

# The Value of Specialization

The next time that you travel by airplane, ask yourself, “Would I rather have this plane flown by a pilot and crew who are trained to fly a plane safely, or by the engineers and technicians who designed and assembled it?” The answer, of course, is the former, and illustrates the value and efficiency of specialization in producing a product. Specialization allows the engineer to focus on the individual parts and systems, and how well they perform their intended functions, while the pilot and crew concentrate on procedures and information that maximizes their skill at operating what the engineer produces. This “divide and conquer” approach is what makes each member more efficient in completing their respective responsibilities. And this strategy for increasing efficiency (often while lowering costs) applies equally well in the worlds of business and technology.