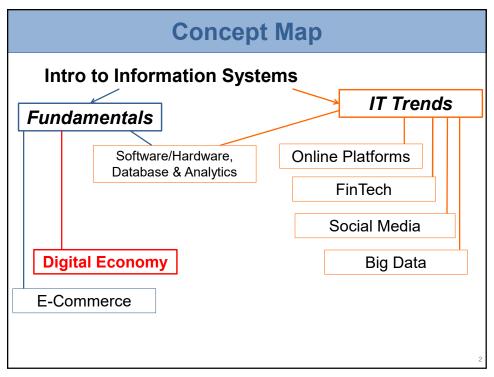
ISOM 2010: Digital Economy (I)

Yanzhen Chen

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

1



>> Roadmap

Today:

Fundamentals of IT

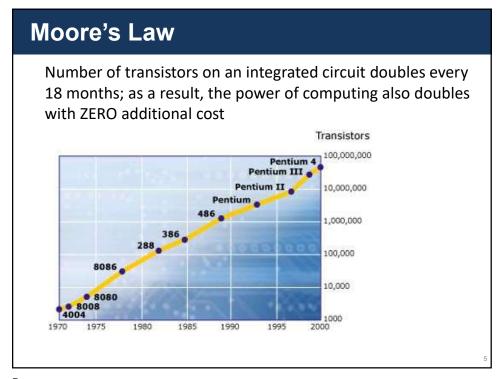
Next:

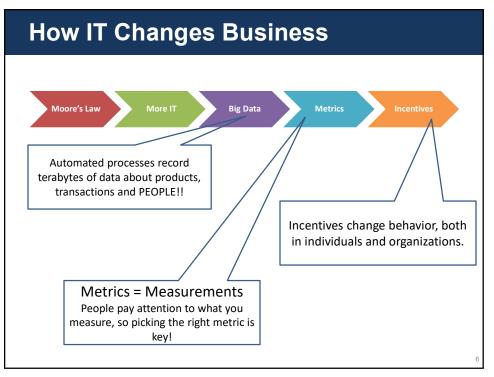
- IT and Strategy
- Impacts of IT

3

Essential IT

Information Technology
Information <u>and</u> Technology





IT = Strategic Business Value

- It's not about the technology—it's about the INFORMATION
- Information impacts every business area
- IT adds efficiency & competitive advantage – life blood of success



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Fundamentals of IT

- What are the unique characteristics of information?
- What are the functions of technology?
- What are the roles of information systems in business?

>> Information

Anything that can be digitized







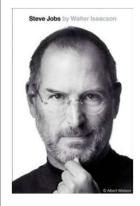


- Text, images, videos, music, etc.
- "Content" or "digital goods"

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Cost Structure of Information

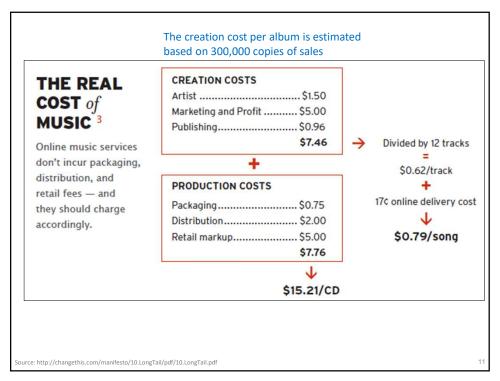
Information is expensive to **produce**, but cheap to **reproduce**

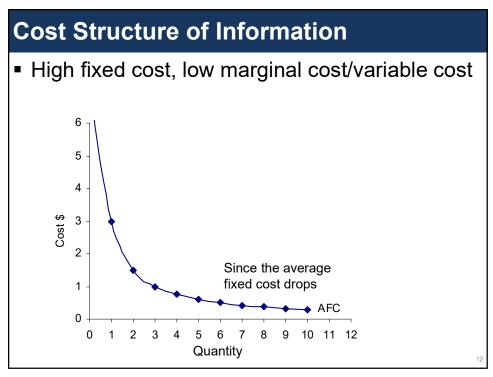






10





An Example: William Hung's Big Hit

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HF_9d-LJDyA
- Cost Structure of Digital Products
- Capacity Constrain of Digital Products

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Cost Structure of Information

High fixed cost, low marginal cost

- Not only fixed, but sunk

Studio albums

List of studio albums with chart positions and sales

Title	Album details	Peak chart positions				
		US [14]	US Indie [15]	AUS [16]	AUS Heat [16]	Sales ^[6]
Inspiration	Released: April 6, 2004 Label: Koch Format: CD, digital download	34	1	89	4	. US: 200,000

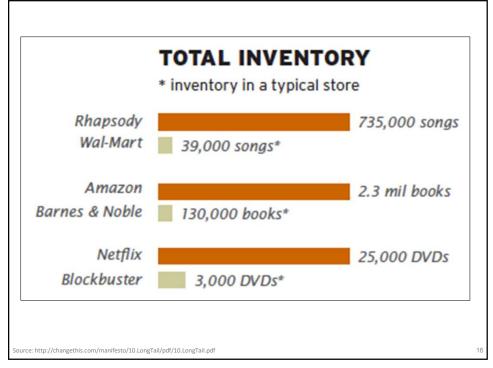
14

Cost Structure of Information

- High fixed cost, low marginal cost
 - Not only fixed, but sunk
- No significant capacity constraints

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Cost Structure of Information

- What's the "right" price of digital goods?
 - Set price where MC = MR?
 - How do we compete with "Free"?
 - Business Models for "Free" Digital Products

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About.com Wireless / Networking

■ Wireless / Networking ▼

Fundamentals

Get Connected

Top 6 Free Music and Movie Download Tips - Kazaa -BitTorrent - Limewire P2P

By Bradley Mitchell

Music P2P File Sharing Peer to Peer Wireless

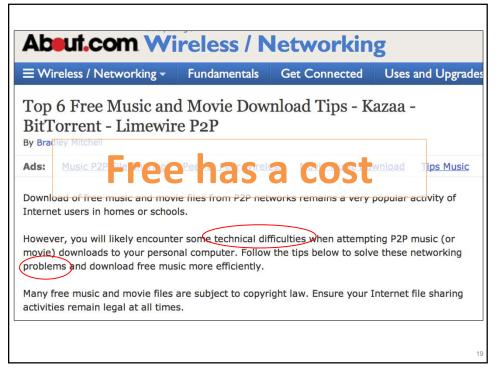
Movie Music Download

Tips Music

Download of free music and movie files from P2P networks remains a very popular activity of Internet users in homes or schools.

However, you will likely encounter some technical difficulties when attempting P2P music (or movie) downloads to your personal computer. Follow the tips below to solve these networking problems and download free music more efficiently.

Many free music and movie files are subject to copyright law. Ensure your Internet file sharing activities remain legal at all times.



Consumption of Information

Two prominent features:

- I. Experience good
- 2. Overload

Experience Good

- Quality can only be ascertained after consumption
- Consumer must experience information to value it
- Consumers' valuations vary dramatically

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Experience Good

What strategies do sellers use to help consumer "experience" product such as:

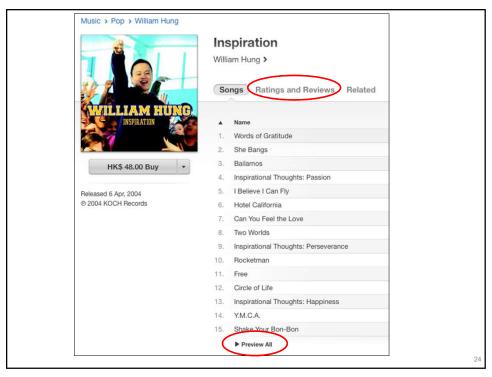
- Music
- Books
- Software
- News?

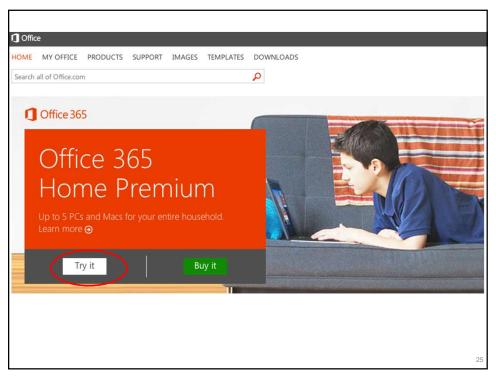
Class Discussion

• If you were William Hung's album producer, what would you do to reduce the uncertainty of customer experience which hinders customers from purchasing his songs?

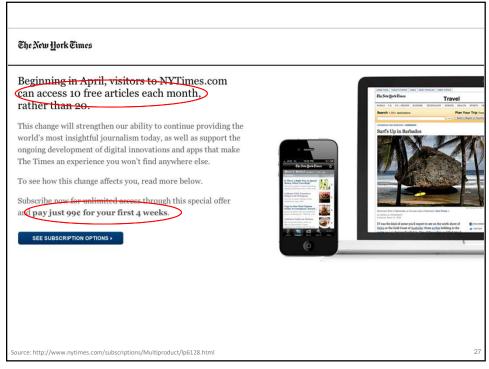
23

23









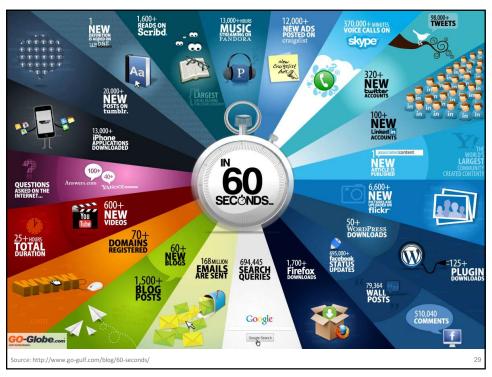
Consumption of Information

Two prominent features:

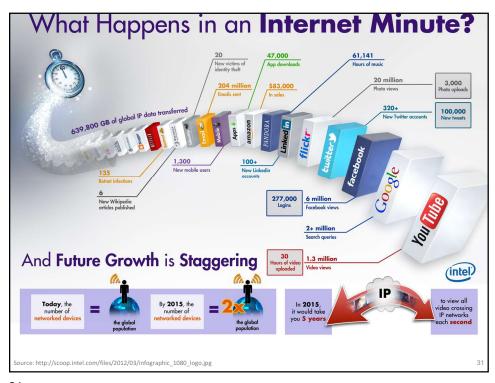
1. Experience good

2. Overload

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- Every day, 2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created, with 90 percent of the world's data created in the past two years alone.2
- Data production will be 44 times greater in 2020 than in 2009.3
- The volume of business data worldwide is expected to double every 1.2 years.⁴
- Wal-Mart processes one million customer transactions per hour, stored in databases estimated to contain more than 2.5 petabytes of data.5
- The enormous data influx is straining IT infrastructures. In a recent survey, 55 percent of executives said data is slowing down their IT systems.6
- Poor data management can cost up to 35 percent of a business's operating revenue.
- One zettabyte is approximately equal to a thousand exabytes or a billion terabytes.
 "Bringing Big Data to the Enterprise," IBM, 2012
 "A Comprehensive List of Big Data Statistics," Wikibon Blog, 1 August 2012

- 4 "eBay Study: How to Build Trust and Improve the Shopping Experience," KnowIT Information Systems, 8 May 2012
 5 "Big Data Meets Big Data Analytics," SAS, 2011
- 6 "Global Survey: The Business Impact of Big Data," Avanade, November 2010
- "Big Data' Facts and Statistics That Will Shock You," Fathorn Digital Marketing, 8 May 2012

Source: A.T. Kearney (2013) "Big Data and the CreativeDestruction of Today's Business Models"

Information Overload

"There was 5 exabytes of information created between the dawn of civilization through 2003, but that much information is now created every 2 days, and the pace is increasing."

~ Eric Schmidt

3

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Information Overload

- Implication: Economics of attention
 - Information is not scarce, attention is.

"A wealth of information creates a poverty of attention."

~ Herbert Simon

Information Overload

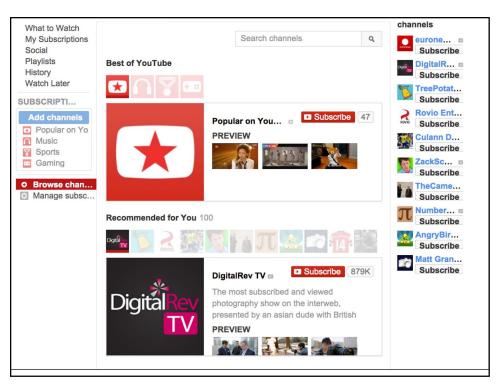
What can firms do in an overloaded world?

Targeted & Personalized Recommendations

■ Provide "Search and Filter"

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>> Technology/Systems

- Infrastructure to:
 - Store,
 - Retrieve,
 - Filter,
 - Manipulate,
 - View,
 - Transmit, and
 - Receive information



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Technology/Systems

How does technology add value to information?

- 1. Provides accessibility to information
 - Real-time/timeliness
- 2. Enriches information
 - Manipulation and filtering
 - Combining data sources
- 3. Facilitates exchange of information

>> Role of IS in Business

- Technology is embedded in business
 - Sales, Marketing, Customer Service
- IT has operational and strategic roles

3

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Role of IS in Business

- Support and Enhance Business Process
 - Facilitate transactions
 - Record activities
 - Track inventory/Balance



Role of IS

- Support and Enable Decision Making
 - What items to add or discontinue?
 - Which markets should I enter/exit?
 - What incentives can I provide to key customers?
 - Where should I invest in?

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BUSINESS INSIDER

A Venture Capital Firm Just Named An Algorithm To Its Board Of Directors — Here's What It Actually Does



ROB WILE MAY 13, 2014, 11:19 AM

A Hong Kong VC fund has just appointed an algorithm to its board.

Deep Knowledge Ventures, a firm that focuses on age-related disease drugs and regenerative medicine projects, says the program, called VITAL, can make investment recommendations about life sciences firms by poring over large amounts of data.

Just like other members of the board, the algorithm gets to vote on whether the firm makes an investment in a specific company or not. The program will be the sixth member of DKV's board.



Google image

VITAL's software was developed by UK-based Aging Analytics.

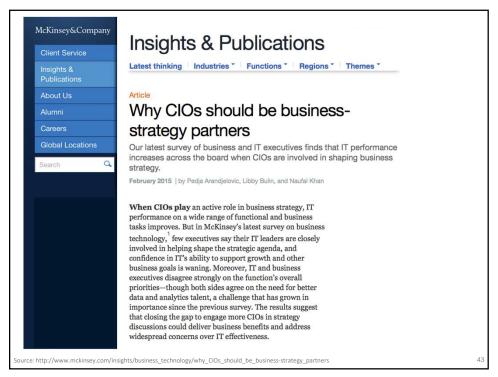
"[The goal] is actually to draw attention developing it as an independent decision maker," Deep Knowledge Venture's Charles Groome told BI.

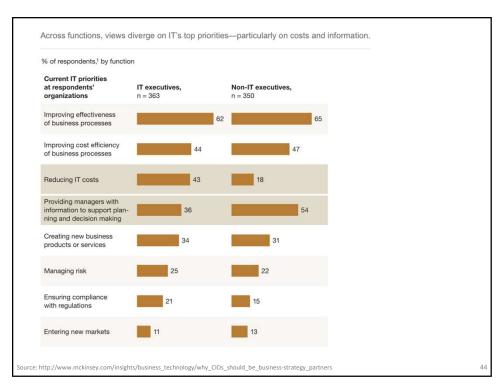
How does the algorithm work?

 $\label{thm:property} VITAL\ makes its\ decisions\ by\ scanning\ prospective\ companies'\ financing,\ clinical\ trials,\ intellectual\ property\ and\ previous\ funding\ rounds.$

ource: http://www.businessinsider.com/vital-named-to-board-2014-5

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>> Roadmap

Today:

Fundamentals of IT

Next:

- Strategic IT
- Impacts of IT

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Fundamentals of IT

- What are the unique characteristics of information?
- What are the functions of technology?
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Resources

- Hal R. Varian (1998) "Markets for Information $\textbf{Goods"} \ (\textbf{http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~hal/Papers/japan/japan.html})$
- McKinsey (2014) "Why CIOs should be business-strategy partners" (http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/why_CIOs_should_be_bu

siness-strategy_partners)