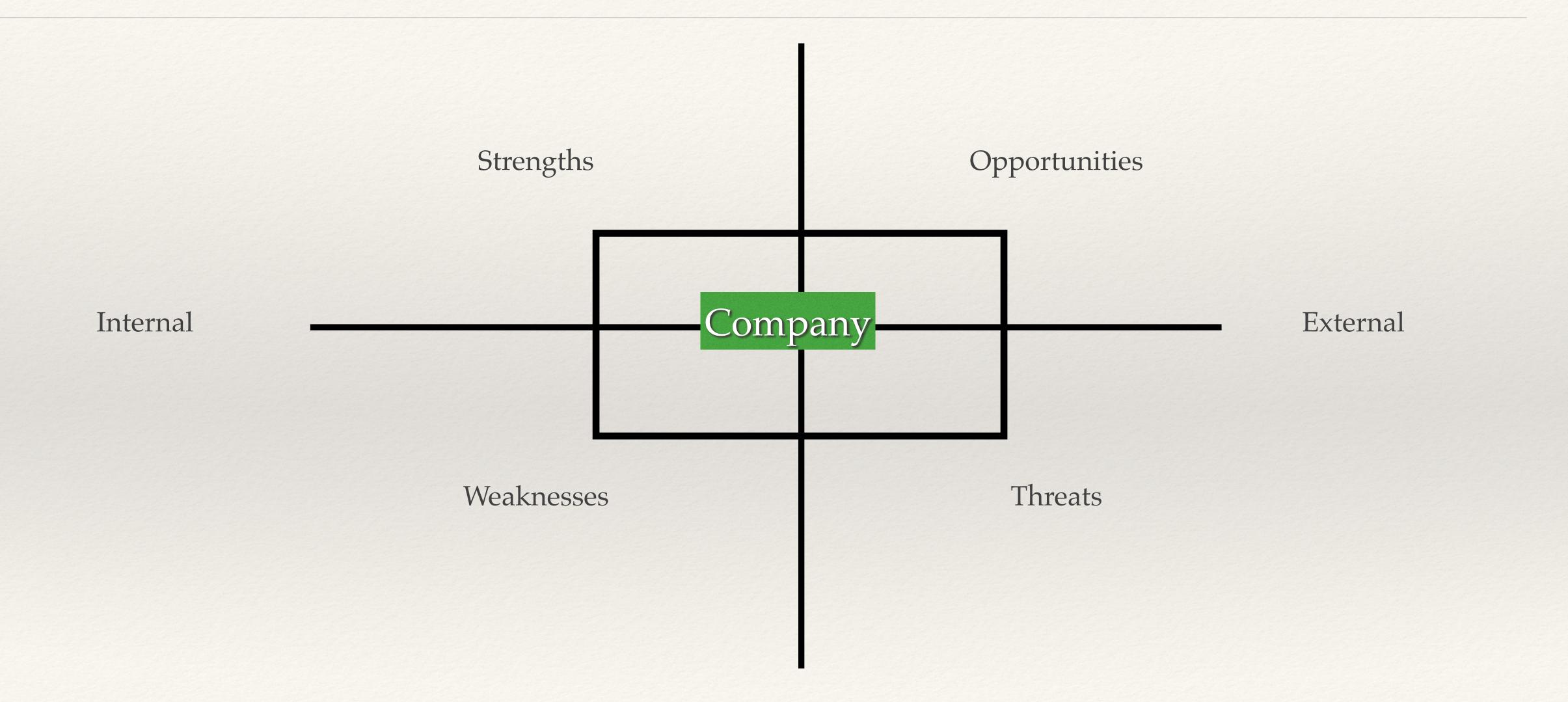


*SWOT Analysis
explores both the
internal and external
challenges to a firm
under four headings...



- *The model was introduced in the 1960s by Albert S Humphrey
- *It has become an almost every day tool for strategic analysis

- *The model focuses on the Internal strengths and weaknesses of the firm
- *And the External opportunities and threats
- *This is also sometimes referred to as an Internal-External analysis



*The model is most frequently used at the early stage of the strategic planning process to develop an easy to understand assessment of the environment from which all aspects of the planning process can be coordinated and all the team members involved can move forward with the same world view.

- *SWOT analysis can apply to a product, a location, an industry or even a person.
- *It has similarities to military tactical analyses where you are evaluating the enemy forces and your own capabilities.

- *It is also worth highlighting that the internal strengths and weaknesses are current or backward looking...
- *the external opportunities and threats are forward looking
- *This enables us to consider the current capabilities of the firm and frame them in the context of the future of the business.

*Turning to the Internal analysis, strengths are what give the firm its competitive advantage while weaknesses are factors which require improvement

- *These internal factors might include:
 - *Culture
 - *Brand image
 - *Brand awareness
 - *Operational capabilities and efficiencies
 - *Market position and market share
 - *Financial resources and capacity
 - *Organisational structure and key employees

- *External factors examine potential opportunities a firm might exploit in the future
- *Threats which might hinder the successful implementation of the company's strategies, prevent the achievement of targets and goals.

- *External factors might include:
 - *Changes in Society
 - *Customers
 - *Competitors
 - *Economic environment
 - *Government legislation and regulation
 - *Suppliers
 - *Partners
 - *Market Trends

- *In this external analysis we can see a clear overlap with PEST and PESTEL analysis as well as tie-ins to Porter's Five Forces.
- *Understanding the inter relationships between models helps you to become more sophisticated in your strategic appraisal

