# **Software Vendors**

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COSS B03

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## Agenda

- 1. Products and vendors
- 2. Projects vs. product firms
- 3. The financial view
- 4. Business functions
- 5. Core business processes

# 1. Products and Vendors

#### The Main Types of Industry Players (Recap)

- Standard product providers
  - (Independent) software vendors (ISVs)
    - Produce software products ("standard software" or "commercial off-the-shelf software")
  - Software service providers (e.g. "Internet companies")
    - Operate any form of software (and hardware)
- Software consulting firms
  - Development services firms
    - Produce custom software
  - Implementation services firms
    - Configure software products for use by customers
- Non-profit organizations
  - Standards organizations
  - Regulatory bodies
  - Certification agencies

#### Core, Basic, and Whole Product (Recap)

#### Core product =

- Core software
- Additional functionality
- Complementary artifacts
- Self-help services

#### Basic product =

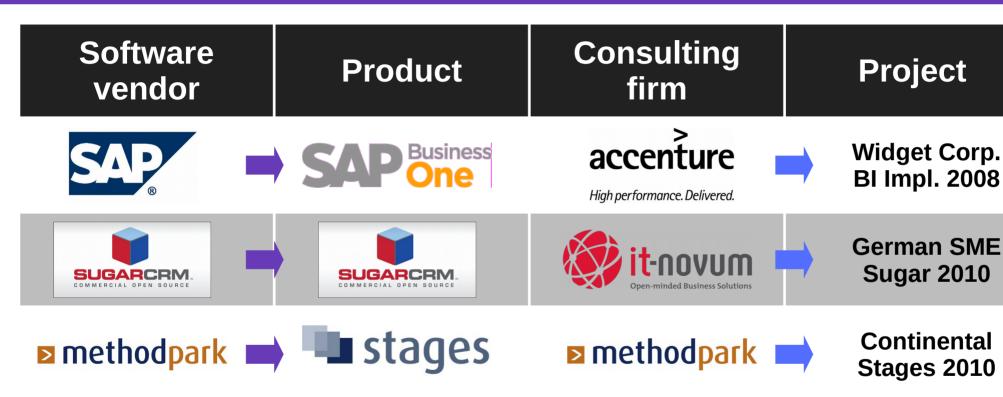
- Core product +
- Fitness for use
- Certification
- Support services

#### Whole product =

- Basic product +
- Training
- Consulting
- Operations

# 2. Product vs. Project Firms

## **Enterprise Software Products and Projects**

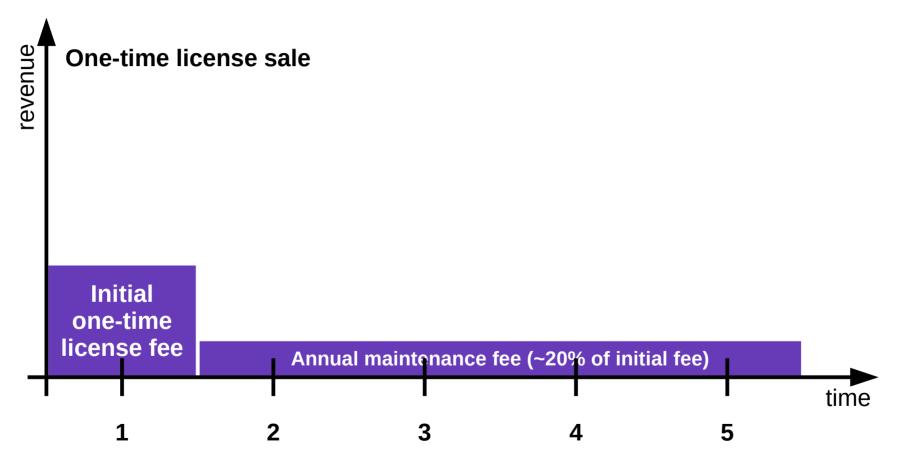




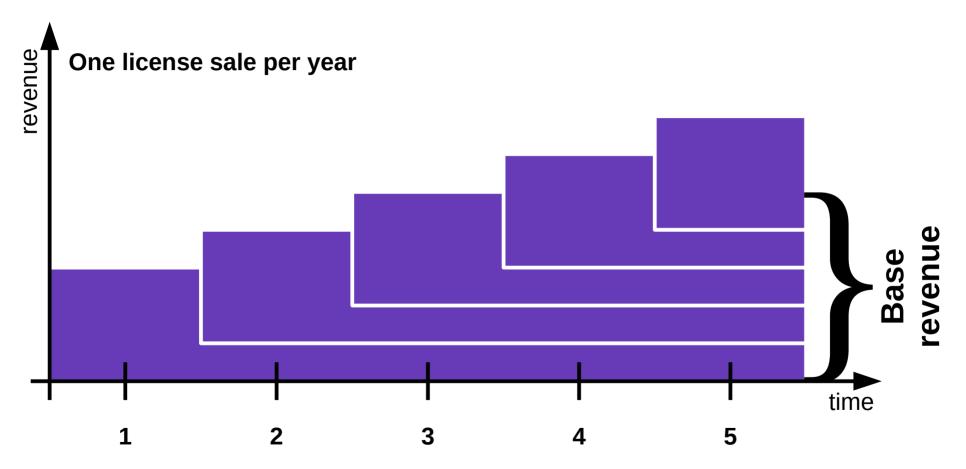




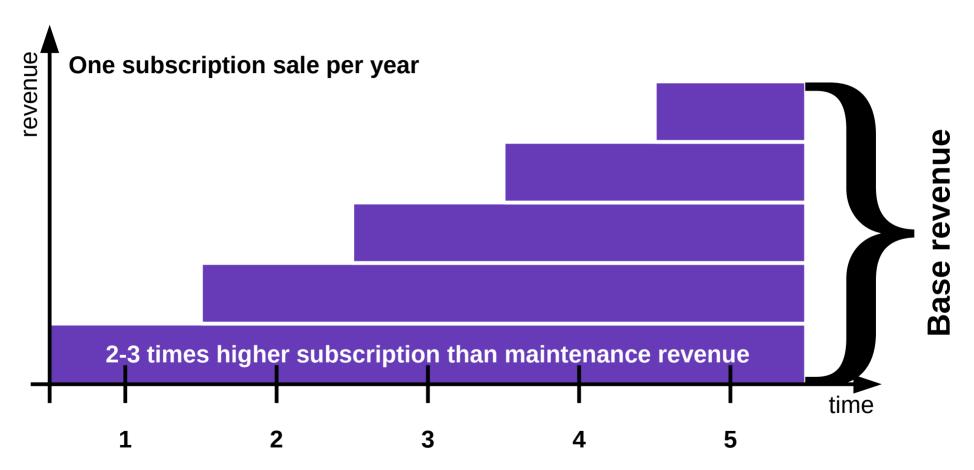
#### **Software Product Revenue**



## Accumulating Traditional Software Product Revenue



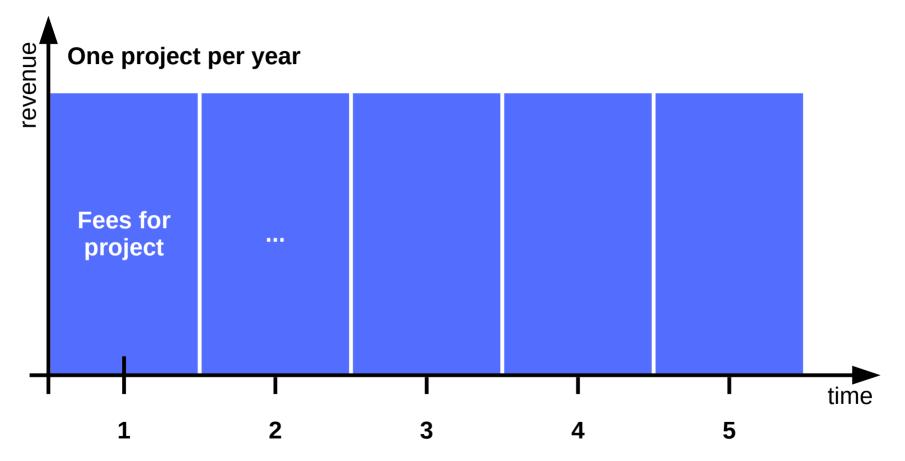
#### **Accumulating Software Subscription Revenue**



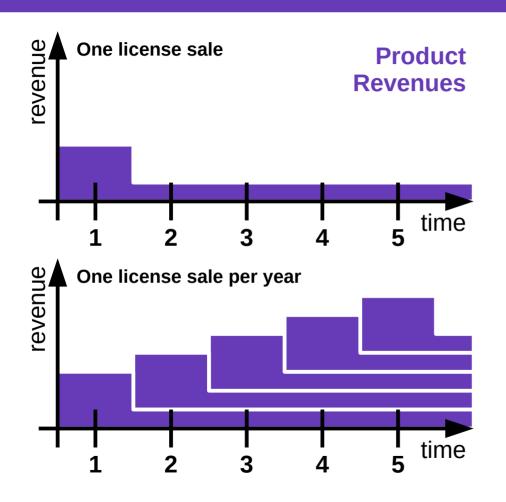
#### **Software Projects**

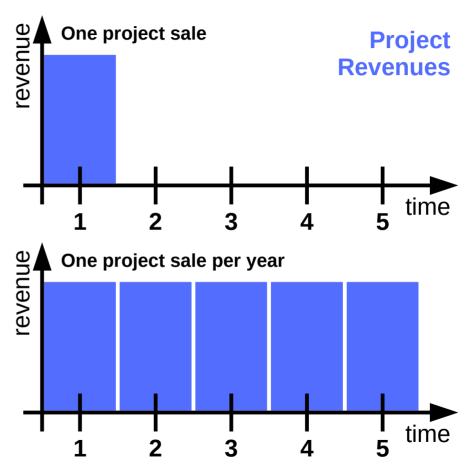
- A project is an undertaking that
  - Has a process with a defined start and a defined end
- A software project is a project where
  - Revenues correlate with performed labor
    - Fixed price vs. actual labor
  - Accounted for as revenue and expenses
- Some examples projects
  - Bachelor and Master theses
  - Customizing SAP for a customer

# **Software Project Revenue**



#### Software Product vs. Project Revenue





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# Software Product vs. Project Firms

#### Software vendor **Consulting firm** Predictable revenue Not capital intensive High valuation multiples Can be started easily **Advantages** Has simple pricing Hard to get started Somewhat fragile revenue Requires investment Higher business volatility **Disadvantages** Most fail, few survive Limited scalability

# 3. The Financial View

#### The Three Statements of Financial Accounting

- Balance sheet
  - A summary (annual) statement of assets, liabilities, and equity
- Income statement
  - A summary (annual) statement of revenues and expenses
- Cash-flow statement
  - A summary (annual) of flow of cash (and cash equivalents)

#### **The Income Statement**

- Basic vocabulary
  - Revenues = income (sales)
  - Expenses = costs
  - Profit (loss) = revenues expenses

Revenues	\$1.657	100%
Subscription and Support	\$1.551	94%
Professional Services etc.	\$106	6%
Cost of Revenues	\$324	20%
Subscription and Support	\$208	13%
Professional Services etc.	\$116	7%
Gross Profit (and Gross Margin)	\$1.333	80%
Operating Expenses		
Research and Development	\$188	11%
Sales and Marketing	\$792	48%
Sales and Marketing	•	
General and Administrative	\$256	15%
	-	15% 74%
General and Administrative	\$256	

2011 (\$m)

**Percentage** 

Source: Michael A. Cusumano. Reflecting on the Facebook IPO. CACM 10, 2012.

# Quiz: Accenture vs. Salesforce (2019)

Metric   Ratio	Accenture	Salesforce
Market capitalization	??	??
Revenue	US\$ 43 billion	US\$ 17 billion
Net income [1]	US\$ 4,5 billion	US\$ 0,1 billion
Price-to-sales ratio [2]	??	??
Gross profit margin [3]	30%	74%
Operating profit margin	15%	2,94%
Net profit margin	11%	0,74%
Revenue growth	4,4%	29%
No employees	510.000	49.000

<sup>[1]</sup> Net income = revenue – (COGS + SGA + operating expenses + depreciation + ... taxes)

<sup>2]</sup> Price-to-sales ratio = market capitalization / last year's revenue

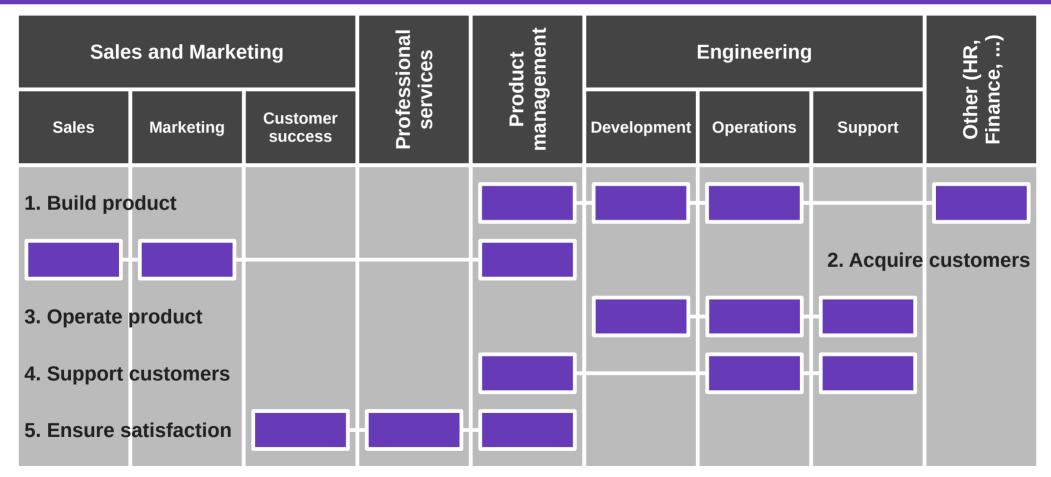
<sup>3]</sup> Gross profit margin = (revenue – COGS) / revenue

# Accenture vs. Salesforce (2019)

Metric   Ratio	Accenture	Salesforce
Market capitalization	US\$ 134 billion	US\$ 144 billion
Revenue	US\$ 43 billion	US\$ 17 billion
Net income	US\$ 4,5 billion	US\$ 0,1 billion
Price-to-sales ratio	3,58	9,06
Gross profit margin	30%	74%
Operating profit margin	15%	2,94%
Net profit margin	11%	0,74%
Revenue growth	4,4%	29%
No employees	510.000	49.000

# 4. Business Functions

#### **Key Business Functions and Processes**



#### Product Management (Business Functions 1 / 9)

- Roles / titles
  - Chief product officer (CPO)
  - Strategic product manager
  - Technical product manager (e.g. Scrum product owner)
- Responsibilities
  - Identify and justify new business opportunities
  - Define and prioritize product vision, roadmap, and features
- Key stakeholder in
  - Build product
  - Acquire customers
  - Ensure customer satisfaction

#### **Development (Business Functions 2 / 9)**

- Roles / titles
  - Developer / engineer
  - Software architect [1]
  - Engineering manager
- Responsibilities
  - Design, build, and evolve product
  - Provide third-level support
- Key stakeholder in
  - Build product

## **Operations (Business Functions 3 / 9)**

- Roles / titles
  - Site reliability engineer
  - Operations manager
- Responsibilities
  - Operate product
  - Provide third-level support
- Key stakeholder in
  - Operate product
  - Support customers

### **Support (Business Functions 4 / 9)**

- Roles / titles
  - Support engineer
  - Support manager
- Responsibilities
  - Respond to support requests
  - Build support automation
- Key stakeholder in
  - Support customers
- May overlap with DevOps

#### Marketing (Business Functions 5 / 9)

- Roles / titles
  - (Marketeer)
  - Marketing manager
- Responsibilities
  - Create brand awareness
  - Generate demand
  - Generate leads, qualify them
  - Make product known (campaigns, webinars, etc.)
  - Provide competitive intelligence
- Key stakeholder in
  - Acquire customers

#### Sales (Business Functions 6 / 9)

- Roles / titles
  - Sales person / representative
  - Pre-sales (person)
  - Sales manager
  - Account manager
- Responsibilities
  - Turn qualified leads into customers
  - Drive upsell, cross-sell, and renewals
- Key stakeholder in
  - Acquire customers

#### **Customer Success (Business Functions 7 / 9)**

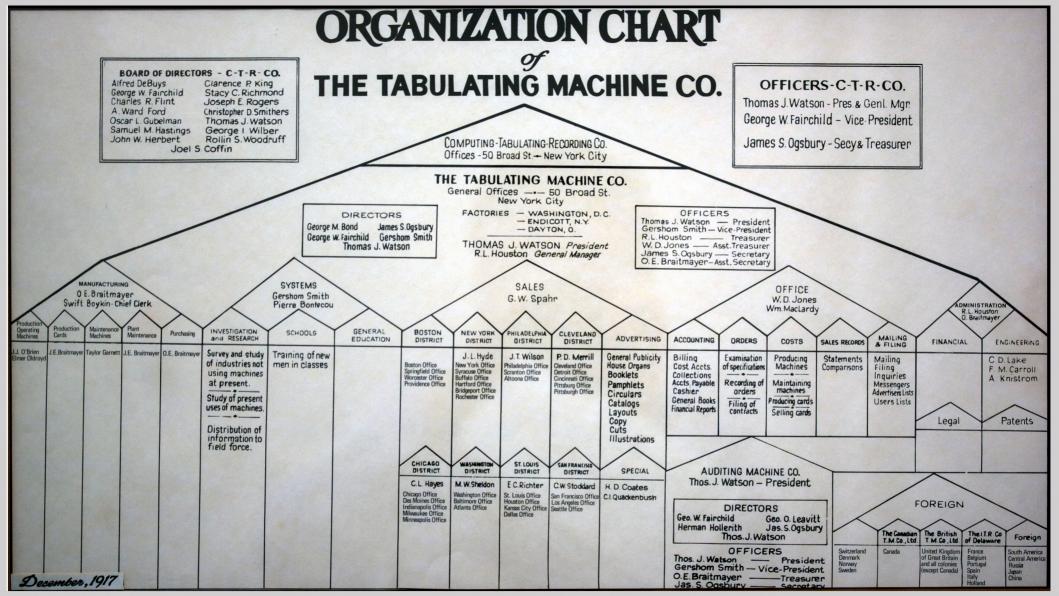
- Roles / titles
  - Customer advocate
  - Customer success manager
- Responsibilities
  - Ensure actual use
  - Improve satisfaction
- Key stakeholder in
  - Ensure customer satisfaction

### Professional Services (Business Functions 8 / 9)

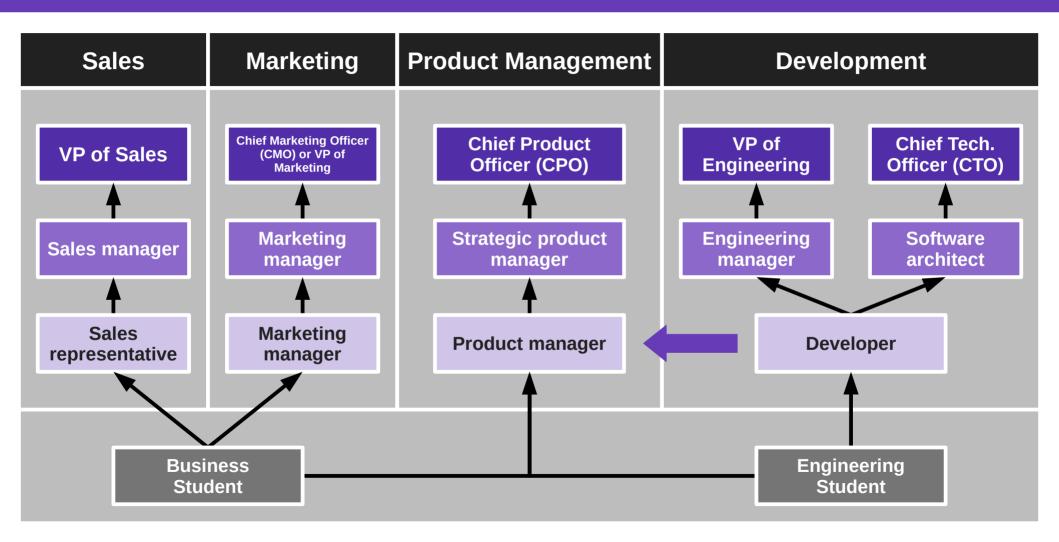
- Roles / titles
  - Consultant
  - Project manager
- Responsibilities
  - Help deploy the product ("solution")
  - Review partner consulting firm (work quality)
  - Help manage consulting ecosystem
- Key stakeholder in
  - Ensure customer satisfaction

#### Other (Business Functions 9 / 9)

- Human resources
  - Supports hiring
  - Ensures compliance
- Finance
  - Supports operations
  - Manages expenses / costs
  - Helps fundraising
  - Ensures compliance



#### **Titles and Careers in a Software Company**

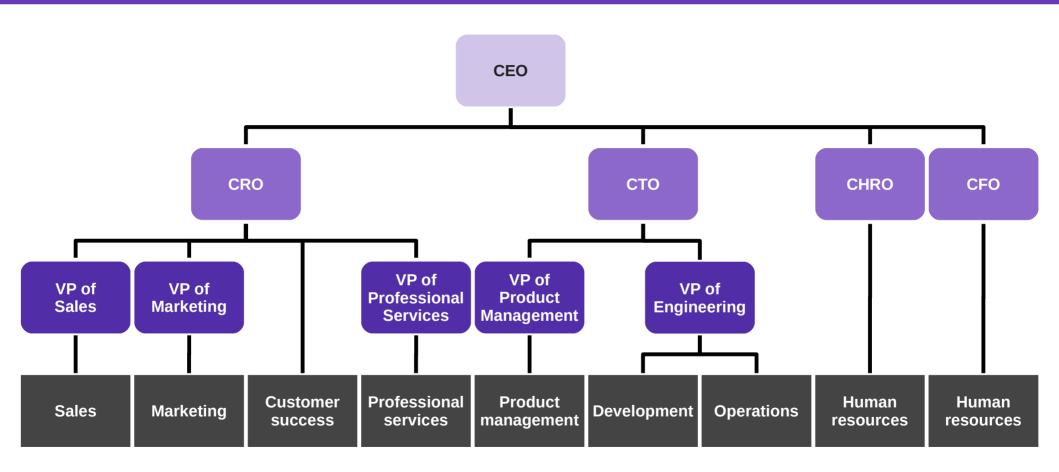


# **5. Core Business Processes**

#### **Profit Center vs. Cost Center**

- Profit center
  - Generates revenue ("makes money")
  - Reason why company exists
- Cost center
  - Costs money
  - Needed to operate ("hygiene factor")

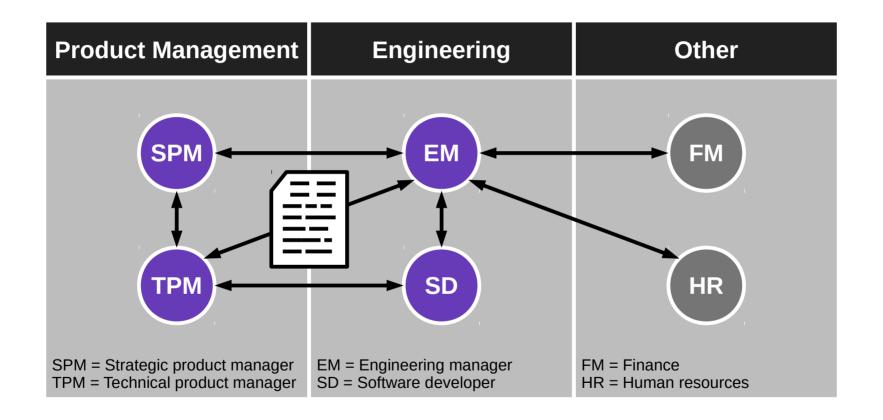
#### **Managerial Hierarchy (Line Reporting)**



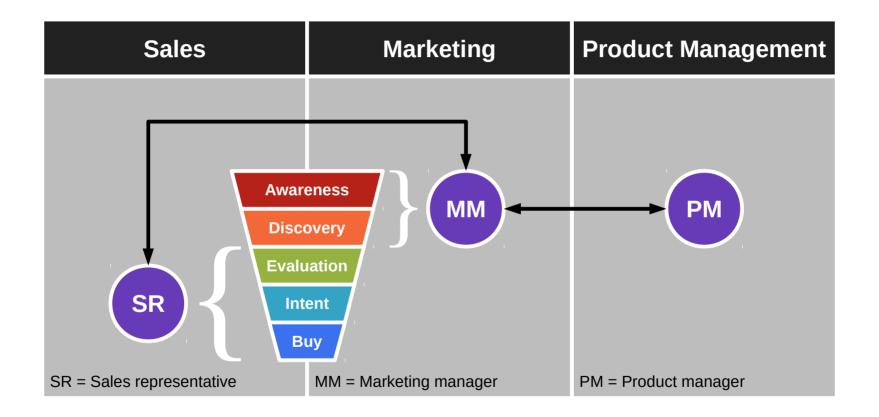
#### **Core Business Processes**

- 1. Product development ("build product")
- 2. Customer acquisition ("acquire customers")
- 3. Product operations ("operate product")
- Customer support ("support customers")
- 5. Customer success ("ensure customer satisfaction")

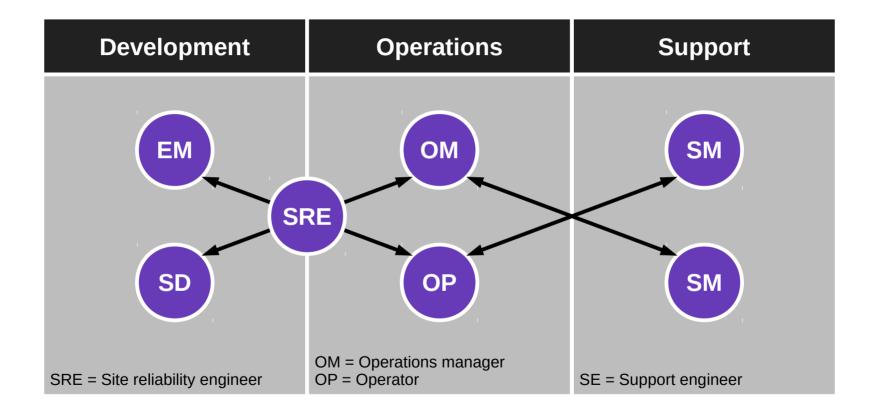
#### **Product Development (Business Processes 1 / 5)**



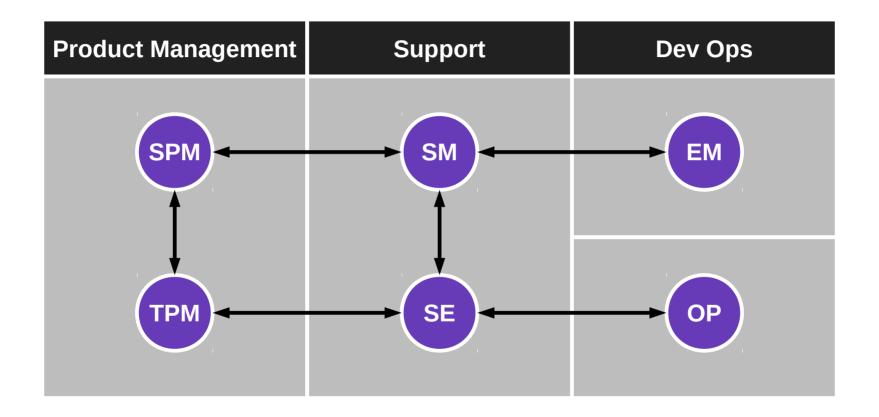
#### **Customer Acquisition (Business Processes 2 / 5)**



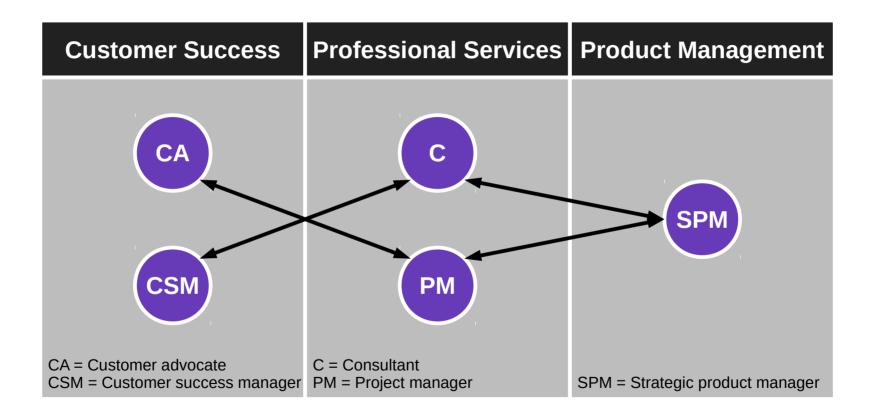
#### **Product Operations (Business Processes 3 / 5)**



#### **Customer Support (Business Processes 4 / 5)**



#### **Customer Success (Business Processes 5 / 5)**



#### **Summary**

- 1. Products and vendors
- 2. Projects vs. product firms
- 3. The financial view
- 4. Business functions
- 5. Core business processes

# Thank you! Questions?

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