

UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

MANAGING THE DIGITAL ENTERPRISE

## Individual Assignment 2

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# 1 Digital Transformation in Incumbent Companies

Digitalization is a defining force in today's business landscape, reshaping company's operations and competitive strategies across various industries. They are changing constantly and rapidly to adapt to shifting market conditions and evolving circumstances. This transformation has also an impact on incumbent companies. [1, 4]

## Incumbent company

Incumbent company refers to a well-established entity that has a significant presence and history within a particular industry or market. These companies have been in operation for a long period, often for many years or decades, and have typically achieved a level of market leadership, brand recognition, and customer base. [2, 3]

The adaptation of incumbent companies to the digital progress is often a necessity to remain relevant and competitive in a world where technology and customer expectations are constantly changing. [2, 3]

The digital transformation alters whole businesses and their strategy by focussing more on the customer. Incumbent companies are particularly facing challenges in changing and adapting quickly, because their organizational structures and strategies have already been executed without change for many years. [1]

Three key factors related to the digitalization of the business and technology environments around incumbent companies and their motivations for engaging in digital transformation are described below. [2, 3]

## 1.1 Changing Consumer Expectations

TODO: Sources and write more text

As technology advances, consumers have come to expect seamless and personalized experiences when interacting with businesses, including e-commerce, mobile apps or customer service. Consumers demand easy access, instant responses, and tailored solutions.

Incumbent companies must adapt to these changing expectations to remain competitive. Traditional businesses are forced to establish an online presence and enhance their digital channels to engage with customers effectively. Companies that fail to meet these expectations risk losing market share.

## 1.2 Emerging Technologies and Competitive Disruption

TODO

Motivation: Startups and tech-native companies often leverage cutting-edge technologies to disrupt established industries. Innovations like artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics are reshaping industries and enabling new business models.

Impact: Incumbent companies face the risk of being left behind by competitors who leverage these technologies for cost-efficiency, improved customer experiences, or entirely new offerings. To remain relevant and competitive, they must adopt digital strategies, embrace innovation, and incorporate these emerging technologies into their operations.

### **1.3 Data-Driven Decision-Making**

TODO

Motivation: The digital environment generates vast amounts of data that can be harnessed for insights, predictions, and informed decision-making. Companies that effectively use data analytics gain a competitive edge by understanding customer behavior, optimizing operations, and predicting trends.

Impact: Incumbent companies may have large datasets accumulated over the years. To unlock the potential of this data, they need to invest in data analytics tools and expertise. Data-driven decision-making enables them to enhance efficiency, personalize customer experiences, and uncover new revenue opportunities.

In summary, changing consumer expectations, competitive disruption driven by emerging technologies, and the potential of data-driven decision-making motivate incumbent companies to engage in digital transformation. Adapting to these factors is crucial for their survival and long-term success in the digital age. Companies that resist these changes risk becoming obsolete, losing market share, and missing out on opportunities for growth and innovation.

## **2 Key challenges for established companies**

## **3 Strategies for overcoming challenges**

## References

- [1] Sandra Sjöbäck and Amanda Spaak. “Digital Business Transformation in Incumbent Firms”. MA thesis. Linköping University, 2021.
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- [3] George Westerman, Didier Bonnet, and Andrew McAfee. *Leading digital: Turning technology into business transformation*. Harvard Business Press, 2014.
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