A Roadmap to Commercialization: Meeting Investor Needs With Discovery & Validation

Disrupting

Martin Kleckner III PhD MBA University of San Diego, the Brink SBDC June 13, 2019







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4th in a Four-Part Series

Winning SBIR & STTR Grants: The Basics

SBIR & STTR Grant – Phase II (Beyond the Basics)

Funding Your Innovation

Roadmap to Commercialization (I-Corps)

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Where I'm Coming From

- 1) Six Launches; Two Exits
 - RegeneMed
 - InSilicoMed
 - SpyFinder (Sold)
 - Sal-Flex (Sold)
 - + RefluxMD, U P Labs



Adjunct Faculty/Advisor: University of Southern California, California Institute of Technology, U C Irvine, Georgia Tech, U C Riverside, Ohio State, SDSU, CSU Fullerton; Santiago, Chile (CORFA Know Hub); Bogotá D.C. Columbia

- 2) Not-For-Profit 501 (c) 3 life science research
- 3) SBIR/STTR: NSF, NIH, DoD, DOE, DOT, DoEd, USDA, Coulter, Drexel; University of California; Cal State; L. A. BioMed Research Institute
- 4) General Electric, Roche, Toshiba, Honeywell (Europe, Asia, Americas)
- 5) \$55.8 MM in Capital & Grants Q2 2016 Q2 2019
- 6) Tech Innovation & Commercialization (BRINK SBDC) Univ of San Diego

... Where We're Going

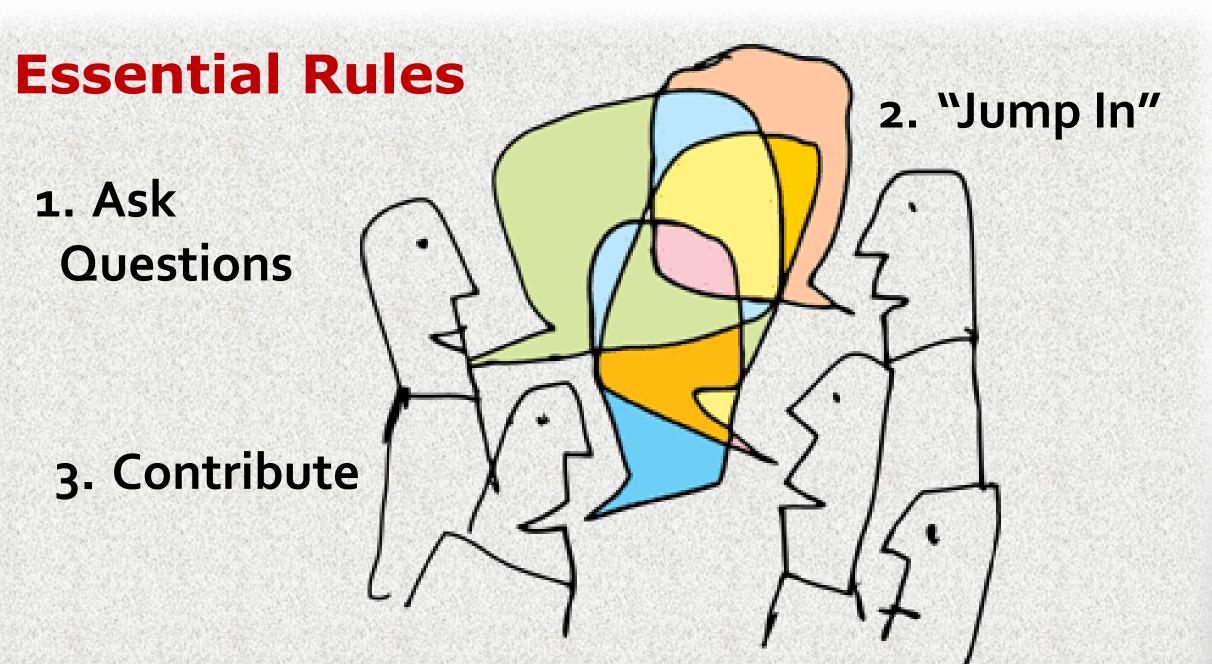
Seed Fund – Accelerator Cohort National Science Foundation I-Corps San Diego Investor Angel Conference



"Taking Your Phase I SBIR to the Brink" Curt Becker – NIH September 5 Submission

| June 6 | Finding "FOA"s; Instructions; Begin Writing |
|-----------|--|
| June 13 | Webinar: Registration - DUNS, EIN |
| June 20 | Specific Aims, Team, Budget |
| June 27 | Webinar: Registration - SAM, eRA Commons, et al. |
| July 11 | Workplan, Innovation & Impact |
| July 25 | Research Plan, Budget |
| August 1 | Review Research Plan, Commercialization Plan |
| August 15 | Review Commercialization Plan, Final Document |
| August 22 | Wrap-Up; Closure |

Your Discovery & Validation Odyssey



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Different Perspectives/ Comparable Needs



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SBIR/STTR Agencies

Customers ("Early-vangelist")

> Strategic Partners

Investors (Angel Groups, Corporate, Venture Philanthropy)



"The Great Uncertainty"

(followed the Great Recession, 2008, & the "dot.com burst", 2000)

Disruptive (or "Discontinuous") Innovation or Creative Destruction: What is an unknown may be a barrier Downsizing, Unemployment, M & A, Intense Competition Failed Ventures

"Power Laws"

Makes gaining "*Market Traction"* a tough door to go through

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(1) What is your [Evidence-Based] Business Model?

(2) How was your Model developed?(3) What Traction have you gained?

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Why I Stopped Investing (And You Should Never Start)

Tucker Max – August 11, 2015 http://observer.com

1) Not enough good people: "There is a huge number of people starting companies who have no business at all doing (it)."

2) (They cannot execute effectively in a start-up environment.)

We're turning the industry upside down

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The Angel (VC) Conundrum

[Power Laws]: "It's common to make money from your single best angel investment than all the rest put together. The consequence of this is that the real risk is missing out on that outstanding investment."

> Sam Altman (March 25, 2013) http://blog.samaltman.com/upside-risk

What Angel Investors Value Most When Choosing What to Fund

Nicole Torres, Harvard Business Review – August 6, 2015 https://hbr.org/2015/08/what-angel-investors-value-most-when-choosing-what-to-fund

Angel List Experiment: Three Factors: (1) The Founding Team, (2) Traction, & (3) Existing Lead Investors

"Attracting Early Stage Investors: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment", Shai Bernstein, Arthur Korteweg, & Kevin Laws (http://web.stanford.edu/~shaib/BernsteinKortewegLaws_052014.pdf)

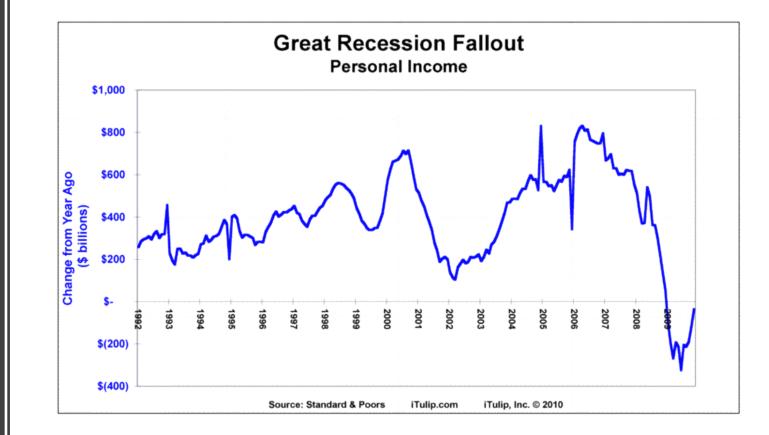
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The (Not So) Puzzling Behavior of Angel Investors¹

1. Angel investing is not necessarily a purely financial exercise

- 2. Angels "usually develop an emotional attachment to the business venture."
- 3. Motivators: the chance to participate; to be active in the venture; "psychic income", "for-profit philanthropy"²
- 1. Darian M. Ibrahim, William & Mary Law School, http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/facpubs/1685
- 2. Feld Thoughts, Is it Angel Investing or For-Profit Philanthropy?, http://www.feld.com/blog/archives/002013.html (Oct. 23, 2006, 18:42 EST).

Investors Lost Also



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ND DISRUPTORS ALLOWED! THIS MEANS YOU!

SLIDE 16 ©MKleckner - 2019

OK, well maybe we do like some disrupters

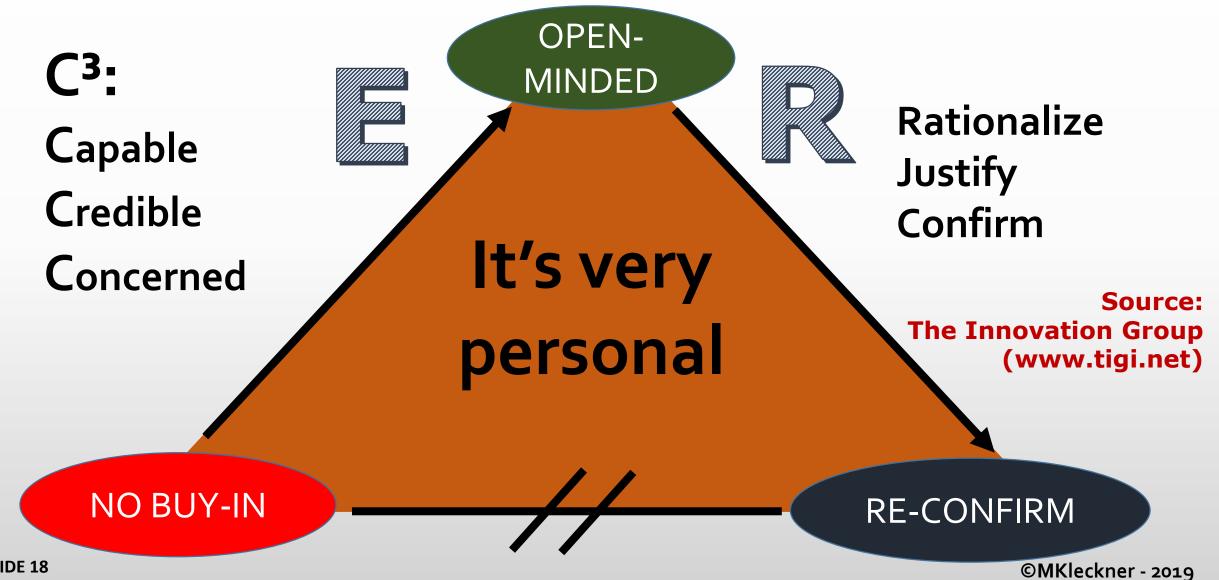


Loss Aversion The Pain of Loss is stronger than the Joy of Gain

January 27, 2017 Written by Ashley Hamer

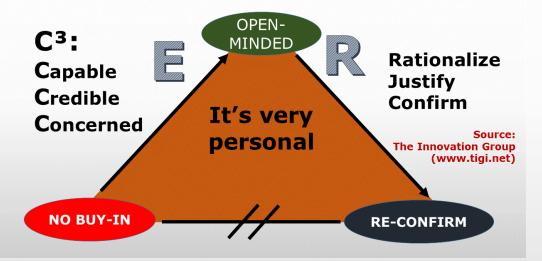
https://curiosity.com/topics/loss-aversion-says-that-the-pain-of-loss-is-stronger-than-the-joy-of-gain-curiosity/ Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman, "Loss Aversion in Riskless Choice: A Reference-Dependent Model" (1991)

People Buy Emotionally, Rationalize After



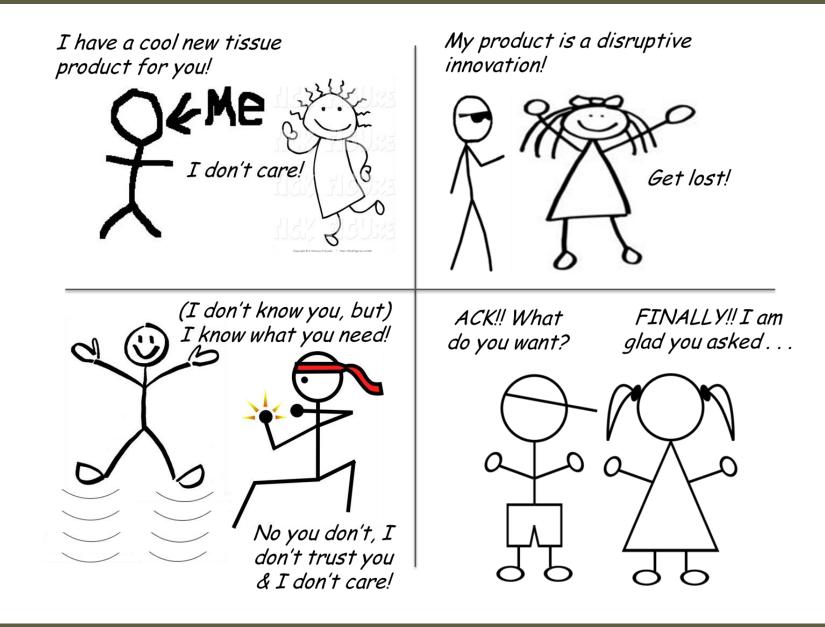
How Decisions Are Made

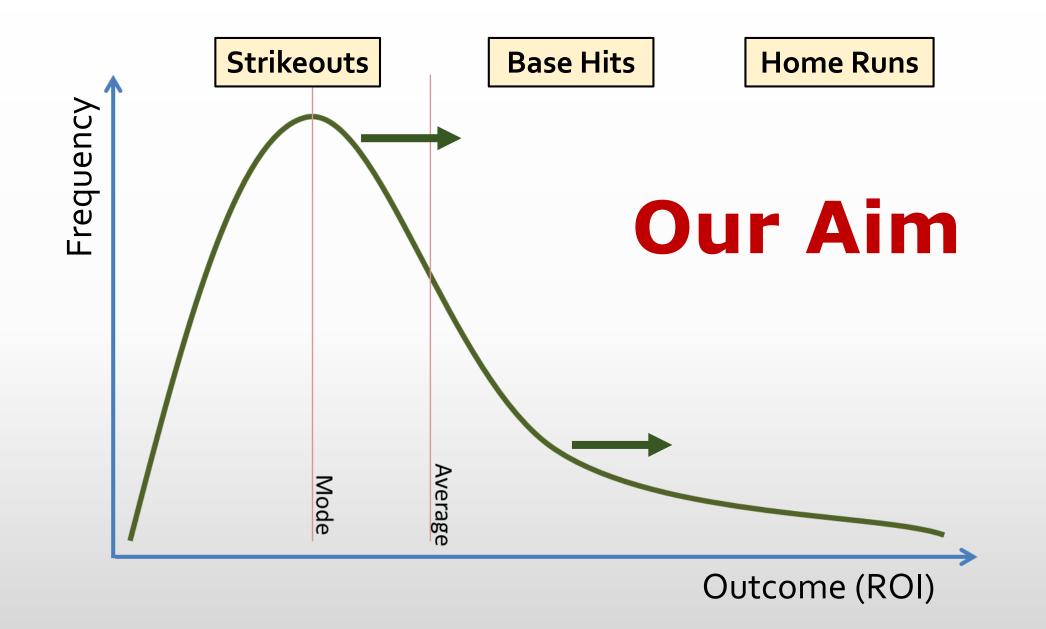
People Buy Emotionally, Rationalize After



How Well Do You Understand (Know) Me?

- 1) Decisions typically occur in precise, psychological order
 - About us
 - About our company
 - About our product or service
 - About our ask/price
 - About the time to invest/buy
- 2) Two Key Issues: (a) Our Integrity, (b) Our Judgment
 - How well does our product knowledge match our understanding of their needs?
 - WE Will Be Assessed







Can Our Dog Hunt?

(How do we get there?)

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Evidence-Based Pathway

- 1) Start-ups v. Companies
- 2) Strategy, Process & Organization
- 3) Business Plans v. Models
- Business Model Generation
- Customer Discovery & Validation

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What We Used To Believe

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Startups are a Smaller Version of a Large Company

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What We Now Know

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Startups Search

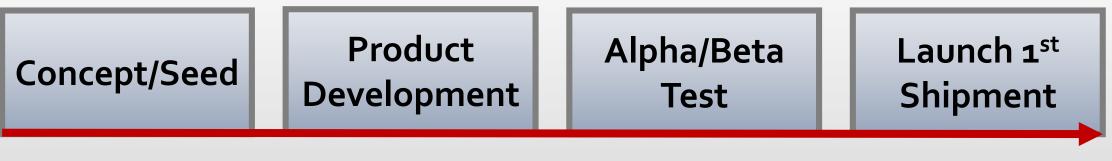
Companies Execute

Memo: Larry Bossidy, Execution – The Discipline of Getting Things Done (2002) "Execution is a systematic way of exposing reality and acting on it."

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What We Used to Believe

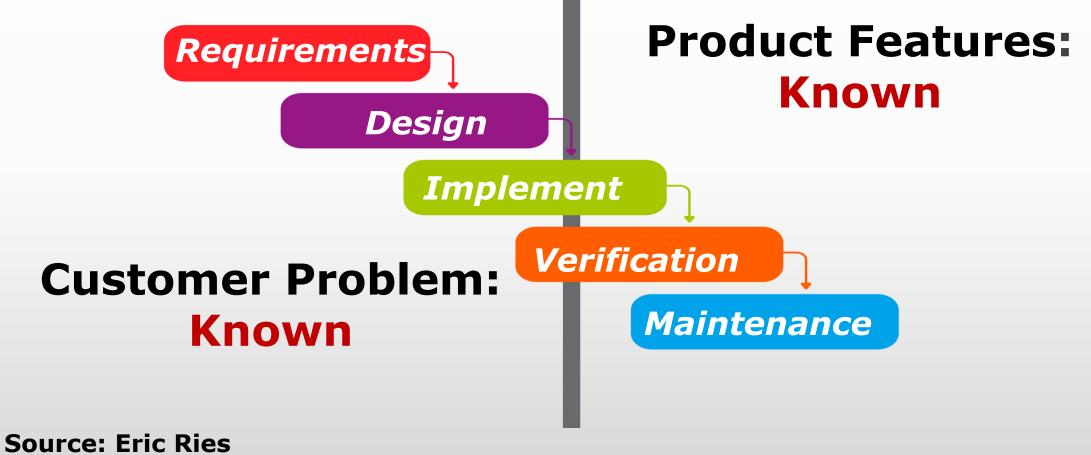
Strategy



NEW PRODUCT INTRODUCTION MODEL

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Waterfall / Product Management Execution on Two "Knowns"



http://startuplessonslearned.blogspot.com

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What We Now Know

It's a Process (of Discovery & Learning)

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What We Used to Believe

Education

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Entrepreneurial Education was About Execution

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What We Now Know

Entrepreneurial Education Begins with the Search for a Business Model

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Putting Search First is a Radical Change

It's Not Just One More Methodology

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Experiential Immersion



Total Customers Contacted: 86

127 Interviews ("Experiments")

Spoke to: firms covering 60%-80% of the global radiopharmaceutical market, 15 clinical PET users, and 7 GMP PET manufacturers, 5 officials of state economic development (>90 people total)

of customers: ~85 people

We talked to >60 physicians, patients, entrepreneurs, potential OEM partners, and many others



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What We Used to Believe

Start With a Business Plan and Financial Model

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EVERYONE has a plan until they get **PUNCHED IN** THE MOUTH.

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No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy.

- Helmuth von Moltke¹

No Business Plan survives first contact w/ customers. - Steve Blank²

We haven't read a business plan in over twenty years. - Brad Feld/Jason Mendelson³



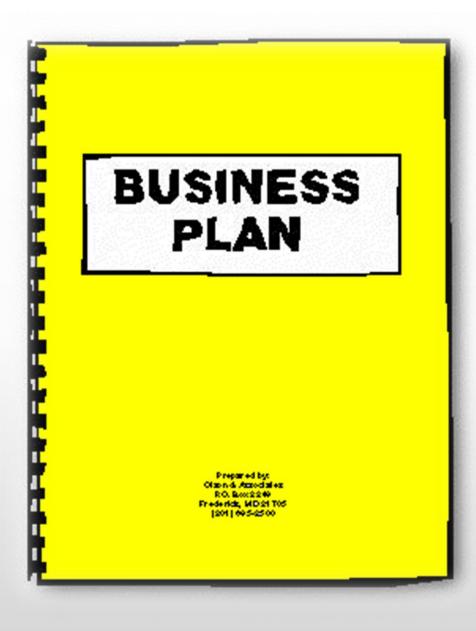
(1) 19th-century head of the Prussian army; (2) Stanford & U C Berkeley (I-Corps); (3) Foundry Group, Boulder, CO SLIDE 35 ©MKleckner - 2019

Five - Year Plans

Venture Capitalists

Soviet Union





| | 32 | |
|----------|---------|--|
| | 33 | |
| | 34 | |
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| | 36 | |
| BUSINESS | 37 | |
| DOGUILOG | 38 | |
| | 39 | |
| PLAN | 40 | |
| • • | 41 | |
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Prepared by: Olson & Accordates RO, Box 2240 Frederick, MD 21 T05 [201] 69 5-2500

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|----|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|--------|---|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 32 | Balance | ice Sheet Year | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| 34 | Assets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | Cash and | cash equivale | nts" | | | | | \$4.27 | \$6.38 | \$7.62 | \$8.83 | \$7.00 |
| 36 | | Accounts | receivable* | | | | | | \$20.58 | 524.39 | 528.77 | 534.11 | \$32.00 |
| 37 | | Inventorio | es" | | | | | | \$26.73 | \$30.45 | \$36.75 | \$43.27 | \$38.00 |
| 38 | | Deferred | income taxes | - | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 19 | | Total curv | ent assets | | | | | | \$51.58 | \$61.22 | \$73.14 | \$86.21 | \$77.00 |
| 40 | | Fixed asse | ets | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | | | Cost* | | | | | | \$331.64 | \$423.92 | \$503.87 | 5613.28 | \$450.00 |
| 42 | | | Accumulate | d Depreci | ation* | | | | \$98.72 | \$105.09 | \$112.40 | \$122.26 | \$115.00 |
| 43 | | | Net fixed as | sets | | | | | \$232.92 | \$318.83 | \$391.47 | \$491.02 | \$\$35.00 |
| 44 | | Goodwill* | r. | | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 45 | | Intangible | assets* | | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 46 | | Other ass | ets* | | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 47 | | Total asse | ts | | | | | | \$284.50 | \$380.05 | \$464.61 | \$577.23 | 5612.00 |
| 48 | Liabilities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | | Accounts | payable* | | | | | | \$31.83 | \$63.43 | 583.84 | 594.41 | \$80.00 |
| 50 | | Current d | ebt" | | | | | | \$30.86 | \$43.03 | \$64.85 | \$79.49 | \$0.00 |
| 51 | | Total curr | ent liabilities | | | | | | \$62.69 | \$106.46 | \$148.69 | 5173.90 | \$80.00 |
| 52 | | Long-term | n debt" | | | | | | \$40.00 | \$46.92 | \$53.41 | \$73.57 | \$214.54 |
| 53 | | Other Ion | g-term liabilit | ies" | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 54 | | Total liabi | lities | | | | | | \$102.69 | \$153.38 | \$202.10 | \$247.47 | \$294.54 |
| 55 | Sharehold | lers' equit | Y | | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | | Common | Stock and Adv | fitional Pa | aid in Cap | ital * | | | \$90.00 | \$130.00 | \$160.00 | \$220.00 | \$200.00 |
| 57 | | Retained | Earnings* | | | | | | \$91.81 | \$96.67 | \$102.51 | \$109.76 | \$117.4 |
| 58 | | Total Shar | eholders' Equ | ity | | | | | \$181.81 | \$226.67 | \$262.51 | \$329.76 | \$317.40 |
| 59 | | Total liabi | lites and shar | eholders' | Equity | | | | \$284.50 | \$380.05 | \$464.61 | \$\$77.23 | 5612.00 |

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|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|-------|---|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | Year | | |
| | | | | | | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | |
| | | Cash and cash equivalents | | | | 54.27 | 54.38 | \$7.62 | 58.83 | |
| | | Accounts receivable* | | | | \$20.58 | \$24.39 | 528.77 | \$34.11 | 5 |
| BLICIN | | Inventories" | | | | \$26.73 | \$30.45 | \$36.75 | \$43.27 | 5 |
| BUSIN | | Deferred income taxes* | | | | \$0.00 | \$8.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | | Total current assets | | | | \$51.58 | \$61.22 | \$73.14 | \$85.21 | 5 |
| PL/ | | Fixed assets | | | | | | | | |
| | 41 | Cost* | | | | \$331.64 | \$423.92 | \$503.87 | 5613.28 | - 54 |
| | 42 | Accumulated Depreciation | e - 1 | | | \$98.72 | \$105.09 | \$112.40 | \$122.26 | - 51 |
| | 43 | Net fixed assets | | | | \$232.92 | \$318.83 | \$391.47 | \$491.02 | - 55 |
| | 44 | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | 45 | Int. 9* | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | 46 | Other | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | 47 | Total asso | | | | \$284.50 | \$380.05 | \$464.61 | \$577.23 | - 54 |
| | 48 Liab | | | | | | | | | |
| | 49 | Accounts payable | | | | \$31.83 | \$63.43 | 583.84 | 594.41 | |
| | 50 | Current debt* | | | | \$30.86 | \$43.03 | \$64.85 | \$79.49 | |
| | 51 | Total current liabilities | | | | \$62.69 | \$106.46 | \$148.69 | 5173.90 | |
| | 52 | Long-term debt" | | | | \$40.00 | \$46.92 | \$\$3.41 | \$73.57 | - 54 |
| | 53 | Other long-term liabilities* | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Prepared by: | 24 | Total liabilities | | | | \$102.69 | \$153.38 | \$202.10 | \$247.47 | - 5 |
| Olzon & Azzodal+z RO, Rox2240 | - | eholders' equity | | | | | | | | |
| Frederick, MD 21 T05 | | Summon Stad | stal* | | | \$90.00 | \$130.00 | \$160.00 | \$220.00 | 54 |
| 12011 665-2500 | | | | | | \$91.81 | \$96.67 | \$102.51 | \$109.76 | - \$1 |
| | | | | | | \$181.81 | \$226.67 | \$262.51 | \$329.76 | 53 |
| | 59 | enolders' Equ | ity | | | \$284.50 | \$380.05 | \$464.61 | \$577.23 | - 54 |

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Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.*

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

* National Defense Executive Reserve Conference, Washington DC, November 14, 1957

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Instead of creating business plans...

Today we discover business models.

SLIDE 42 ©MKleckner - 2019



"Excellent strategy, General...Though I fear the enemy might be full size..." **Through Discovery** We Engage so that we can develop an understanding of (their) needs, desires, behaviors, characteristics, beliefs, influences, motivations, (dimensions) . . .

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What we Used to Believe

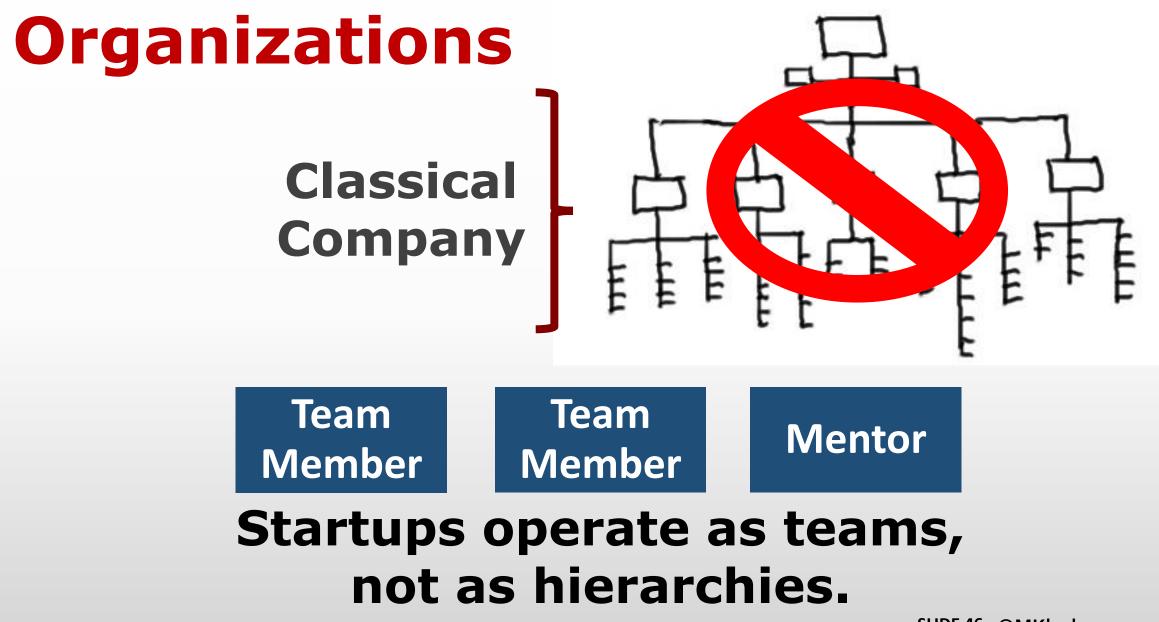
Organizations

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A founder does not run sales, marketing or business development...

A founder runs a customer development team.

SLIDE 45 ©MKleckner - 2019



SLIDE 46 ©MKleckner - 2019

Companies vs. startups

A company is a business organization that sells a product or service in exchange for revenue & profit.

A startup is a *temporary* organization designed to search for a repeatable and scalable business model.

Organizations & Business Models

A company is organized to deliver value via its business model.

A startup organizes itself to discover opportunities and create a business model.

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Startup's Goal

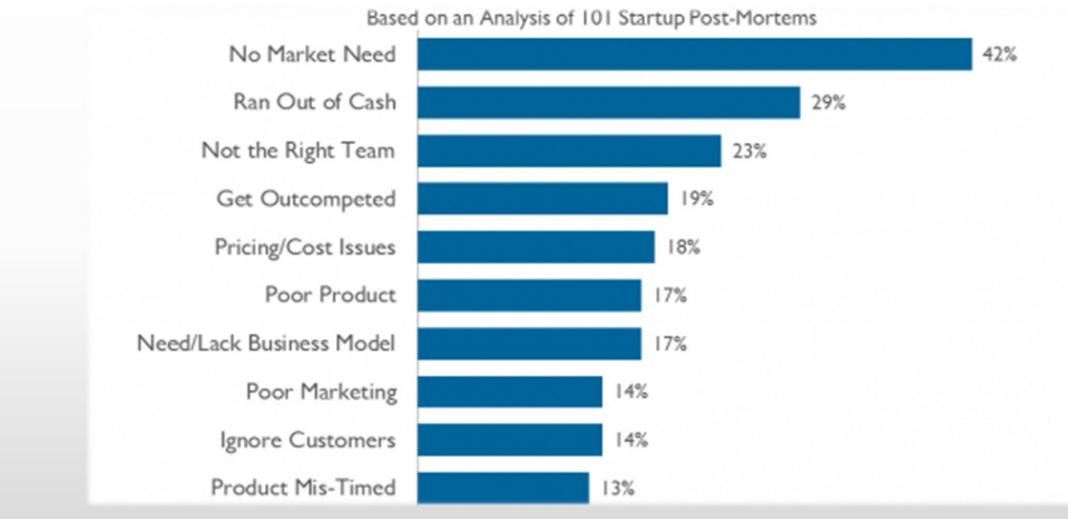
To become a company!

A startup becomes a company AFTER its customer discovery leads to a repeatable, scalable, and profitable business model.

Why Do Start-Ups Fail?

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Why Do Start-Ups Fail?



Fortune.com/2014/09/25/why-startups-fail-according –to-their founders/

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Fortune.com/2014/09/25/why-startups-fail-according –to-their founders/

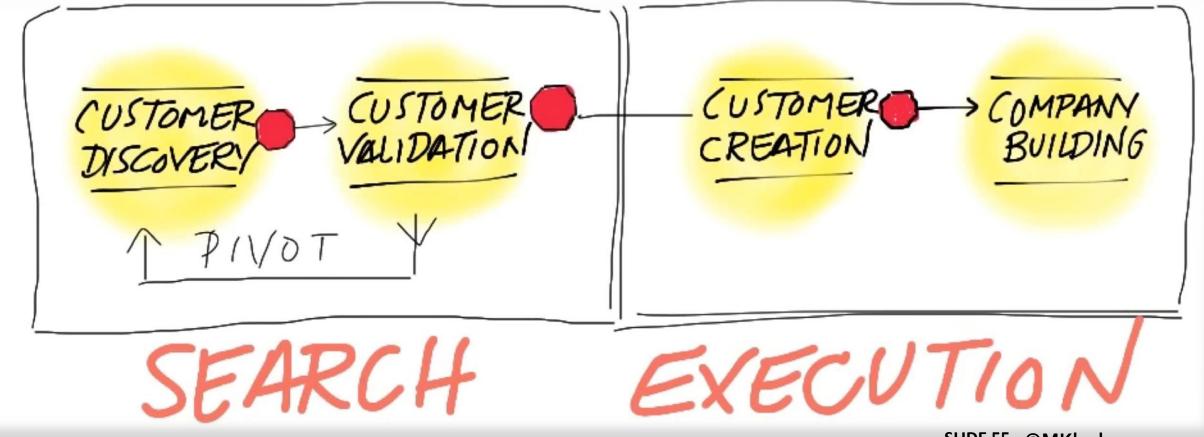
SLIDE 52 ©MKleckner - 2019

More startups fail from a lack of customers than from a failure of product development

Therefore, **Investors, SBIR Reviewers And Our Customers Need Us To DISCOVER & VALIDATE**

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Before Trying to Sell Customer Development



SLIDE 55 ©MKleckner - 2019

Business Model Generation (Customer Discovery & Validation)

Alexander Osterwalder & Yves Pigneur, Business Model Generation (2010)

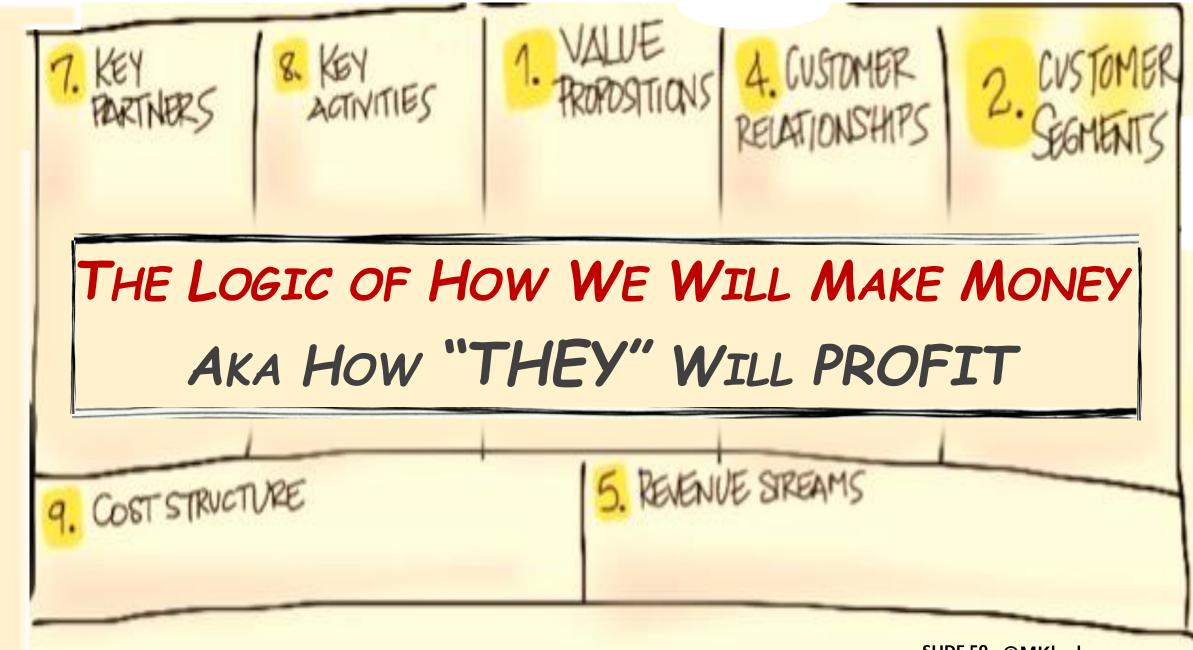
SLIDE 56 ©MKleckner - 2019



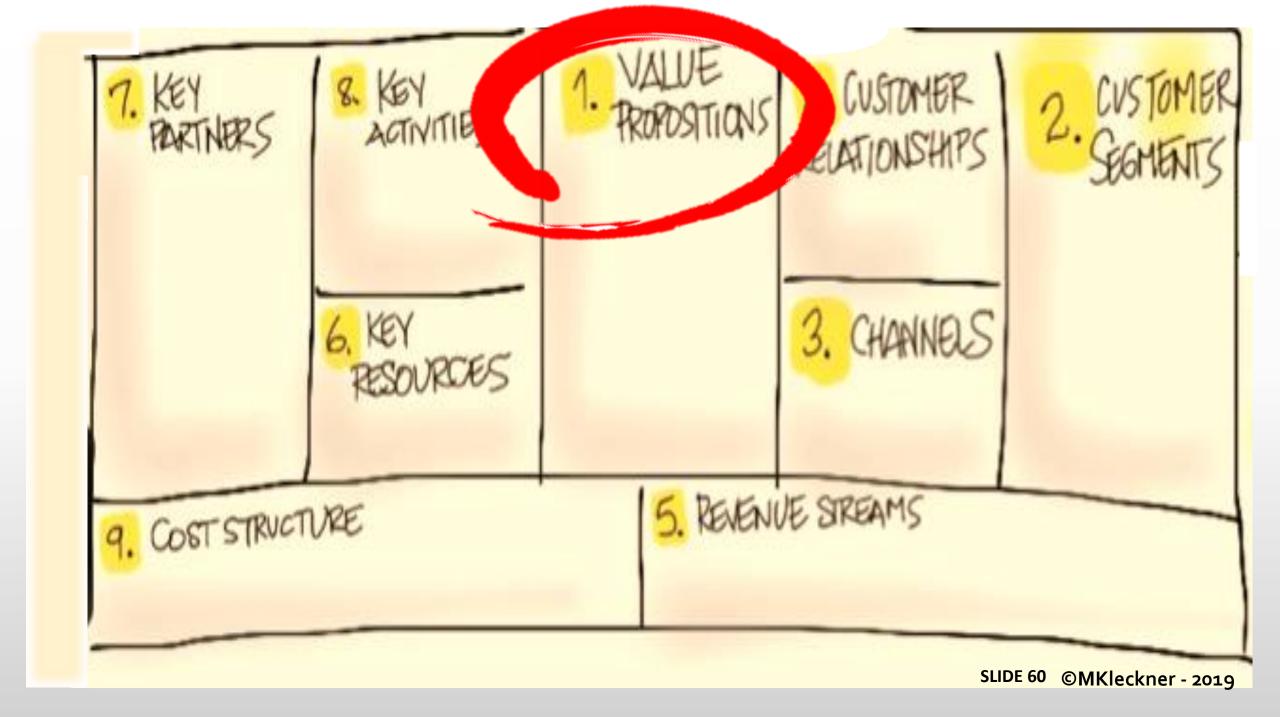
SLIDE 57 ©MKleckner - 2019

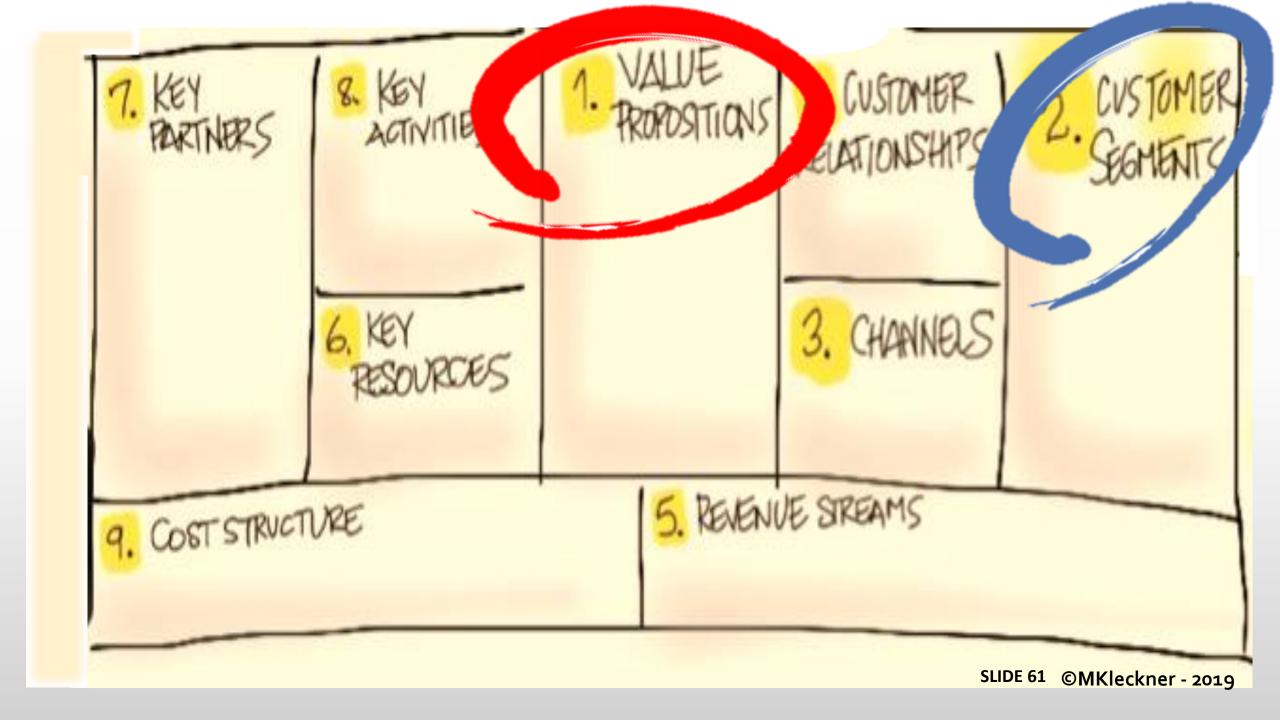
| Z | Pick is a How a company CREATES VALUE for ITSELF while |
|---|---|
| | delivering products |
| | Componentian customers. Componentians 7. Key PARTINERS 8. Key ACTIVITIES 1. VALUE ACTIVITIES 1. VALUE PROPOSITIONS 4. CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS 2. CUSTOMER SEGMENTS |
| | 6. KEY RESOURCES 3. CHANNELS |
| | 9. COST STRUCTURE 5. REVENUE STREAMS |

© 2012 Steve Blank (Steve Blank & Bob Dorf, The Startup Owner's Manual)



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Customer Segments and Customer Types

A <u>Customer Segment</u> is a subset of the marketplace that makes decisions in a defined way.

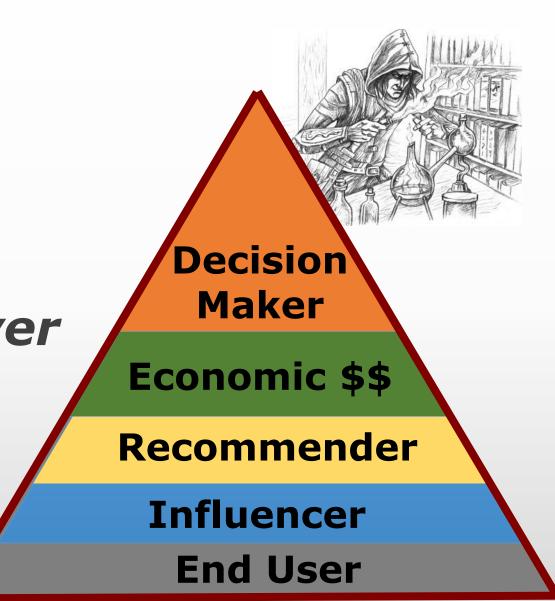
A <u>Customer Type</u> defines a role within the customer segment.

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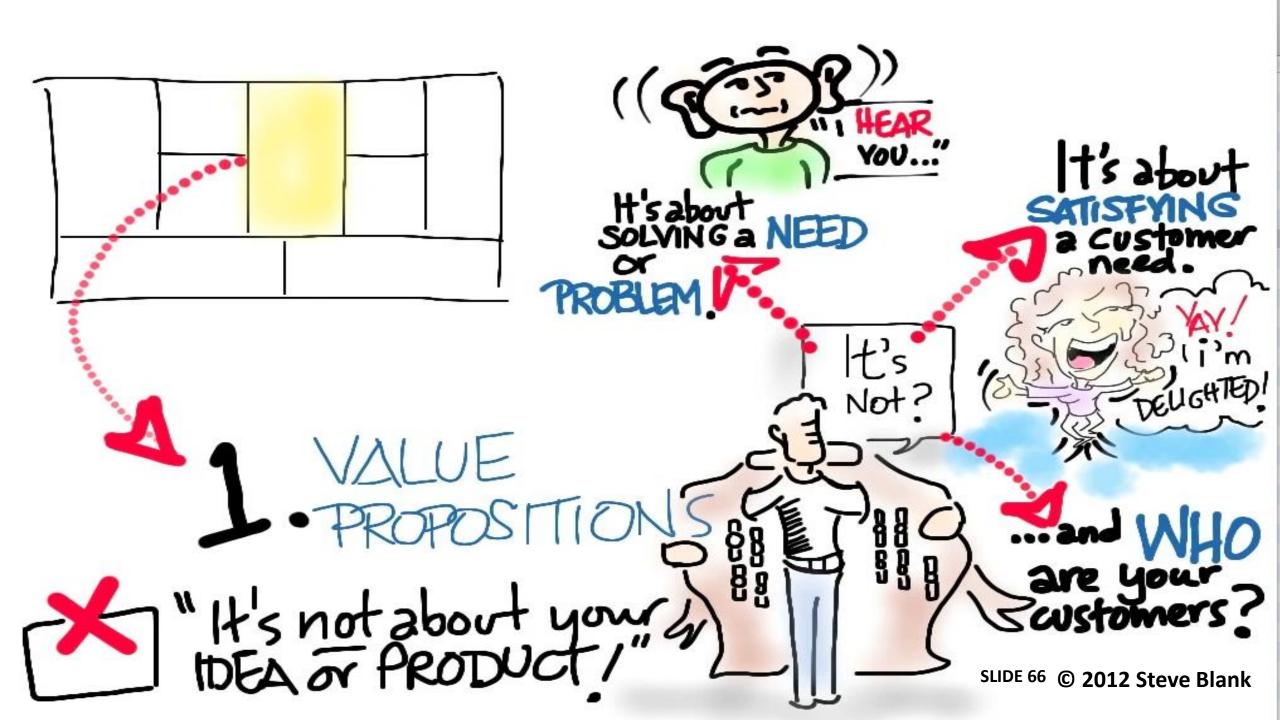
Customer Types

- End User
- •Influencer*
- Recommender
- Economic Buyer/Payer
- Decision Maker
- Saboteur

* Remember William Dawes?

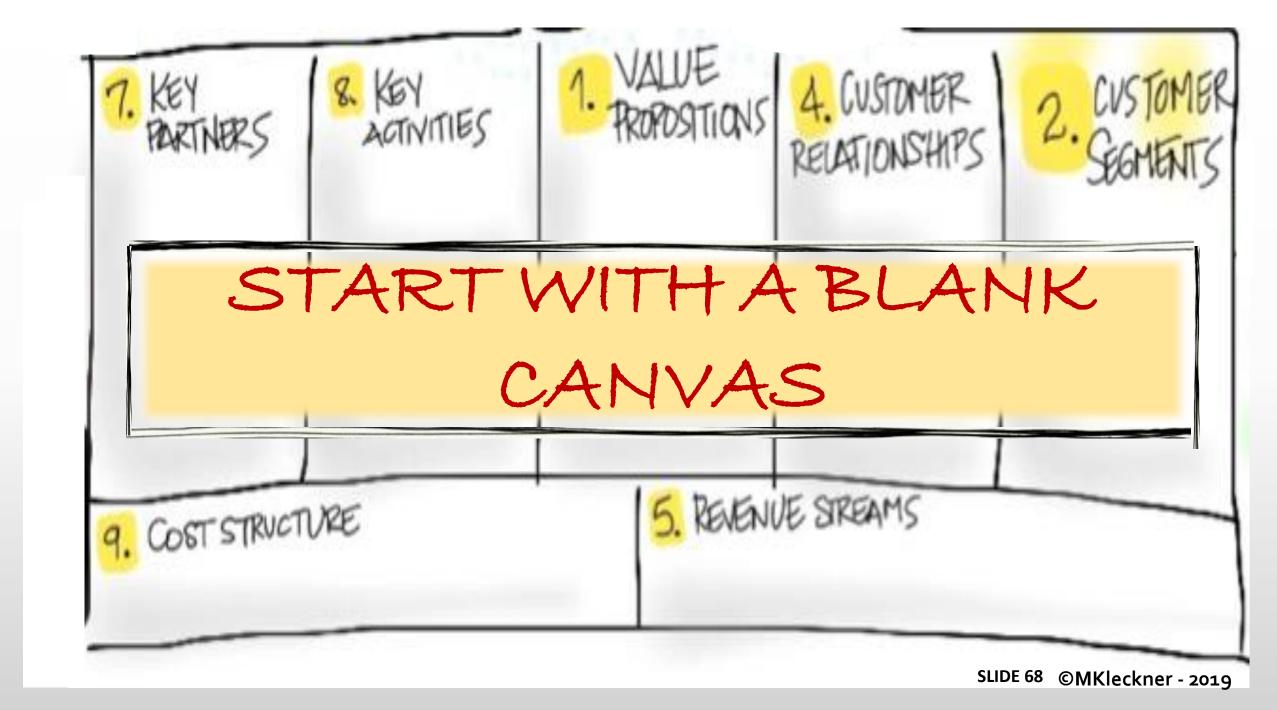


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Business Model Generation

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Launching the Canvas

We begin with <u>Hypotheses</u> Also known as <u>Educated Guesses</u>

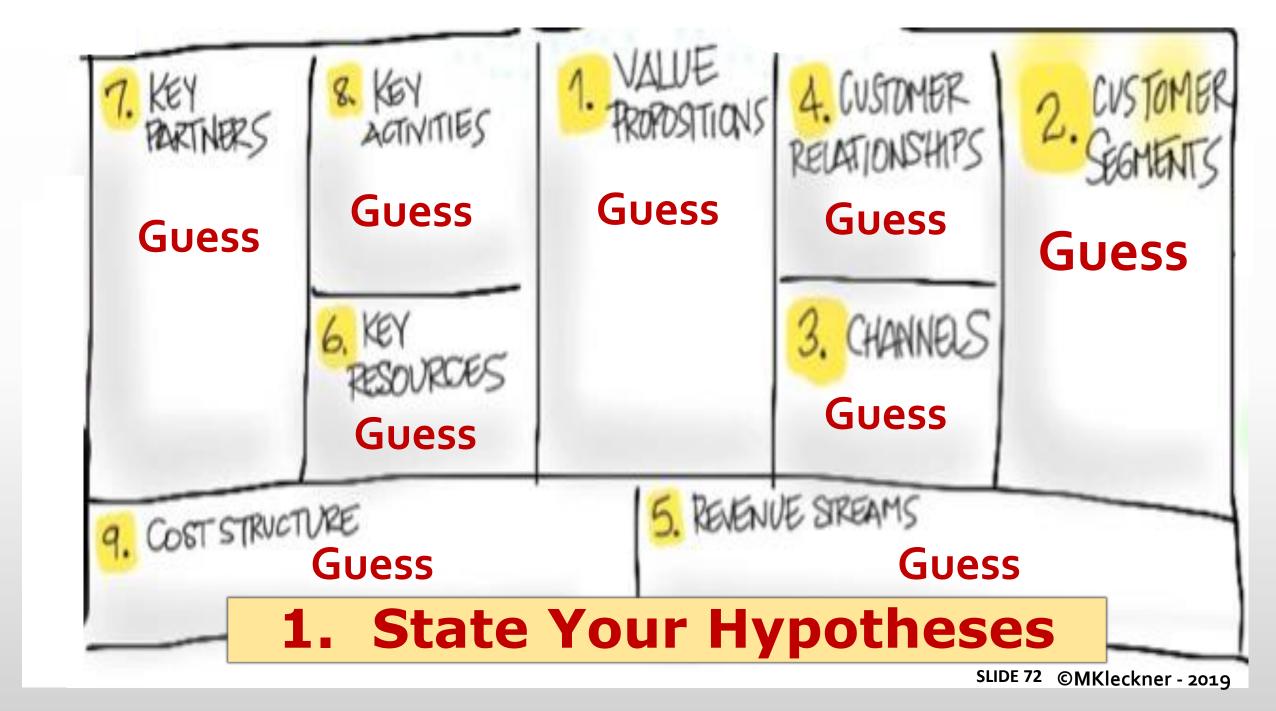


SLIDE 69 ©MKleckner - 2019

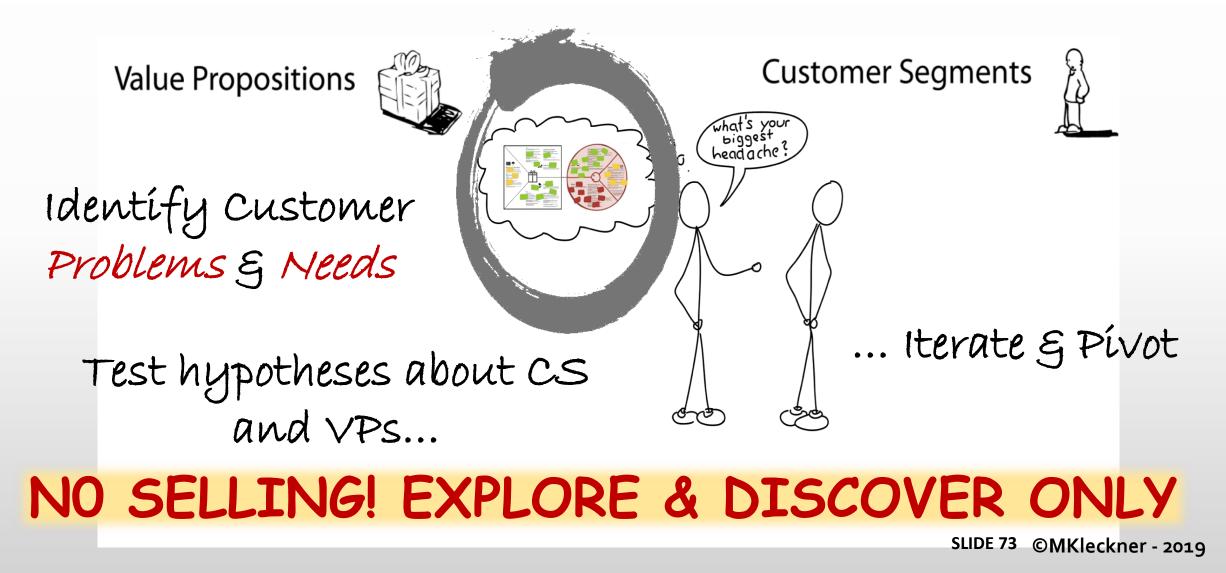
Customer Development Process: 1. Here's what I think (Hypothesis) 2. So, here's what I did (Experiment) 3. What I found out (Discover) 4. So, here's what I will do next (Test) SLIDE 70 ©MKleckner - 2019

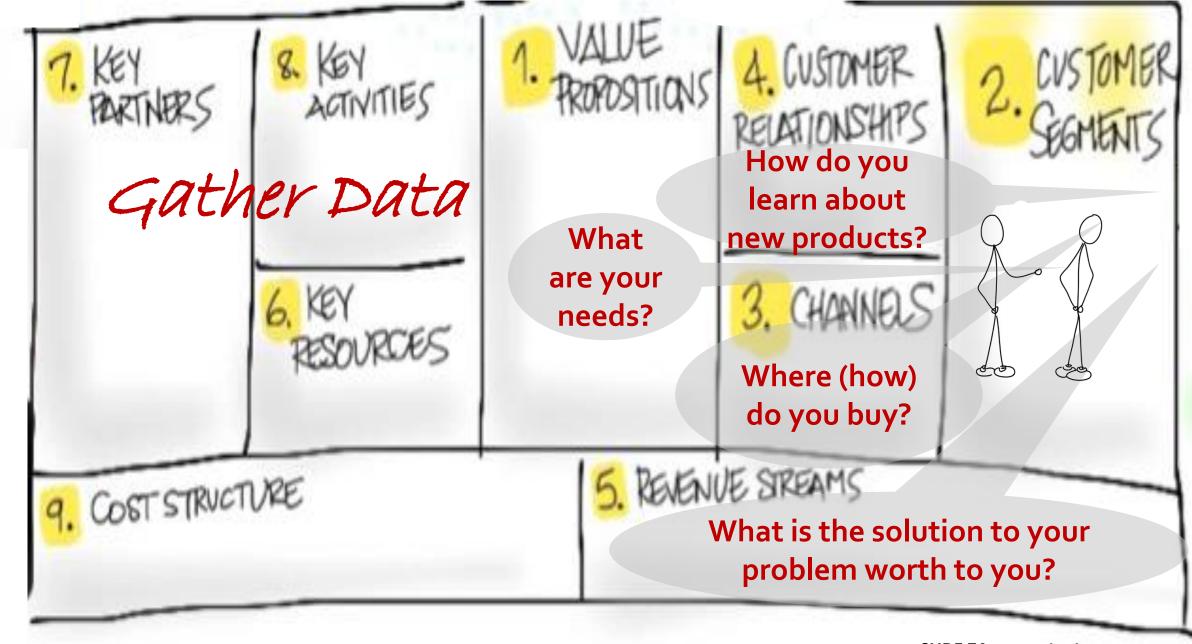
Customer Discovery: Four (Easy?) Steps

SLIDE 71 ©MKleckner - 2019

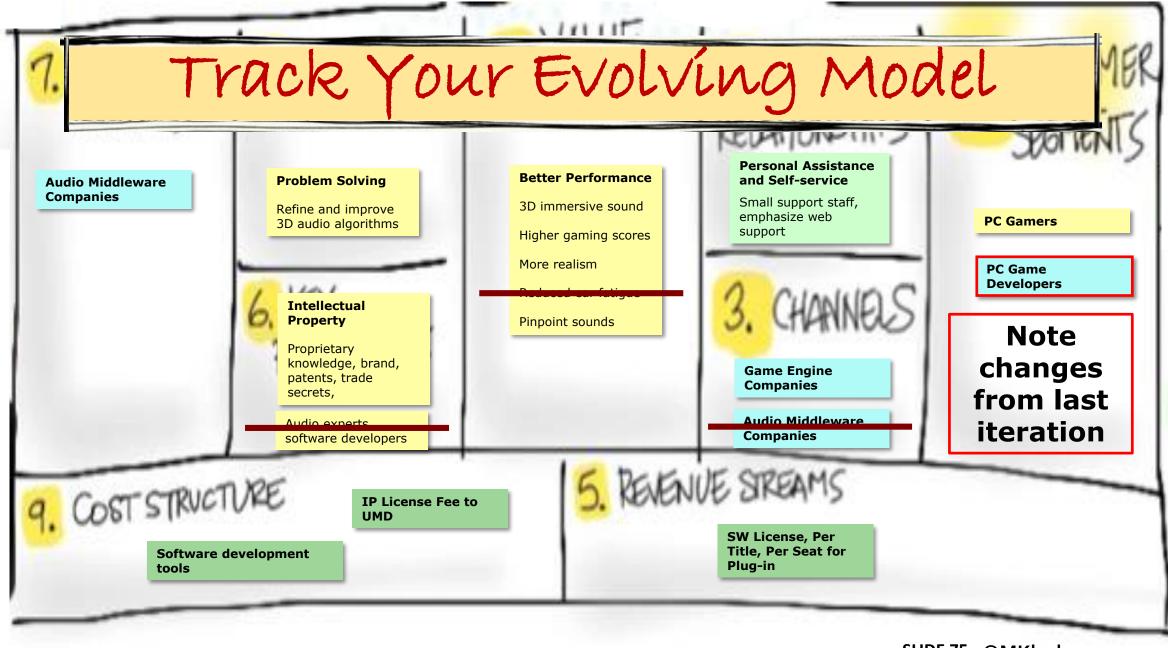


2. Test Your Hypotheses



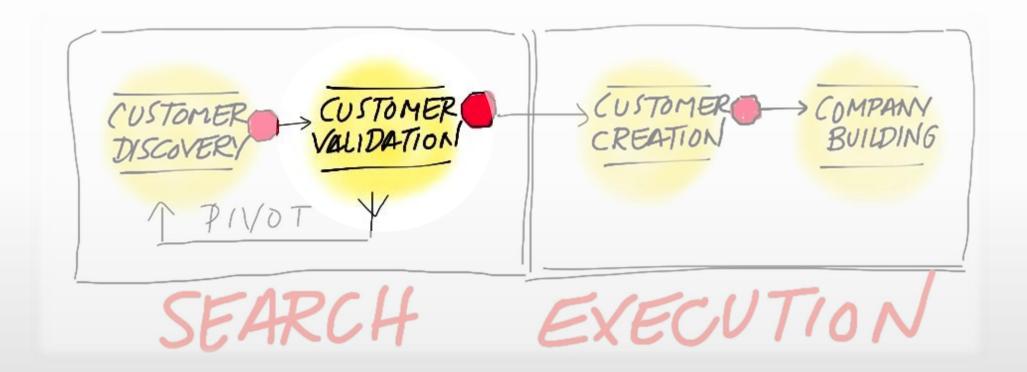


SLIDE 74 ©MKleckner - 2019



SLIDE 75 ©MKleckner - 2019

Iterations: Pivot or Proceed



SLIDE 76 ©MKleckner - 2019

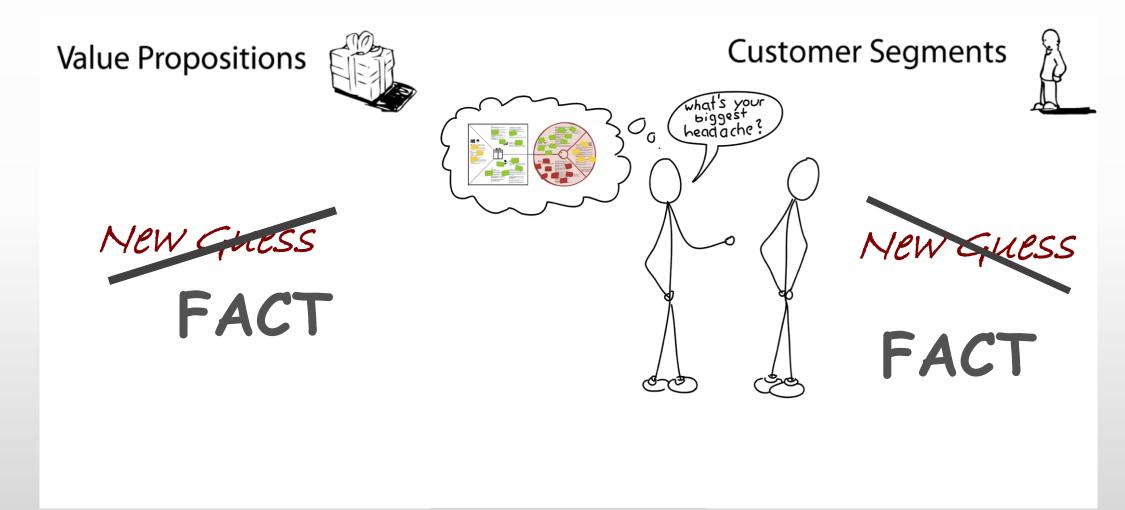
3. Test Your Potential Solution

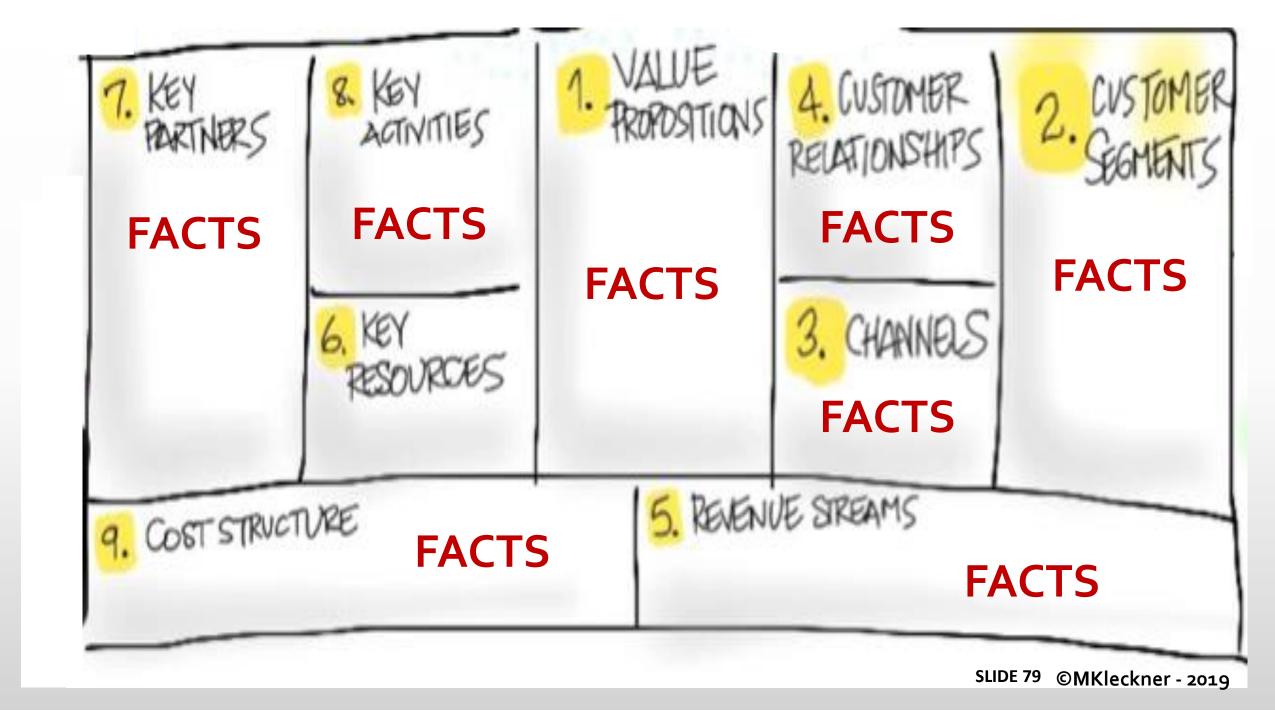


Test potential Minimum Viable Product features: Do they satisfy *problems or needs?*

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4. Pivot or Proceed





Different customer segments have different needs & may require different Business Models to serve them.

Customer Discovery . . . in a Nutshell

We are learning about Customer Needs... ... not asking them to define a product.... ... or asking them to buy!

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The Most Important Skill

Your customers have needs . . .

They will be happy to tell you if you give them the chance.



You have two ears and one mouth for a reason.



Interviewing Logistics

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Interview efficiently –

(Define an Archetype, Persona)

- Talk to strangers; go with your partner
- Ask for 10 minutes
- Be honest with yourself;
- Listen, don't talk

Finding Archetypes



Professional Societies





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How Do I Make Contact?

- Target second-rank companies
- Target mid-level management
- Email, then call; then email, then call
- Play the "student" card (No Company; No Product)
- Cold call? Research your target
- Network get a warm introduction

Interviewing

- Make a goal: Test only 1-2 Hypotheses
- Group-Meet if possible: Face-to-Face > Skype > phone
- NO email interviews or surveys
- Focus on Their Pain Points, not yours
- Ask Open-Ended Questions
- Ask "Why?" (Listen and probe w/ a follow-up)
- Ask about current efforts (e. g. to solve the problem)
- Embrace bad news; Be humble and Ask for Help.

DO NOT SELL!!

DON'T TALK ABOUT YOUR TECHNOLOGY!!

Interview Questions

- What are they currently experiencing?
- How are they doing things right now?
- What do they think about the way things are now?
- What would they like to see or do differently?
- In an ideal world, how would things be?
- Have you tried to "fix" the problem? If so, how?

End User Story: "A Day in the Life"

"Don't interview like a Journalist"

SLIDE 88a ©MKleckner - 2019

"Success starts with understanding your customers."

<u>Talking to Humans</u> Giff Constable © 2014 1st edition, V1.72

"Seek First to Understand, then Seek to be Understood"

Stephen R. Covey, <u>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People</u> https://www.stephencovey.com/7habits/7habits-habit5.php

Seek First To Understand, Then Seek To Be Understood*

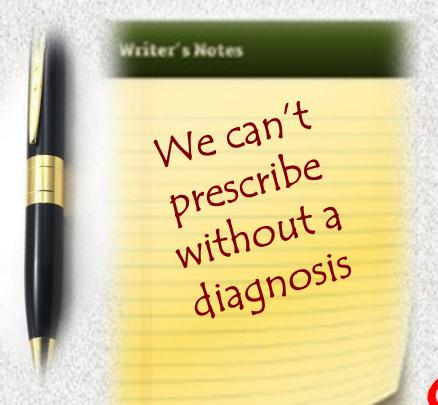


How We "Listen":

- 1. Ignore
- 2. Pretend
- 3. Be Selective
- 4. Be "Active"
 - Mimic (Rephrase or Reflect)
- 5. Be Empathic

* Stephen Covey, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Seek First To Understand, Then Seek To Be Understood*



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2. Pretend

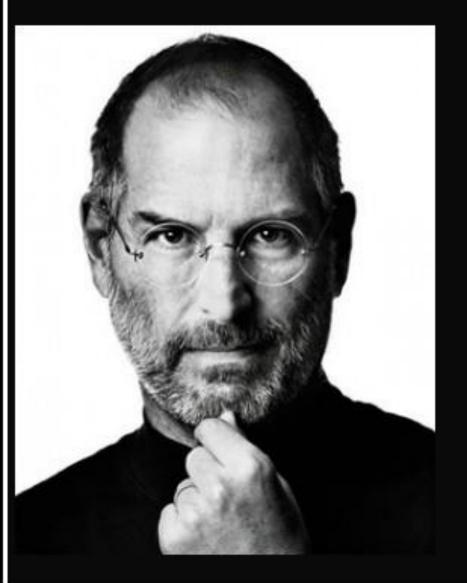
3. Be Selective

4. Be "Active"

Mimic (Rephrase or Reflect)

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* Stephen Covey, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People



You've got to start with the customer experience and work back toward the technology - not the other way around.

(Steve Jobs)

Remember: Balance Your Vision w/ Reality

OPEN-

MINDED

C³: Capable Credible Concerned

NO BUY-IN

Do you really understand your customer(s)?

Rationalize Justify Confirm

Source: The Innovation Group (www.tigi.net)

RE-CONFIRM

Cute Baby?





The last two questions

•What haven't I asked you?

•Can you suggest another person for me to talk with?

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Practice

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CONFIRMATION BIAS

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Confirmation Bias



Where may your first customers come from?

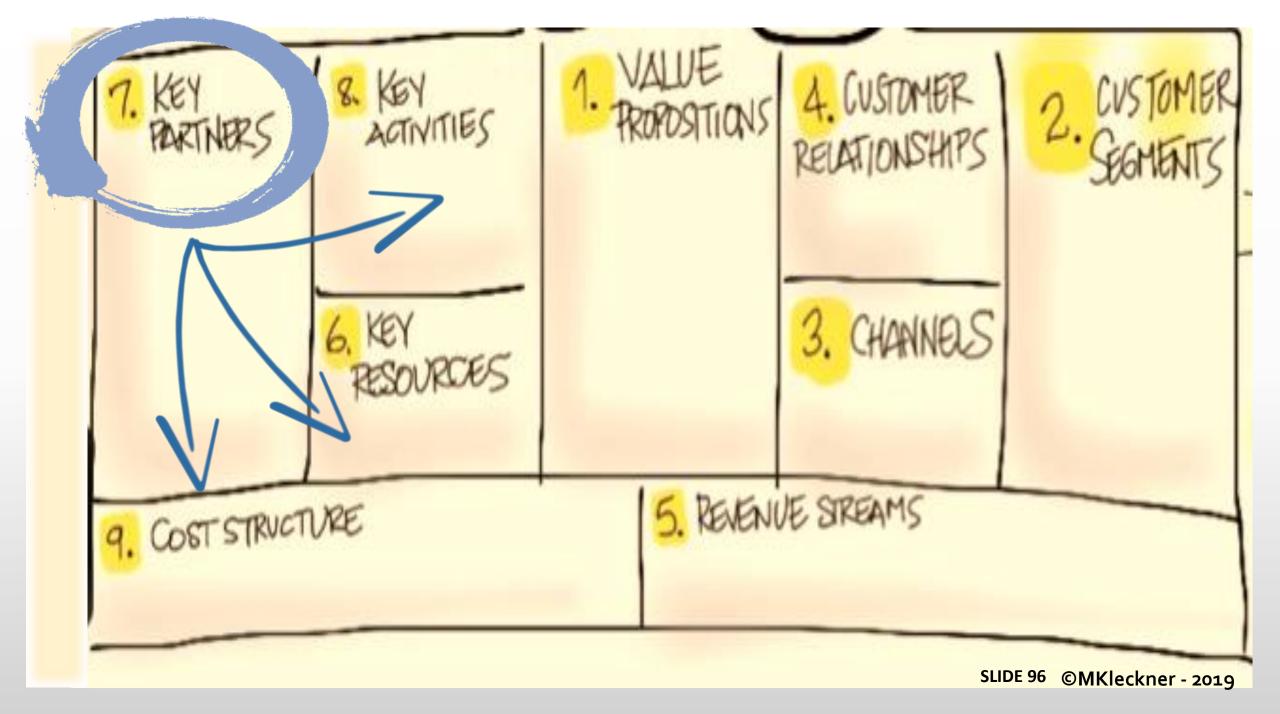


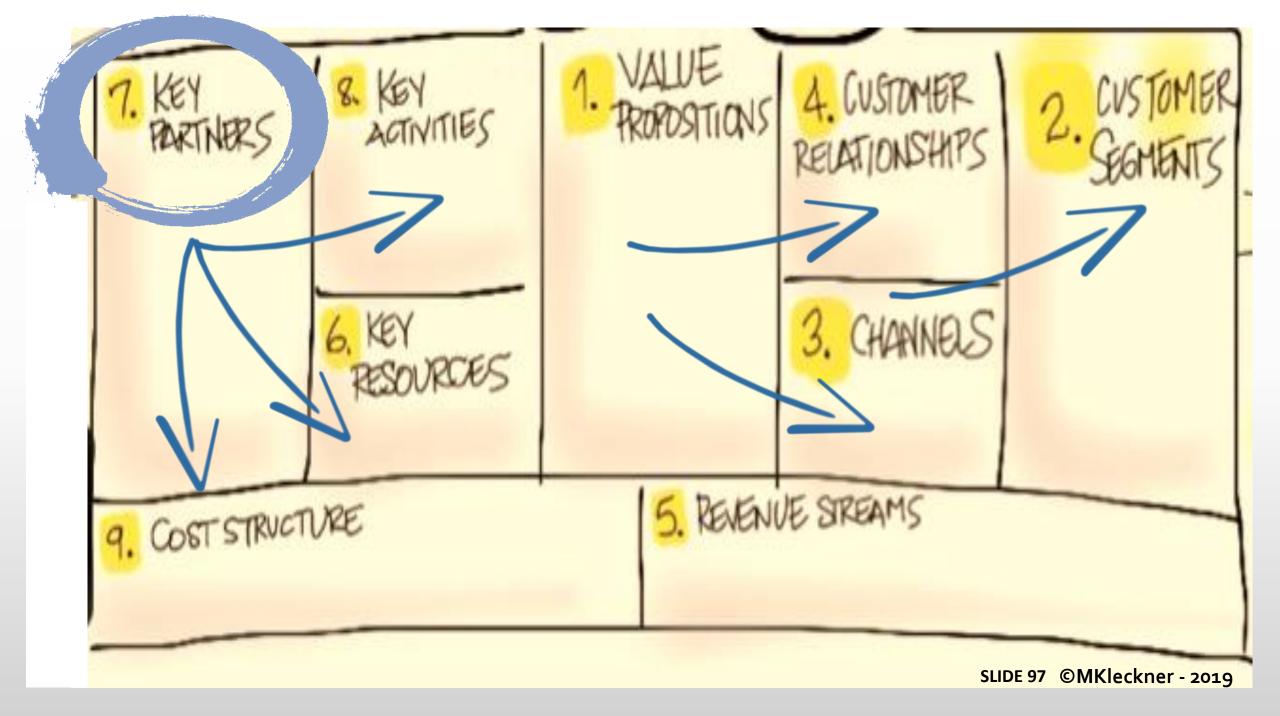


Using Business Alliances as a Growth Strategy

*Copyright © 2004 Virtual Advisor, Inc.

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Why? **Increased Cash** Keep Up w/ Market **Viable Solution Fend off Competitor Market Share** Cost

Duration Varies



Disneyland Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak

Wal-Mart Bristol Myers KFC, Taco Bell, GrubHub One World, Star Alliance

Paramount Pictures 20th Century Fox (*Titanic*)

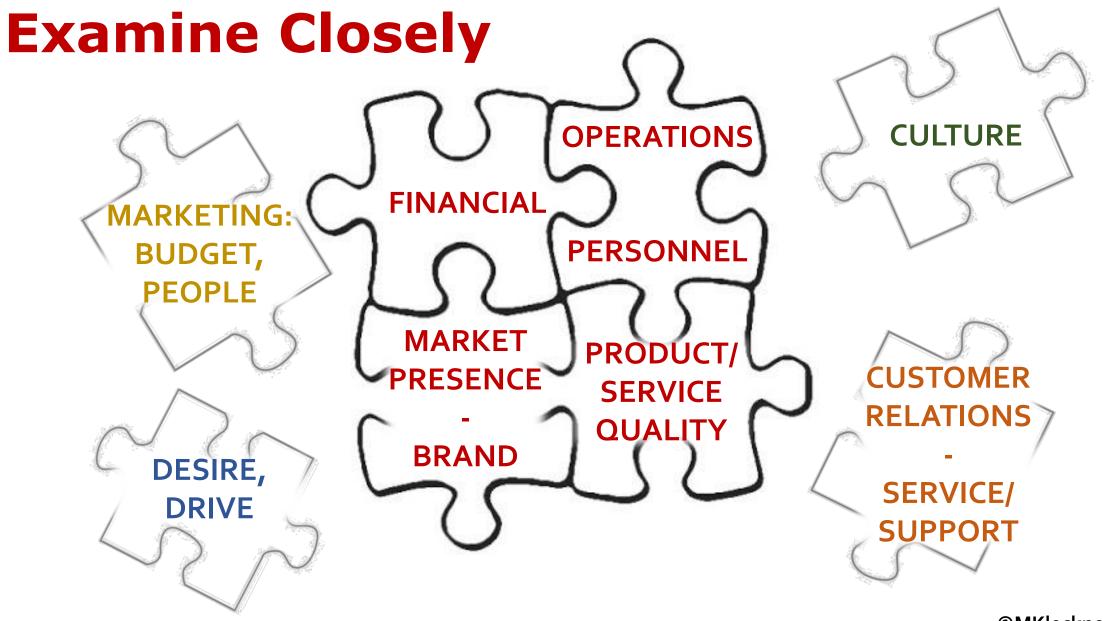
AT & T, MCI Legislation, Regulatory Affairs

Sales, Distribution

Production, Manufacturing

Co-Branding

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Do I Fully Understand . . .

- 1) Financial Situation (Cash Flow, Balance Sheet)
- 2) Annual Revenue
- 3) Annual Growth
- 4) How the company is organized
- 5) Their experience and backgrounds

... And their

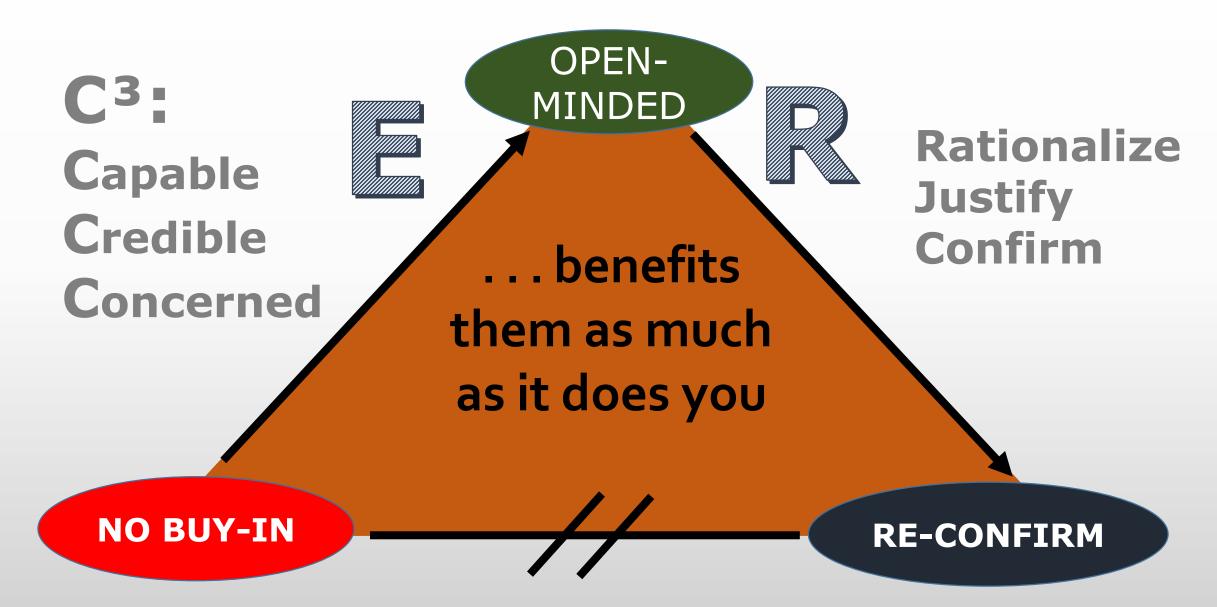
- 6) Market Presence
- 7) Their Markets (Beachhead, Niche, Brands)
- 8) Growth Opportunities
- 9) Quality Standards, Controls, Values
- 10) Customer (Archetypes), Feedback

... Plus

- 11) Customer Relationships, Complaint Management
- 12) Marketing Process, Tactics
- 13) Prior Deals (with others)

Do you approve how they sell and develop their market(s); do they have the funds and personnel to handle this alliance; do they share your enthusiasm?

The Deal that you propose . . .



Preparation Checklist

- Very Clear: Business Opportunity at Hand; Value Proposition
- Financial Resources & Responsibilities
- Specific Steps to get Alliance (Ops, Mktg, Sales) Moving
- Technology, Service: Specific Steps
- Who Supplies What People
- Long-Term Commitment v. Specific Product/Service
- Possible Future Products, Services





Why do our Stories Matter? Brain Science: Insula

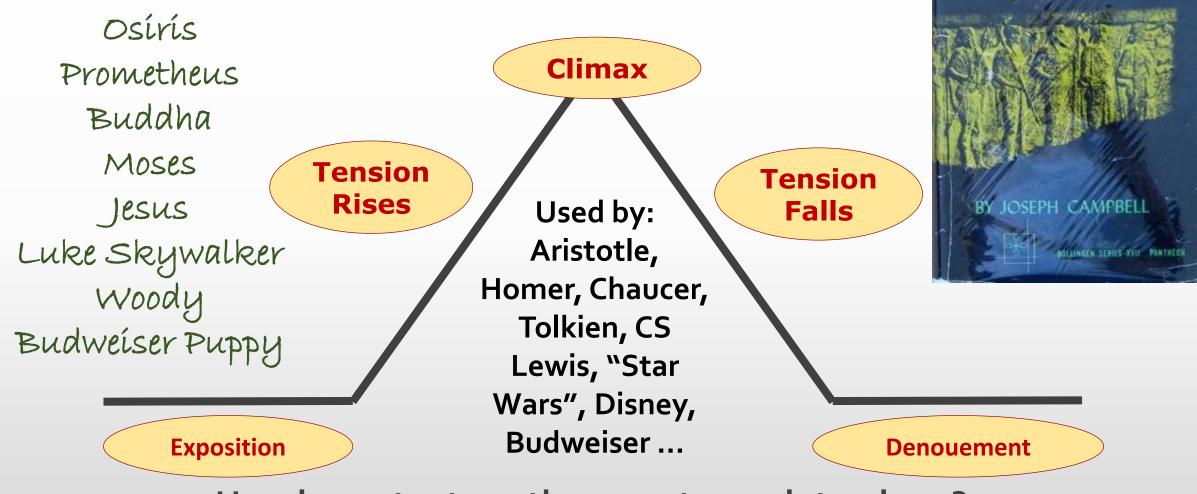
Dopamine (Hope/Optimism)

Cortisol (Stress)

Oxytocin (Connection/Empathy)

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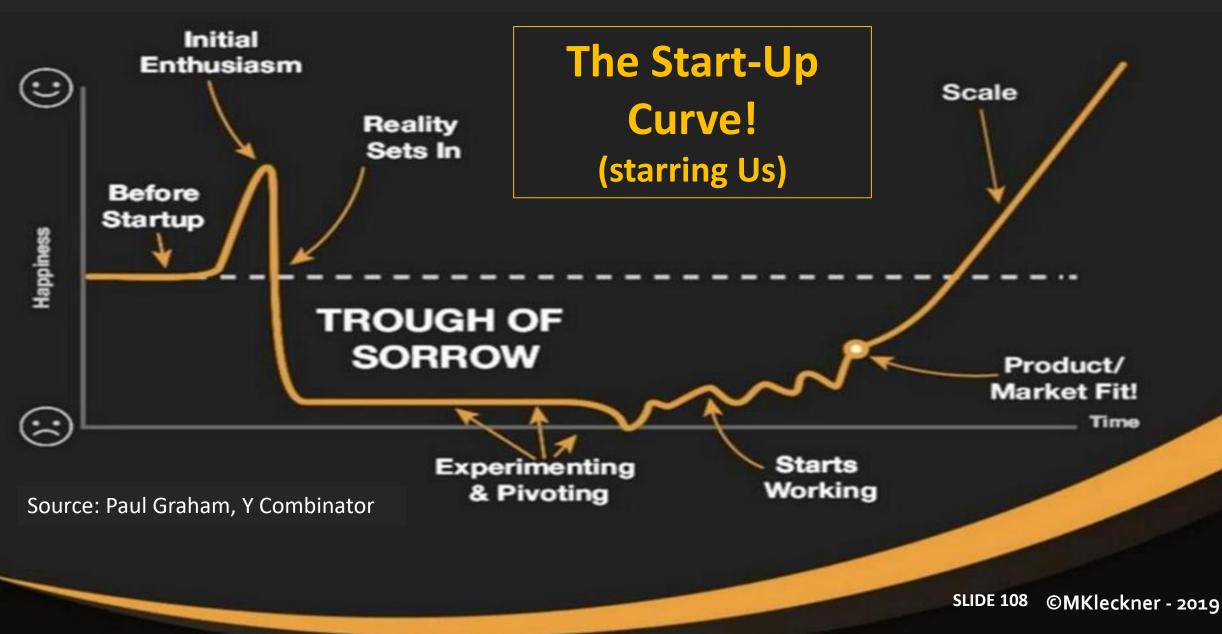
Why Do Stories Matter?



How important are those customer interviews?

WITH A THOUSAND FACES

Behind Every Great Product is a Great Story



Get Out of the Building! Discover! Validate!

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