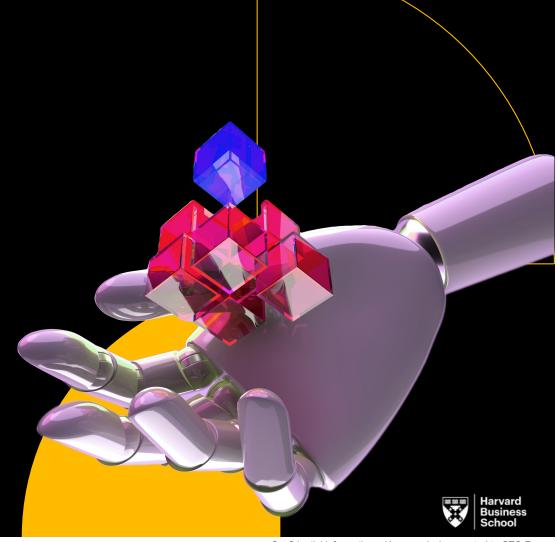


# COMPETING IN THE AGE OF AI

Karim R. Lakhani

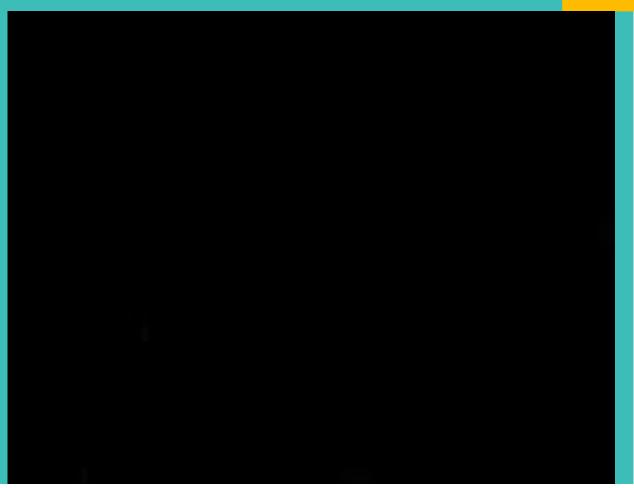
Co-Founder & Chair Digital Data Design Institute at Harvard

Dorothy and Michael Hintze Professor of Business Administration Harvard Business School



Confidential information – Use permission granted to CTO Forum.

# THE FUTURE CIRCA 1992



## **The Future Was Not Brought By AT&T**

**Connected Car** 



**Tablets** 



**Streaming Videos** 



**eCommerce** 



Messaging



Social



**Digital Assistants** 



**Smart Watch** 





# The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed yet.

- William Gibson, Author



## **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Has Progressed In Waves**



#### Innovation of the past...

#### ...leading to explosion in Al innovation today

# Wave 1: Cybernetics (1950s-70s)

 Field of AI research was founded and key concepts were first described, including early neural networks

# Wave 2: Trained experts (1980s-90s)

 Expert systems were developed to solve problems about a specific domain of knowledge

# Wave 3: Good learners (2000s-2020s)

 Progress in artificial neural networks, "deep" learning, CNNs, RNNs led to notable achievements in text, speech, language and vision processing

# Wave 4: Generative systems (2020s →)

 These systems can adapt contextually, learn and function with minimal supervision, and massively augment human intelligence

Source: Flagship Pioneering

### In 2022 - Major Breakthroughs in Consumer Awareness of **Al's Potential Via Three Key Convergent Trends**



#### **Extraordinary growth** in data generation

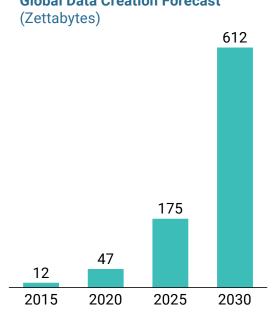


#### **Ever-increasing** computing power



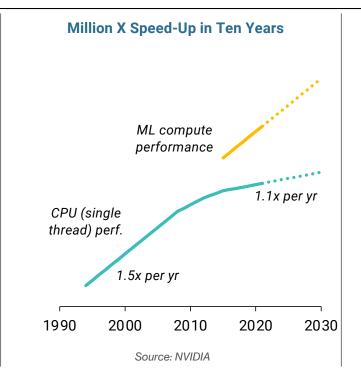
#### Significant advances in Al innovation

**Global Data Creation Forecast** 



Source: Statista Digital Economy Compass

DIGITAL DATA DESIGN INSTITUTE AT HARVARD

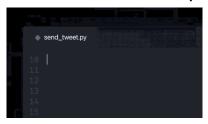


**Example: Generative AI models have** achieved stunning results

**Text-to-Image Generation with Stable Diffusion** 



**Code Generation with GitHub Copilot** 



Source: Stability.Al and GitHub/OpenAl

Source: Flagship Pioneering

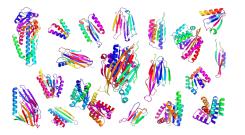
# Recent Advances In AI Have Immediate Application To A Range of Industries

#### Diffusion Al models

Tech example: Stable Diffusion generates realistic and novel images based on text



Flagship example: generating novel protein therapeutics faster, cheaper, better



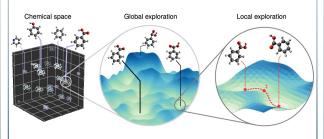
**Generate:** Biomedicines

#### **Reinforcement learning**

Tech example: Google's AlphaGo learns strategies to defeat world's top Go player



Life science example: designing better drugs by efficiently exploring vast chemical space



Source: Westermayr et al. J. Chem. Phys. 2021

#### Large language models (LLMs)

Tech example: OpenAl's GPT-3 generates novel text in response to prompts

Please welcome our LPs to the 2022 Annual Meeting of Flagship Pioneering as they come to  $\Psi$ 

Flagship example: applying LLM to optimize chemistry for molecular nutrition



M--o-n-t-a-i H--e-a-l--t-h

Source: Flagship Pioneering

# TIME TRAVEL WITH ME TO 2003



# **Top Firms By Market Capitalization In 2003**

Rank +	Name +	Country +	Primary industry	Market value (USD million) ◆
1	Microsoft	United States	Software industry	<b>▼</b> 264,003
2	General Electric	United States	Conglomerate	<b>▼</b> 259,647
3	ExxonMobil	United States	Oil and gas	<b>▼</b> 241,037
4	Walmart	United States	Retail	<b>▼</b> 234,399
5	Pfizer	United States	Health care	<b>▼</b> 195,948
6	Citigroup	United States	Banking	▼183,887
7	Johnson & Johnson	United States	Health care	<b>▼</b> 170,417
8	Royal Dutch Shell	Netherlands United Kingdom	Oil and gas	<b>▼</b> 149,034
9	BP	United Kingdom	Oil and gas	<b>▼</b> 144,381
10	IBM	United States	Computer software, computer hardware	▲139,272

# LIVING IN THE FUTURE NOW

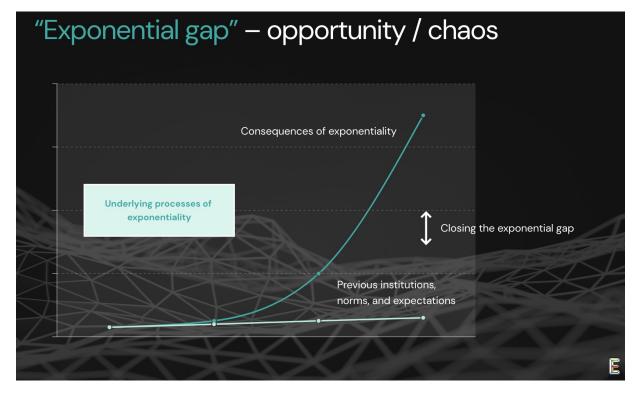


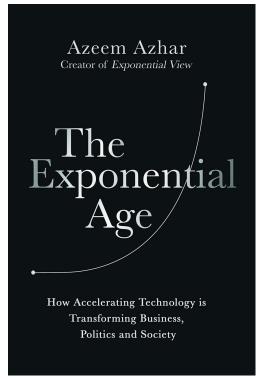
# **Top Firms By Market Capitalization In 2023**

Rank	•	Name	е	\$ Market Cap
	1	Ć	Apple AAPL	\$2.806 T
	2		Microsoft MSFT	\$2.459 T
	3	*	Saudi Aramco	\$2.033 T
	4	G	Alphabet (Google)	\$1.569 T
	5	a	Amazon AMZN	\$1.233 T
	6	<b>②</b>	NVIDIA NVDA	\$962.68 B
	7	B	Berkshire Hathaway	\$699.65 B
	8	$\infty$	Meta Platforms (Facebook)	\$674.51 B
	9	Ŷ	<b>Tesla</b> TSLA	\$621.14 B
	10	tsmc	TSMC TSM	\$511.74 B



### **Winners And Losers In The Exponential Age**





Source: Azeem Azhar

# THE AGE OF AI





### Al Hype

The Weaponization Of Artificial Intelligence

Invest in Al-based technology or lose the race, Israel's chief scientist warns

A.I. Expert Says Automation Could Replace 40% of Jobs in 15 Years

Firm Led by Google Veterans Uses A.I. to 'Nudge' Workers Toward Happiness

Miners Say They Dig Artificial Intelligence but the Gold Rush Hasn't Come

A 19-year-old developed the code for the AI portrait that sold for \$432,000 at Christie's

As AI evolves, so must VC investment teams

Nasdaq CIO Puts AI to Work

China's application of AI should be a Sputnik moment for the U.S. But will it be?

Why your AI might be racist

China's Baidu Credits Artificial Intelligence for Robust Ad Sales

The Future of Artificial Intelligence In The Workplace

America is split over advancing artificial intelligence

Awaiting the AI-Enabled Revolution, Experts Put in a Good Word for Humans

Curbs on A.I. Exports? Silicon Valley Fears Losing Its Edge

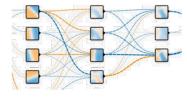
Why Canada Believes It Can Lead Global Al Innovation

# **Definitions of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**





"Machines that can think and act in a way that matches or surpasses human intelligence" ("Strong AI")

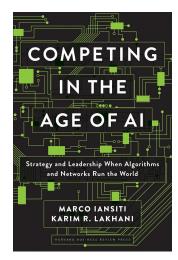


Any activity computers are able to perform that humans once performed" ("Weak AI")

# **Exponential Organizations Systematically Deploy AI And Digital Platforms**





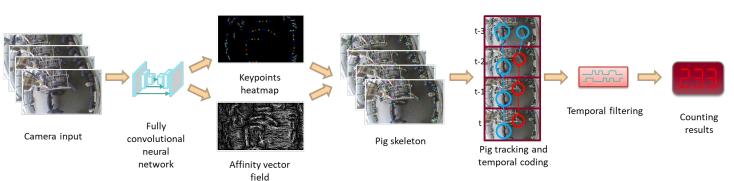


# **Example: Pig Counting**

#### Difficulties in manual pig counting:

- Pigs have similar appearance and move around quickly
- Large overlapping areas between pigs due to high breeding density
- Potential disease infection from frequent interaction between pigs and humans









### **Example: Radiation Therapy Targeting**



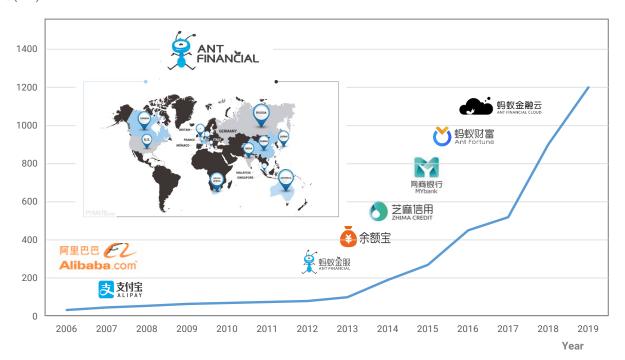
18



# Data, Al And Digital Networks Are Changing The Nature Of Firms: The Ant Group Story



#### Users (MM)



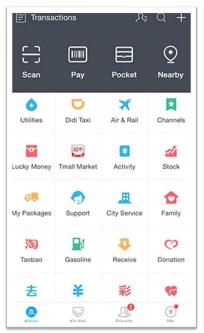
# To Understand Companies Like Ant Group We Need To Reflect On How Firms Create, Capture And Deliver Value

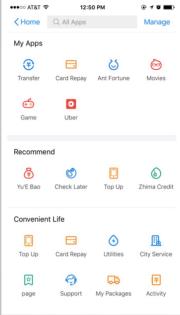




### **Ant Group Aims To Be A "Finlife" Provider**









# Digital Businesses Exhibit <a href="https://example.com/Processingle-12">Three Different Kinds Of Value Vectors</a>



#### **PRODUCT VALUE**



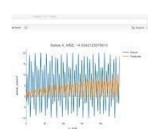
Traditional factors like product design, "object value", performance, features, reliability, etc.

#### **NETWORK VALUE**



The value contributed by direct and indirect network effects (the more important connections, the higher the value)

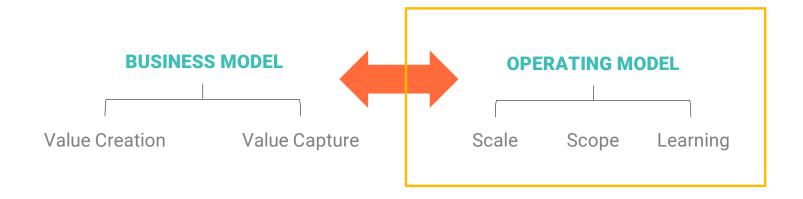
#### **DATA VALUE**



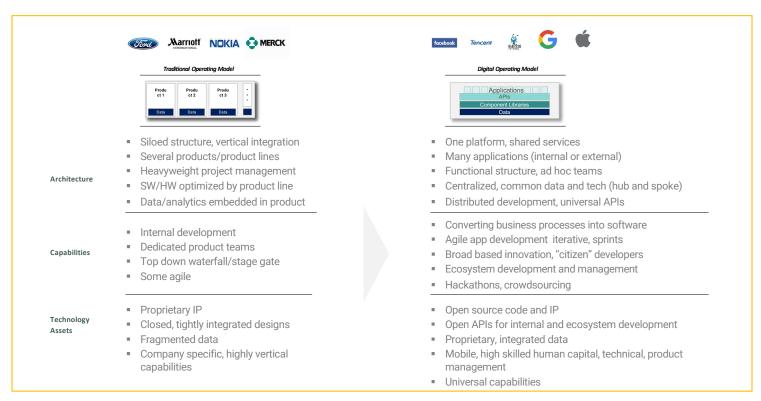
The value contributed by data and "learning effects" (the more data the higher the value delivered)

# **Competing In The Age Of Al**





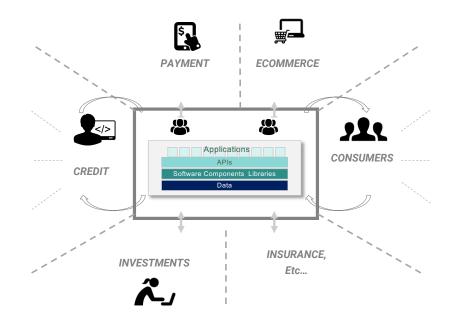
# The Difference Hinges On Architecture, Capabilities And Technology Assets



+ culture, skills, leadership, ...

# **Ant Uses Al To Drive Digital Scale, Scope, And Learning**





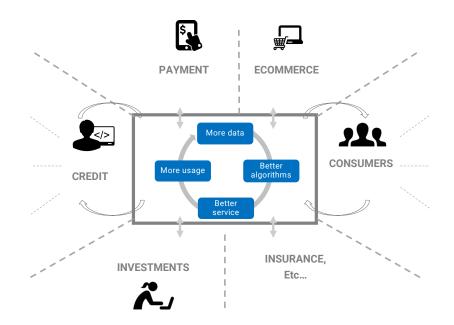
At Ant traditional human centered processes are digitized to connect with market opportunities at near zero marginal cost. Operational bottlenecks are digitized.

"Al is the new runtime that is going to shape all that we do"

- Satya Nadella

# Firms Like Ant Use Al To Drive Digital Learning

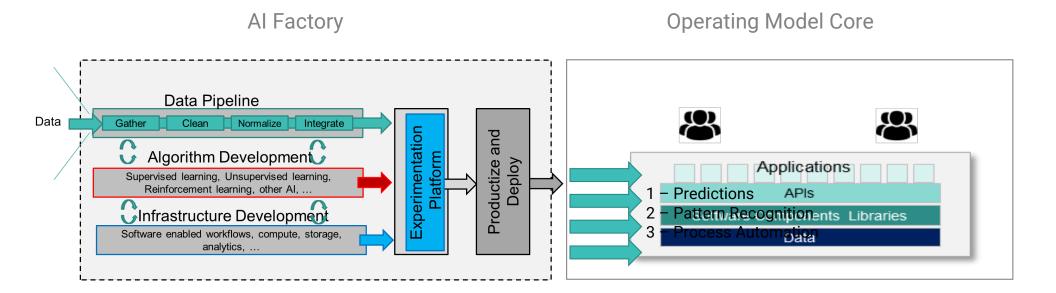




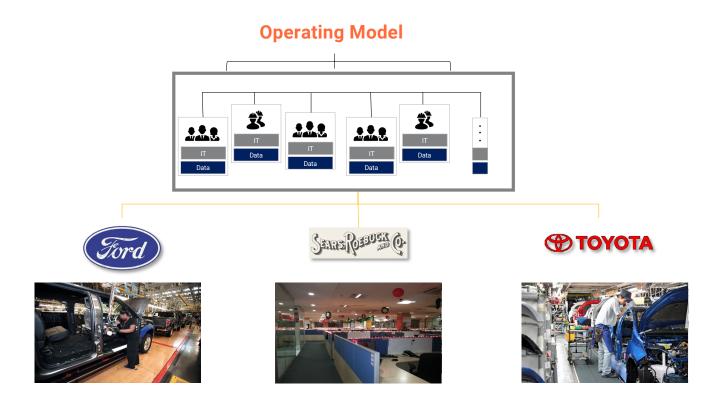
The data accumulated drives improvement, experimentation, innovation, and personalization.

### The AI Factory Feeds Data And Insights Into The Software Enabled Operating Core

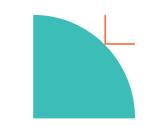


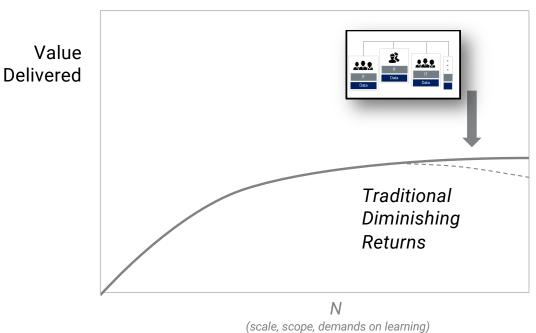


# **Traditional Operating Performance Drivers**



# **Traditional Operating Models Can Constrain the Value of the Firm**

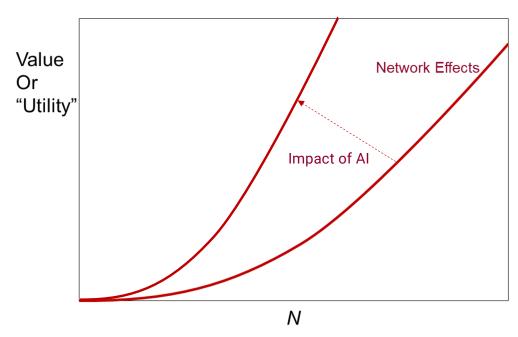




Operational complexity Administrative costs Organizational inertia

# **Near Zero Marginal Costs,** "**Network**" and "**Learning**" **Effects**









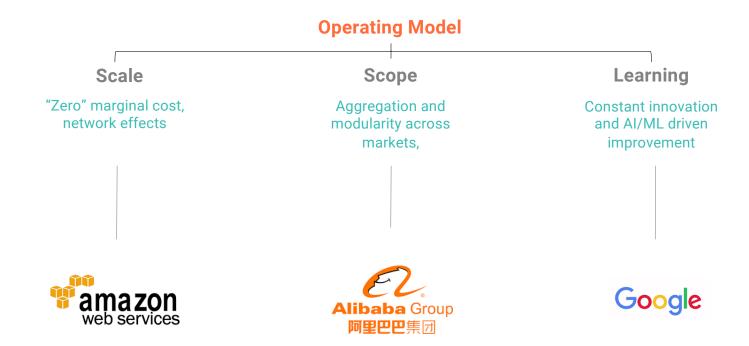




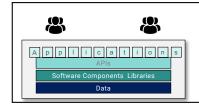


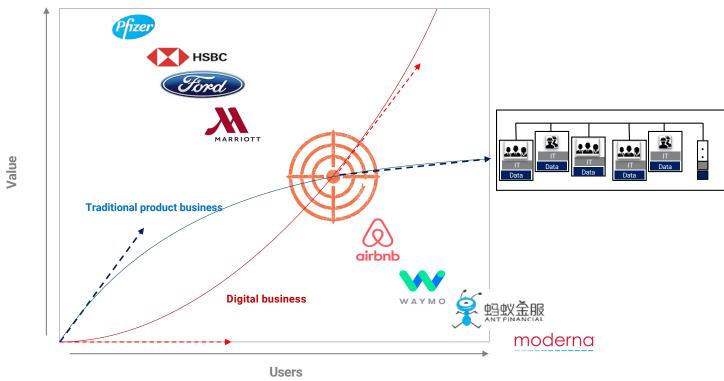
# Remove Traditional Constraints To Scale, Scope And Learning





# From Disruption to "Collision"...

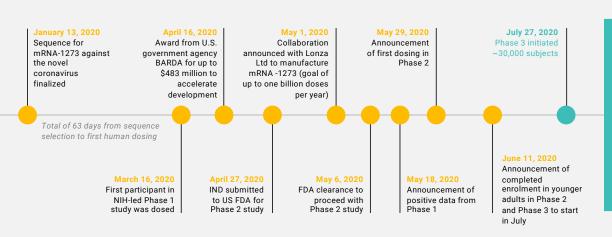




### Al And Digital Reshape The Biopharmaceutical Industry



#### mRNA-1273 program timeline | Research and development of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine



Moderna leads the revolution
Now serving 2 billion citizens



What other industries will experience the same transformation?

### **Case Study: SHEIN**



# SHEIN

## **SHEIN Outperforms Traditional Fast Fashion Retailers**



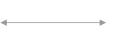
	SHEIN		Traditional fast fashion retailers
New designs every year	1M-2M	vs	20K-40K
Time from design to product	3-5 days	vs	14-60 days
Minimum order size	≤ 100	vs	10,000

 $Source: SHEIN\ vs.\ Zara:\ Digital\ Transformation\ in\ the\ fast-fashion\ industry\ (HKU\ Business\ School,\ 2021),\ \underline{Business\ Insider}$ 

# Digital Platform And Software Algorithms Create A New Consumer Experience



~6000 small & medium factories in China



SHEIN



74.7 million active shoppers, 13.7 million are based in the US<sup>1</sup>

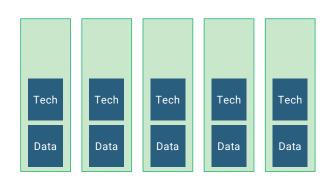
 Digital platform for supply chain & ops excellence  Data-driven coordination (match in-demand designs to the capabilities of specific manufacturers)

- Digital marketing
- Social media

<sup>1.</sup> https://www.businessofapps.com/data/shein-statistics/

# SHEIN Provide Virtual Software And Data Integration With Its Manufacturing Partners









## Factory owners

- Receive new orders from their phones like Uber
- Track production progress, capacity, profitability, KPIs, feedback
- Place orders for raw materials

Manufacturing Execution System

## **AI-first Companies Are Facing Backlash**



## THE NEW YORKER

## THE MORAL BANKRUPTCY OF FACEBOOK

The whistle-blower Frances

Haugen hoped that her revelations
would prompt a reckoning.

Instead, the company has
doubled down.

## **Forbes**

Artificial Intelligence Has Caused A 50% To 70% Decrease In Wages— Creating Income Inequality And Threatening Millions Of Jobs

## The New York Times

#### Pressure Grows on U.S. Companies to Share Covid Vaccine Technology

Moderna accepted \$2.5 billion in taxpayer money to develop its Covid-19 vaccine. But officials in the U.S. and overseas are having trouble persuading the company to license its technology.

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

#### Facial Recognition Tool Used by Police Faces Civil Lawsuit in California

Immigrant-rights activists say Clearview's technology violates their privacy rights; Clearview says its conduct is protected by the First Amendment

## **Bloomberg Wealth**

#### Zillow Shuts Home-Flipping Business After Racking Up Losses

- Decision comes after company overpaid for homes across U.S.
- Widening losses in Zillow Offers unit leads to big writedowns

# **Incumbent Firms Face Problems With The Transition To Digital**



## The Washington Post

Racial bias in a medical algorithm favors white patients over sicker black patients

The problem was caught in an algorithm sold by a leading health services company, called Optum, to guide care decision-making for millions of people.

#### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

'We Need to Be a Technology Company.' Wells Fargo Struggles With Aging Systems.

The bank has struggled to update old systems, making it harder to satisfy regulators and hampering key businesses

## WIRED

#### Walmart Employees Are Out to Show Its Anti-Theft Al Doesn't Work

The retailer denies there is any widespread issue with the software, but a group expressed frustration—and public health concerns.

#### **Forbes**

Artificial Intelligence In Automotive Industry: Surprisingly Slow Uptake And Missed Opportunities

#### **Bloomberg**

## Peacock Is the Perfect Streaming Service to Stuff in Your Pantry

 Like canned tuna, NBC's new service will taste great if everything else runs out

40

## The New Ethics Of Digital Scale, Scope, And Learning

How Each Big Tech Company May Be Targeted by Regulators

Facebook has suspended tens of thousands of apps after Cambridge Analytica investigation

PUBLISHED FRI, SEP 20 2019-2:48 PM ED

## Amazon Wants to Surveil Your Dog

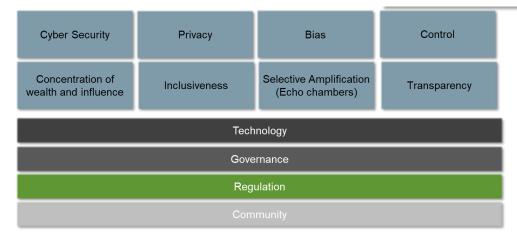
"Amazon is building the infrastructure to monitor us all," a privacy advocate says.

#### **Tech Firms Need More Regulation**

The industry must cooperate to solve problems—but government must take a more active role as well. SEP 9, 2019

How the Algorithms Running Your Life Are Biased

FBI Issues 'High-Impact' Cyber Attack Warning— What You Need To Know



Ant Group poised for one of 2020's biggest IPOs

Alibaba payments arm was last valued at \$150bn and plan Shanghai and Hong Kong



Ant's Alipay app has turned into a hub for its growing ecosystem of services, from to online shopping on Alibaba's Taobao marketplace © AP

#### MARKETS | FINANCI

## China's President Xi Jinping Personally Scuttled Jack Ma's Ant IPO

Senior government leaders were furious about wealthy entrepreneur's criticisms of regulators; rebuke was the culmination of years of tense relations



China's President Xi Jinping, left, and Jack Ma, then executive chairman of Alibaba, in 2015. TED S. WARREN/PRESS POOL



# Many of Us Are Leading Al and Digital Transformation Journeys Inside Our Organization....Its Not Easy!



## **Transformation Has Many Definitions**

## Common understanding

a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance.

## **Biology**

a metamorphosis during the life cycle of an animal.

## **Physics**

the induced or spontaneous change of one element into another by a nuclear process.

## **Mathematics**

a process by which one figure, expression, or function is converted into another that is equivalent in some important respect but is differently expressed or represented.



## **Leading Organizations Continue To Invest In Transformation**

TRANSFORMATION is central to the strategies of the world's most successful organizations



## Ramped up research program to assess digital transformation progress across the economy



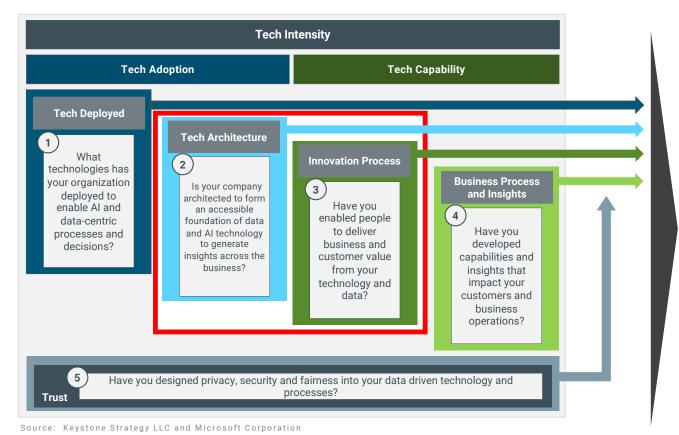
Collaboration with Keystone Strategy LLC and Microsoft Corporation

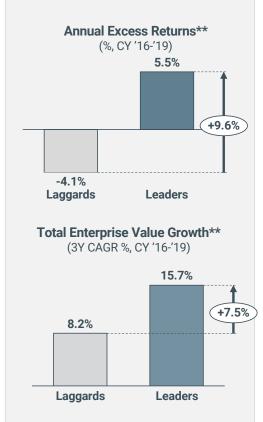
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DIGITAL DATA DESIGN INSTITUTE AT HARVARD

## Our research shows a strong relationship between data centricity and Al deployment capabilities and enterprise performance





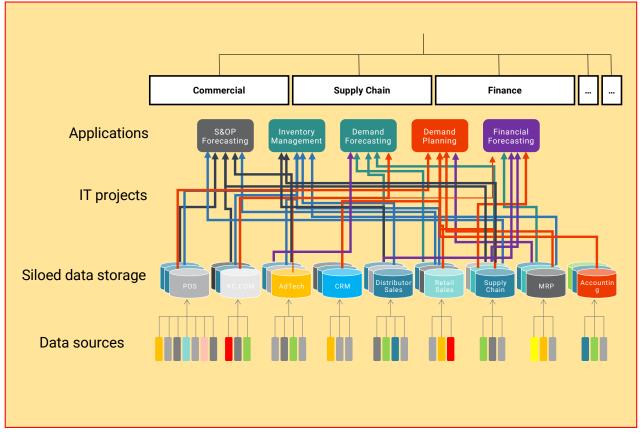


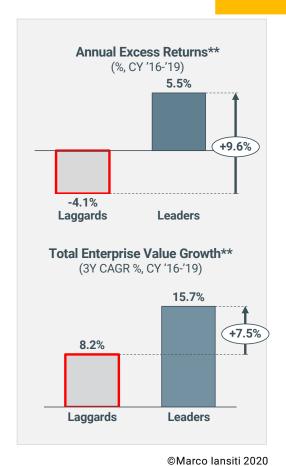
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TO DIGITAL DATA DESIGN INSTITUTE AT HARVARD

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## The laggards...

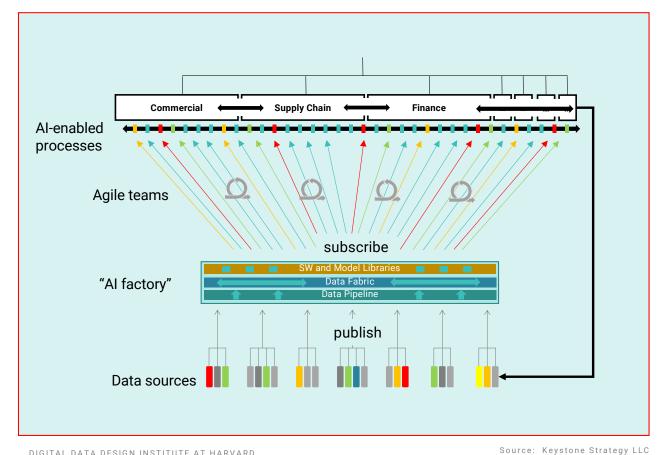


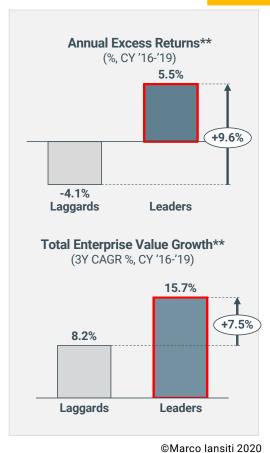


Source: Keystone Strategy LLC

@Watco tatisiti 2020

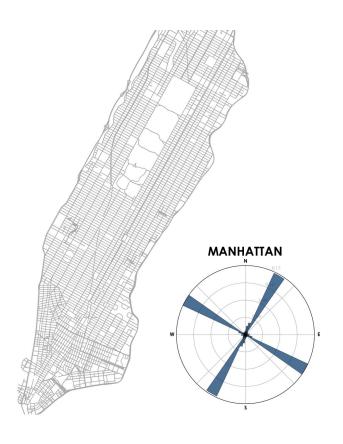
## The leaders...



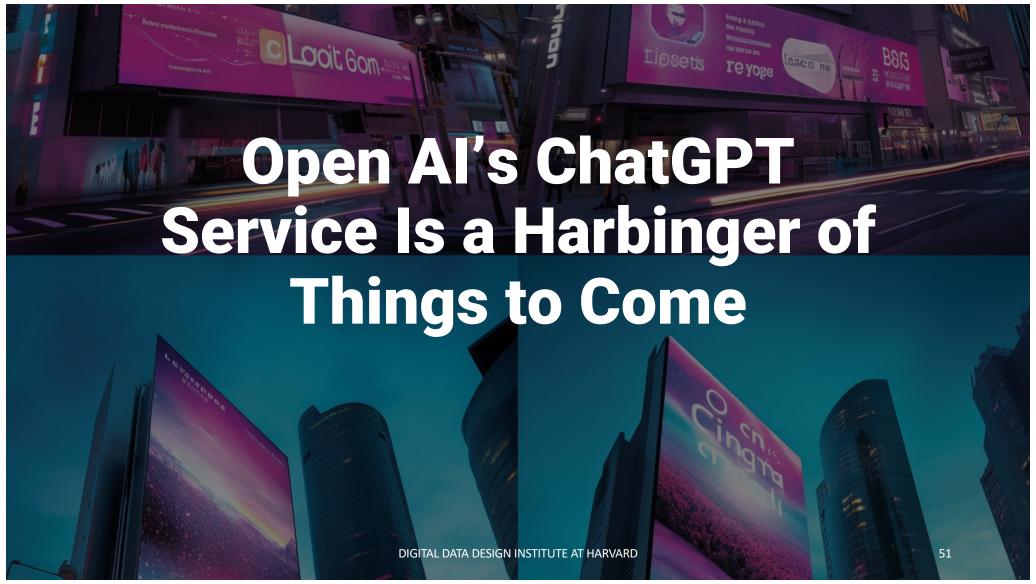


# Process And Organizational Change Essential to Digital/Al Success



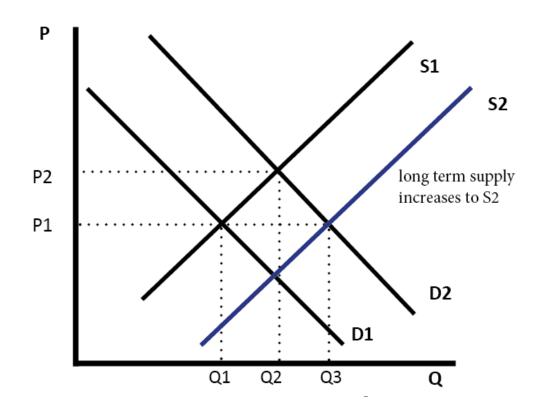






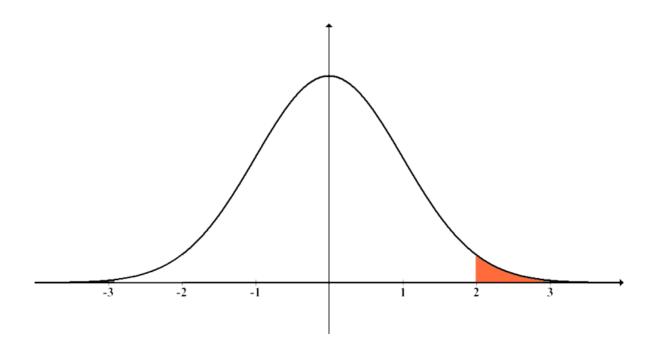
# What happens when the cost/price of knowledge work drops and quality also increases?





# What might be the impact of AI on knowledge worker skill distribution and capabilities?

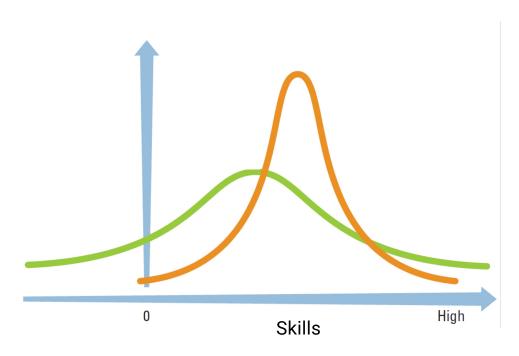




## Potential impact on knowledge workers $\rightarrow$ firms







# Technological and architectural innovation can have a massive impact on companies and their viability





















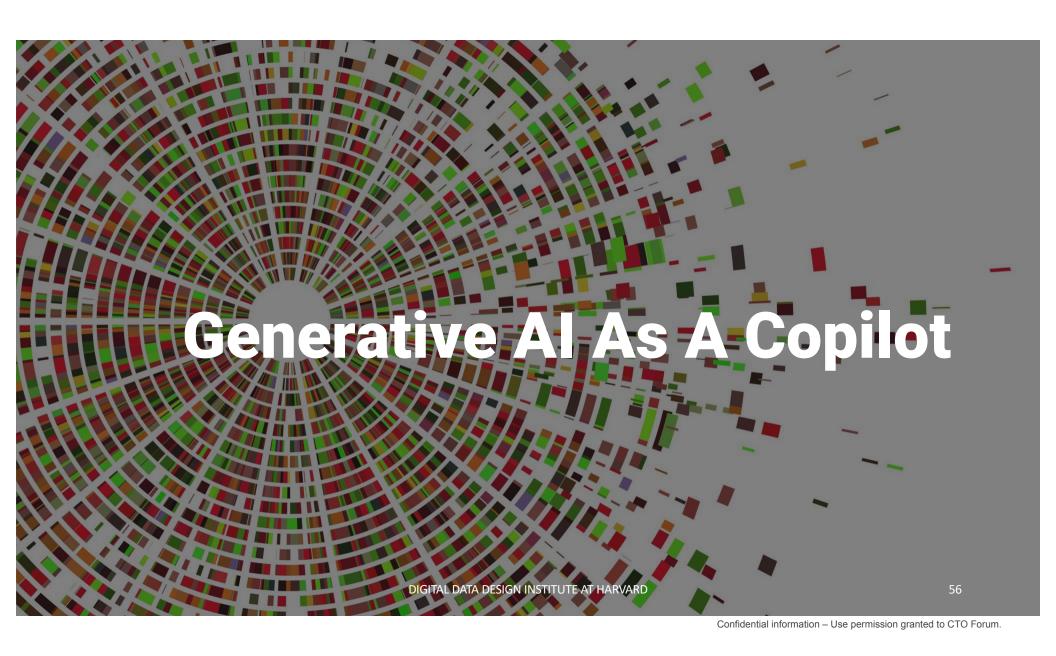












## **Generative AI – Reimagine the possibilities**



## Internet

#### **Borders/Barnes & Noble**

Added ecommerce, but didn't fundamentally change processes





#### **Amazon**

Reimagined opportunities, changed the entire shape of its firm



