# Learning from serial entrepreneurs

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# Recognise this

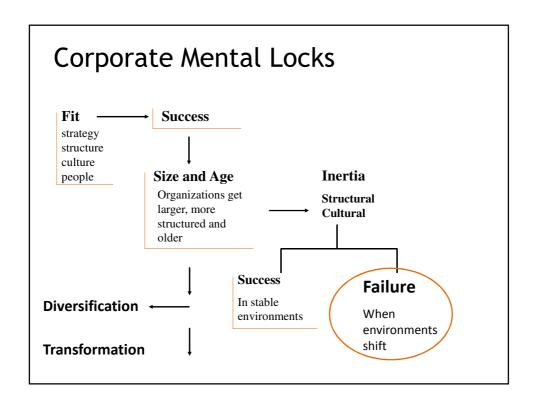


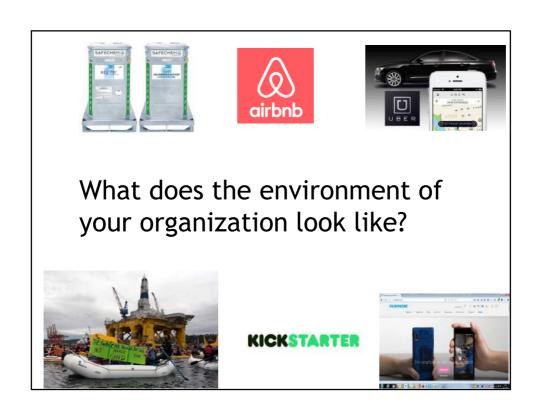




The genetic code of established organizations is optimized for incrementalism.

• So, what?





# Corporate Mental Locks



In an age of unparalleled opportunity for innovation most startups still fail.

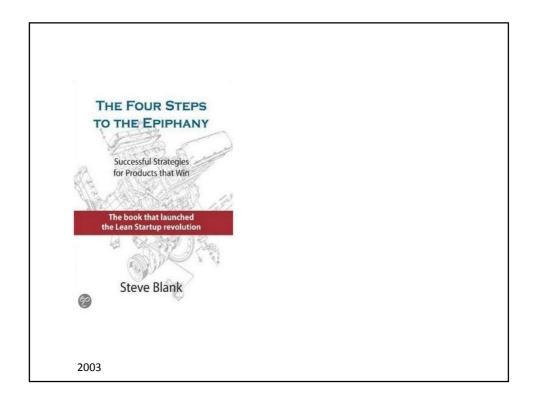
drastically change their original plans

Successful startups **DO NOT** start with a better plan A

but find a plan that works before running out of resources.

Ash Maurya, Runnin Lean, 2012, XXI.

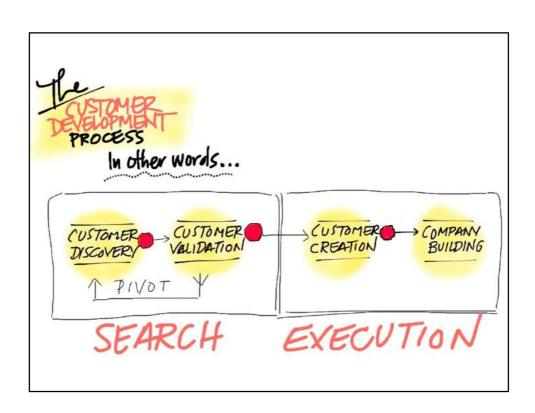
# Plan that works = scalable and repeatable business model

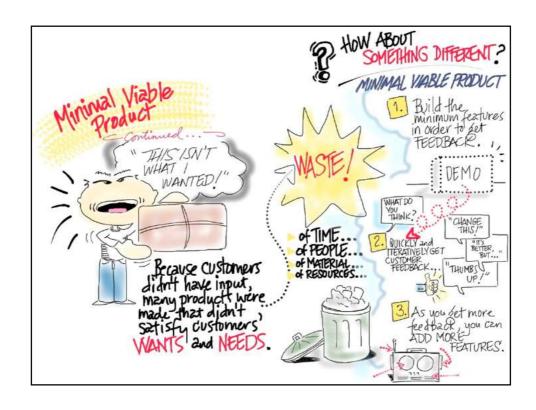


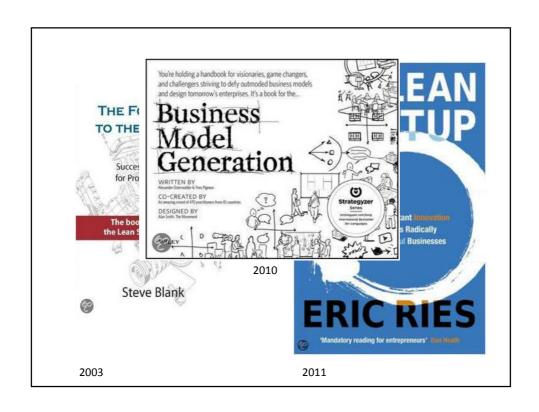
Customer development model
 Minimum viable product

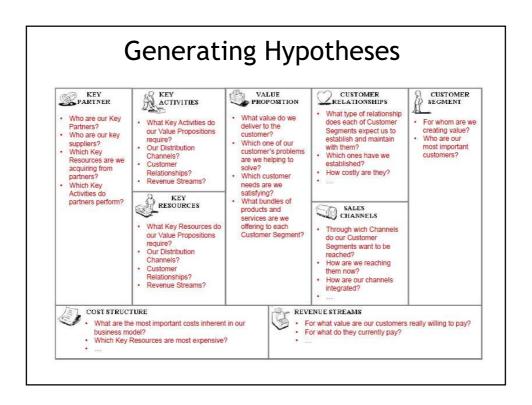
In other words, the minimum viable product is a test of a specific set of hypotheses, with a goal of proving or disproving them as quickly as possible. One of the most important of these hypotheses is always: what will the customer care about? How will they define quality?

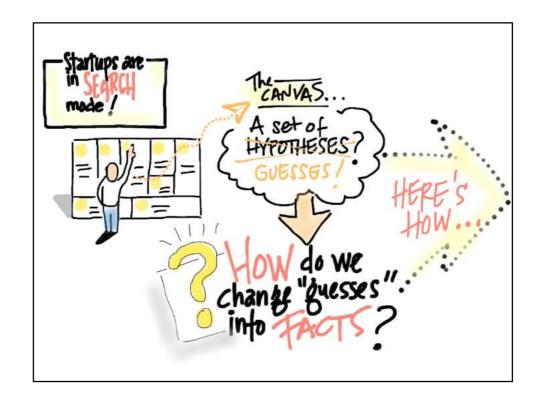
- Premature scaling and the Death Spiral
- Head to head with market leaders vs resegment

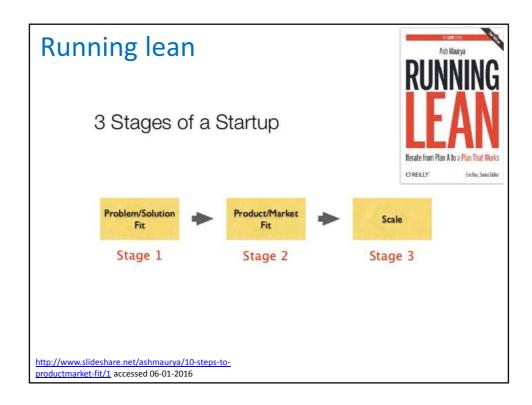


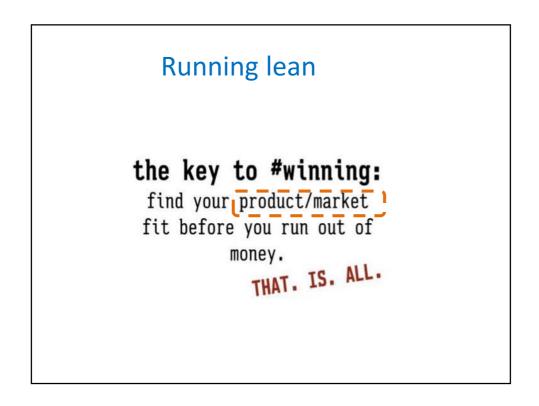


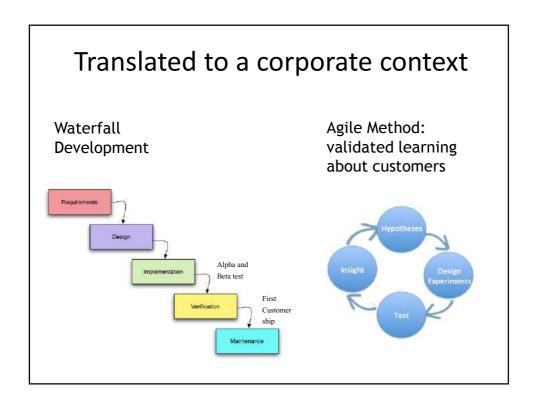


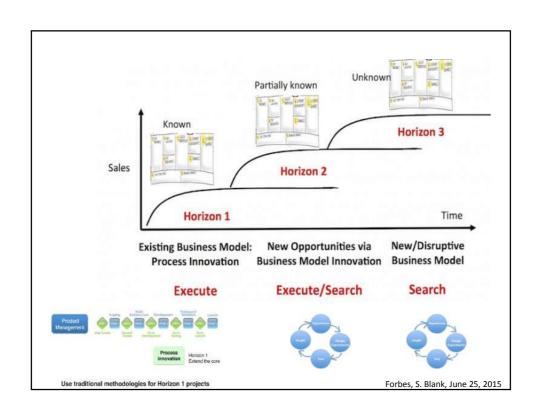


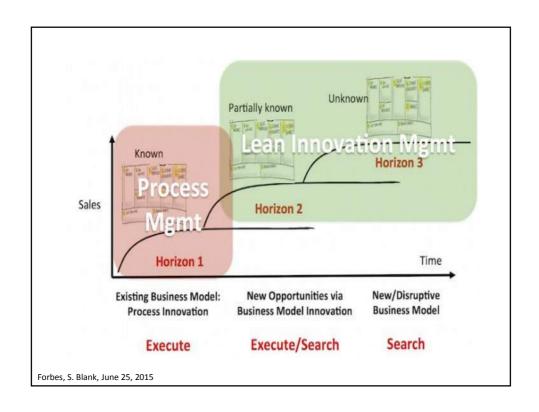


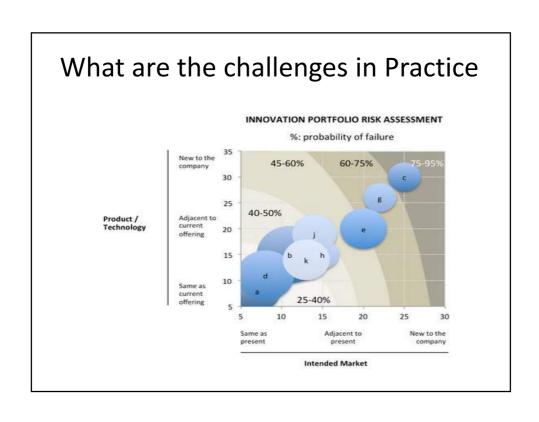




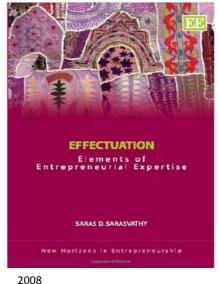


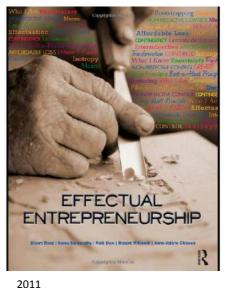






### What can we learn?





# What makes Entrepreneurs **Entrepreneurial?**

#### Effectuation

- "Expert entrepreneurs" believe that the future is shaped by people (design and not choice or prediction). They believe that if they can make the future happen, they don't need to worry about predicting the future, determining perfect timing to start, or finding the optimal opportunity.
- Sarasvathy calls this "effectual logic" which sits opposed to "causal logic" taught to managers in more certain (or predictable) circumstances.

### Causal Reasoning



We need to grow by x% and/or cut costs by y%.
Plan with concrete steps.

### Effectual Reasoning



### Reflection

 We will look at a number of cases of successful entrepreneurs/intrapreneurs.
 Please reflect on what you hear/see and distill some principles of a so-called entrepreneurial method.

## Effectuation: a Primer

- Causal principles (blue)
- Effectual principles (red)

http://www.effectuation.org/learn/effectuation-101

Connecting the dots

## Effectuation: Where to start?

- Goals. Given (based on predictions)
- **Means.** The basis for decisions and new opportunities:
  - Who I am
  - What I know
  - Whom I know



Steve Jobs on Connecting the Dots (2:50)

http://www.effectuation.org/learn/effectuation-101



Richard Branson on Affordable Loss (1:11)

# Effectuation: risk, return, and resources

 Expected Return.
 Calculate upside potential and pursue the (riskadjusted) best opportunity.



Affordable Loss.

Calculate downside potential and risk no more than you can afford to lose.

http://www.effectuation.org/learn/effectuation-101

### Prediction, Risk, and Uncertainty

#### **Prediction**

Classical economics: markets are predictable and every market will reach a point of perfect equilibrium where supply and demand intersects

The ability to determine future events based on past recurring patterns – extrapolation – defensive tactics.

#### Risk

Not all elements of the market are known or knowable. Problems of risk call for estimation of the likely changes under multiple scenarios over time.

Scenario planning, real options, Monte Carlo

analysis

# Prediction, Risk, and Uncertainty (b)

#### Uncertainty

Is a situation in which no historical data exists to help decision-making.

Uncertainty cannot be modeled or predicted. It is a future that is not only unknown but also unknowable; i.e. The future of stem cell research, of bio fuels, etc.

Affordable loss and Co-creation

# Four levels of Uncertainty

A clear enough Future	LEVEL 2  1 2 3  Alternate Futures	A Range of Futures	LEVEL 4 True Ambiguity
A single forecast precise enough for determining strategy	A few discrete & clear outcomes that define the future	A range of possible outcomes defined by limited number of key variables, but no natural discrete scenarios	Multiple dimensions of uncertainty interact; No basis to forecast the future; uncertainty
i.e. Southwest no- frills service	i.e. Capacity strategy for chemical plants (Taminco- China)	i.e. Entering emerging markets; developing new technologies in consumer electronics	i.e. Next technological game changers
Traditional Strategy Toolkit	Scenario planning Option valuation Game theory	Monte Carlo Tech. Forecasting Latent-demand research	Effectuation Study analogous markets Pattern recognition

Source: Courtney et al, Strategy under uncertainty, HBR 1997.

# 3 Types of Strategic Intent



#### Shape the future

Play a leadership role in establishing how the industry operates, for example:

- Setting standards
- Creating demand
- Develop & market game changing technologies

#### Adapt to the future

Win through speed, agility, and flexibility in recognizing and capturing opportunities in existing markets & relatively stable business environments, i.e. South West Airlines no-frills point-to-point service

#### Reserve the Right to Play

Invest sufficiently to stay in the game but avoid premature commitments; i.e. pharma buying minority shares in gene tech start-ups

Adapted from Courtney et al, Strategy under uncertainty, HBR 1997.

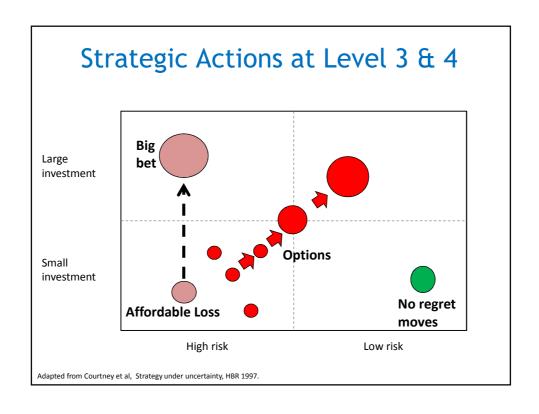
### Three Actions to fulfill Strategic Intent

**BIG BETS** or large commitments that payoff in some scenarios but not on others

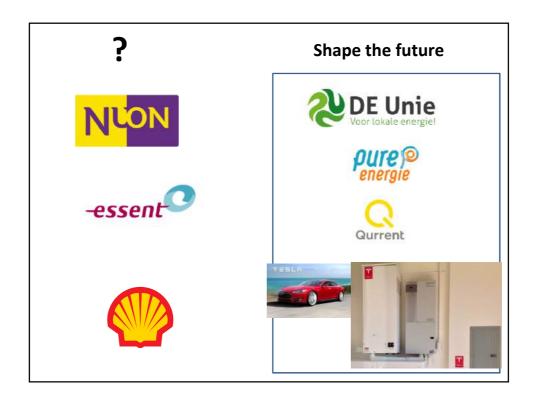
**OPTIONS** or decisions that yield a significant payoff in some outcomes and a small negative in others; i.e. pilot trials, limited JVs to enter new markets, licensing alternative technologies

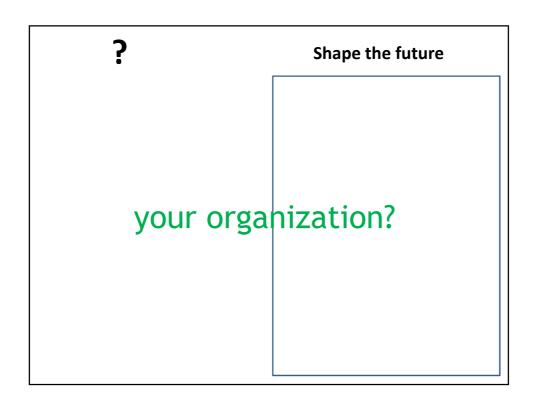
**NO REGRET MOVES** or moves that pay off no matter what happens; i.e. Enhance existing business, reduce costs

Adapted from Courtney et al, Strategy under uncertainty, HBR 1997.









### In sum

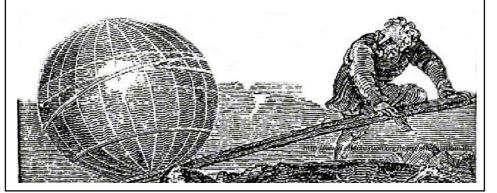
Prediction works best in mature, stable environments, but, for lack of other tools, it often gets called into duty in the wrong settings.

Expert entrepreneurs work hard to directly control and influence uncertain environments and these same efforts may also apply in relatively mature and stable environments.



# Effectuation: surprises

- Avoid Surprises.
- Leverage Surprises.
  Surprises can present new opportunities.



# How do you deal with surprises?

	Unexpected information	Unexpected meetings	Unexpected events
Positive (serendipitous)			
Negative (Murphy's Law)			

How do you transform surprises into positives? How can they be leveraged into new of different opportunities?

## Making surprises work for you

### Social networking (externally as well as internally)

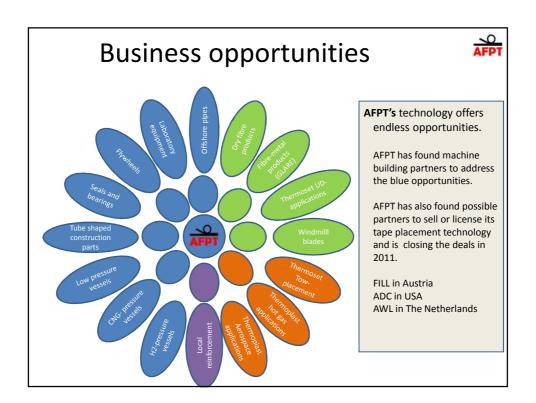
It was the wandering between different development teams by Sony's Chairman that connected two disparate projects into the speaker system for the Walkman.

### Openness to experiences

Studies of entrepreneurial psychology show that in general entrepreneurs score higher on this variable than comparable managers. The variable expresses intellectual curiosity and in search of new experiences.

### · Opportunity framing

Entrepreneurial research shows that in general <u>entrepreneurs</u> see the world in terms of <u>opportunities</u>, while corporate managers are more likely to see the threats and risks in a given scenario. Worldview: the world can be transformed vs the world is difficult to shape.



# Open IP

"Tesla Motors was created to accelerate the advent of sustainable transport," Musk wrote in a blog post. "If we clear a path to the creation of compelling electric vehicles, but then lay intellectual property landmines behind us to inhibit others, we are acting in a manner contrary to that goal.



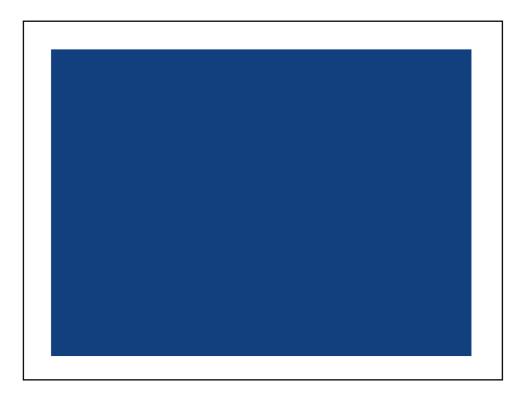
### Effectuation: attitude towards others

Competition.

Set up transactional relationships with customers and suppliers.

**Partnership.** Build your "future" i.e. together with customers, suppliers and prospective competitors.

http://www.effectuation.org/learn/effectuation-101



# Effectuation: underlying logic & what to do?



To the extent we can predict the future, we can control it.

 $\Rightarrow$  PLAN

To the extent we can control the future, we don't need to predict it.

⇒ MAKE (market creation)

http://www.effectuation.org/learn/effectuation-101

# In Sum

- Understand when an innovation is really new from the customer perspective
- Don't treat it as an incremental innovation
- Use different methods and build the capabilities and mindset:
  - Customer & testmarket development before tech. dev.
  - Hire the industry/market capabilities (bird in the hand)
  - Focus
  - Look at the affordable loss aside from the upward potential
  - If you do fail, learn and see whether you cannot turn some of it into success in another market
  - Partner

