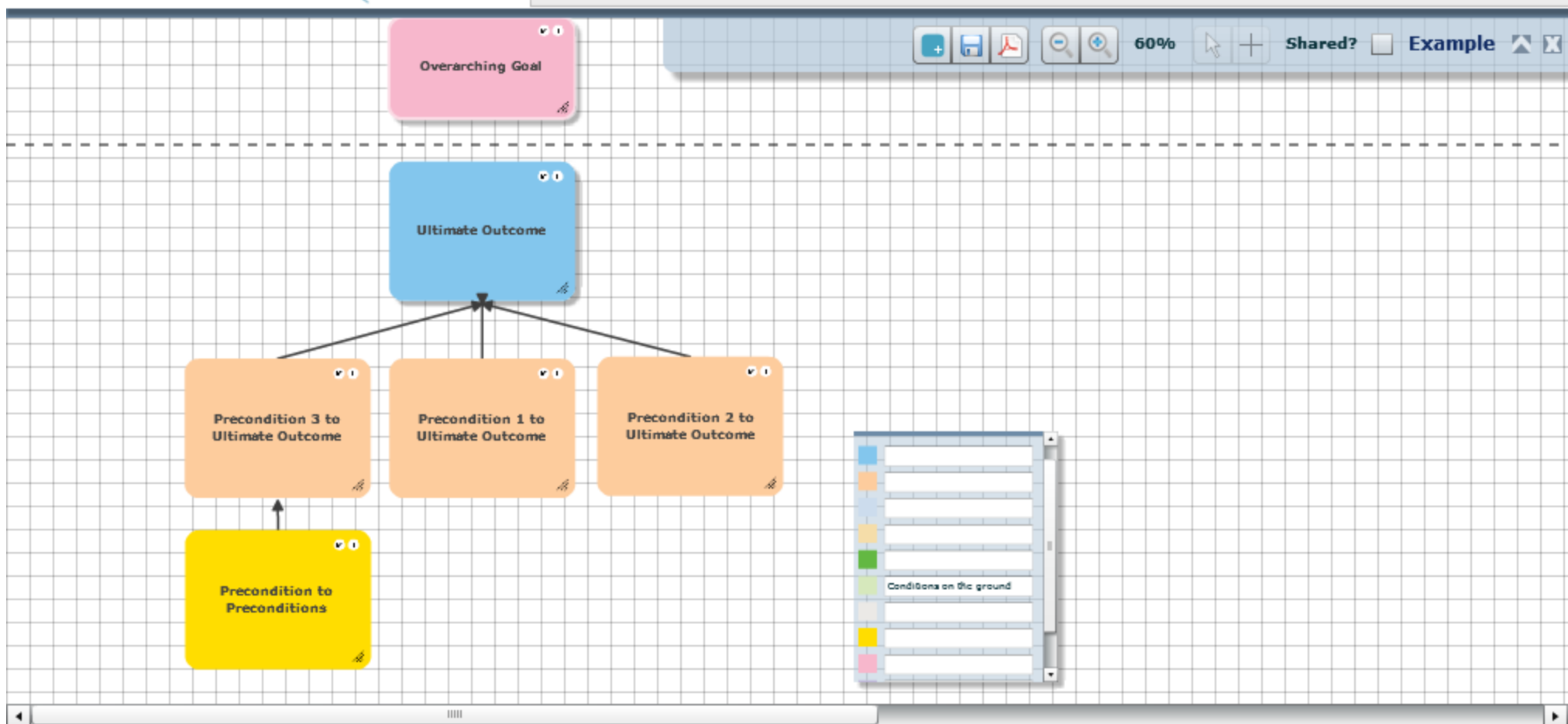
Ultimate Outcome

Precondition 1 to Ultimate Outcome

Read toco.actknowledge.org

Secure Search McAfee zotero

start Mozilla Firefox Microsoft PowerPoint ... 4:11 PM



Theory of Change Community

Member profiles

Access to Theory of Change Online
with support packages

Case Studies

Library of Sample TOCs and other materials

Blog

Discussion forum





FORUM




Our community website is on the way, with all the familiar content from theoryofchange.org plus new community features. Here are just a few of them:


theoryofchange.org - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.theoryofchange.org/process/outcomes.html



ActKnowledge
Theory of Change Community



HOME
ABOUT US
ToC BACKGROUND
ToC PROCESS
 Overview
 Example
 Glossary
 When to Use
ToC ONLINE
TRAINING & TA
LIBRARY
FORUM

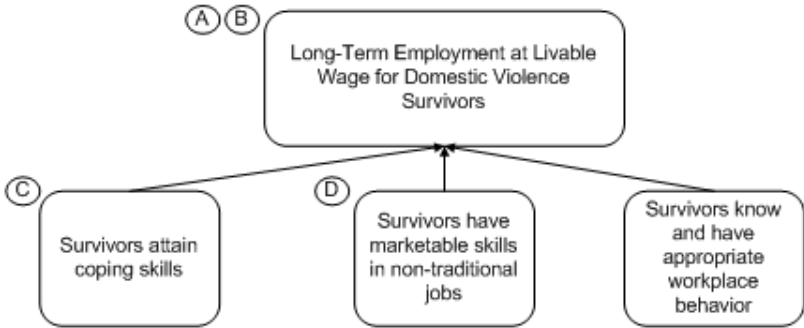
[Background] [Outcomes] [Backwards Mapping]
[Completing Framework] [Indicators] [Interventions] [Narrative]

Stage 1: Identifying Outcomes and assumptions

In the first stage of theory development, TOC participants discuss, agree on, and get specific about, the long-term goal or goals. This can be done in a variety of ways, (see our facilitator's guide), but the important thing is to set a good, clear outcome. The quality of the rest of the theory hinges on doing this right!


Then, TOC participants start to design a simple map of the preconditions required to bring about the long-term goal. Beginning the mapping process helps stakeholders to visualize and prioritize their goals as well as specify what they expect to change and for which outcomes they want to be held accountable.

Stage 1: Identifying Goals and Outcomes



Commentary

For this example, the long-term outcome is the long-term employment of domestic violence survivors at a livable wage. To achieve that goal, the program designers identify three preconditions: survivors attain coping skills, survivors have marketable skills in non-traditional jobs, and survivors know and have appropriate workplace behavior.


start

theoryofchan...

Downloads

Desktop

Lit Review-1 (...

AEA TOC Onli...

TOCO Screen...


5:15 PM

theoryofchange.org - Mozilla Firefox


File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.theoryofchange.org/library/topics.html

Google



ActKnowledge
Theory of Change Community



ActKnowledge
Theory to Results

HOME

ABOUT US

ToC BACKGROUND

ToC PROCESS

ToC ONLINE

TRAINING & TA

LIBRARY

- Advanced Topics
- Reports
- Presentations
- Theory Archive
- Guides

FORUM

Depending upon both your familiarity with Theory of Change and the complexity of your initiative, there may be additional advanced topics worth exploring.

- **Scope: How Much Should a Good Theory Account For?** (130 kb, PDF file) A key question that comes up when undertaking a theory of change, is how much can, or should, the theory account for? Should it account for factors that are beyond the control of the program? Should it account for how each outcome is brought about? This article builds on the premise that how far the theory should go depends on the purpose of the theory and the availability of resources to pursue it. Therefore, one must know what they want the theory to explain and how they want to use it, to determine the appropriate scope. The scopes in increasing order detail: narrow and shallow, broad and shallow, narrow and deep, broad and deep.
- **Making Sense: Reviewing Program Design with Theory of Change** (96 kb, PDF file) This article considers the value and pitfalls of Theory of Change as a tool for evaluating program design. Because the Theory of Change approach carefully scrutinizes program design it can unearth both positives and negatives about a program to its stakeholders.
- **Tips and Challenges on Team Building with Theory of Change** (114 kb, PDF file) Many individuals are interested in Theory of Change as a tool for teambuilding. In this article, we explain why Theory of Change's participatory process is a great complement but not a substitute or tool for teambuilding.

Done

Secure Search

McAfee

zotero

start

2 Firefox

Desktop

Lit Review-1 ...

AEA TOC Onli...

TOCO Screen...

AEA TOC Onli...

5:19 PM



ActKnowledge
Theory to Results

Contact Information

ActKnowledge
365 Fifth Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 817-1906
hclark@ActKnowledge.org
www.ActKnowledge.org

