

# The Software Industry

**(Based on slides by Prof. Dr. Dirk Riehle)**

Licensed under CC BY 4.0 International



# The Software Industry

- The software industry
  - Is the set of **business** that provide
    - Software **products** and
    - Software **services** such as
      - **Operating** services
      - **Consulting** services
        - **Development** services
        - **Implementation** services
  - to other industries as well as itself
- The software industry...
  - Is highly concentrated
  - Is highly internationalized
  - Has strong network effects
  - Has a high speed of innovation
  - Is rapidly expanding into new domains

# The Software Industry in 2016 [1]

market capitalization	total	\$1.298 trillion
	median	\$744.2 million
	highest	\$415.4 billion (Microsoft)
	lowest	\$177700 (Innovaro Inc.)
earnings per share	median	\$0.20
	highest	\$13.23 per year (IBM)
	lowest	– \$3.40 per year (Wave)
dividend yield	mean	8.913%
	highest	170.3% (Aware)
	lowest	0.07106% (FICO)

[1] <https://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=how+big+is+the+software+industry>

# The So-called “Dot-Com” Bubble and Burst (1995-2000)

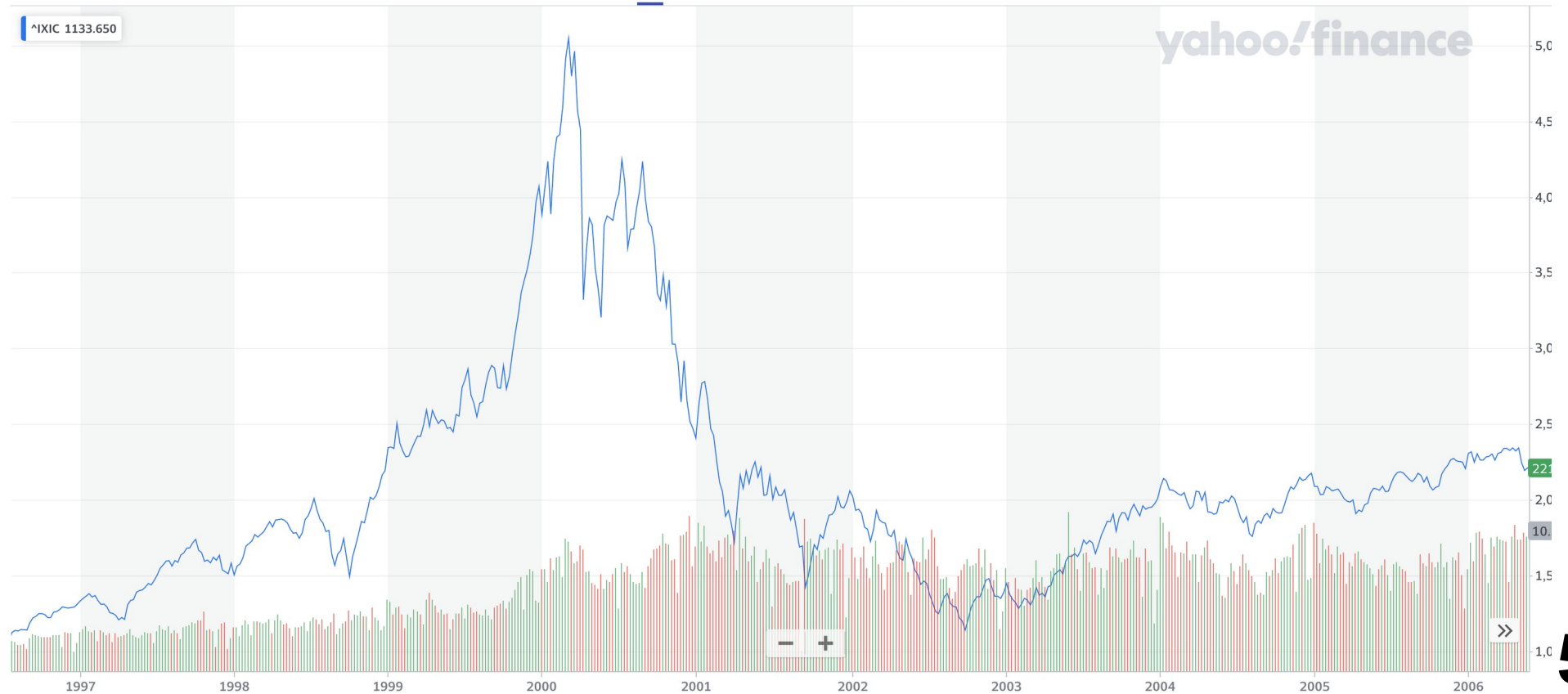
## NASDAQ Composite (^IXIC) ☆

Nasdaq GIDS - Nasdaq GIDS Real Time Price. Currency in USD

**11,535.02** +86.62 (+0.76%)

At close: September 19 05:15PM EDT

⊕ Indicators ⊖ Comparison 📅 Date Range 1D 5D 1M 3M 6M YTD 1Y 2Y 5Y **Max** 📊 Interval 1W 🔧 Line 📄 Draw



# Longer term performance

## NASDAQ Composite (^IXIC) ☆

Nasdaq GIDS - Nasdaq GIDS Real Time Price. Currency in USD

**11,535.02** +86.62 (+0.76%)

At close: September 19 05:15PM EDT

Indicators Comparison Date Range 1D 5D 1M 3M 6M YTD 1Y 2Y 5Y **Max** Interval 1W Line Draw





# Software is eating the world

WSJ, 2011-08-20



# Venture Capital and Open Source (Recap)

## Increasing Open Source Investment Pace

	<5 YEARS	5-10 YRS	>10 YEARS	AGGREGATE
OSS COMPANIES FOUNDED (1ST INST. INV.)	31	19	8	58
VC INVESTMENT BY FOUNDING VINTAGE (\$M)	\$1,802	\$2,847	\$255	\$4,904
VC INVESTMENT BY YEAR BUCKET (\$M)	\$4,237	\$506	\$161	\$4,904
VALUATION BY FOUNDING VINTAGE (\$M)	\$8,174	\$12,719	\$16,992	\$37,886
EXCL. RED HAT			\$1,938	\$22,832

**“It is actually open source software that’s eating the world.” [V15]**



## The CEO Interview

“Industrial companies are in the information business whether they want to be or not.”

—Jeff Immelt

McKinsey&Company



# Short History of the Software Industry

- **1959**
  - First mentioning of term “software”
- **1969**
  - US DoJ separates hard- from software
- **1980ties**
  - From vertical to horizontal integration
  - Growth of platforms and ecosystems
- **1990ties**
  - Centralization, dominance of Windows
- **2000ties**
  - Diversification, multiple platforms
  - Growth of open source software
- **2010ties**
  - Back to vertical, cloud computing

# Main Industry Players

- **Software vendors**
  - Produce products
    - A.k.a. “standard software” or “commercial off-the-shelf software” (COTS)
- **Operating services firms**
  - Operate any form of software (and hardware)
- **Development services firms**
  - Produce custom software
- **Implementation services firms**
  - Adjust software products for use by customers
- **Regulatory bodies**

# Software is a Digital Good

- **Digital good**
  - A digital artifact satisfying a human need
  - Without further intervention
    - No or low reproduction costs
    - Perfect reproduction possible
- **Software** as a digital good
  - Typically high cost to first copy
  - Typically high switching costs
- Examples
  - Consumer software (Games, social media, etc.)
  - Enterprise software (SAP Business Suite, Oracle RDBMS, etc.)

# Software as a Product

- **Product**
  - A man-made good sold to customers in a market
- **Software as a product**
  - A product sold to either enterprise or retail customers
  - What is sold is a license, a usage right, plus services
- **Characteristics**
  - Has an open-ended life-cycle: Is born, may live forever
  - Typically requires upfront capital investment (development)

# Core, Basic, and Whole Product

- **Core product** =
  - Core software
- **Basic product** = bundle of
  - Software + complementary materials + self-help services
  - Guarantees about fitness for use + indemnification
  - Support services
- **Whole product** = basic product +
  - Training
  - Consulting
  - Operations



Whole product

Basic product

Usage rights

Software (core product)

- Core software
- Additional software (extensions + plug-ins, tools and utilities, integrations)

Complementary materials

- Documentation
- Training materials

Self-help services

- Forums, mailing lists
- Help and chat agents
- On-line tutorials

Pricing of usage rights

- Quantity: User, machine, time, ...
- Duration: Perpetual, time-limited, ...
- Structured: Initial license fee, regular maintenance fee

Guarantees (“insurance”)

- Fitness for use, certification
- Indemnification

Pricing of guarantees

- By damage: Loss of business, fines received
- Structured: Levels / bands, formula

Support services

- Hot-line support
- On-site servicing

Pricing of support services (SLAs)

- By availability: Incident-based, 9x5, 24x7
- By quality: First-level, second-level, third-level

Training

- In-house training
- Off-site training

Pricing of training

- Fixed fee
- Per participating person

Consulting

- Technical implementation services
- Strategic solution consulting

Pricing of consulting

- Fixed fee
- Time and materials

Operations

- Provision of SaaS (managed service)

Pricing of operations

- Quantity: Users, resources, ...
- Duration: Always time-limited
- Structured: Set-up, subscription

# Commercial Open Source Products [WR13]

	Web Store	Direct Sales	
Open Source Community	DOC INC UTIL		<b>DOC</b> Documentation <b>INC</b> Incident-based support <b>UTIL</b> Utilities
Enterprise Customers		LIC UPD UTIL DOC TRN 24x7	<b>LIC</b> Commercial license <b>UPD</b> Update service <b>TRN</b> Training ... <b>24x7</b> 24x7 hot-line
ISV/OEM		LIC UTIL DOC TRN 24x7	

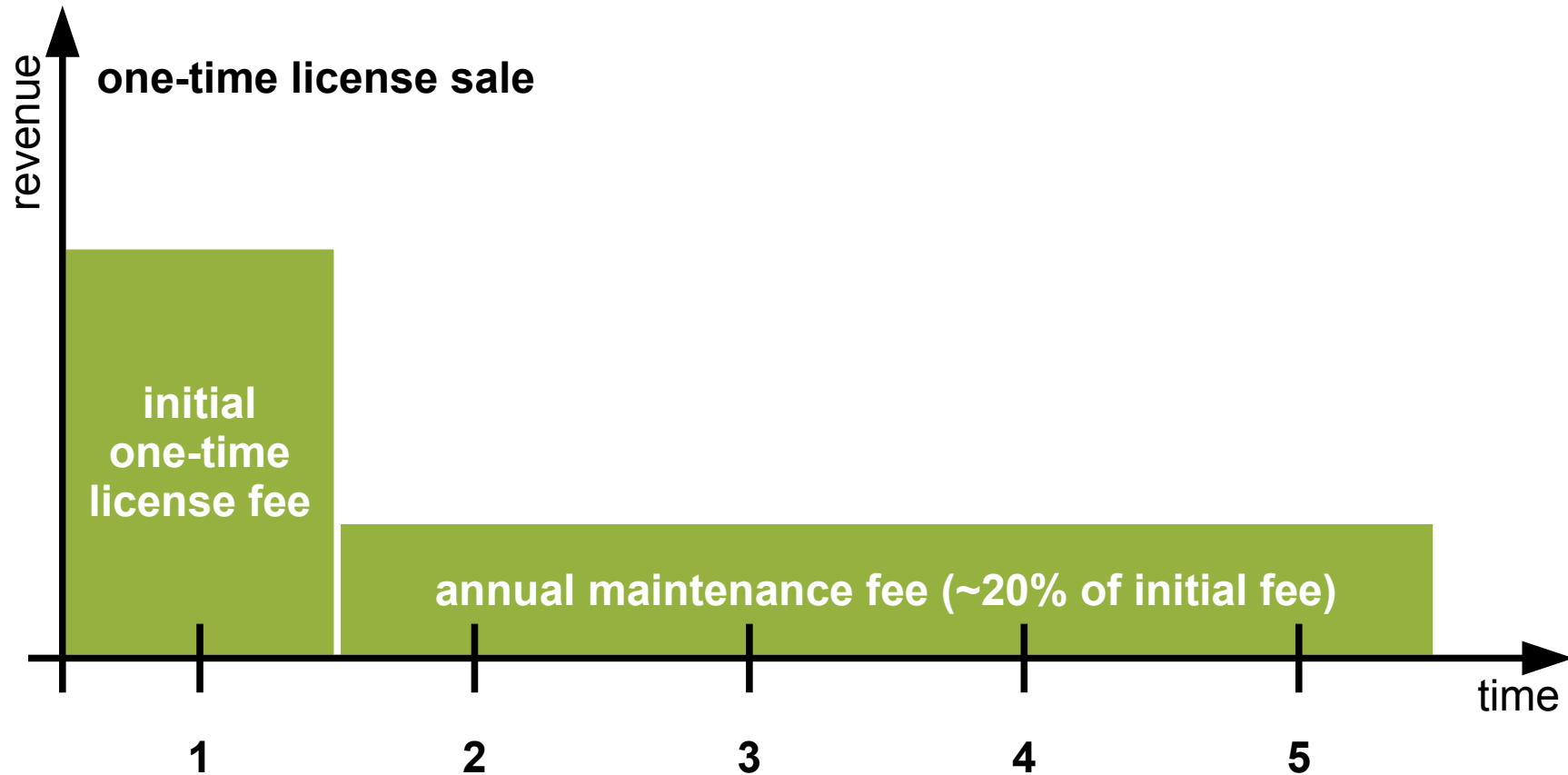
# Enterprise Customers vs. Private Users

- Enterprise customers
  - Are willing to trade money for time
- Private users
  - Are willing to trade time for money

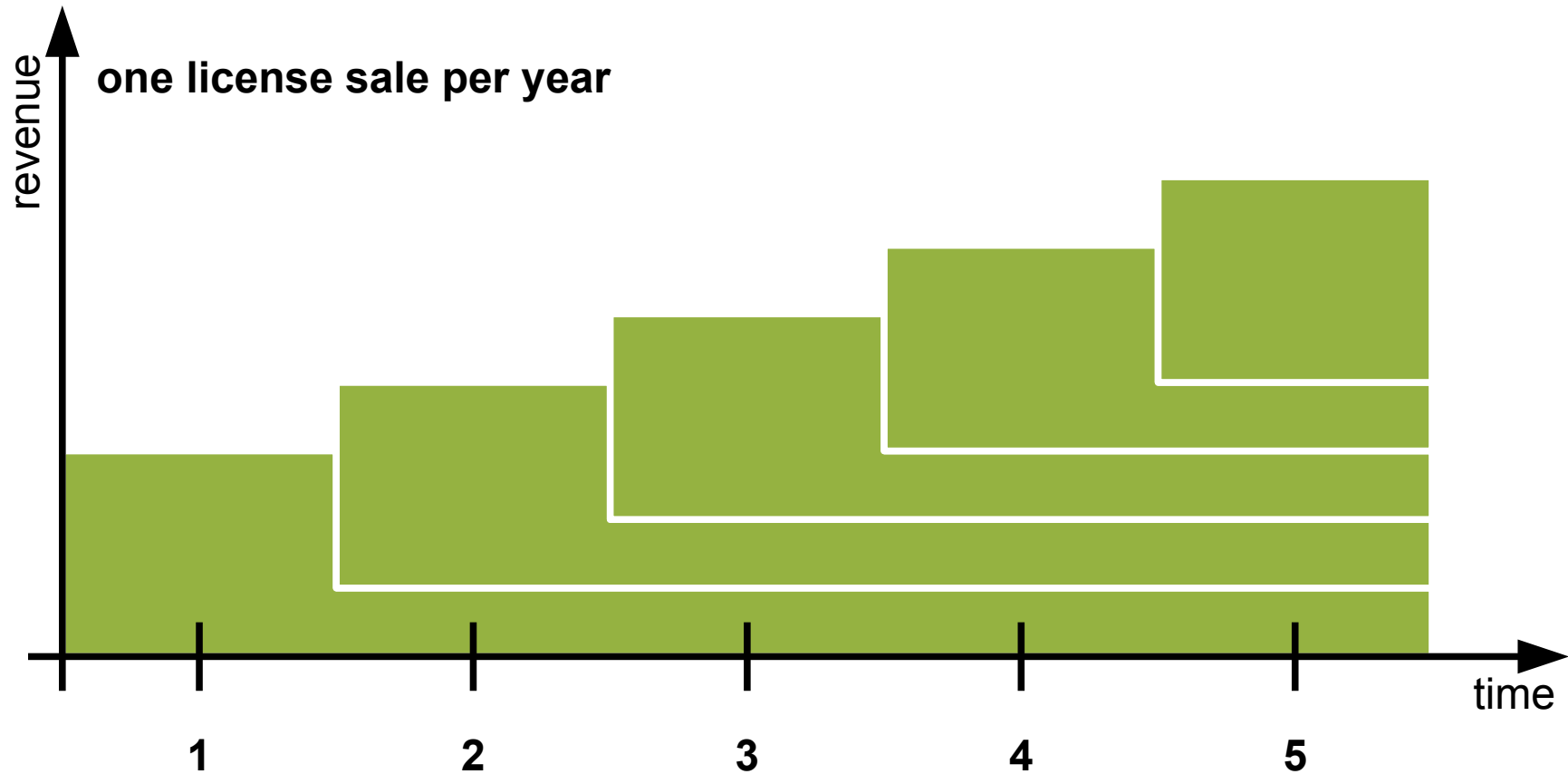
# Products, Projects, and Services

- Products are provided by a software vendor
  - “Standard software”, (commercial) off-the-shelf software (COTS)
- Products can be operated by service providers
  - Service providers specialize in specific products
- Projects are performed by consulting firms
  - “Individual software”, custom software
- Many companies do all of the above

# Single Product Sale Revenue



# Accumulating Product Revenues (SaaS) [1]

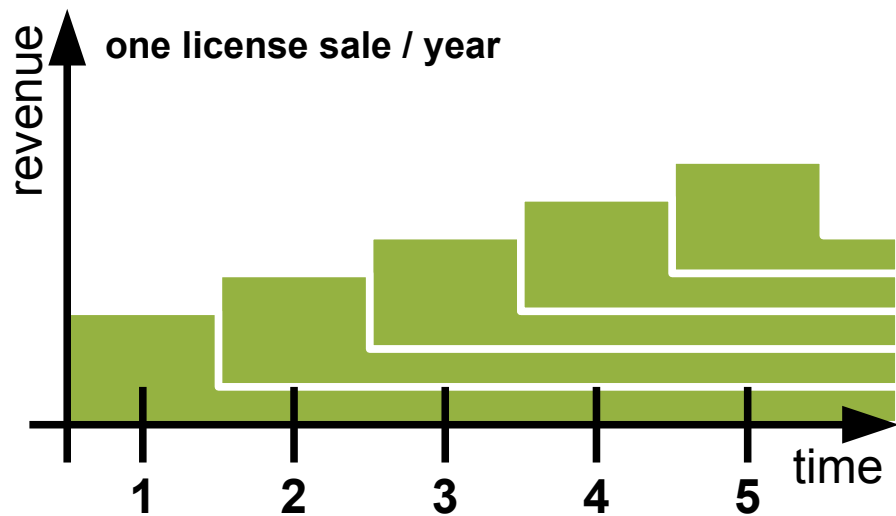
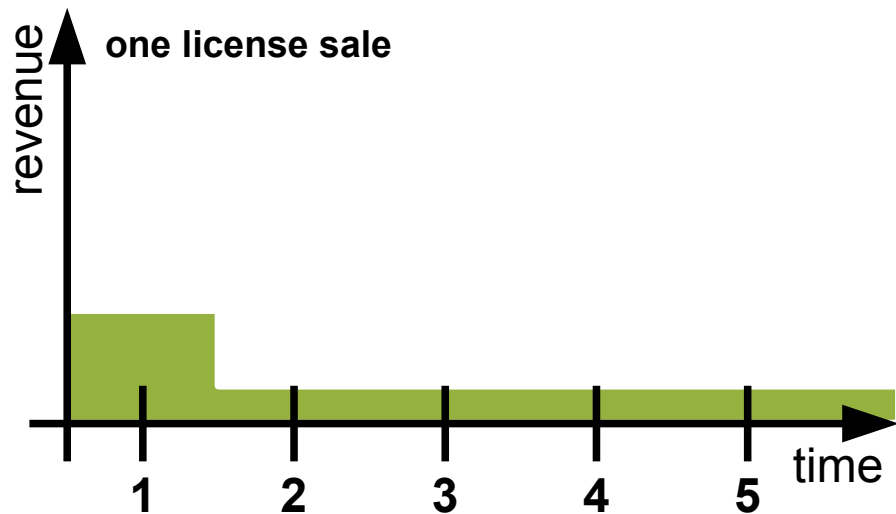




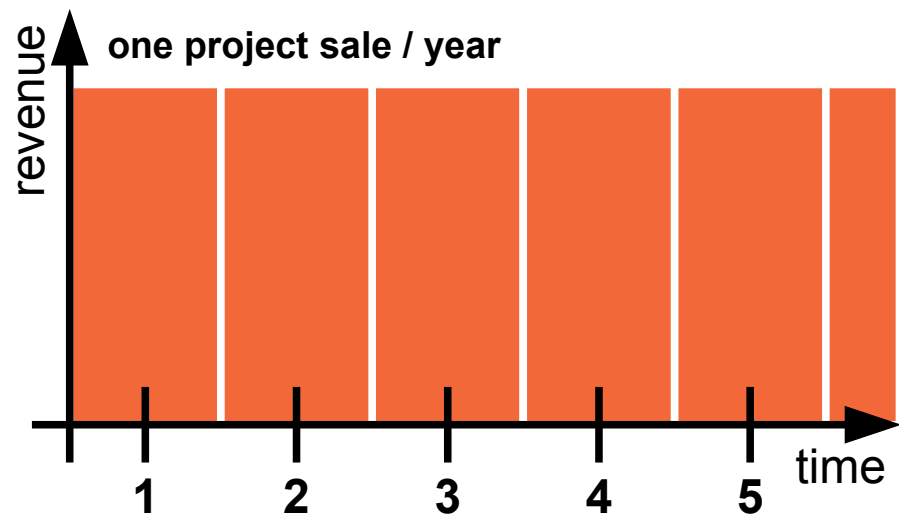
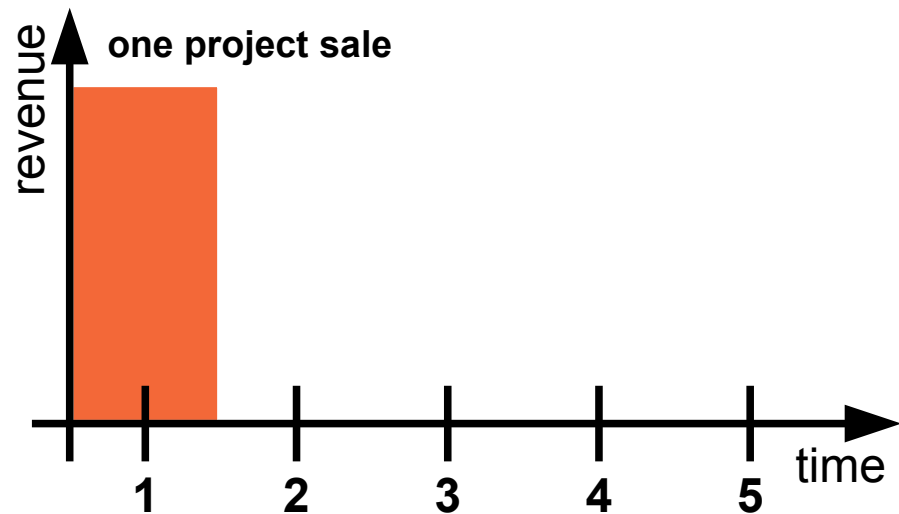
# Software Projects

- Projects
  - A process with a defined start and a defined end
- Software projects
  - Revenues correlate with performed labor
    - Fixed price vs. actual labor
  - Accounted for as revenue and expenses
- Examples
  - Bachelor and Master theses
  - Customizing SAP for a customer

## Product Revenue



## Project Revenue



# (Software) Products and (Implementation) Projects

Software  
Vendor

Product

Consulting  
Firm

Project



Widget Corp.  
BI Impl. 2008



German SME  
Sugar 2010



Continental  
Stages 2010

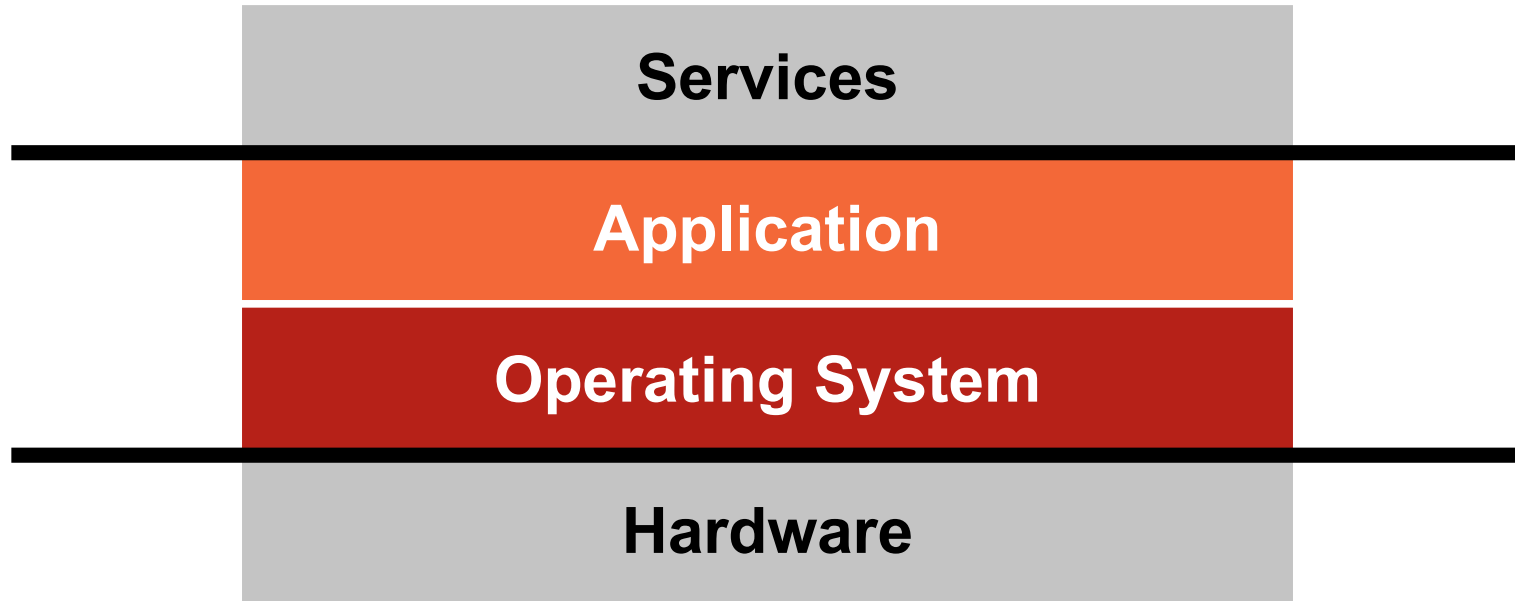
**Microsoft®**



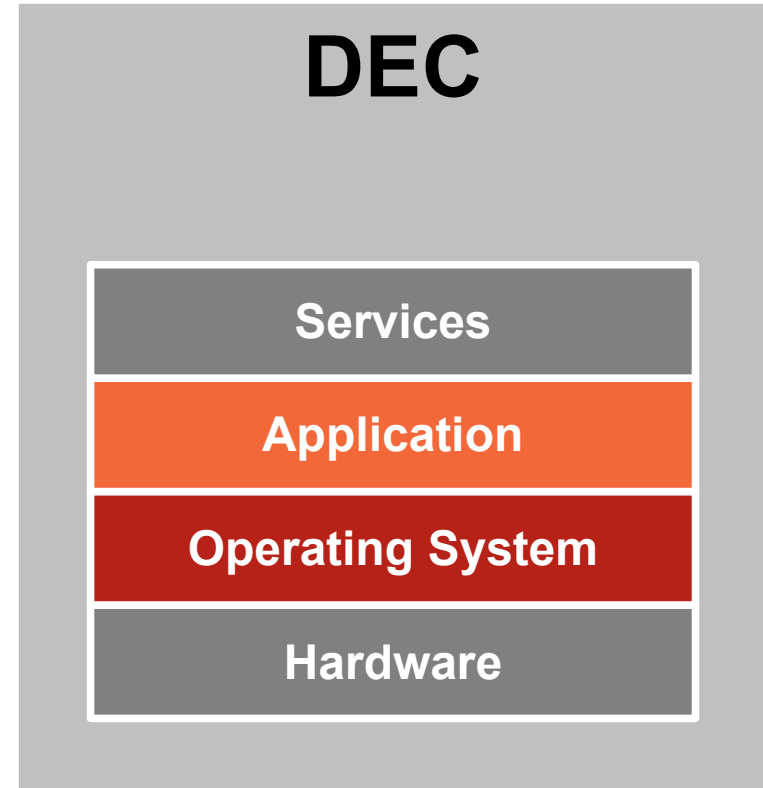
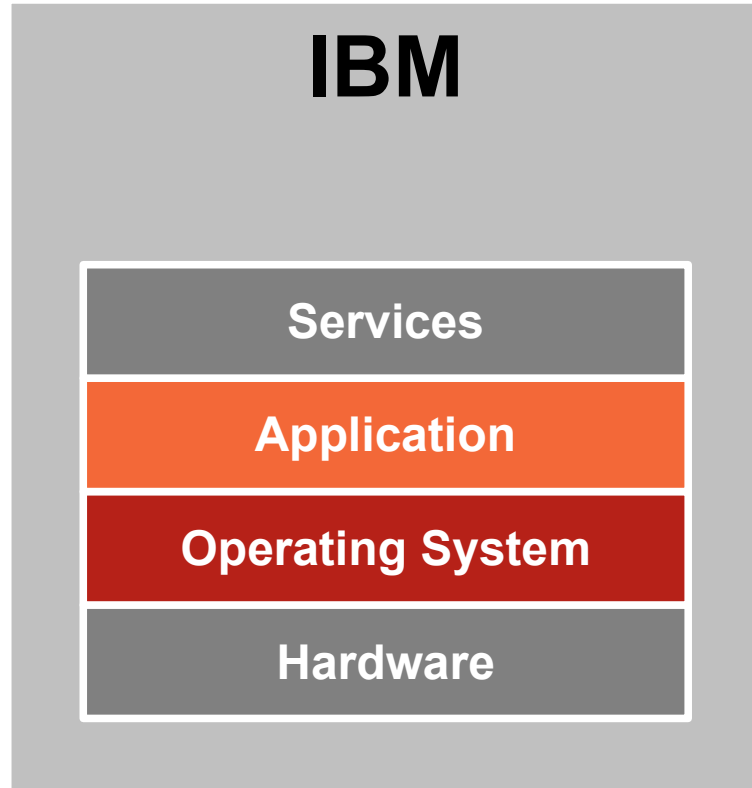
# Software Product vs. Project Companies

	Consulting Firms (Custom Development)	Software Vendors (COTS Development)
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not capital intensive</li><li>• Can be started easily</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stable maintenance revenue</li><li>• High market capitalization</li></ul>
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Somewhat fragile revenue</li><li>• Little long-term stability</li><li>• High business volatility</li><li>• Limited scalability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hard to get started</li><li>• Requires upfront investment</li><li>• May be slow to react</li><li>• Most fail, few survive</li></ul>

# Customers Buy a “Solution”

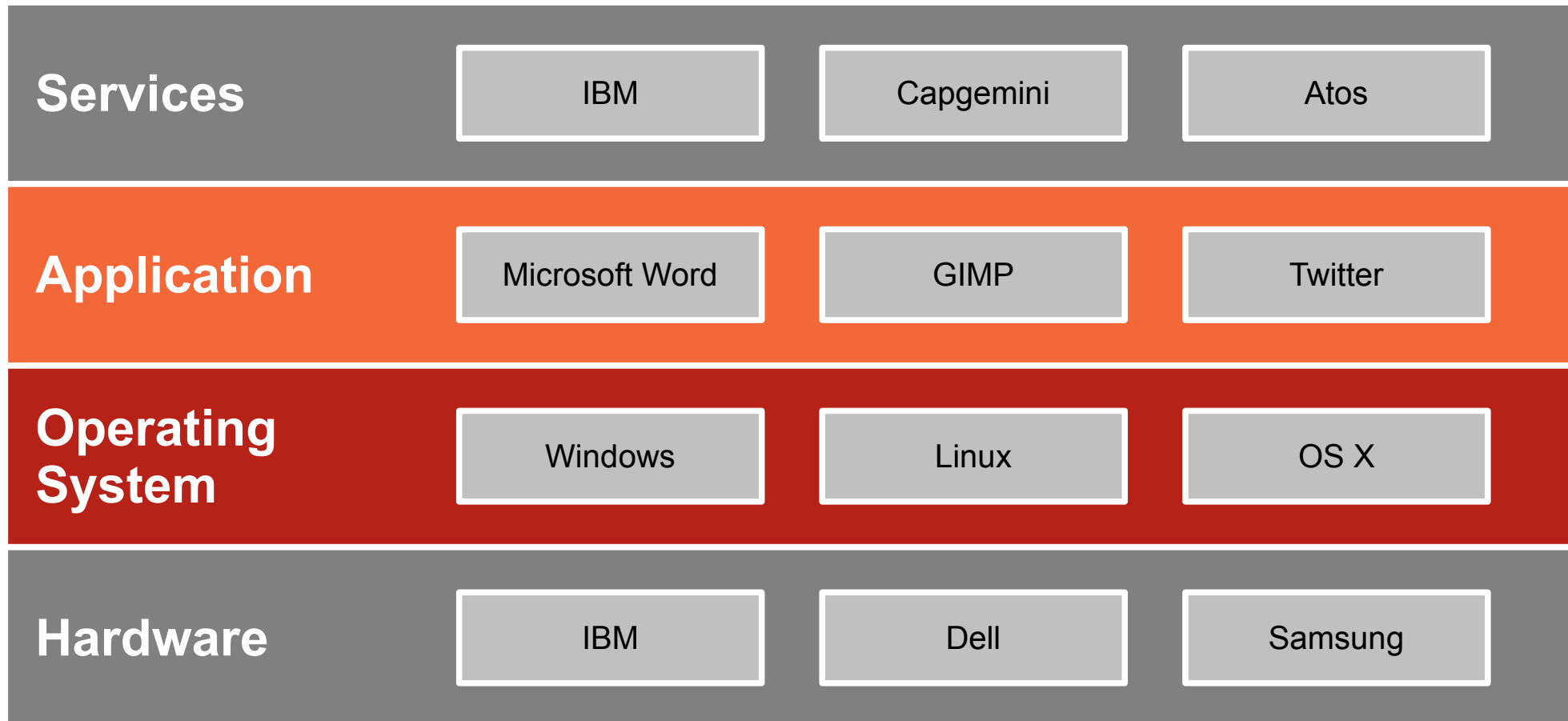


# Vertical Integration (Until 1980ties)



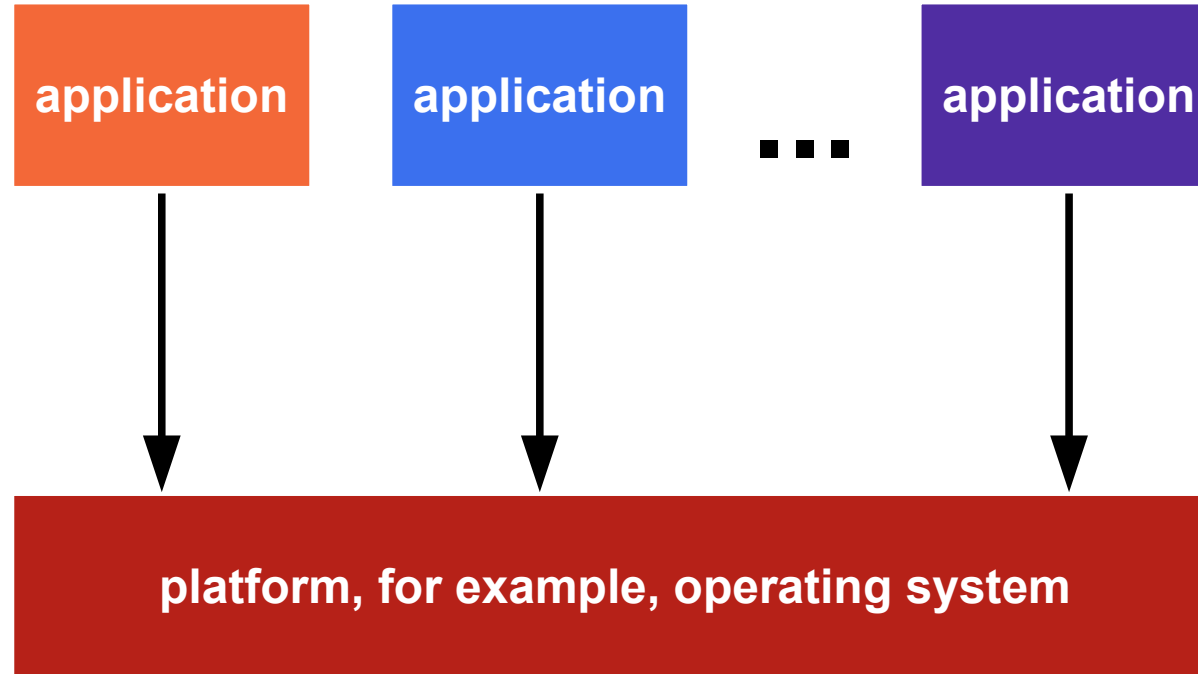


# Horizontal Integration (Since 1990ties)



# Categories of Software Products

- **Applications**
  - Software that is not built upon
  - Top-layer of the solution stack
- **Platforms**
  - Software that is built upon
  - Everything that is not the top layer
- **Why does everyone want to be a platform?**



- Software platform
  - Is an environment for the development and deployment of applications
    - Implies split between applications on top of the platform
  - Is a full set of application-independent life-cycle functions for applications
    - Among many components, the largest collection (i.e. not just a library)
  - Are often two- or multi-sided
    - Face both ISVs / VARs and end-customers
- Customer (user) value of software platforms
  - By definition, a platform in itself is useless
  - Customer value is only created by applications

# Software Platforms as a Product

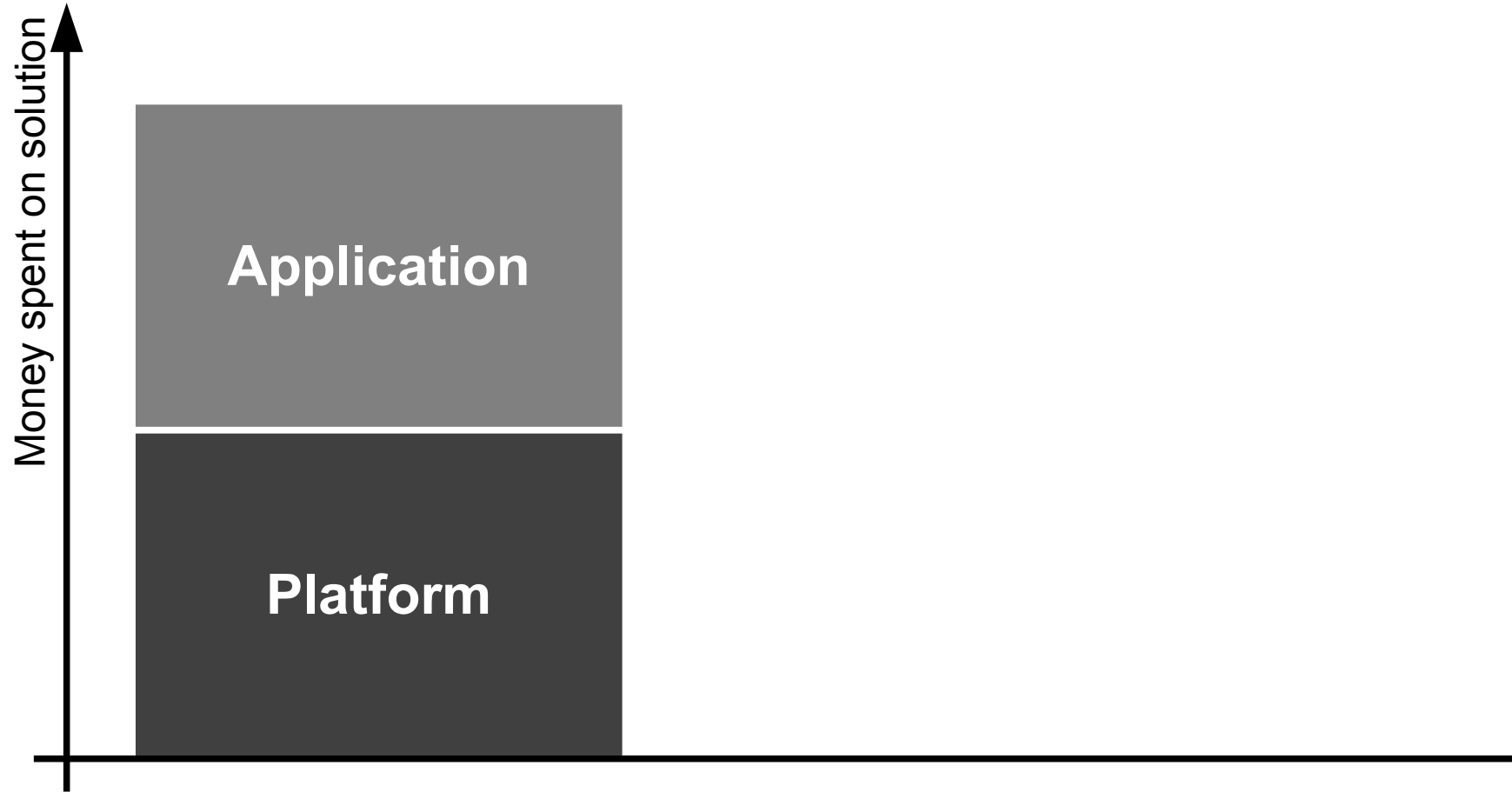
- Platforms are valuable
  - Platforms are needed by the applications running on top of it
  - Platforms can simplify IT department operations costs
- An application license sale implies a platform sale

# Software Ecosystem

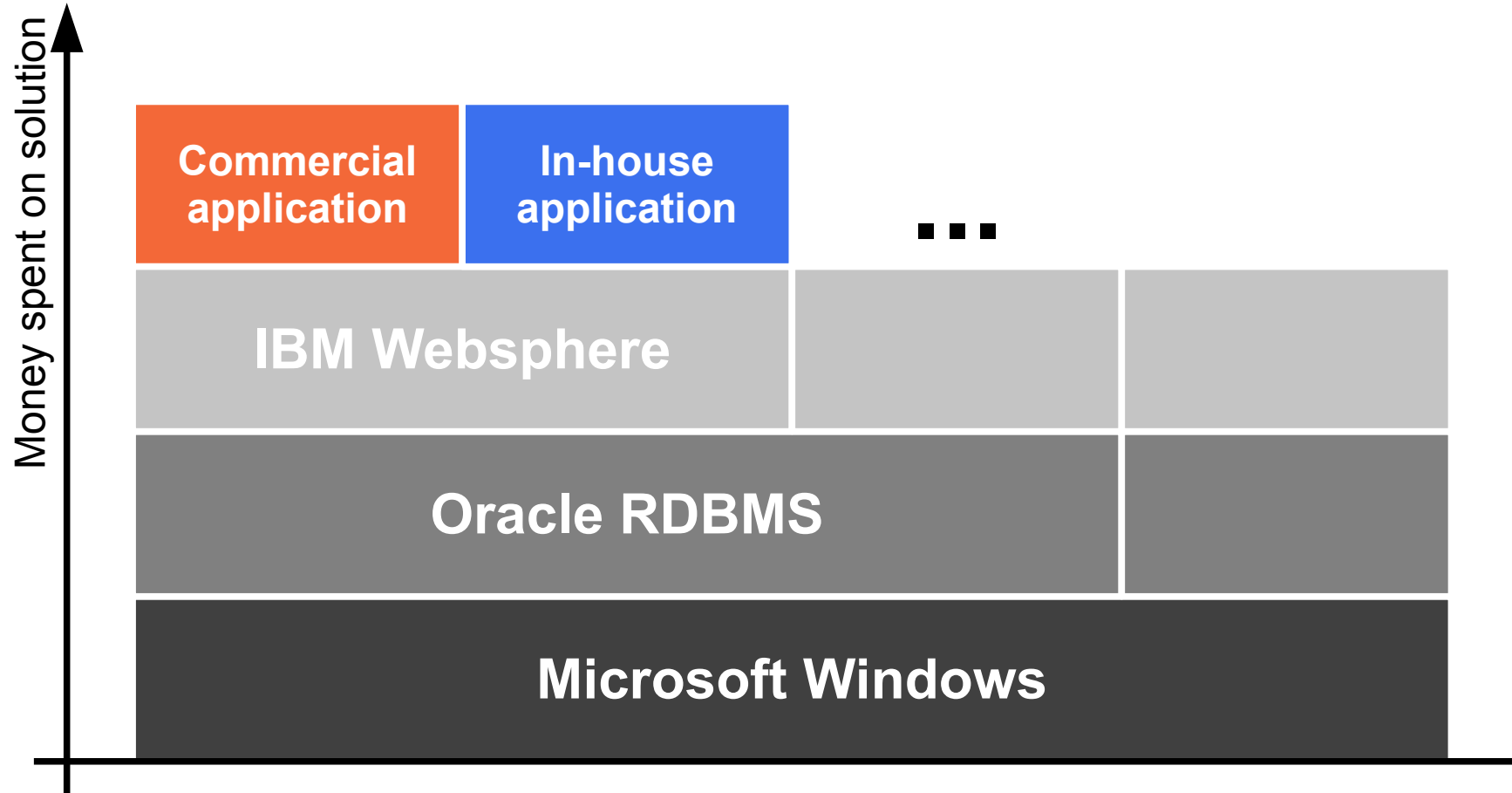
- Software ecosystem
  - The totality of actors (businesses and individuals),
  - software applications and components,
  - their relationships and goals
  - around a software platform
- Includes but is not limited to a community



# Pricing Power 1 / 2



# Pricing Power 2 / 2



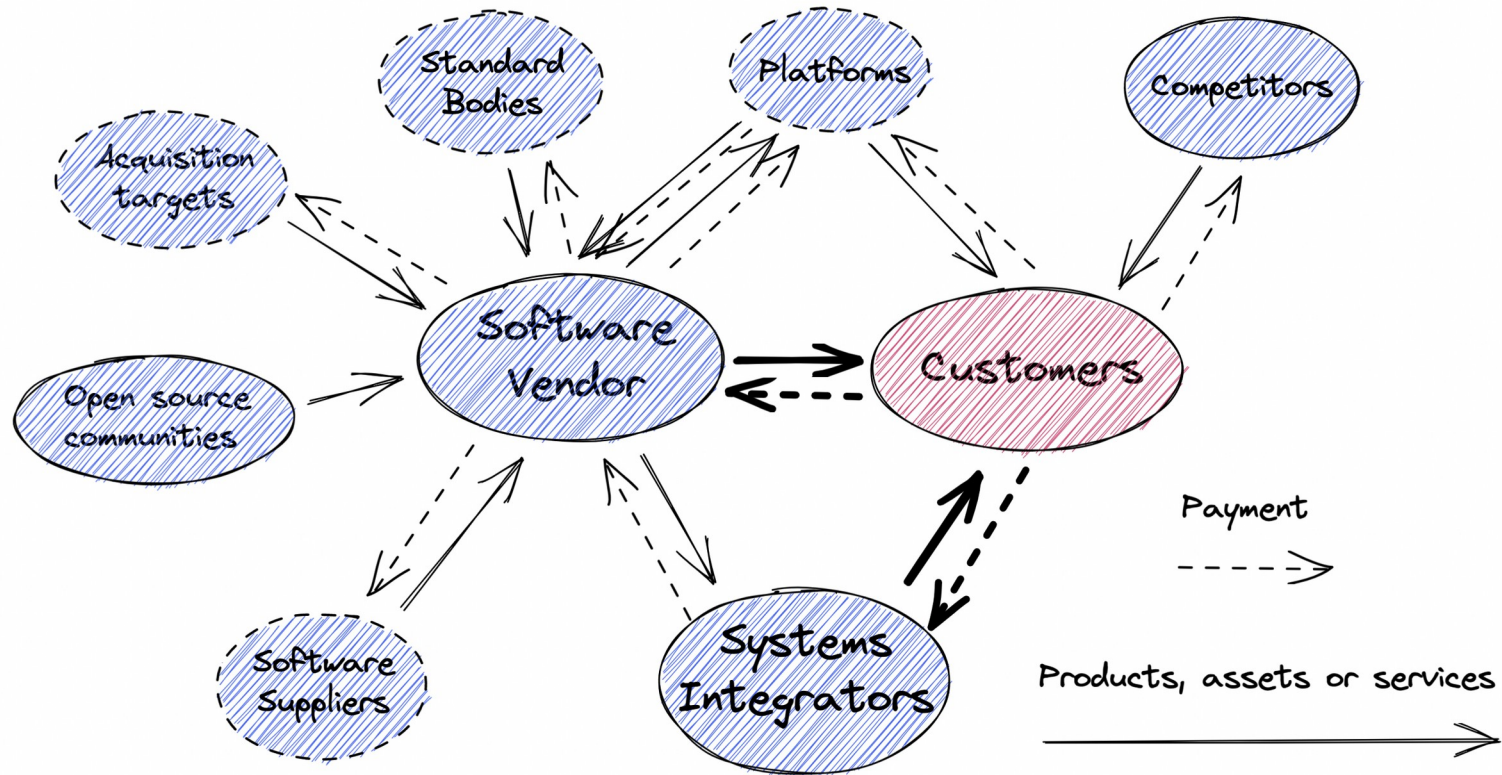
# The Software Industry

**(Based on slides by Prof. Dr. Dirk Riehle)**

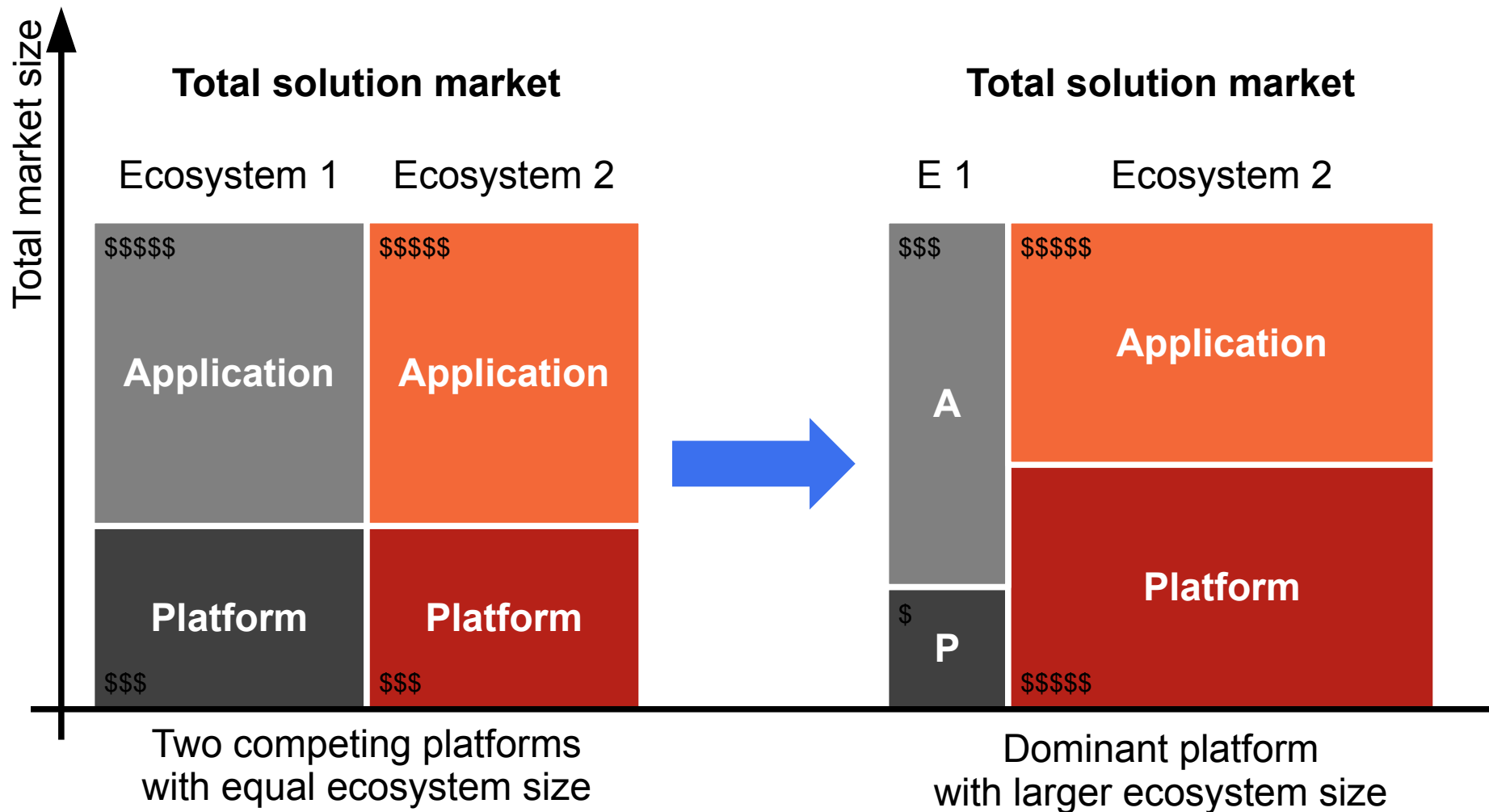
Licensed under CC BY 4.0 International

- **Software ecosystem**
  - The totality of actors (businesses and individuals),
  - software applications and components,
  - their relationships and goals
  - for a software platform

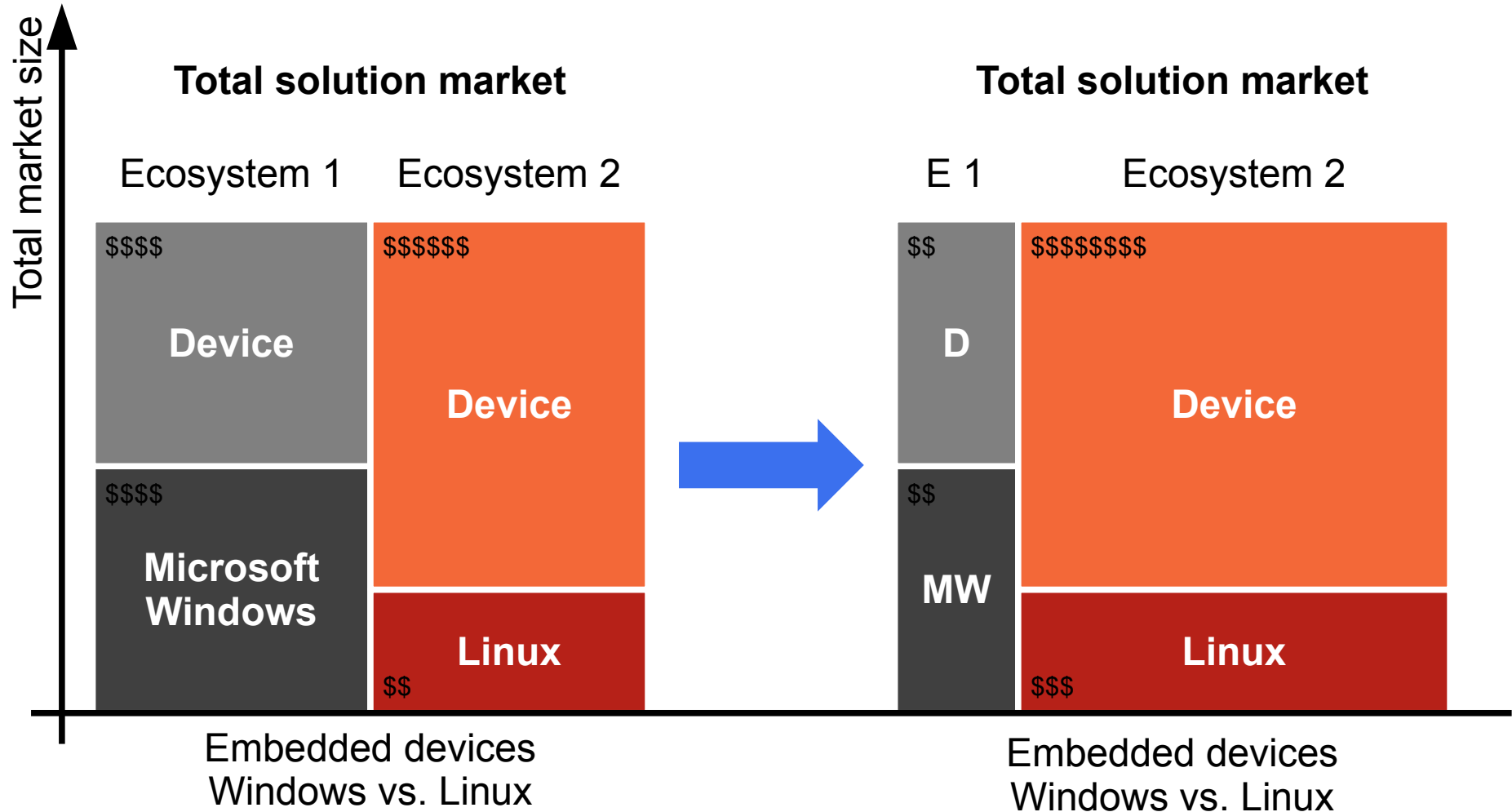
# Software Ecosystem



# The Software Ecosystem Wars



# Open Source in the Ecosystem Wars



- **A business model**
  - Is a summary description (model) of how a business' elements and their relationships interact to help the business achieve its strategic goals
  - Example elements are products, partners, people, positions, etc. and example relationships are the processes that govern their interaction
- But “open source is not a business model” [A08]
  - But open source can be a key enabler of a business model
  - So much so that the business model is called “open source”



**Key Partners**

**Key Re-  
sources**

**Key  
Activities**

**Value  
Proposition**

**Channels**

**Customer  
Relationships**

**Customer Segments**

**Cost Structure**

**Revenue Streams**

# Microsoft Income Statement (2022) – from K10

## ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

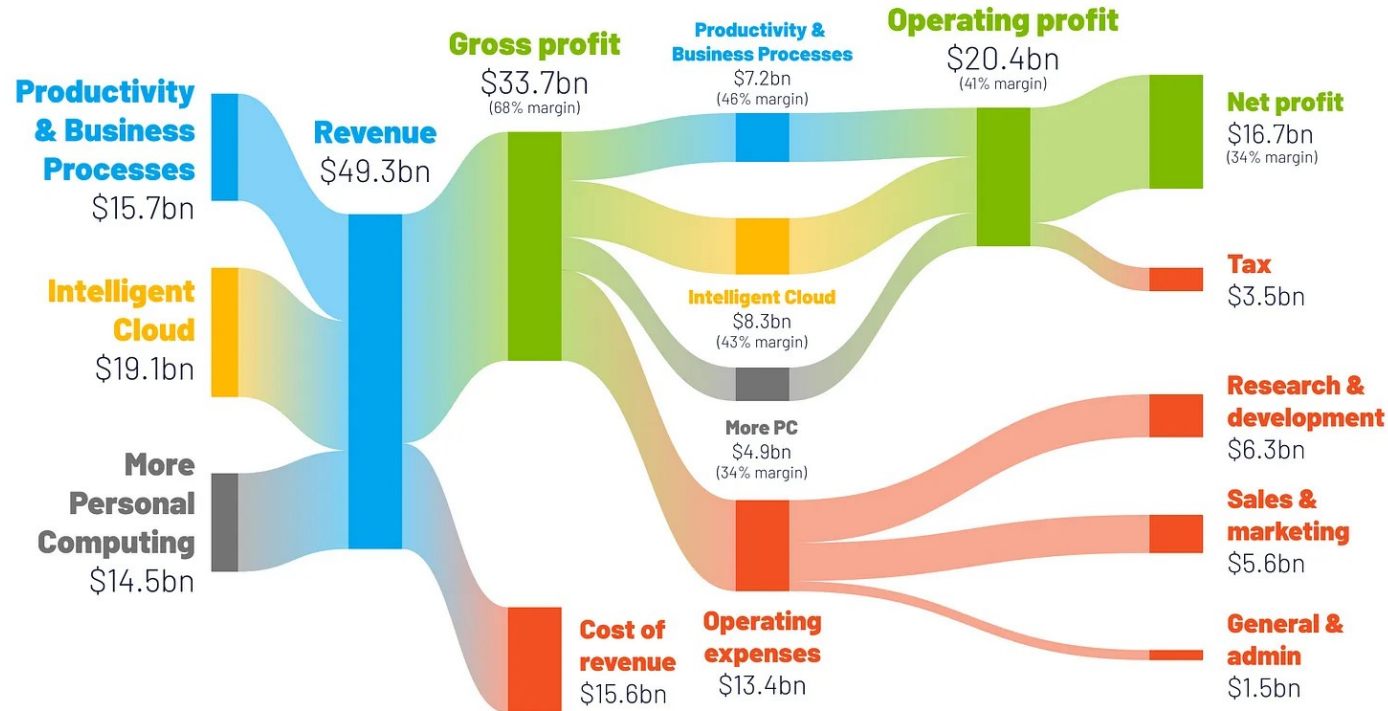
### INCOME STATEMENTS

(In millions, except per share amounts)

Year Ended June 30,	2022	2021	2020
Revenue:			
Product	\$ 72,732	\$ 71,074	\$ 68,041
Service and other	125,538	97,014	74,974
Total revenue	198,270	168,088	143,015
Cost of revenue:			
Product	19,064	18,219	16,017
Service and other	43,586	34,013	30,061
Total cost of revenue	62,650	52,232	46,078
Gross margin	135,620	115,856	96,937
Research and development	24,512	20,716	19,269
Sales and marketing	21,825	20,117	19,598
General and administrative	5,900	5,107	5,111
Operating income	83,383	69,916	52,959
Other income, net	333	1,186	77
Income before income taxes	83,716	71,102	53,036
Provision for income taxes	10,978	9,831	8,755
Net income	\$ 72,738	\$ 61,271	\$ 44,281
Earnings per share:			
Basic	\$ 9.70	\$ 8.12	\$ 5.82
Diluted	\$ 9.65	\$ 8.05	\$ 5.76

# Microsoft Income Statement (2022)

## How profitable is Microsoft really?



Source: Microsoft 2022 financial statements

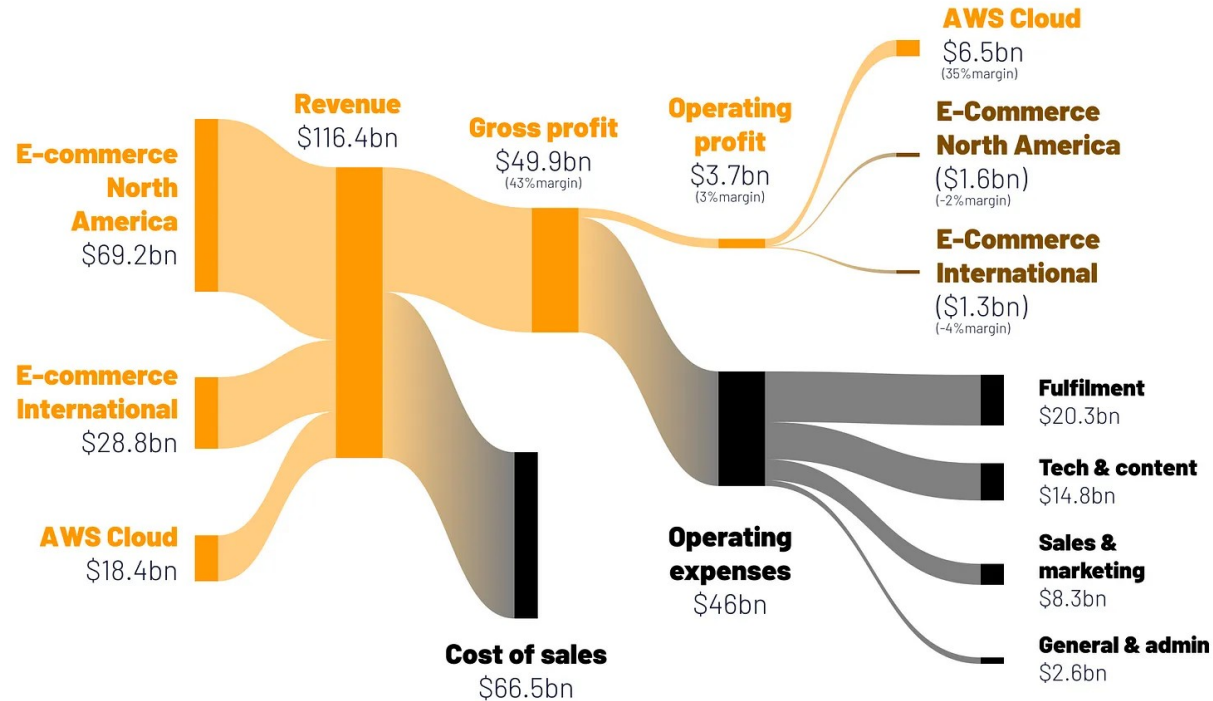
More charts at (link in bio): [genuineimpact.substack.com](https://genuineimpact.substack.com)



on Source Software  
the Rights Reserved

# Amazon Income Statement (2022)

## How profitable is Amazon really?



Source: Amazon Q4 2022 financial statements

More charts at (link in bio): [genuineimpact.substack.com](https://genuineimpact.substack.com)



Open Source Software  
- Some Rights Reserved

# Red Hat Income Statement (2019)

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Fiscal years ended February 28, 2019 and February 28, 2018

The following table is a summary of our results of operations (in thousands):

	Fiscal Years Ended		\$ Change	% Change
	February 28, 2019	February 28, 2018 (1)		
Revenue:				
Subscriptions	\$ 2,949,059	\$ 2,574,178	\$ 374,881	14.6%
Training and services	413,010	346,283	66,727	19.3
Total revenue	3,362,069	2,920,461	441,608	15.1%
Cost of revenue:				
Subscriptions	213,843	185,339	28,504	15.4
As a % of subscription revenue	7.3%	7.2%		
Training and services	284,408	246,458	37,950	15.4
As a % of training and services revenue	68.9%	71.2%		
Total cost of revenue	498,251	431,797	66,454	15.4%
As a % of total revenue	14.8%	14.8%		
Gross profit	2,863,818	2,488,664	375,154	15.1%
Operating expense:				
Sales and marketing	1,378,278	1,195,286	182,992	15.3
Research and development	668,542	578,330	90,212	15.6
General and administrative	304,766	239,316	65,450	27.3
Total operating expense	2,351,586	2,012,932	338,654	16.8%
Income from operations	512,232	475,732	36,500	7.7
Interest income	30,531	18,493	12,038	65.1
Interest expense	19,838	24,569	(4,731)	(19.3)
Other (expense) income, net	(4,870)	8,335	(13,205)	(158.4)
Income before provision for income taxes	518,055	477,991	40,064	8.4%
Provision for income taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	84,067	216,140	(132,073)	(61.1)
Net income	\$ 433,988	\$ 261,851	\$ 172,137	65.7%

## R&D : une définition controversée ?



Technology and content costs include payroll and related expenses for employees involved in the research and development of new and existing products and services, development, **design, and maintenance of our stores**, curation and display of products and services made available in our online stores, and **infrastructure costs**. Infrastructure costs **include servers, networking equipment, and data center related depreciation and amortization, rent, utilities, and other expenses** necessary to support AWS and other Amazon businesses.

**AWS costs are primarily classified as “Technology and content”.**



“Research and development (R&D) expenditure includes pre-production research and development, such as the **search for alternative products, processes, systems, and services**. By contrast, we do not class as R&D expenditure the costs of developing system and user software which is designed to improve productivity and make our business processes more effective.”

*Rapport annuel 2021 de Deutsche Telekom*

## Enquête sur la “R&D” d'Amazon

	2020	2021
Operating expenses:		
Cost of sales	"purchase price of consumer products, inbound and outbound shipping costs" \$ 233,307	\$ 272,344
Fulfillment	"operating and staffing fulfillment centers and physical stores" 58,517	75,111
Technology and content	42,740	56,052
Marketing	22,008	32,551
General and administrative	"costs are not directly attributable to the production of goods and services" 6,668	8,823
Other operating expense (income), net	(75)	62
Total operating expenses	\$ 363,165	\$ 444,943

### La tech marketée comme R&D

Amazon inclut dans “Technology & Content” tous les salaires et coûts d’infrastructures (amortissement, énergie et loyer de ses serveurs, et data centers) de sa tech

### AWS

Net sales	\$ 62,202	
Operating expenses	43,670	
Operating income	\$ 18,532	

→ ???  
R&D expenses

### AWS à retraiter

Il reste à retraiter ce montant mais les prix, loyers, énergies, amortissements et même nombres de serveurs & data centers ne sont pas publics  
→ Raisononnons par analogie avec un pure player



656,8 M€  
Operating expenses

→ 76 M€  
R&D expenses

### Une R&D plus réaliste

4,7 Mds€  
R&D expenses

Sources : Annual Report 2021 d'Amazon, Consolidated Financial Statements 2021 d'OVH



# Manuel de Frascati

- Publié par l'OCDE, le manuel de Frascati est une référence méthodologique internationale pour les études statistiques des activités de recherche et développement (R&D). Il standardise la façon dont les gouvernements recueillent l'information sur les investissements en recherche et développement (R&D). Ce Manuel traite exclusivement de la mesure des ressources humaines et financières consacrées à la recherche et au développement expérimental (R&D) souvent qualifiées « d'intrants » de la R&D.
- Même s'il s'agit avant tout d'un outil pour les statisticiens, le manuel de Frascati s'avère pour les gestionnaires de la R&D en entreprise un outil indispensable pour apprécier les efforts de R&D réalisés par leurs équipes, et, le cas échéant, les justifier auprès de l'administration fiscale ou sociale.





# Open Source “Business Models”

- Non-profit open source
  - **Community projects** without foundation
  - Open source **developer foundations**
  - Open source **user foundations**
- For-profit open source
  - **Service and support firms**
  - Open source **distributor firms**
  - **Single-vendor** open source **firms**

# Open Source and Business Models

- Open source may not be a business model, but it may be ...
  - A go-to-market strategy
  - An innovation model
  - A collaboration model
  - A sourcing strategy
  - And many other things
- More on this in later lectures on open source business models

# Review / Summary of Session

- The software industry
- Software platforms
- Software ecosystems
- Business models

# Credits and License

- Original version
  - © 2012-2019 Dirk Riehle, some rights reserved
  - Licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#)
- Contributions
  - ...