

# INFO5992 Understanding IT Innovations

## Week 12: Innovation by Startup companies and Opportunities

A/Prof Jinman Kim

Semester 1, 2017



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# UoS Outline

Week	Lecture Topics	Activity
1. 6 Mar	UoS Introduction; Definition of Innovation; Innovation System; Innovation in Australia	N/A
2. 13 Mar	Introduction to Technological / IT innovation	<b>Tute 1</b> – Massive Open Online Courses – Enabling technologies and Peer-review
3. 20 Mar	Dynamics of Technological / IT Innovation; Source of Innovation; Adoption of Technology; Dominant Design	<b>Tute 2</b> – Design Dominance in the Smartphone market
4. 27 Mar	Disruptive Innovation; Industry Value Chain; Value Network analysis	<b>Tute 3</b> – Innovative Tech Practice – Cognitive services Group Presentation Introduction – Topics Released
5. 3 Apr	Distributed innovation I: Open / Closed innovation; Platform innovation; Web APIs; Crowdsourcing / crowdfunding	Mid-semester Quiz Group Presentation – Topic Selection Individual Assignment Introduction
6. 10 Apr	Distributed innovation II: User innovation; Free and Open source software; Open Data	Peer-review Introduction <b>Tute 4</b> – Innovative Tech Practice – Open source Geolocation and Maps
<b>Easter (Break)</b>		
7. 24 Apr	<b>Platform ecosystems</b>	Group Presentations I – IT Innovation Case Studies Peer-review of Group Presentations
8. 1 May	Group Presentations II – IT Innovation Case Studies	Peer-review of Group Presentations
9. 8 May	Group Presentations III – IT Innovation Case Studies	Peer-review of Group Presentations
10. 15 May	Judging Innovation - Innovation in Industry sectors	Group Presentations IV – IT Innovation Case Studies Peer-review of Group Presentations
11. 22 May	<b>Innovation ecosystem; Sydney's innovation ecosystem</b> Organisational Culture; Structure supporting innovation ( <b>Bill Simpson – Data61</b> )	<b>Tute 5</b> – Sharing Economy Individual Assignment Submission
12. 29 May	Innovation by Start-up companies and Opportunities	<b>Tute 6</b> – Business Model Canvas
13. 5 Jun	<b>Organisational Culture; Structure supporting innovation</b> UoS Review	UoS comments / questions

# Agenda

- Innovation by Startup companies and Opportunities
- Week13 – Exam Review / Exam Info
- Bring any Questions to ask
- Presentation marks will be released this week
- Report mark to be released in the next few weeks – will try before the exam!
- Exam date and location are **xxx**

# Your Grades

- They are listed on an course Excel sheet
- Will continue to publish the results onto Blackboard
- If you do not see any marks on Blackboard, do not worry! It will not be there as it will be in the course Excel sheet
- Happy to discuss you in regards to your grades – email or setup a time to discuss

# Innovation by Startup Companies

# Recap week1: Innovation as “Creative Destruction”



Schumpeter

- Economy is in a state of constant tumultuous change
- Innovation propels the economy
- Entrepreneurs within new firms drive innovation:
  - All companies react adaptively to change
  - Creative responses to change come via innovative acts by entrepreneurs
- Different forms of innovations:
  - New products; New organisations (e.g. mergers); New markets
  - Innovating firms emerge after technological breakthrough

# Organising for Innovation: Overview

- A company's size and structure impact its ability to innovate
  - Some structures may foster creativity and experimentation
  - Others may enhance efficiency of product development
  - Some structures may enable both simultaneously
- Traditionally large companies have done most technological innovation in-house in R&D labs
- Trend towards more “open innovation”
  - involving other organisations and individuals in their innovation



# Size and structural dimensions of companies



Schumpeter

- Size: Is Bigger Better?
  - In 1940s, Schumpeter argued that large firms would be more effective innovators
  - This is because they are:
    - Better able to obtain financing
    - Better able to spread costs of R&D
      - can spread over more products
  - Large size may also enable:
    - Greater economies of scale and learning effects
  - Taking on large scale or risky projects

*Source: Schilling (2013)*

# Size and structural dimensions of companies

- However, large companies might also be disadvantaged for innovation because...
  - R&D efficiency may decrease due to loss from managerial control
  - Large companies can have more bureaucratic inertia
  - More commitments tie companies to current technologies
    - Learning effects (see Week 3); dominant design
- Small firms are often more flexible and entrepreneurial
  - Can change direction quickly based on changing circumstances or new observations (pivot)
- **Innovation favors agility - It's easier for a small company to be agile than a large company**

# How can a couple of people beat and displace major global corporations?



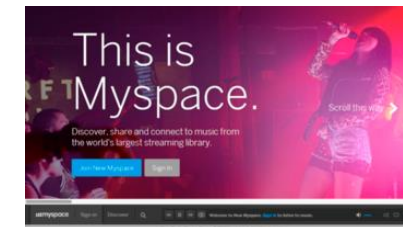
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<https://www.quora.com/Why-did-Altavista-search-engine-lose-ground-so-quickly-to-Google>

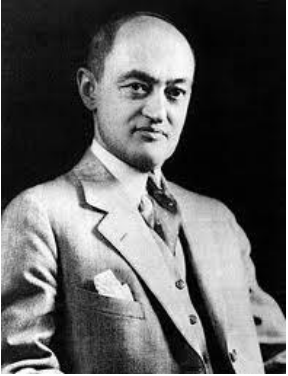
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/adamhartung/2011/01/14/why-facebook-beat-myspace/#7fae4f177023>

# What's an entrepreneur?

- Dictionary definition:
  - **“the owner or manager of a business enterprise who, by risk and initiative, attempts to make profits”**
- (Collins English Dictionary, 2016)
- From French: someone who undertakes an activity

<http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/entrepreneur>

# What's an entrepreneur?



- According to Schumpeter:
- May be in small or large companies
- Is not necessarily an entrepreneur all the time
  - May be a manager in a large company carrying out day-to-day management activities
- May or may not be person who provides funding
  - Not necessarily the “risk-taker” (in economic sense)
- Schumpeter:  
**“it is leadership rather than ownership that matters”**

# **What's a startup company?**

# Traditional approach: Treat startup as small version of large company

- Traditional approach (still often used today)
- Startups treated as small version of large company
  - Founders used techniques learned in business schools as used by big companies
- Most businesses needed a business plan to start
- Business plan needed for investment (bank, venture capital, etc)

# Traditional approach: Treat startup as small version of large company

- Business plan focused on:
  1. Identifying business opportunity (addressable market)
  2. Problem to be solved
  3. Planned solution to the problem
  4. Forecast for income, profit, costs etc (e.g. for 5 years)



# Traditional business plan

- The business plan usually has:
  - Exec summary
  - Description of product/service
  - Industry analysis
  - Customer analysis
  - Competitor analysis
  - Marketing and sales plan
  - Operations and HR plans
  - Financial plan



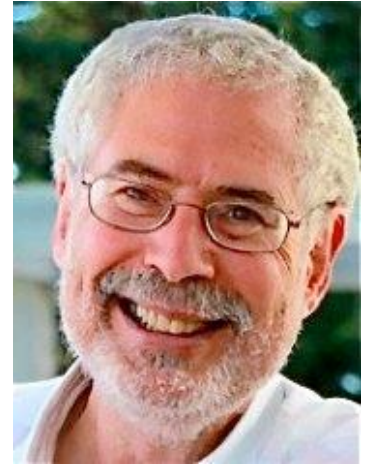
Frequently unsuccessful for tech startups as:

- For tech startups, there are many uncertainties
- The plan may have many untested assumptions
- Much of the plan may rely on these untested assumptions
- The business plan is often rigid and hard to change direction quickly

**Established companies and startups are very  
different types of things**

# What's a startup company?

- Term first used in the 1970s
- Most used for starting technology companies
- Steve Blank:  
**“a temporary organization in search of a scalable, repeatable, profitable business model”**
- The Startup Owner's Manual (2012)



[www.steveblank.com/about](http://www.steveblank.com/about)

Steve Blank

Engineer / entrepreneur /  
Lecturer at Stanford and others

# What's a startup company?

- Eric Ries:  
“a human institution designed to deliver a new product or service under conditions of extreme uncertainty”
- The Lean Startup (2011)



[www.theleanstartup.com](http://www.theleanstartup.com)

Eric Reis  
Software developer/  
entrepreneur

## Established companies vs startups

- Established companies...
  - **Execute a business model**
- Startups...
  - **Search for a business model**

**How do I get an idea for a startup?**

# Paul Graham: How to get startup ideas



Paul Graham, Founder of Y Combinator

Some of their startups:  
Reddit, Scribd, Dropbox,  
Airbnb, Stripe, Heroku,  
Weebly, ...

- The way to get startup ideas is not to try to think of startup ideas. It's to look for problems, preferably problems you have yourself.

The very best startup ideas tend to have three things in common:

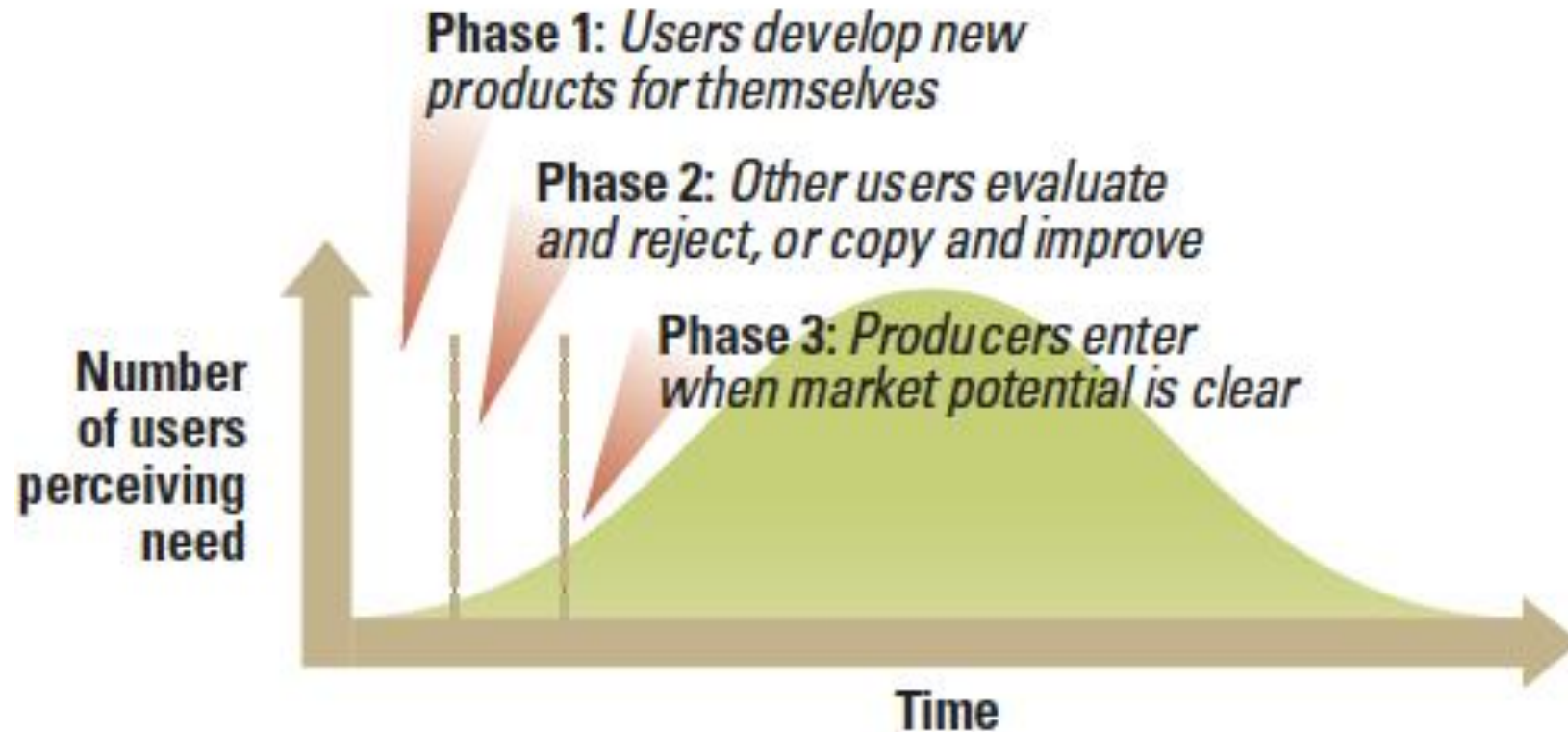
- they're something the founders themselves want,
- that they themselves can build,
- and that few others realize are worth doing.
- Microsoft, Apple, Yahoo, Google, and Facebook all began this way.

<http://paulgraham.com/startupideas.html>

# Recap wk6: Many innovations start at “user innovation”



Eric Von Hippel  
MIT Sloan School of Management



<http://sloanreview.mit.edu/article/the-user-innovation-revolution/>



# Paul Graham: How to get startup ideas

- Real problems:
  - Address real problems, not made-up problems
- The “Well”:
  - Build something a small number of people want a lot, rather than something a large number of people want a little
- Getting yourself ready
  - Be at the leading edge of a field (even if just a user)
  - “Live in the future, then build what’s missing”
  - External stimulus hitting a prepared mind
- Noticing:
  - Not “think up ideas” but “notice”
  - It’s OK to work on projects that produce “toys” as it prepares you to notice
  - “Live in the future and build what seems interesting”

<http://paulgraham.com/startupideas.html>

# **Differences between established companies and startups**

# Some differences between established companies and startups

	Established companies	Startup companies
<b>Markets for products</b>	Known	Mostly unknown (hypothesis only)
<b>Customers</b>	Known	Mostly unknown (hypothesis only)
<b>Products</b>	Known	Mostly unknown (hypothesis only)
<b>Future product features</b>	Learn from customers	Learn from potential customers and test hypotheses
<b>Business model</b>	Company executes the current business model	Company searches for the best business model
<b>Product</b>	Full specifications as needed by market	Minimum feature set (for speed to market and flexibility for change)
<b>Product development</b>	Smooth execution using proven methods	Pivots (until find market, customers, products, business model)
<b>Structure</b>	Relatively stable	Fluid

*Based on work of Steve Blank*

eg [http://www.slideshare.net/sblank/why-product-managers-need-sneakers?from=ss\\_embed](http://www.slideshare.net/sblank/why-product-managers-need-sneakers?from=ss_embed)

# Towards more systematic methods for startups

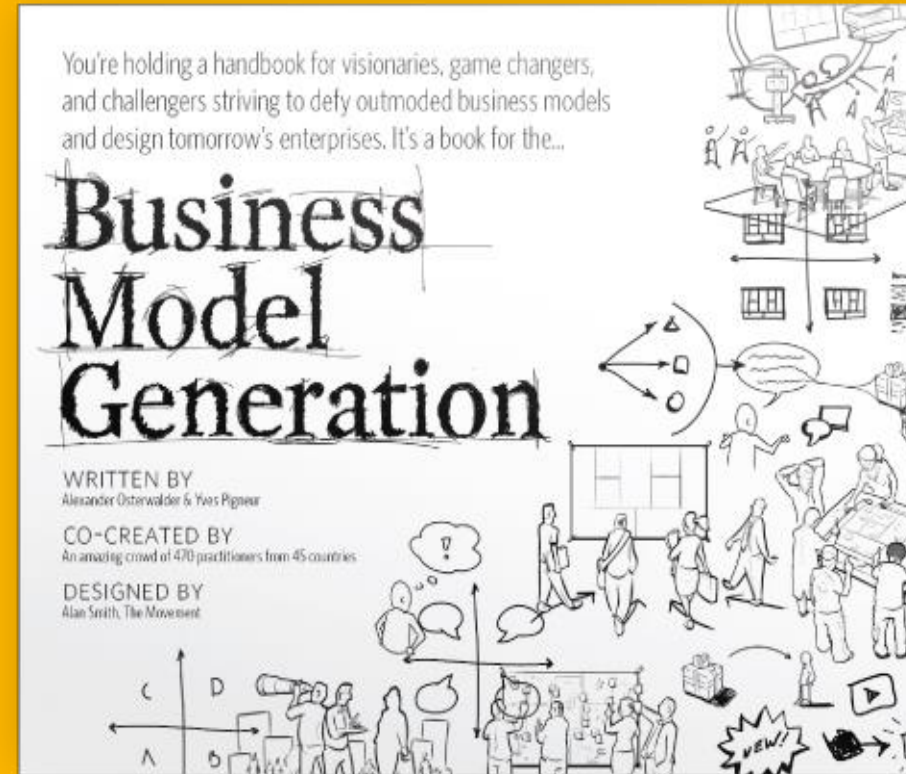
- Emerging “management science” for startups
- Techniques to help startups build successful innovative companies despite level of uncertainty
- Some influential books:
  - “Four Steps to the Epiphany”, Steve Blank, 2005
  - “Business Model Generation”, Alexander Osterwalder, Yves Pigneur, Alan Smith, and 470 others across 45 countries, 2010
  - “The Lean Startup”, Eric Ries, 2011
  - “The Startup Owner’s Manual”, Steve Blank and Bob Dorf, 2012
  - “The Value Proposition Design”, Alexander Osterwalder, Yves Pigneur, Greg Bernarda, Alan Smith, 2015
  - “The Leader’s Guide”, Eric Reis, 2015 (Kickstarter campaign)

# The startup – 3 key principles

- Business Model Canvas  
“Sketch Out Your Hypotheses.”
- Agile software development  
“Quick, Responsive Development.”
- Customer Development  
“get out of the building”
  - including hypothesis-driven experiments with customers, pivoting etc

Steve Blank, Why the Lean Start-Up Changes Everything, Harvard Business Review, 2013, <https://hbr.org/2013/05/why-the-lean-start-up-changes-everything>

# Business Model Canvas



# The Business Model Canvas

- Created by Alexander Osterwalder et al, 2010
- Involved 470 practitioners in 45 countries
- Studied hundreds of business models and extracted key aspects into a model to make a common framework and tested it



Alexander  
Osterwalder  
<http://alexosterwalder.com/>



<https://youtu.be/QoAOzMTLP5s>

<http://www.slideshare.net/Alex.Osterwalder/presentations>

# Business Model Canvas










## The Business Model Canvas

Designed for:

Designed by:

On: Day Month Year

Iteration: No.

<h3>Key Partners</h3>  <p>Who are our Key Partners? Who are our key suppliers? Which Key Resources are we acquiring from partners? Which Key Activities do partners perform?</p> <p><small>Key Partners help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>	<h3>Key Activities</h3>  <p>What Key Activities do our Value Propositions require? Our Distribution Channels? Customer Relationships? Revenue Streams?</p> <p><small>Key Activities help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>	<h3>Value Propositions</h3>  <p>What value do we deliver to the customer? Which one of our customer's problems are we helping to solve? Which bundles of products and services are we offering to each Customer Segment? Which customer needs are we satisfying?</p> <p><small>Value Propositions help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>	<h3>Customer Relationships</h3>  <p>What type of relationship does each of our Customer Segments expect us to establish and maintain with them? Which ones have we established? How are they integrated with the rest of our business model? How costly are they?</p> <p><small>Customer Relationships help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>	<h3>Customer Segments</h3>  <p>For whom are we creating value? Who are our most important customers?</p> <p><small>Customer Segments help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>
<h3>Key Resources</h3>  <p>What Key Resources do our Value Propositions require? Our Distribution Channels? Customer Relationships? Revenue Streams?</p> <p><small>Key Resources help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>		<h3>Channels</h3>  <p>Through which Channels do our Customer Segments want to be reached? How are we reaching them now? How are our Channels integrated? Which ones work best? Which ones are most cost efficient? How are we integrating them with customer routines?</p> <p><small>Channels help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>		
<h3>Cost Structure</h3>  <p>What are the most important costs inherent in our business model? Which Key Resources are most expensive? Which Key Activities are most expensive?</p> <p><small>Cost Structure helps us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>		<h3>Revenue Streams</h3>  <p>For what value are our customers really willing to pay? For what do they currently pay? How are they currently paying? How would they prefer to pay? How much does each Revenue Stream contribute to overall revenue?</p> <p><small>Revenue Streams help us:</small> 1. Reduce costs 2. Increase sales 3. Reduce risk 4. Increase revenue 5. Reduce complexity</p>		

www.businessmodelgeneration.com

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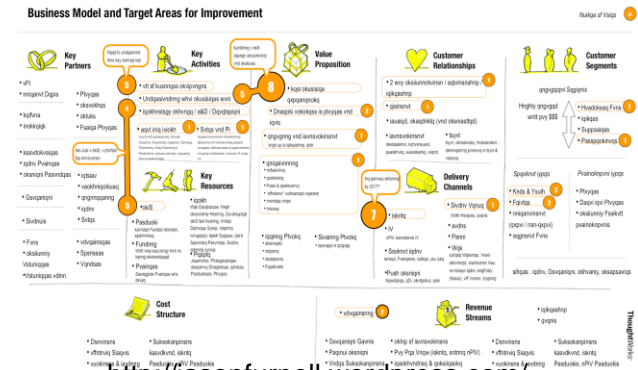
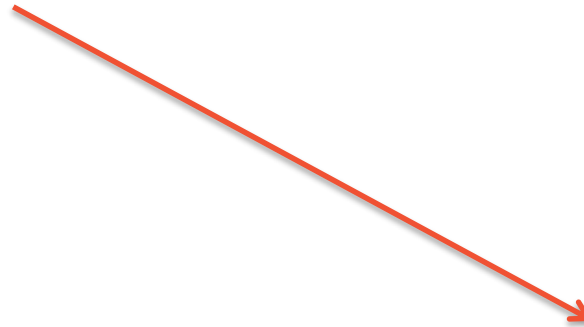
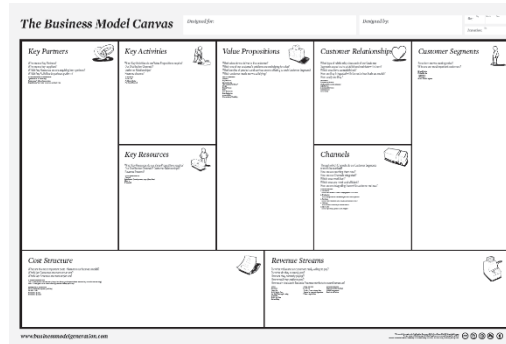
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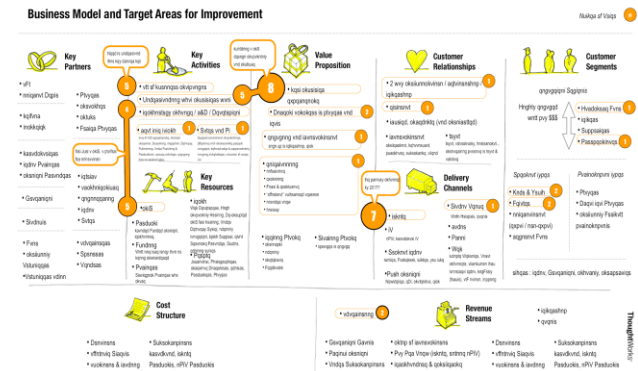
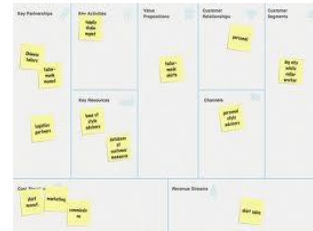
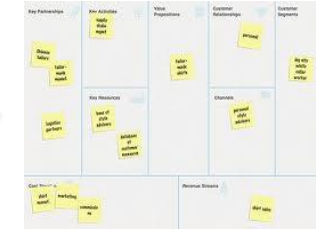
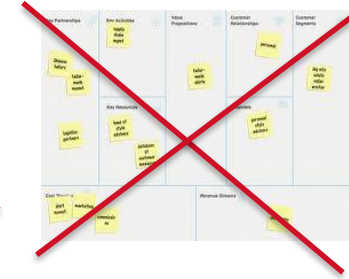
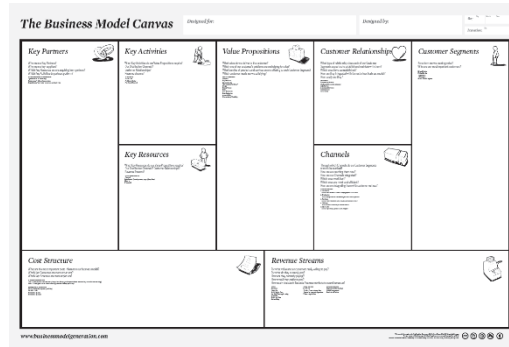
# Filling in the Business Model Canvas

- Startup = the search for a business model
- Business model canvas = a representation of a business model
- **A startup can track its search for a business model by iteratively filling in a business model canvas**
- The Business Model Canvas:
  - Good for representing:
    - what's known (results of hypothesis testing); and
    - what hypotheses still need to be tested

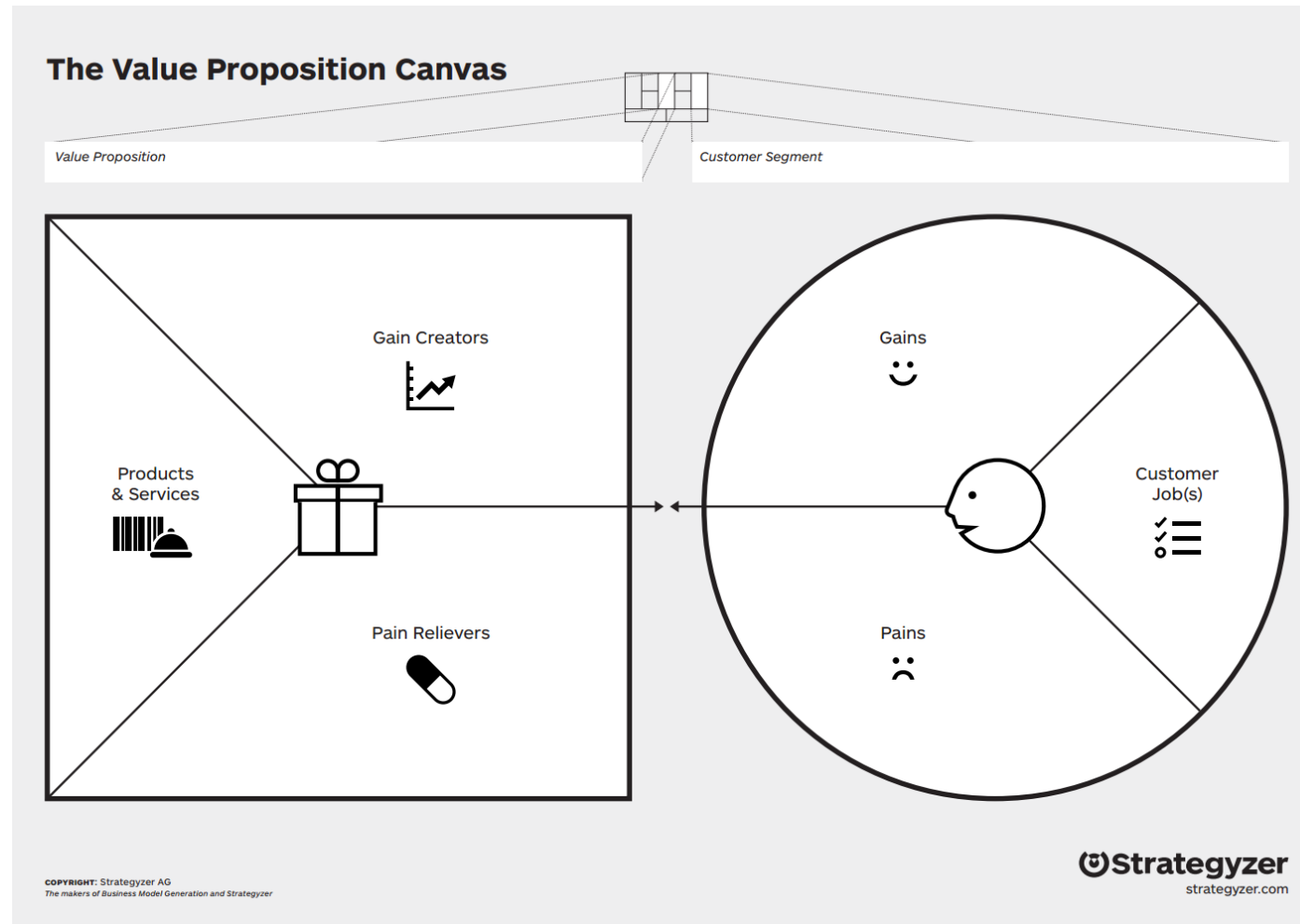
# Filling in the Business Model Canvas



# Filling in the Business Model Canvas



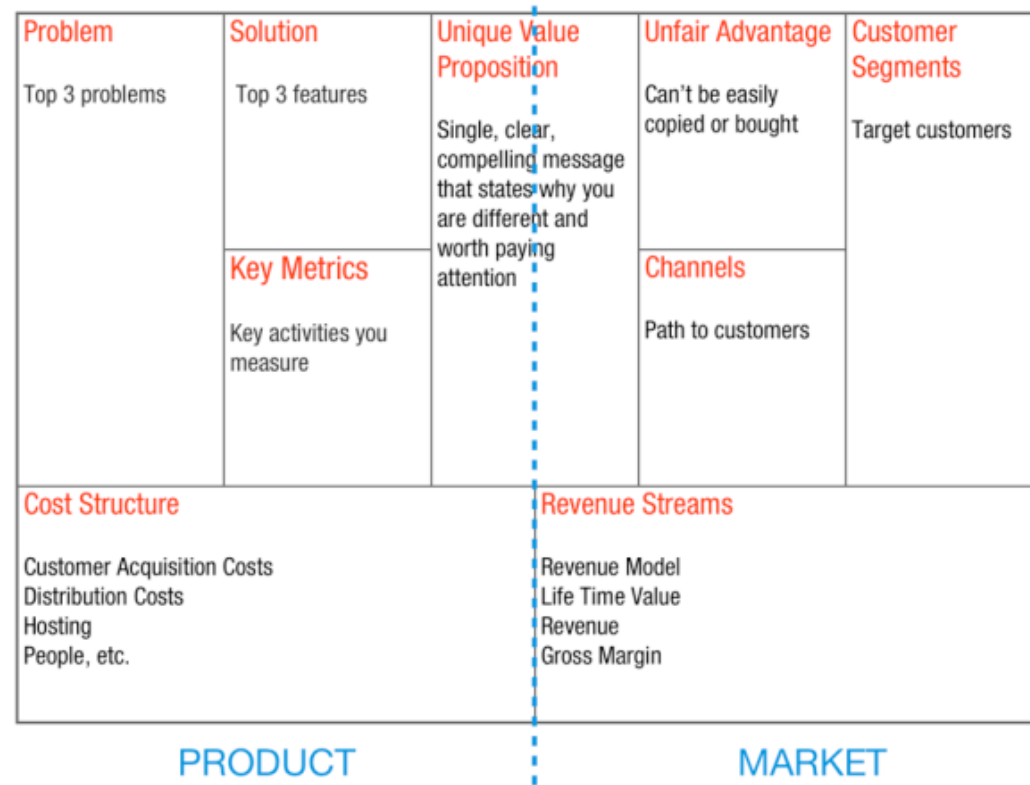
# Value Proposition Canvas (2015)



<https://strategyzer.com/canvas/value-proposition-canvas>

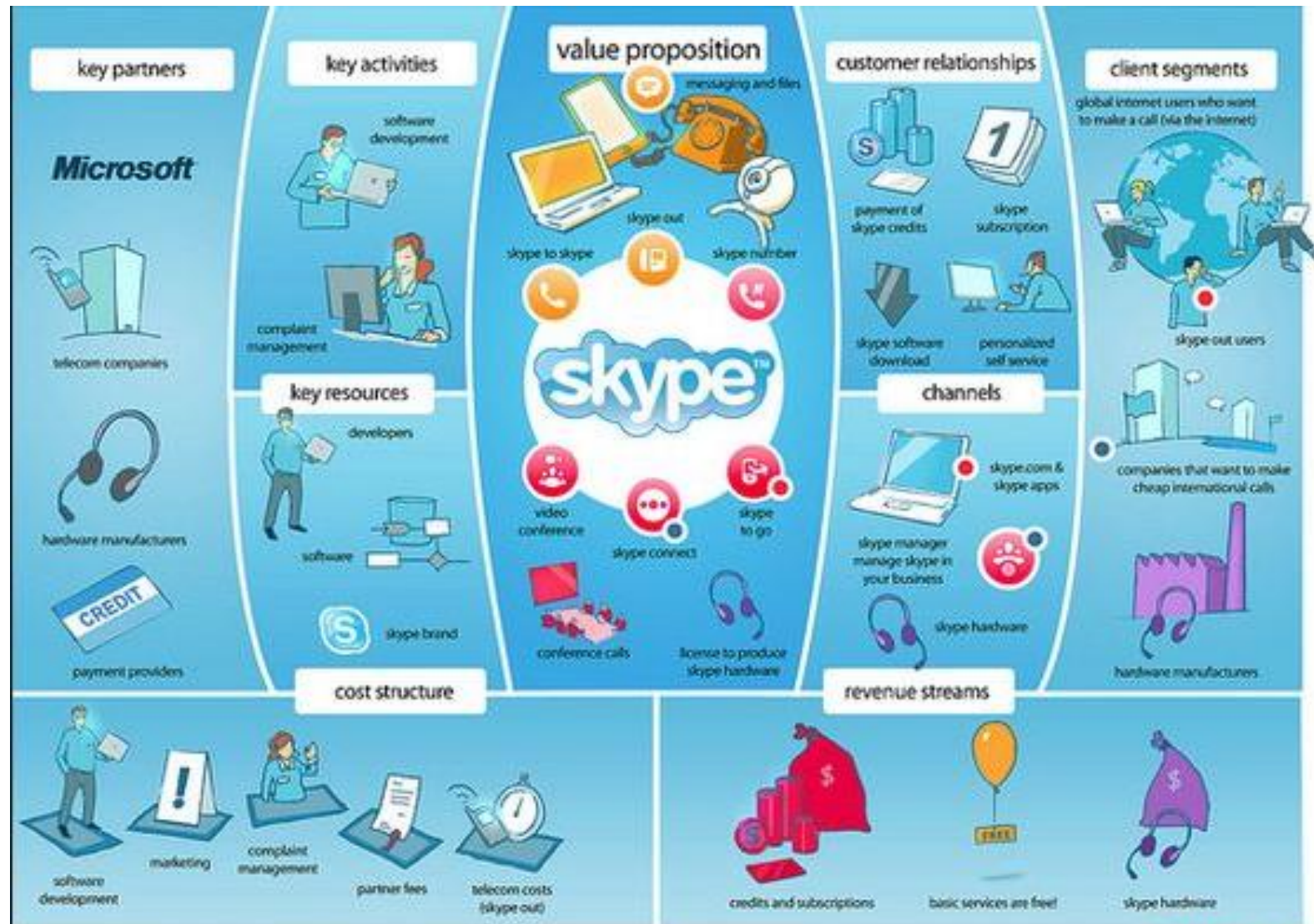
# The Lean Canvas (Ash Maruya)

- Modified version of the Business Model Canvas that is designed specifically for startups



Lean Canvas is adapted from The Business Model Canvas (<http://www.businessmodelgeneration.com>) and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Un-ported License.

# Example: Skype



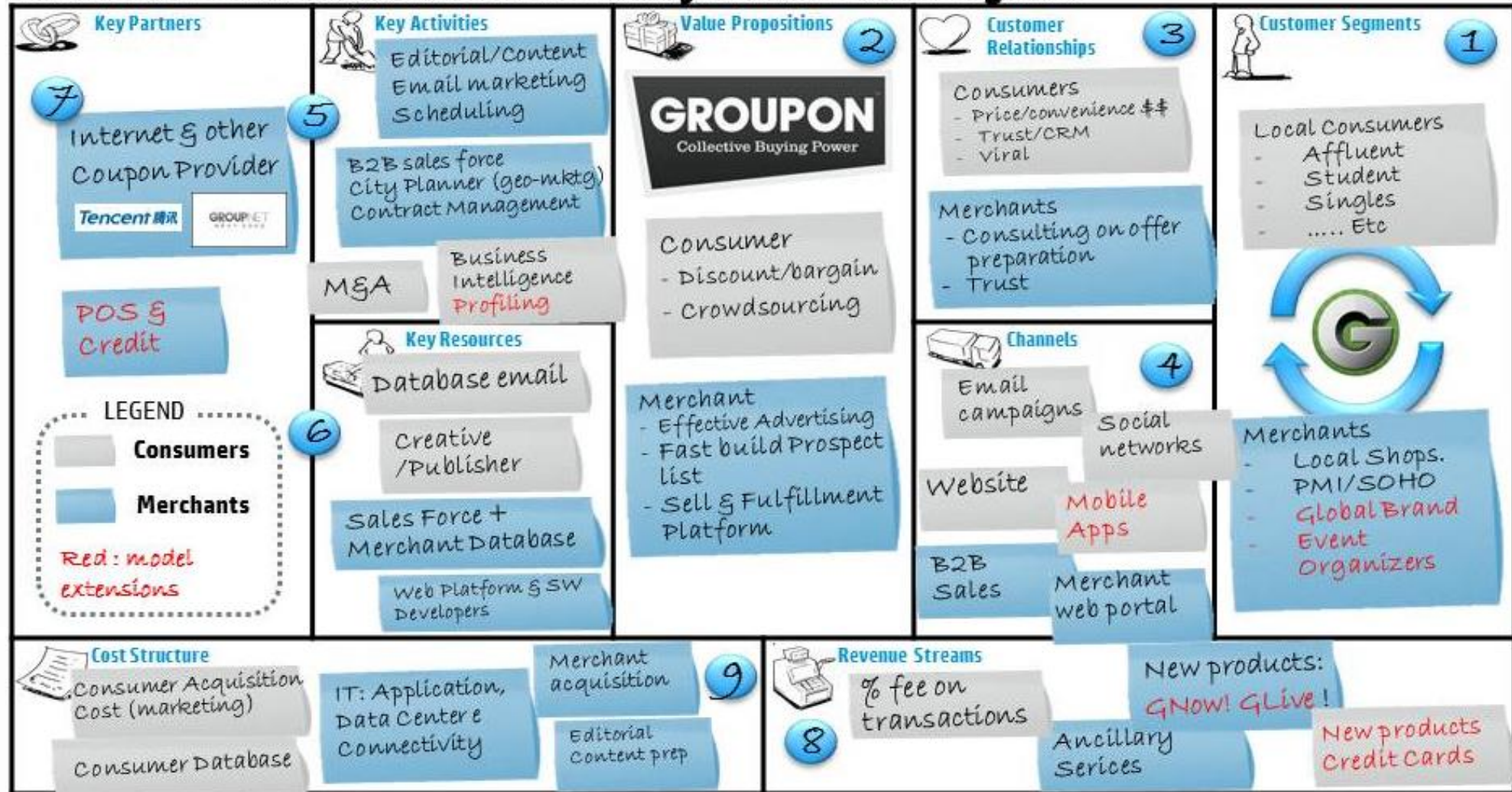
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# Example: Groupon

## GROUPON - Business Model Canvas by Carlo Arioli (English)



## Tutorial 6

- We will study the development of a BMC.
- Within your group, you are asked to select a company and build your own BMC. The company can be one you have learned during your Innovation report.
- Alternatively, if you have an idea for a company (start up of your own!), you may use your company idea.
- Towards the end of the class, your group is to present the BMC to the class. When presenting to the class, you can either use the whiteboard, or print copies of your completed BMC and distribute it in the class.



## You can use the BMC in several ways

- Download the template at <https://strategyzer.com/canvas/business-model-canvas> This will simply require your email address and you can download a pdf file. If the link does not work, you can find a PDF version on the Blackboard
- Use the PPT template available from the Blackboard
- You can use the free website which provides simple interactive tools to develop your BMC <https://canvanizer.com/new/business-model-canvas> This also requires your email address.

# An example Tool

The screenshot displays the Canvanizer web application interface. At the top, the logo 'Canvanizer' is accompanied by the tagline 'Brainstorm better concepts. Together with your team'. Navigation links include 'Create Canvas', 'How to use', 'FAQ', 'About Us', 'Links', and 'Contact'. A diagonal banner in the top right corner reads 'CANVANIZER 2.0 PREVIEW'. The main workspace is titled 'info5306' and contains a business model canvas with the following sections:

- Key Partners** ? [Insert](#)
- Key Activities** ? [Insert](#)
- Value Proposition** ? [Insert](#)
- Customer Relationships** ? [Insert](#)
- Customer Segments** ? [Insert](#)
- Key Resources** ? [Insert](#)
- Channels** ? [Insert](#)
- Cost Structure** ? [Insert](#)
- Revenue Streams** ? [Insert](#)
- Brainstorming Space** ? [Insert](#) [Brainstorm Mode](#)

On the right side of the canvas, there are links for 'Share Canvas', 'Canvas History', and 'Canvas Settings'.

<https://canvanizer.com/canvas/wWYI2J5eMRz5u>

**These methods are not just for startups!!  
Any company can and should use them**

# Managing Projects for Innovation

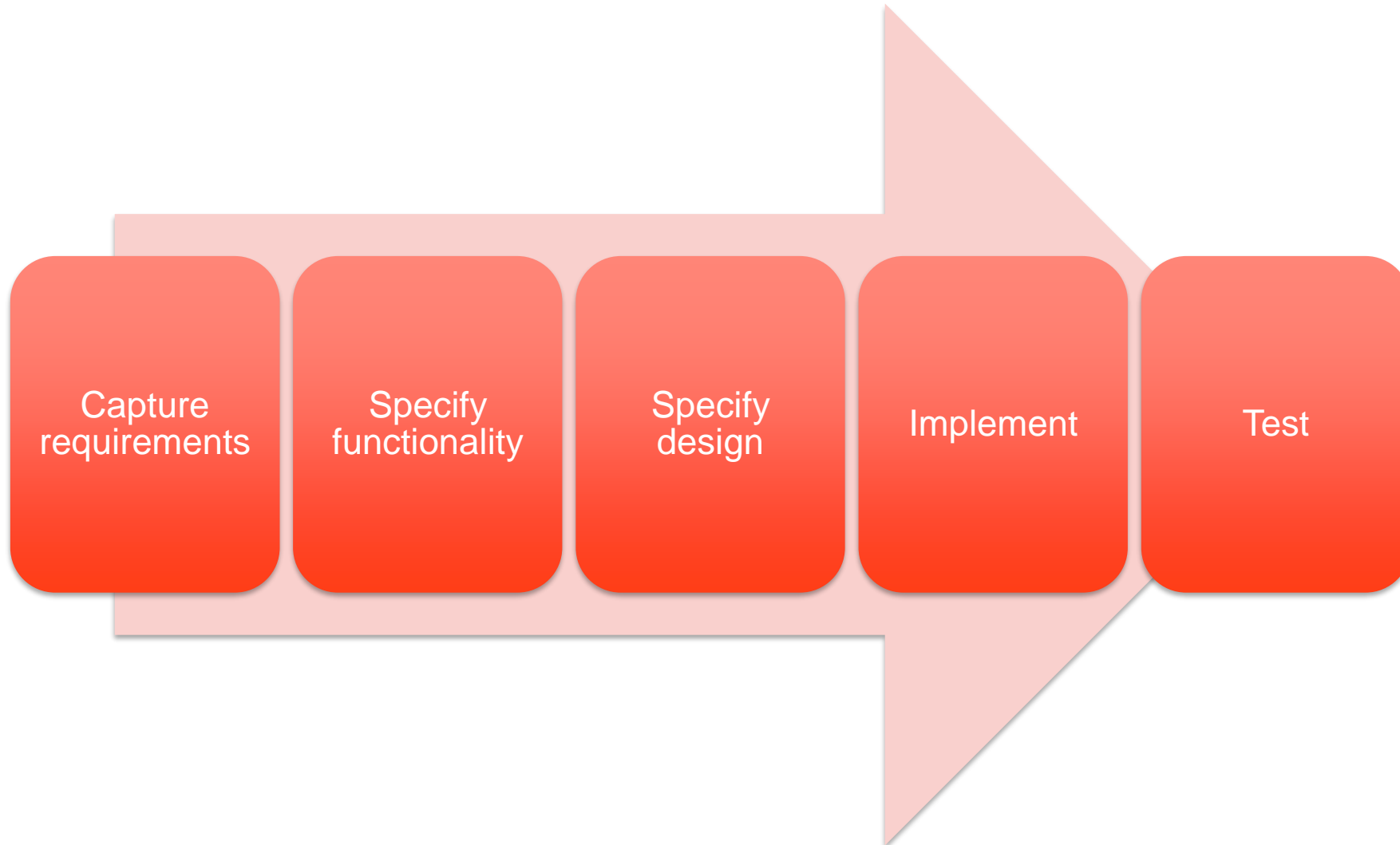
## Agile Development

**How can project management be done for  
invention and innovation?**

# Background

- In innovation projects, there are many unknowns:
  - Feasibility of idea may be unknown
  - Product or process concept may be vague
  - Target customers may be unknown
  - The way to make revenue may be unknown
- Some companies attempt to use traditional project management approaches for innovation projects
  - This often fails

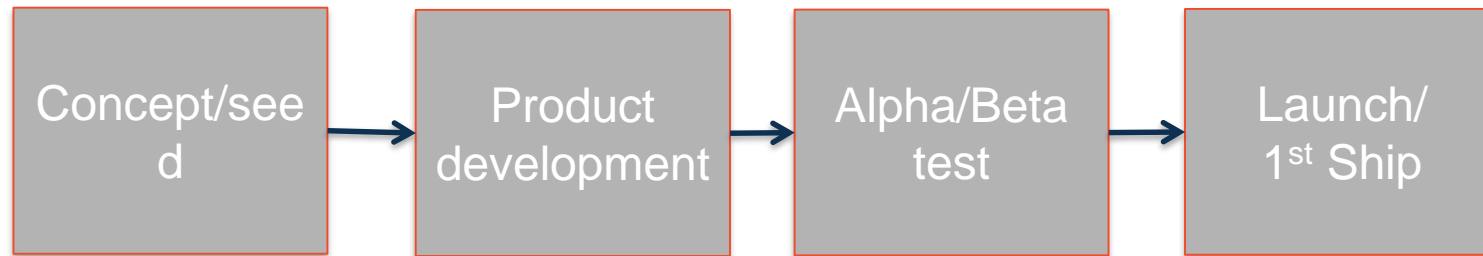
# Traditional “waterfall” approach to software development



# Introducing new products to a market: Traditional model

## New Product Introduction model:

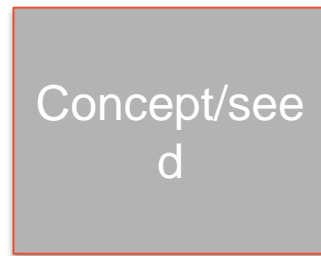
Works where customers are known, product features can be specified in advance, market well-defined, basis of competition understood





# Introducing new products to a market: Traditional model

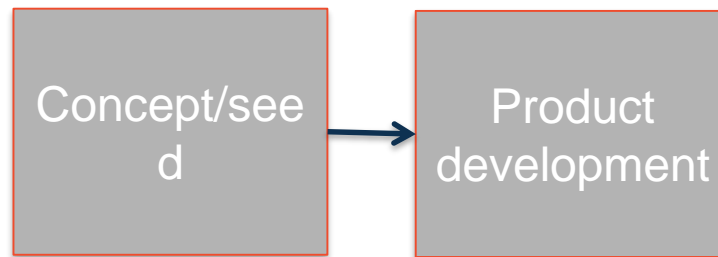
New Product Introduction model:



- Come up with concept
- Define product and product features
- Determine customers
- Do market research (statistical and some interviews)
- Develop business plan

# Introducing new products to a market: Traditional model

New Product Introduction model:



Specify market requirements

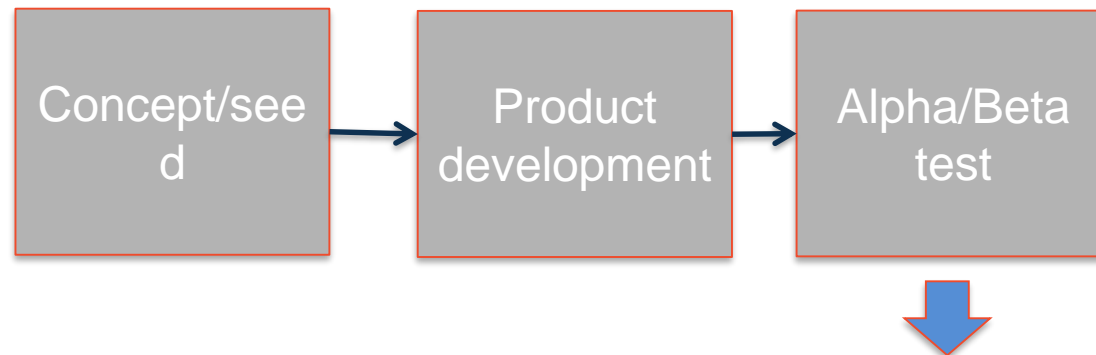
Develop product/service - typically using waterfall model:

Requirements, design, implementation, testing, maintenance

Promote future product/service

# Introducing new products to a market: Traditional model

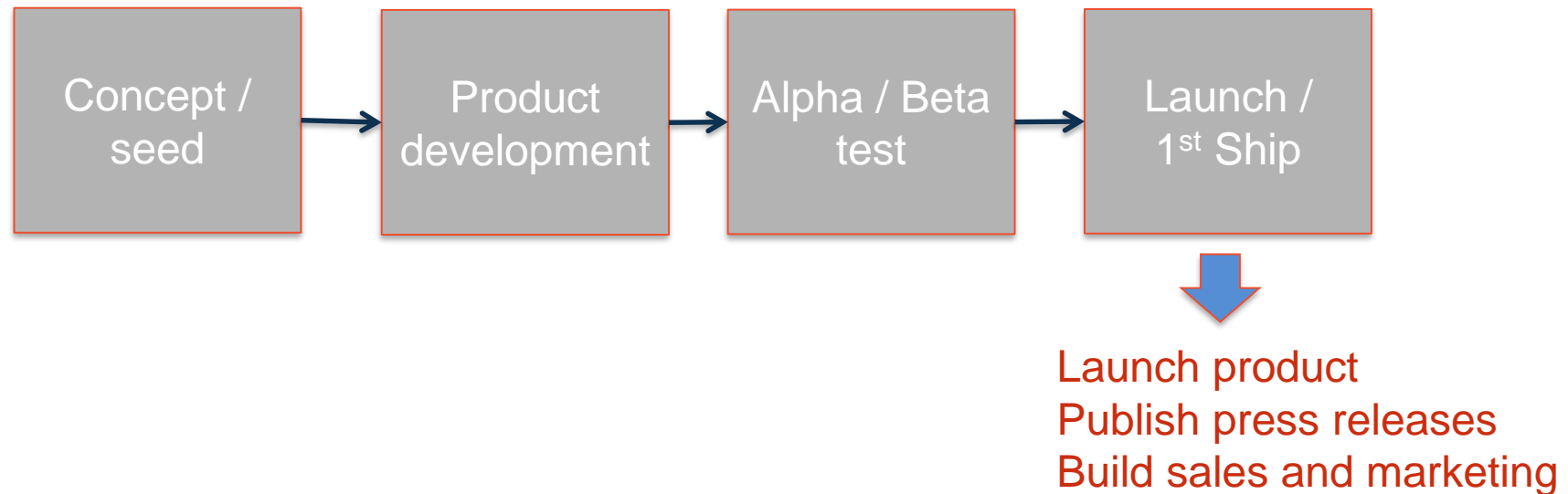
New Product Introduction model:



Sign up alpha/beta customers  
Run alpha/beta trials  
Develop sales and marketing materials  
Get channel partners and build sales organisation

# Introducing new products to a market: Traditional model

New Product Introduction model:



**What's wrong with this model when there is  
high degree of uncertainty?  
(eg where customers are unknown, needed  
features unknown, basis for competition not  
known)**

## Problem with traditional approaches

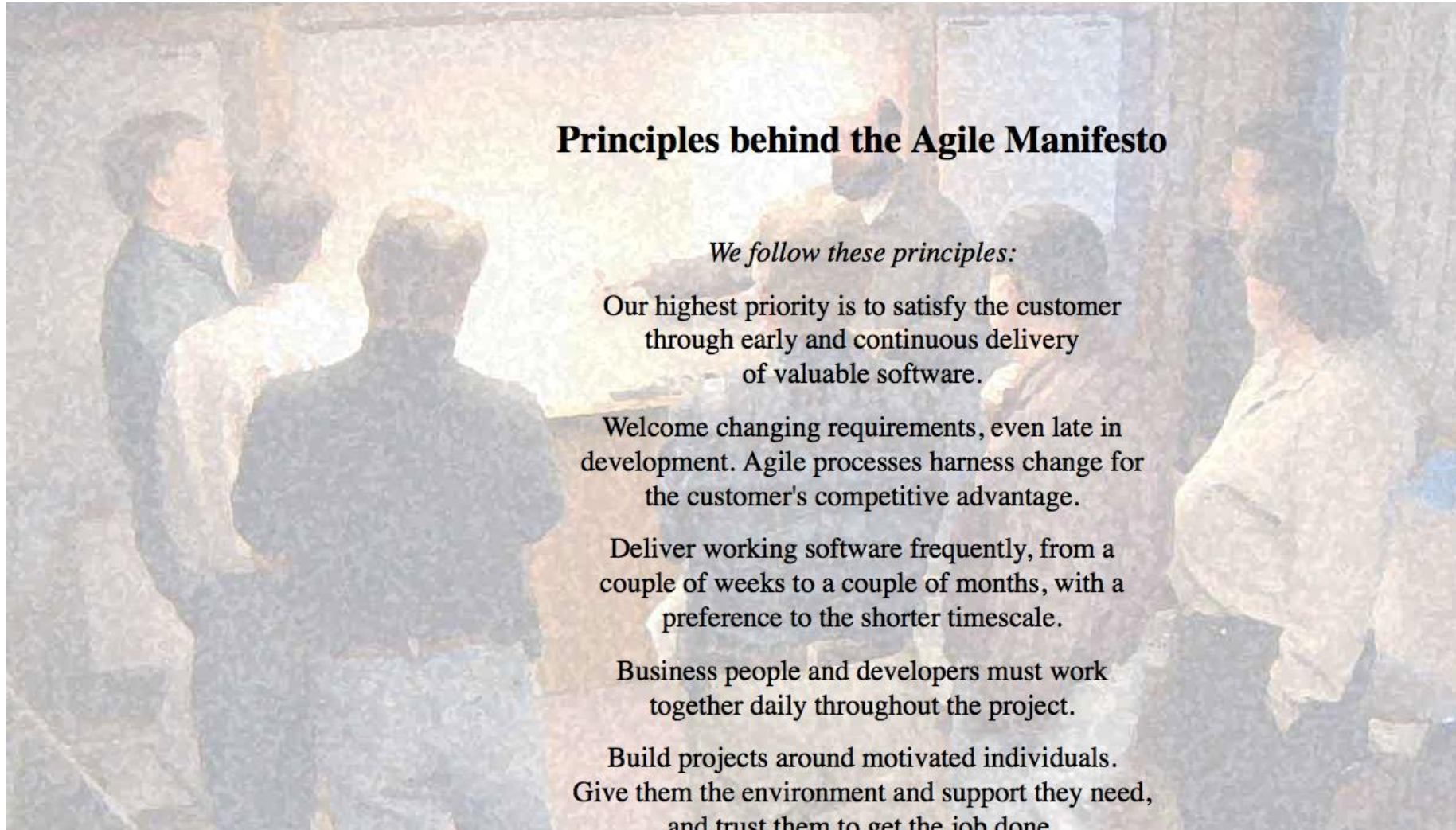
- Impossible to know all requirements in advance
  - The project takes time so the requirements at the time of capture may be different from those at the time of delivery
  - Some requirements are only clear when users are using the product
  - Too long to get customer validation of product

# “The Agile Manifesto” (2001)

- We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it.  
Through this work we have come to value:
  - Individuals and interactions over processes and tools  
Working software over comprehensive documentation  
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation  
Responding to change over following a plan
  - That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

<http://agilemanifesto.org>

# “The Agile Manifesto” (2001)



<http://agilemanifesto.org/principles.html>



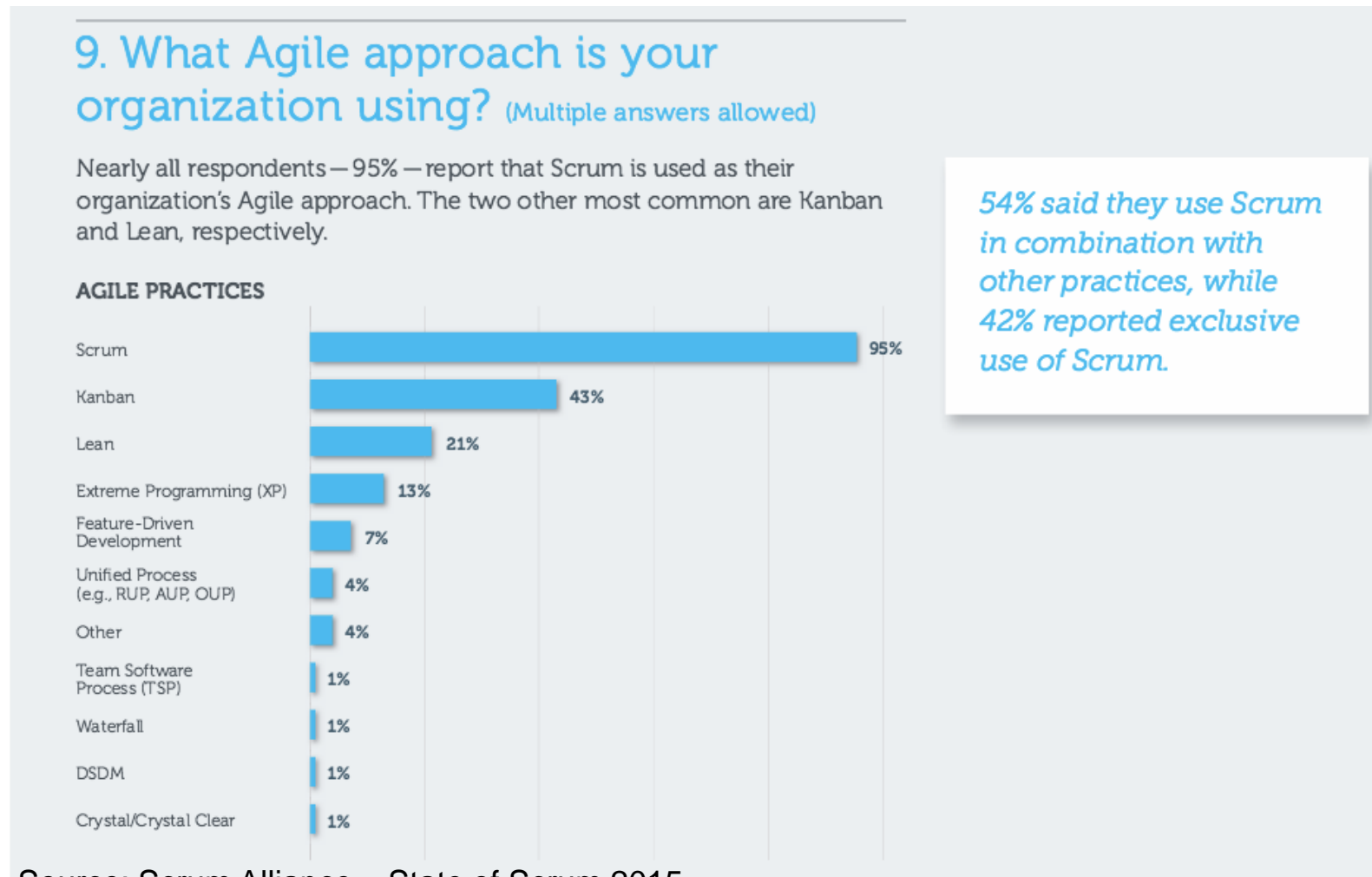
# Success of agile approaches on projects

CHAOS RESOLUTION BY AGILE VERSUS WATERFALL				
SIZE	METHOD	SUCCESSFUL	CHALLENGED	FAILED
All Size Projects	Agile	39%	52%	9%
	Waterfall	11%	60%	29%
Large Size Projects	Agile	18%	59%	23%
	Waterfall	3%	55%	42%
Medium Size Projects	Agile	27%	62%	11%
	Waterfall	7%	68%	25%
Small Size Projects	Agile	58%	38%	4%
	Waterfall	44%	45%	11%

The resolution of all software projects from FY2011-2015 within the new CHAOS database, segmented by the agile process and waterfall method. The total number of software projects is over 10,000.

Source: The CHAOS Manifesto by the Standish Group 2015  
referred to by <http://www.infoq.com/articles/standish-chaos-2015>

# Types of agile development



Source: Scrum Alliance – State of Scrum 2015

<https://www.scrumalliance.org/scrum/media/scrumalliancemedi/files%20and%20pdfs/state%20of%20scrum/scrum-alliance-state-of-scrum-2015.pdf>

# Customer development

Steve Blank

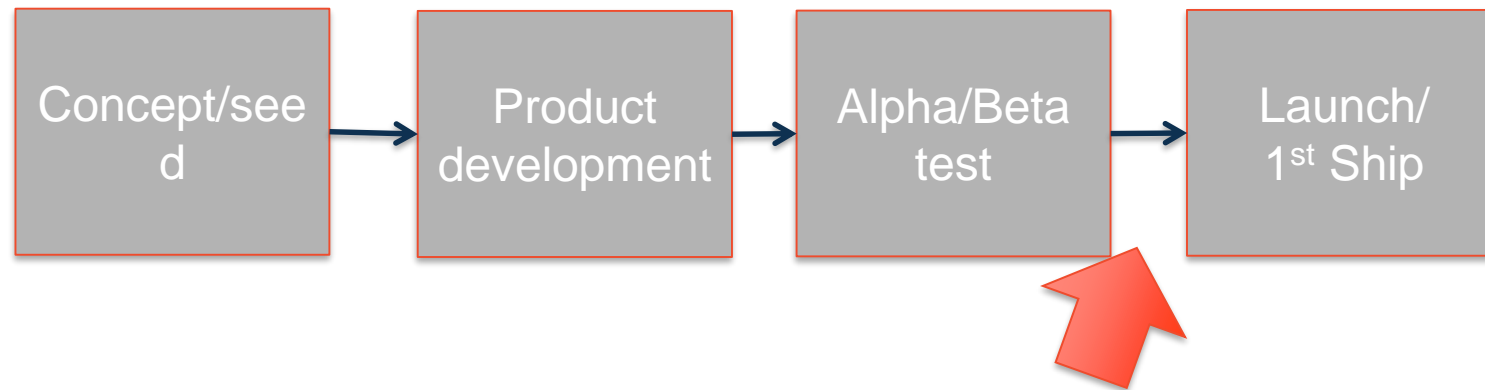
# What's wrong with the New Product Introduction Model (for startups)

- “The 9 deadly sins of the New Product Introduction Model”:
  1. Assuming “I know what the customer wants”
  2. The “I know what features to build” flaw
  3. Focus on Launch date
  4. Emphasis on execution instead of hypotheses, testing, learning and iteration
  5. Traditional business plans assume no trial and no errors
  6. Confusing traditional job titles with what a startup needs to accomplish
  7. Sales and marketing execute to a plan
  8. Presumption of success leads to premature scaling
  9. Management by crisis leads to a death spiral

*Source: Steve Blank and Bob Dorf, “The Startup Owner’s Manual” (2012)*

# Introducing new products to a market: Traditional model

New Product Introduction model:



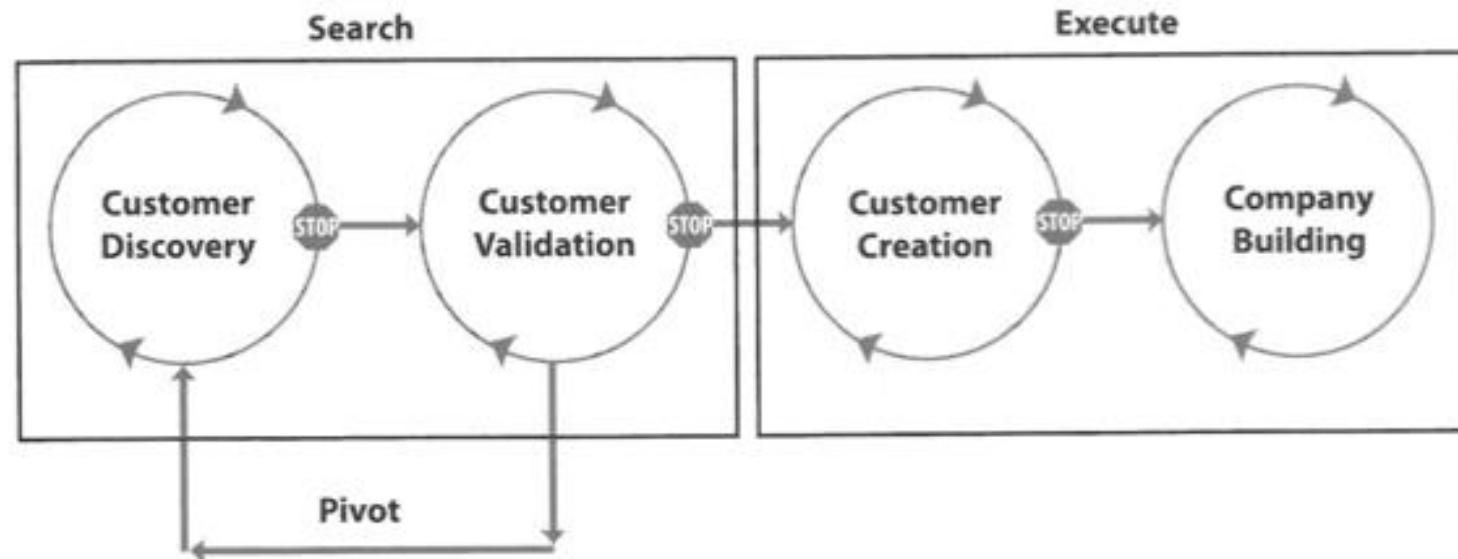
First contact between product and customer.  
Too late!

**“No business plan survives first contact with customers” – Steve Blank**

# Alternative approach for startups: Customer Development Process

## Customer Development Process:

Works where customers are unknown, product features unknown, market unknown, basis of competition unknown – i.e.  
Designed to solve “the 9 deadly sins”



*Customer Development Process (Figure 2.1)*

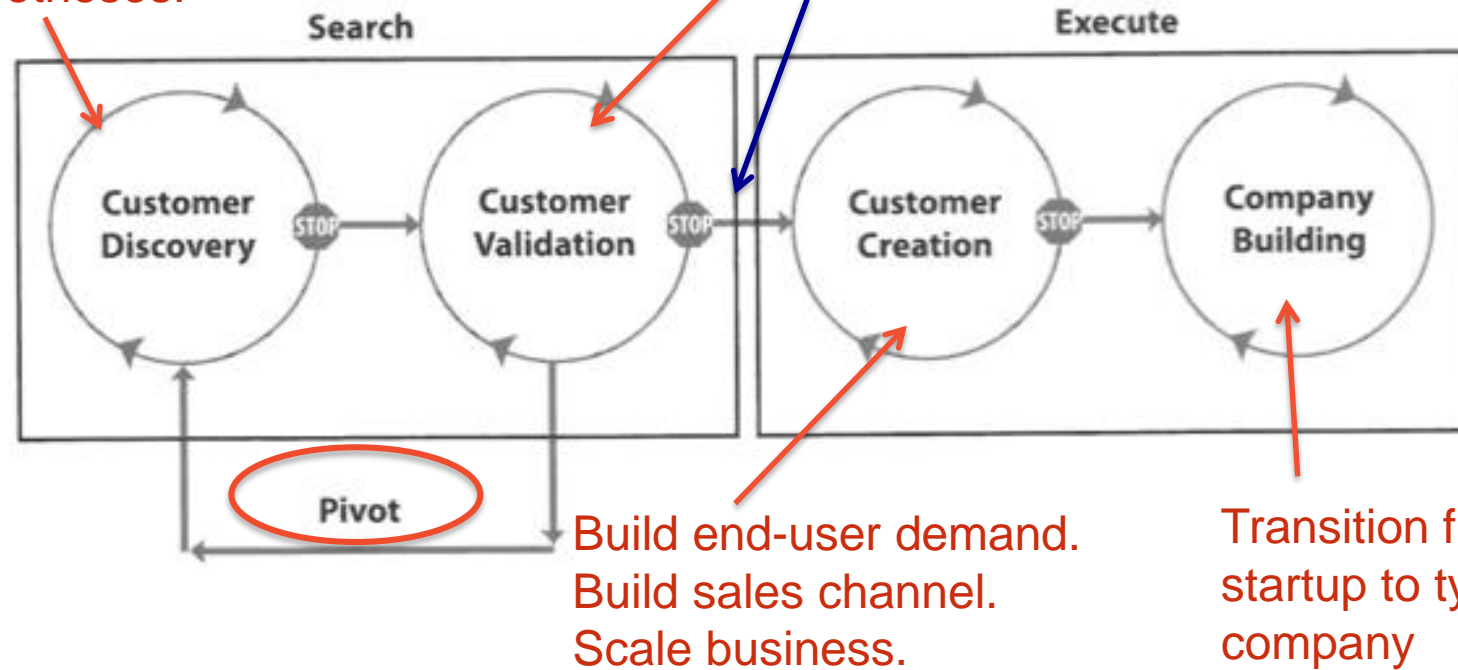
Source: Steve Blank and Bob Dorf, “The Startup Owner’s Manual” (2012)

# Alternative approach for startups: Customer Development Process

Capture vision and turn it into business model hypotheses.  
Develop plan to test hypotheses with customers.  
Test hypotheses.

Test whether related business model is repeatable and scalable

Product/market fit



Source: Steve Blank and Bob Dorf, "The Startup Owner's Manual" (2012)

# The Customer Development Manifesto (The 14 Rules)

Rule 1. There are no facts inside your building, so get outside

Rule 2. Pair Customer Development with Agile Development

Rule 3. Failure is an integral part of the search

Rule 4. Make continuous iterations and pivots

Rule 5. No business plan survives first contact with customers so use a business model canvas (more soon)

Rule 6. Design experiments and test to validate your hypotheses

...



# The Customer Development Manifesto (The 14 Rules)

Rule 7. Agree on market type. It changes everything

- Bringing a new product into an existing market
- Bringing a new product into a new market
- Bringing a new product into an existing market and trying to:
  - Re-segment that market as a low-cost entrant
  - Re-segment that market as a niche entrant
  - Cloning a business model that's successful in another country

...

There Are Four Types Of Startups

Steve Blank

www.steveblank.com  
@sgblank

Source: Steve Blank and Bob Dorf, *"The Startup Owner's Manual"* (2012)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y3WlrgpNY>

# The Customer Development Manifesto (The 14 Rules)

— ...

Rule 8. Startup metrics differ from those in existing companies

Rule 9. Fast decision-making, cycle time, speed and tempo

Rule 10. It's all about passion

Rule 11. Startup job titles are very different from a large company

Rule 12. Preserve all cash until needed. Then spend

Rule 13. Communicate and share learning

Rule 14. Customer development success begins with buy-in

# **The Lean Startup**

MVP, SyncDev, Product Market  
Fit, and more

# The Lean Startup

- Eric Ries developed the concept of “The Lean Startup”
- Combines Steve Blank’s Customer Development process with Agile Software Development
- Video of Eric Ries speaking, Oct 2011:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNw4Ht75DvA>
- (10 minutes)



[www.theleanstartup.com](http://www.theleanstartup.com)

Eric Reis  
Software  
developer/entrepreneur

# The Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

- Definition (from Eric Reis):  
“the minimum viable product is that version of a new product which allows a team to collect the maximum amount of validated learning about customers with the least effort.”

# SyncDev

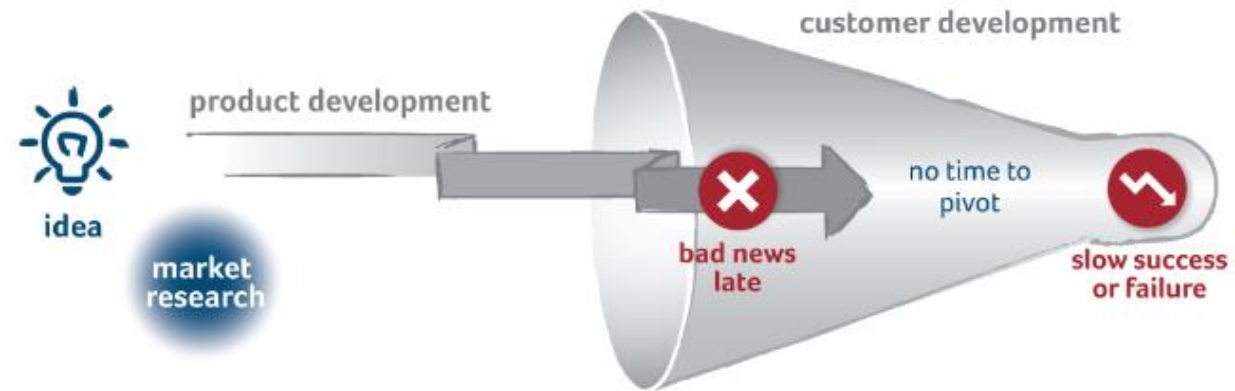
- “When I first said ‘minimum viable product’ I never had to repeat myself. The words went viral right before my eyes.”
- “Frank Robinson independently came up with many of the concepts in Customer Discovery and Validation long before I wrote about them. Frank coined the term ‘minimum viable product’. I liked it better than minimum feature set, which I used in my first book.”
  - Steve Blank, Author and Entrepreneur



Frank Robinson,  
CEO, SyncDev, Inc.

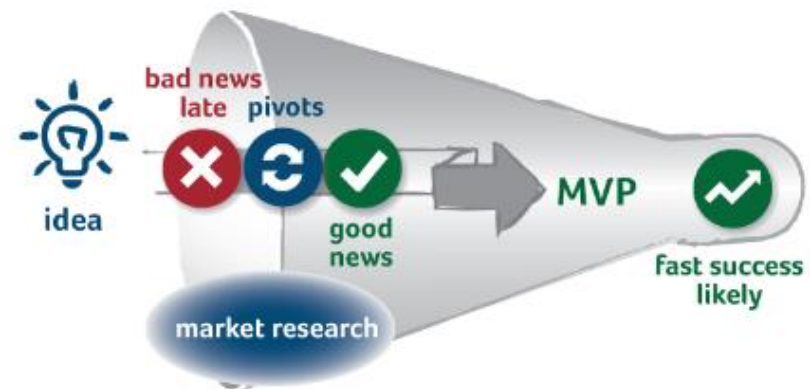
## Problem

Asynchronous Product & Customer Development



## Solution

Synchronous Product & Customer Development



<http://www.syncdev.com/minimum-viable-product/>

# The Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

## THE ART OF THE MVP

- NOT a minimal product
- "My customers don't know what they want!"



New  
Market

- Get out of the building
- How do they spend their time?
- What solutions are they using?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fj0qsAyKPN8>



# Product Market Fit

- Definition (Marc Andreessen):  
“Product/market fit means being in a good market with a product that can satisfy that market.”
- You can always feel when product/market fit isn't happening.
  - The customers aren't quite getting value out of the product, word of mouth isn't spreading, usage isn't growing that fast, press reviews are kind of "blah", the sales cycle takes too long, and lots of deals never close.



<https://youtu.be/zfOsP3PmI1U>

<http://web.stanford.edu/class/ee204/ProductMarketFit.html>

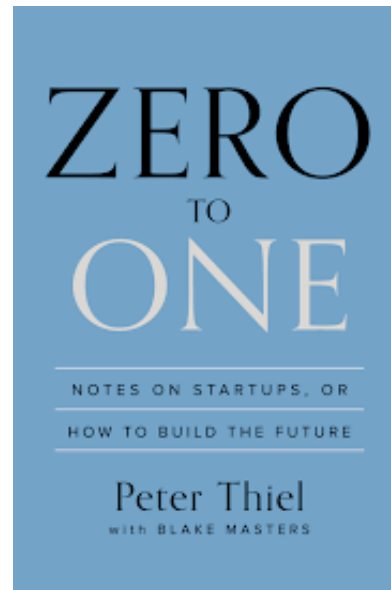
# Monopolies: “Winner takes all” markets



Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal, entrepreneur and investor

<http://www.forbes.com/profile/peter-thiel/>

- Focus on big vision rather than purely incremental niche-making by pivoting
- Focus on monopoly for a time in a market (eg Google, Twitter, Facebook) rather than continual competition



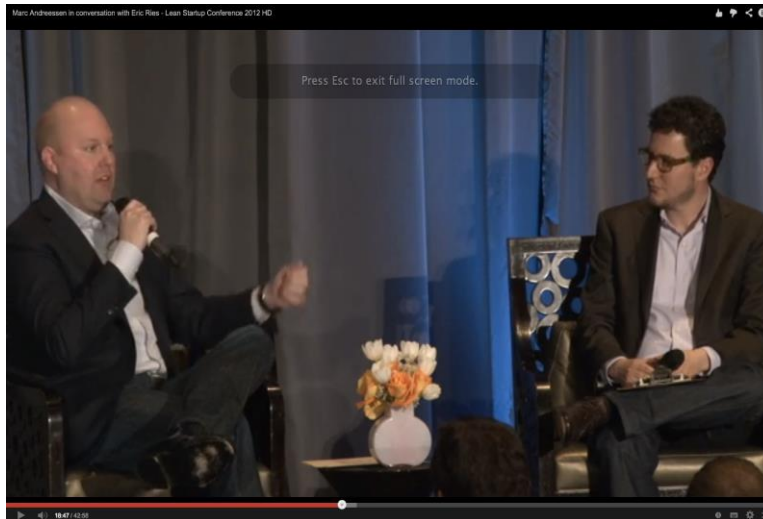
# Differences between the Lean Startup approach and the traditional approach (for established companies)

Lean	Traditional
<b>Strategy</b>	
Business Model Hypothesis-driven	Business Plan Implementation-driven
<b>New-Product Process</b>	
Customer Development Get out of the office and test hypotheses	Product Management Prepare offering for market following a linear, step-by-step plan
<b>Engineering</b>	
Agile Development Build the product iteratively and incrementally	Agile or Waterfall Development Build the product iteratively, or fully specify the product before building it
<b>Organization</b>	
Customer and Agile Development Teams Hire for learning, nimbleness, and speed	Departments by Function Hire for experience and ability to execute
<b>Financial Reporting</b>	
Metrics That Matter Customer acquisition cost, lifetime customer value, churn, viralness	Accounting Income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement
<b>Failure</b>	
Expected Fix by iterating on ideas and pivoting away from ones that don't work	Exception Fix by firing executives
<b>Speed</b>	
Rapid Operates on good-enough data	Measured Operates on complete data

Steve Blank (2013)

# Good sources of tips for startups

- Steve Blanks' blog – <http://steveblank.com>
- Paul Graham's articles – <http://paulgraham.com/articles.html>
- “Lean Startup” isn't all you need to know - Marc Andreessen on role of lean startup - <https://youtu.be/GGui1AB66k8?t=2416> (from 40:16 to end)



# Summary

- According to Schumpeter, entrepreneurs inside new companies usually drive innovation causing creative destruction across markets
- A startup is “a temporary organization in search of a scalable, repeatable, profitable business model” (Steve Blank)
- Traditional new product introduction processes are not suitable for situations of uncertainty (eg most startups) as not enough is known about customers, needed features, etc
- Managing projects for innovation
  - Traditional project management approaches don’t work well with uncertainty
  - Uncertainty is natural in all innovation
  - Agile approaches are needed for innovation
- The Customer Development process has been designed to help scalable startups find a scalable business model
- Startups are seeking “product/market fit”
- The Lean Startup approach provides a useful model for IT startups which combines Customer Development and Agile Development
- The Business Model Canvas, Value Proposition Canvas and Lean Canvas provide useful templates to help guide development of businesses

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# Group Presentation - Session I