# 0409 | Has Silicon Valley lost its monopoly over global tech?

硅谷已失去了对全球科技的垄断吗?

The heartland of the technology industry has become at once less dominant and more so 这个科技业心脏地带的主导地位已不似从前,却也更胜从前



Brett Ryder

SILICON VALLEY feels like a college reunion these days . As covid -19 restrictions are lifted across America , tech - bros ( and the **occasional** tech - gal ) who have not met in person in ages are high - fiving each other all over the place . Firms from Alphabet to Zynga are urging workers back to the office . **Venture capitalists** are **flocking** back from second homes by Lake Tahoe or **ranches** in Wyoming . Foreigners , who during the pandemic became a rarer sight in San Francisco than **unicorns** , can again be spotted south of Market Street , a popular **pasture** for **startups** valued at \$1bn or more .

硅谷这些日子给人的感觉就像大学同学聚会。随着全美各地解除新冠肺炎防疫限制,久未见面的科技哥们儿(偶尔还有科技姐们儿)都在相互击掌庆祝。从 Alphabet 到 Zynga 的公司都在催促员工回办公室去。风险投资者正纷纷从太浩湖边或怀俄明州牧场的第二个家回归。在疫情期间,外国人在旧金山变得比独角兽还罕见,而现在,在市场街( Market Street )以南这片聚集了许多估值10亿美元以上创业公司的区域,又可以见到他们的身影了。

The people look the same . Yet the place feels different . Your guest **columnist** , who is heading to Berlin after spending a total of 12 years , including all of the pandemic , in San Francisco over the past three decades , suspects that many returnees will feel like strangers in a strange land . Not because everyone seems suddenly **obsessed** with the **decentralised** "web3"( which they are ) or because the valley has peaked ( which it hasn't ). Silicon Valley has changed , and not just as a result of the pandemic .

人是而物非。笔者过去30年待在旧金山的时间加起来有12年,疫情期间也一直在那里(不过即将前往柏林)。笔者怀疑,许多归来的人都会觉得自己是来到一片陌生土地的陌生人。这倒不是因为突然间每个人似乎都为去中心化的"web3"神魂颠倒(事实也确实如此),也不是因为硅谷已经见顶(其实还没有)。硅谷变了,而这不仅仅是疫情导致的结果。

When this **stand - in Schumpeter** moved there in the mid -1990s , even some top venture capitalists drove **lumbering clunkers** . Now a **zippy** Tesla is **derigueur** ( with a Ferrari often sitting in the garage ). Similarly , the hub's business metabolism , which few places could match to begin with , has sped up . In the pandemic job - hopping became even more **rampant** and rapid . Many firms offer six - figure cash bonuses and pay rises of 25% to **retain** talent . Promising startups can raise money in days rather than weeks . Last year more than 17,000 venture - capital ( VC ) deals were cut in America ,40% more than in 2020, according to PitchBook , a data provider .

笔者在上世纪90年代中期搬到那里时,就连一些顶尖风险投资家也开着笨重的旧车。现在,一辆轻快的特斯拉必不可少(还有一辆常常停在车库里的法拉利)。同样地,这个科技中心原本就罕有对手的商业新陈代谢也已提速。在疫情期间,跳槽变得更家常便饭也更迅速了。许多公司开出了六位数的现金奖励和25%的加薪来留住人才。有前景的创业公司在几天内就能筹集到资金,而用不到几周。根据数据供应商 PitchBook 的数据,去年在美国达成的风险投资交易超过1.7万笔,比2020年多40%。

All that money pouring into a limited number of deals helped raise late-stage startups' median valuation to \$115m in 2021, nearly double the level in 2020. Outside investors, including **hedge** funds such as Tiger Global and Coatue Management that used to invest mainly in public markets, have piled in. These newcomers bring a new **philosophy**, in which a firm's performance and its fit in the overall **portfolio trump** conventional VC considerations such as knowing the **founder** or understanding the industry.

这些资金全都被倾注到为数不多的一些交易中,推动了"晚期"创业公司的估值中值在2021年达到1.15亿美元,几乎是2020年的两倍。外部投资者蜂拥而至,包括过去主要投资公开市场的对冲基金,如老虎全球(Tiger Global)和寇图资本(Coatue Management)。这些新来者带来了一种新理念,在选择风投目标时更看重一家公司的业绩及它与整个投资组合的契合度,而不再是围绕是否认识创始人或了解行业。

Valuations may already have suffered as a result of rising interest rates . But the cash will not disappear . Non - traditional investors , from private - **equity** firms to family offices , keep coming . And money isn't the only accelerant . Tech itself has **chivvied** things along ,too. Zoom makes it easier for people to interview for a new job and for entrepreneurs to **pitch** to potential investors . In the words of Mike Volpi of Index Ventures , a VC firm ," This has created a much more efficient market ."

由于利率上升,估值可能已经受到了影响。但是现金不会消失。从私募股权公司到家族办公室,非传统投资者接踵而来。而金钱也不是唯一的加速器。科技本身也在推动事情的发展。 Zoom 让人们更方便面试新工作,也让企业家更方便向潜在投资者推销。用风险投资公司 Index Ventures 的迈克. 沃尔皮(Mike Volpi)的话说,"这创造了一个效率大大提升的市场。"

(注:翻译来源:官网)

# **Notes**

## • occasional /əˈkeɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l/

adj. 偶尔的, 不经常的

## 习惯用语:

occasional survey 临时检验;临时检查;不定期调查occasional furniture 配套家具;休闲家具occasional cause 偶因occasional sales exemption 偶然销售豁免occasional income 偶然收入;临时收入;偶然所得;非经常收入;occasional slips 偶尔失误

Occasional hostility is inconsistent with true friendship. 偶尔的敌意与真正的友谊不相协调。

#### flock /flok/

n. 群;棉束 (等于floc) vt. 用棉束填满 vi. 聚集;成群而行

## 习惯用语:

a flock of 一群(鸟,羊等) flocks and herds 牛羊 a flock of sheep 一群羊

People flocked to hear the new prophet. 人们成群结队地去听这新的预言家演讲。

# • capitalist /'kæpɪt(ə)lɪst/

n. 资本家;资本主义者;有钱人,富翁 adj. 资本主义的;资本家的;拥有资本的

# 习惯用语:

capitalist economy 资本主义经济 capitalist country 资本主义国家 venture capitalist n. 风险资本家

The capitalists amass great wealth by exploiting workers. 资本家剥削工人而积累了巨额财富。

## • venture /'ventʃə/

vt. 敢于 vi. 冒险; 投机 n. 冒险; 风险; 企业

# 近义辨析:

venture: 指冒风险试一试,或指有礼貌的反抗或反对。

chance: 指碰运气、冒风险试试。

dare: 可与venture换用,但语气较强,着重挑战或违抗。 hazard: 主要指冒险作出某个选择,隐含碰运气意味。

## 习惯用语:

joint venture 合资企业;联合经营 venture capital 风险资本,风险投资 venture out 探险 venture on 冒险,鼓起勇气前进 at a venture 随便地;冒险地;胡乱地 joint venture agreement 合资协议;合营企业协议;合营协议

I will venture five shillings on it. 我愿为它赌五先令。 He ventured his fortune in a speculation. 他拿他的大宗财产做投机生意。

- ranch /ra:n(t)]/
- n. 〈美〉大农场, (兼种果树, 养鸡等的)大牧场

#### 习惯用语:

ranch house 低矮的平房 dude ranch 度假牧场;观光牧场或农场

The ranch castrated three-fourths of its male calves. 牧场把四分之三的小公牛都阉割了。

- unicorn /'ju:nɪko:n/
- n. 独角兽; 麒麟
  - pasture /'pa:stʃə/

n. 牧场; 牧草; 草地 vt. 放牧; 吃草

## 近义辨析:

lawn: 多指公园、庭院中经常加以修剪的草坪。

meadow: 指为牲畜提供食用草,可以贮备干草的牧草地; 也指野外的低草地。

pasture: 通常指放牧用的草地或牧草。

词组 | 习惯用语

put out to pasture 放牧 pasture land 牧场 pasture grass 牧草

They move with their flocks to upland pastures. 他们带着牲畜迁往高原上的牧场。

• **startup** /'sta:t\_Ap/

n. 启动; 开办

近义词:

[n.] beginning, start, commencement

习惯用语:

startup options [计]启动选项 startup disk 启动盘;开机磁盘

startup code 启动代码;启始程序代码

plagued by startup problems 为初始运转问题所困

But the next Netflix, some awesome startup, can't.

但是下一个Netflix,像是一些创业公司,他们就负担不起了。

#### columnist /'kpləm(n)ɪst/

# n. 专栏作家

近义词:

[n.] journalist

#### 习惯用语:

sophisticated columnist 老练的专栏作家; 高级专栏作家; advice columnist 建议专栏作家 syndicate columnist 特约专栏作家 Weekly Columnist 每周专栏

That newspaper columnist derides the mayor whenever he can. 那位报纸专栏作家从不放过取笑市长的机会。
She's a columnist for USA Today.
她是《今日美国报》的专栏作家。

#### obsessed /əb'sest/

adj. 着迷的;无法摆脱的 v. 着迷 (obsess的过去式);纠缠

近义词:

[adj.] concerned, controlled

#### 习惯用语:

be obsessed with 痴迷于…… Unhealthily obsessed 极度沉迷 Obsessed Wash 牛仔裤 happily obsessed 执迷不悔

The fear of death obsessed him throughout his old life. 他晚年一直受着死亡恐惧的困扰。

#### centralized /'sentralaizd/

adi. 集中的,中央集权的

近义词:

[adj.] concentrated

反义词:

[n.] decentralized, decentralised, distributed

习惯用语:

centralized management 集中式管理,集权管理 centralized control 集中控制 centralized processing 集中式处理 centralized accounting system 集中核算制

• **lumbering** /'lʌmb(ə)rɪŋ/

n. 伐木业 adj. 笨重的

#### 习惯用语:

lumbering robots 伐木机器人 destructive lumbering 滥伐 lumbering technique 采运技术 woodcutting lumbering 采伐林木

Bob was big, lumbering, gentle sort. 鲍伯块头大,举止笨拙,却温文尔雅。

• clunk /klʌŋk/

n. 沉闷的金属声 vt. 用力地敲打;发出沉闷声 vi. 发出咚咚的声音

# 习惯用语:

clunk test 弹进试验 click and clunk 细节阅读 clunk in test 弹进试验

The machinery clunked into life. 机械铿锵作响着开动了。

• zippy /ˈzɪpɪ/

adj. 敏捷的;活泼的;喜悦的 n. 齐皮士; 齐皮派成员

# 习惯用语:

The car is zippy around town. 轿车迅速地环城驶过。 A zippy, zingy, almost citrusy tang. 一种浓郁而有劲的,像是柑橘般的味道。

• derigueur /dəri:ˈgə:/

adj. 礼貌习惯上所必需的; 合乎礼仪的

## 习惯用语:

The reunion dinner eaten on New Year's eve was derigueur with members of the extended family gathering for the most significant meal of the year.

除夕夜的团圆饭是整个年头里最具意义的一餐,所有大家庭的成员都会聚集一堂。

• rampant /'ræmp(ə)nt/

adj. (尤指疾病, 社会弊端)猖獗的; 无法控制的; (指动物)只用后腿站起来的

## 习惯用语:

run rampant 猖狂;泛滥成灾

That area is full of rampant lawlessness.

那个地区充斥着犯罪事件。

Dissension is rampant among the members of the committee.

意见分歧在委员会的成员中蔓延。

## • retain /rɪˈteɪn/

vt. 保持;雇;记住

#### 近义辨析:

keep: 最常用词,指长时间牢固地保持或保存。

retain: 指继续保持。

reserve: 正式用词,指为了将来的用途或其他用途而保存、保留。

preserve: 主要指为防止损害、变质等而保存。

conserve: 一般指保存自然资源,保全人的精力、力量等。

withhold: 指扣住不放,暗示有阻碍。

词组 | 习惯用语

retain talent 留住人才

retain freshness 保持新鲜感; 保留新鲜度;

retain card 吞卡

#### 习惯用语:

retain invariably 始终如一地保持 Retain Wireframe 修复线框 conserve retain 保存; 保护

Generation at corneous layer inNerve acyl amine--Loading retain skin moisture and defended double function.

产生于角质层深处的神经酰胺——担负着保有肌肤水分和防护的双重机能。

# • hedge /hedʒ/

vt. 用树篱笆围住;避免作正面答复 vi. 用树篱围住;避免作正面答复 n. 树篱;障碍

名词: hedger 形容词: hedgy

# 习惯用语:

hedge fund 避险基金;套保基金 hedge against 避免损失的措施 hedge against inflation [经]为防通货膨胀而套购

Trim the hedge and collect the trimmings. 把树篱修剪一下,然后把剪下的枝条收在一起。

# • philosophy /fi'losəfi/

n. 哲学; 人生哲学, 人生观; 达观

## 习惯用语:

design philosophy 设计原则;设计原理 philosophy of life 人生哲学 philosophy of marxism n. 马克思主义哲学

The philosophy of those long-hairs leans towards nihilism. 那些长发嬉皮士的人生观倾向于虚无主义。

# • portfolio /po:t'fอบไวอบ/

n. 公事包, 文件夹; 投资组合; 大臣或部长的职位或职责

#### 习惯用语:

investment portfolio 投资证券组合 asset portfolio 资产组合 portfolio strategy 投资组合战略

My stockbroker manages my portfolio for me. 我的证券经纪人替我管理投资组合。

## • trump /trʌmp/

n. (牌戏)王牌, 将牌 vt. (牌戏)出王牌赢(一牌或一墩) vi. 捏造;编造;(出乎意料地)令人满意;格外地慷慨大方(或帮忙)

#### 习惯用语:

That woman trumped up various baseless charges against him. 那个女人捏造种种毫无根据的罪名指控他。
I had to play a trump to win the trick.
我只好打出王牌才赢得这一墩。

#### • conventional /kən'venʃ(ə)n(ə)l/

adj. 依照惯例的, 约定俗成的, 依照传统的; 常规的, 非核的

#### 近义辨析:

usual: 普通用词,概念广泛。指经常发生或意料中的事,既可指自然发生的现象,也可指按个人习惯或惯例而做的事。

customary: 指特定的个人或群体的平常习惯,或习俗性的行为。 habitual: 指按个人习惯反复发生的事情。侧重经常性、习惯性。

conventional: 语气强,指遵守已成习惯的事情,强调符合惯例,由人们普遍认可。

regular: 着重遵守约定俗成的规则。

#### 习惯用语:

conventional method 常规方法;习用方法 conventional type 常规型式 conventional industries 传统产业 The first movement is a conventional symphonic Allegro. 第一乐章是传统的交响乐快板。

## • founder /'favndə(r)/

vi. 沉没;失败;倒塌;变跛 vt. 破坏;使摔倒;垮掉 n. 建立者;创始人;翻沙工

习惯用语:

founder member 创办人;发起人

The plan foundered for lack of support. 计划因缺少支持而失败。

## • equity /'ekwiti/

n. 公平,公正;普通股;衡平法;抵押资产的净值

近义词:

[n.] assets, justice

反义词:

[n.] unfairness, inequity

#### 习惯用语:

private equity 私募股权;私人股本 equity investment 产权投资;股本投资 brand equity 品牌价值;商标资产

They shared the work of the house with equity. 他们公平地分担家务。

# • chivvy /'t[ivi/

v. (使)烦扰,耍花招

# 习惯用语:

chivvy up 反复指示 chivvy into 催促

*I shall come down your burrow and chivvy you out like an old stoat.* 我要钻进你的地洞里去,象赶一只老鼬鼠一般把你赶出来。

I feel very guilty, since I chivvied you, and now I'm jumping ship, but I can't run Downton as well. 我很内疚,之前我为此缠着你,现在却又弃你而去,但我不能同时管理唐顿。

## pitch /pɪtʃ/

n. 球场;音调,音高;程度;强度;高度;沥青;颠簸;斜度,坡度;商贩摊位,艺人表演场地;推销商品的话 vt. 投,掷,扔;为...定音调;用人们易懂的方式表述 vt. & vi. 搭(帐篷),扎(营);(使)突然向前倒下 vi. 颠簸;向下倾斜

# 近义辨析:

throw: 普通用词,使用广泛,仅指用力抛掷,不涉及动作方式或感情色彩。

cast: 常可与throw互换,指迅速扔出一个重量较轻的物体。

fling: 指用力投掷,或因感情激动而粗暴地或漫无目的地扔东西。

heave: 指把重物举起后扔出。

hurl: 通常指用力投掷,动作迅猛,所投掷的距离也较远。 pitch: 指随意地、轻轻地掷或扔,侧重方向性和有明确的目标。

toss: 指无什么目的地、轻轻地、随意地掷或扔, 所扔掷的东西一般都比较轻。

# 习惯用语:

pitch in 投入;作出贡献 pitch on 选中;决定 football pitch 足球场

at fever pitch 处于狂热状态;处于非常激动(或兴奋)状态

They that touch pitch will be defiled.

近墨者黑。

Pitch bleeds freely from break in the bark.

树脂从树皮的裂口自然地流出来。