## Vision and Arguments

It would do us some good to research what exactly a term deposit is and how a company makes money from it. We find that people are more likely to purchase term deposits during periods of high interest rates which is the opposite of what’s happening with the market right now. If people are less likely to purchase term deposits when interests rates are low, it is even more important for us to reach out to customers before interest rates have increased. It is equally important for us to consult with stakeholders to understand the impact of changing market conditions on term deposit sales and how fast we can expect to observe the impacts.

Since the bank is constrained by a $50K budget for this campaign (or 6,557 customers assuming a cost of $8 per customer call), a model that prioritizes leads based on their likelihood to convert would maximize campaign spend. If we’re going to use a lead scoring model to rank prospective customers, we need to identify the right success metric. We are interested in improving the conversion rate over a baseline (e.g. random selection of customers) so a ROC curve would be an appropriate means to estimate model impact. In order to compare multiple models, we can use AUC which can be interpreted as the probability that a randomly chosen positive instance will be ranked ahead of a randomly chosen negative instance.

Model performance using an optimization objective like AUC is not enough, however - we need to measure the financial impact of a model to better determine if we should go through the effort of developing and deploying it. So we need to measure the net gain (profit) of the subset that the model chose to target which requires some estimation of costs and benefits.

Using employee hourly costs and the estimated length of sales calls, we come up with an average call cost. Observing three different groups of deposit sizes, we calculate an unweighted average revenue. Finally, we perform a sensitivity analysis at various levels of model lift (improvement over baseline). Even at 1.2x lift (20% improvement) at the $50K budget, the bank is poised to earn over an additional $30K.

Luckily, the development and marketing team has already created a dataset that includes known indicators of term deposit customers which includes customer, customer relationship, and socioeconomic attributes. Before we use the data to develop a machine learning model, we discuss with bank stakeholders what they feel is the best indicator to predict conversion. It turns out that a customer who has responded to a previous marketing bank campaign is likely to convert in the next one so that will be our baseline model. Ideally, we would use customer lifetime value estimates to build an additional baseline model but this data is not available. We’ll judge the success of additional modelling efforts to be the improvement over the existing conversion model.

After performing a brief exploratory analysis of the data that was already prepared for us, we found that there were several attributes that are predictive of conversion in the current marketing campaign and that there was opportunity for derived or engineered features. Sticking with the idea of doing the simplest thing that could possibly work we’ll use the attributes as is, with some preprocessing so that they are compatible with machine learning models. If the initial model we produce is insufficient or we have time to experiment with additional features then we will do so in a controlled experiment.