

December 2020

# FROM GOOD TO GREAT – HOW TO ACE YOUR MARKETPLACE FUNDRAISE

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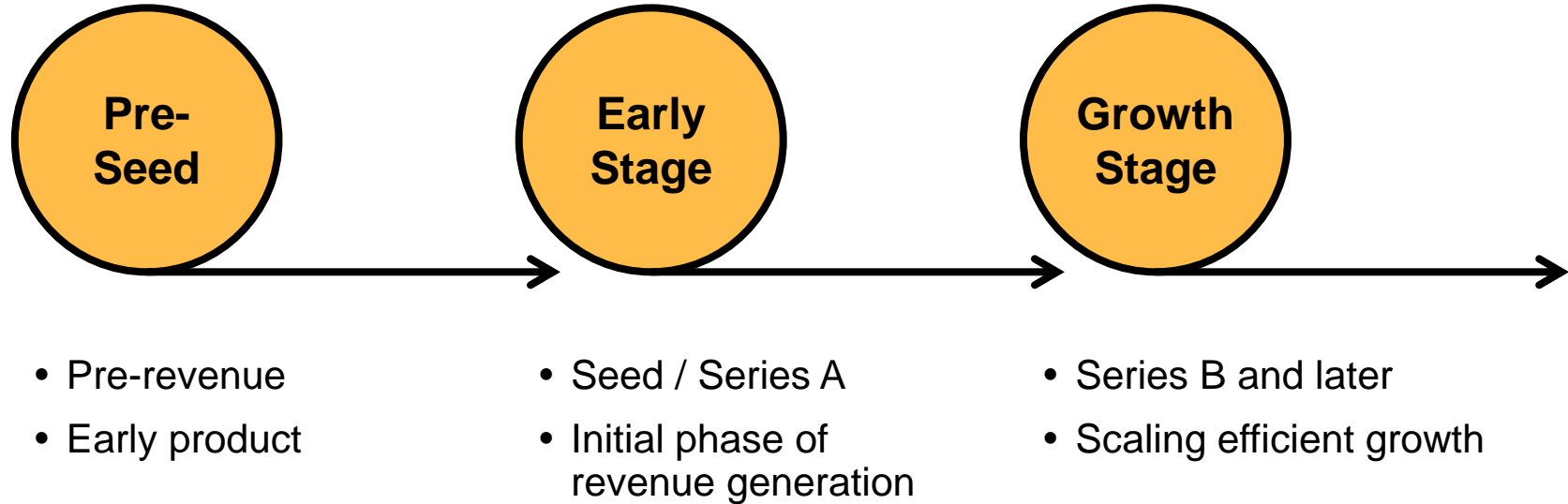
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# DEFINING THE STAGES



# PRE-SEED

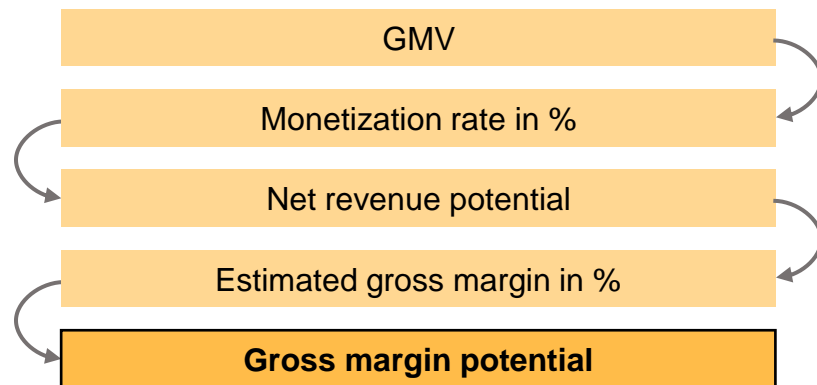
# MARKET SIZE & MONETIZATION POTENTIAL

Common practice: Focus on GMV

Annual spent on bunker fuel in 2020

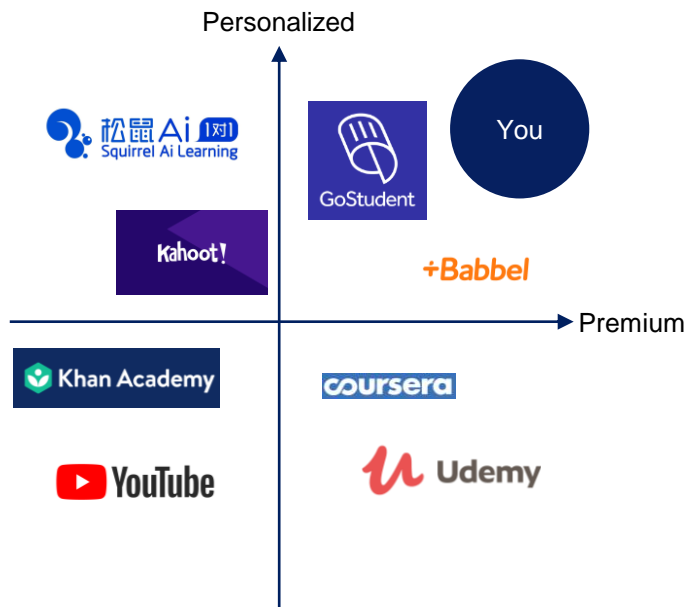


How to ace it: Assess gross margin potential



# COMPETITOR ANALYSIS

## Common practice: Analysis on two axes



## How to ace it: Detailed competitive analysis

	Competitor 1	Competitor 2	Competitor 3
Annual Revenue	\$2.5M	\$3M	\$7M
Total Funding	\$6M	\$2M	\$15M
Users	45.000	60.000	250.000
Employees	~ 20	~ 30	~ 60
Full Service	Yes	No	Yes
Target Market	DACH	UK/FR	USA
Dimension X	xxx	xxx	xxx
Dimension Y	xxx	xxx	xxx
Assessment	xxx	xxx	xxx

- Provide key take-aways why your approach is superior and how you will beat competition
- Can also be done in short memo

# MARKET RESEARCH

## Common practice: Quoting selective study results

65%

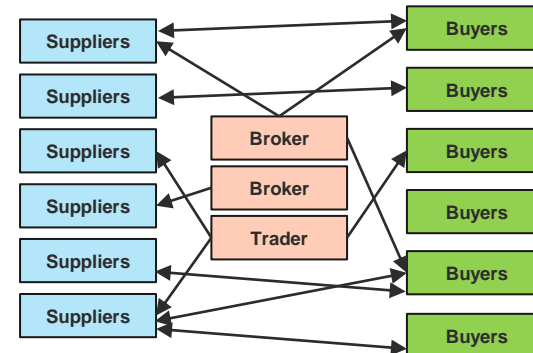
of buyers say their  
procurement is still done  
via fax, email or telephone

## How to ace it: Comprehensive market insights

- Provide data room with most relevant studies, articles and research papers



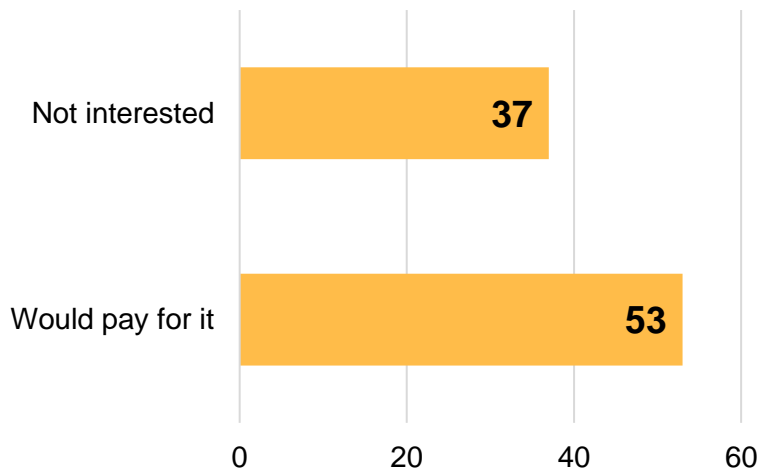
- Explain market structure and fragmentation



# CUSTOMER AND EXPERT INSIGHTS

## Common practice: Simple customer survey

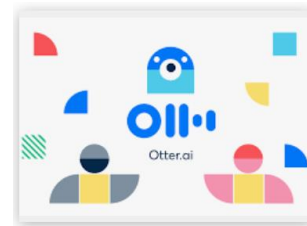
We asked 90 potential clients: Would you use a service which helps you to find **the perfect home office setup**?



## How to ace it: Interview (audio)-transcripts



Expert Interviews  
Summary.xlsx



- Conduct many interviews with experts and both prospective suppliers and customer :  $n > 50$
- Audio record interviews, use software to transcribe
- Use service provider to increase speed or size of  $n$

 **RESPONDENT** **USER INTERVIEWS**

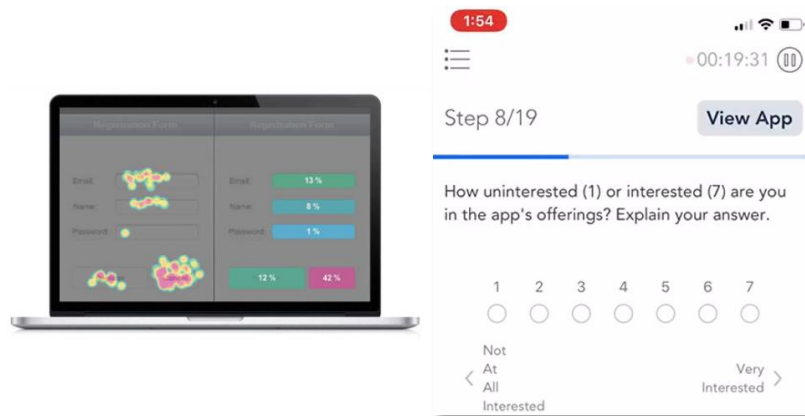
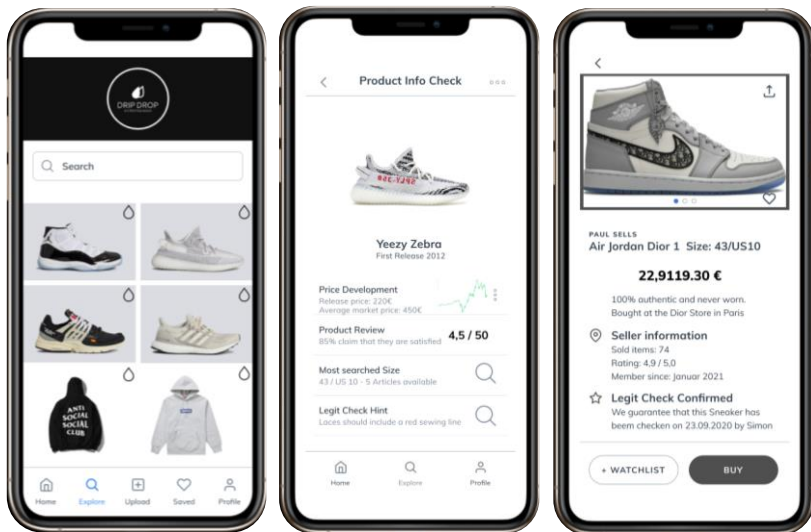


# ACHIEVEMENTS & PRODUCT VALIDATION

Common practice: First screenshots from MVP



How to ace it: Systematic, user-centric testing



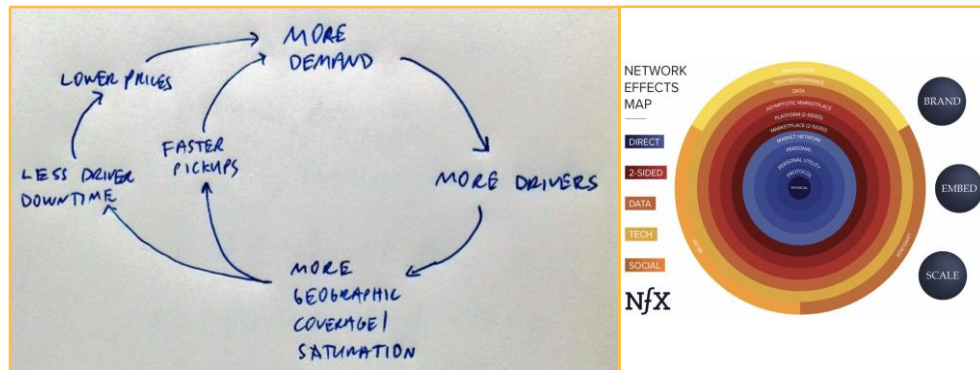
neilpatel.com › Blog › Online Marketing ▼

14 Testing Tools for Mobile UX – Neil Patel

# NETWORK EFFECTS

Common practice: No comment on Nfx

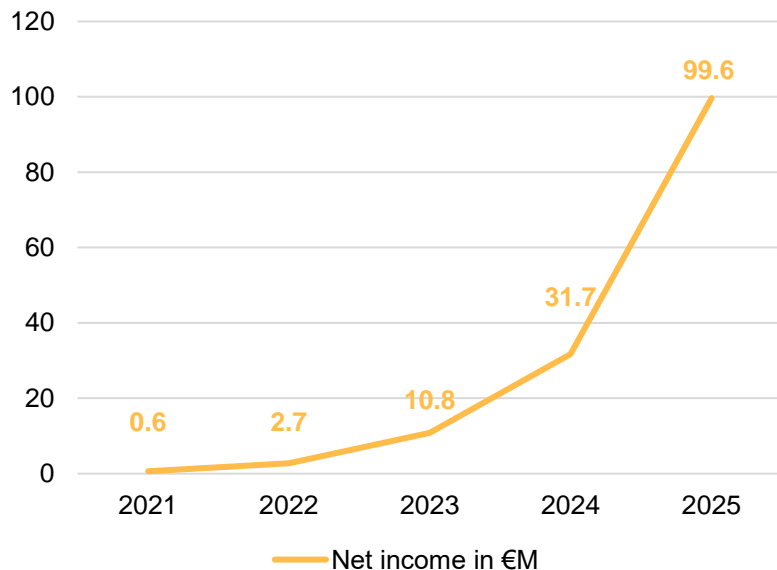
How to ace it: Show in depth understanding of Nfx at play



- Explain marketplace dynamics
- Explain different network effects at play (direct, two-sided, data nfx etc.)

# FORECASTS

## Common practice: Long term revenue forecast



## How to ace it: Detailed 18 month budget

	Q1 '21	Q2 '21	Q3 '21	Q4 '21	...	...
Revenue Forecast	0.5M	1.3M	1.7M	2M	...	...
Cost Staff	0.2M	0.35M	0.4M	0.6M	...	...
Cost IT/Tech	0.1M	0.15M	0.17M	0.25M	...	...
Cost Marketing	0.3M	0.6M	0.5M	0.3M	...	...
Cost G&A	50k	78k	85k	80k	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Budget reflects:

- Monetization
- Hiring plan and costs
- Any other costs

# IF POSSIBLE, INCLUDE RELEVANT PRE-SEED KPIS



Number of waitlisted users



Number of sign-ups



Relevant actions taken (e.g. profiles created)



Engagement / repeat rates of beta-testers



Pilot agreements



Pipeline of advanced conversations

# EARLY STAGE

# WHAT MATTERS MOST AT THE EARLY STAGE?

Core focus in early-stage marketplaces: product-market fit

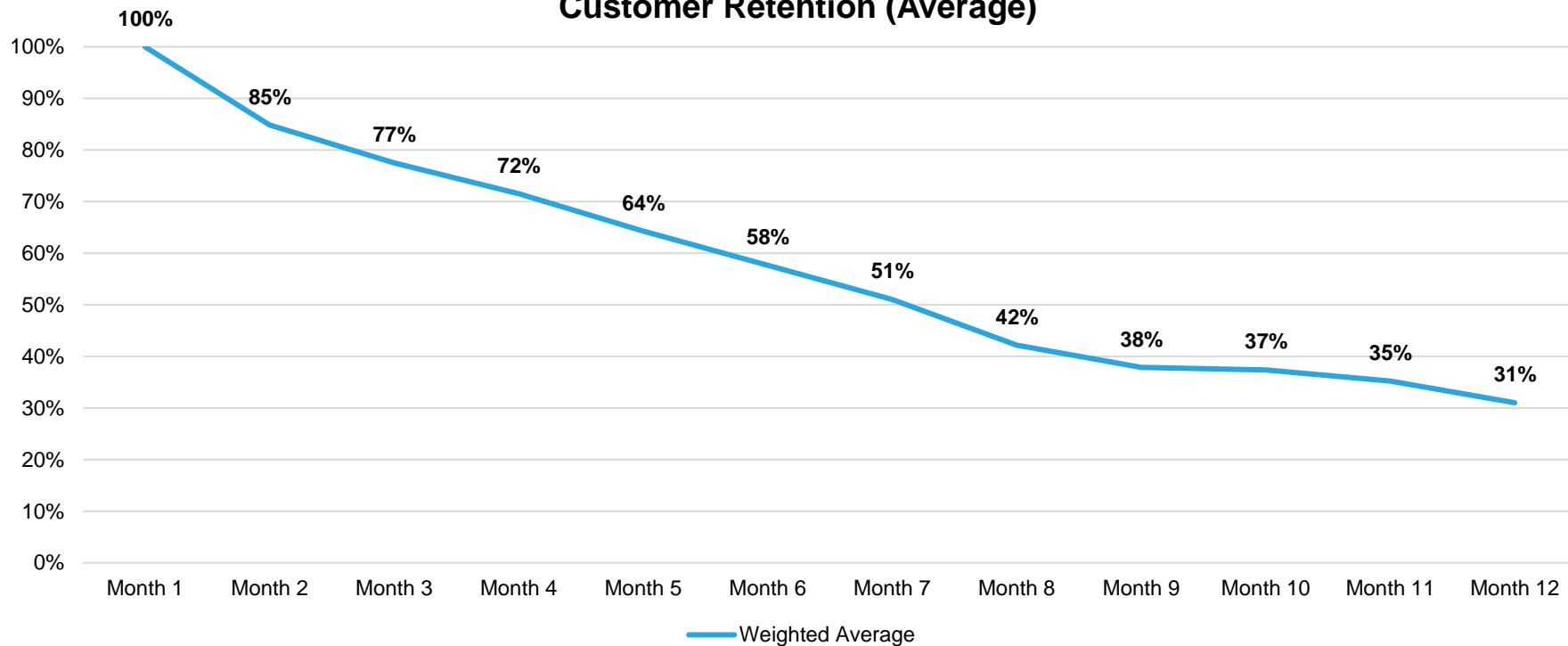
→ Engagement

→ Repeat rates

→ Stickiness

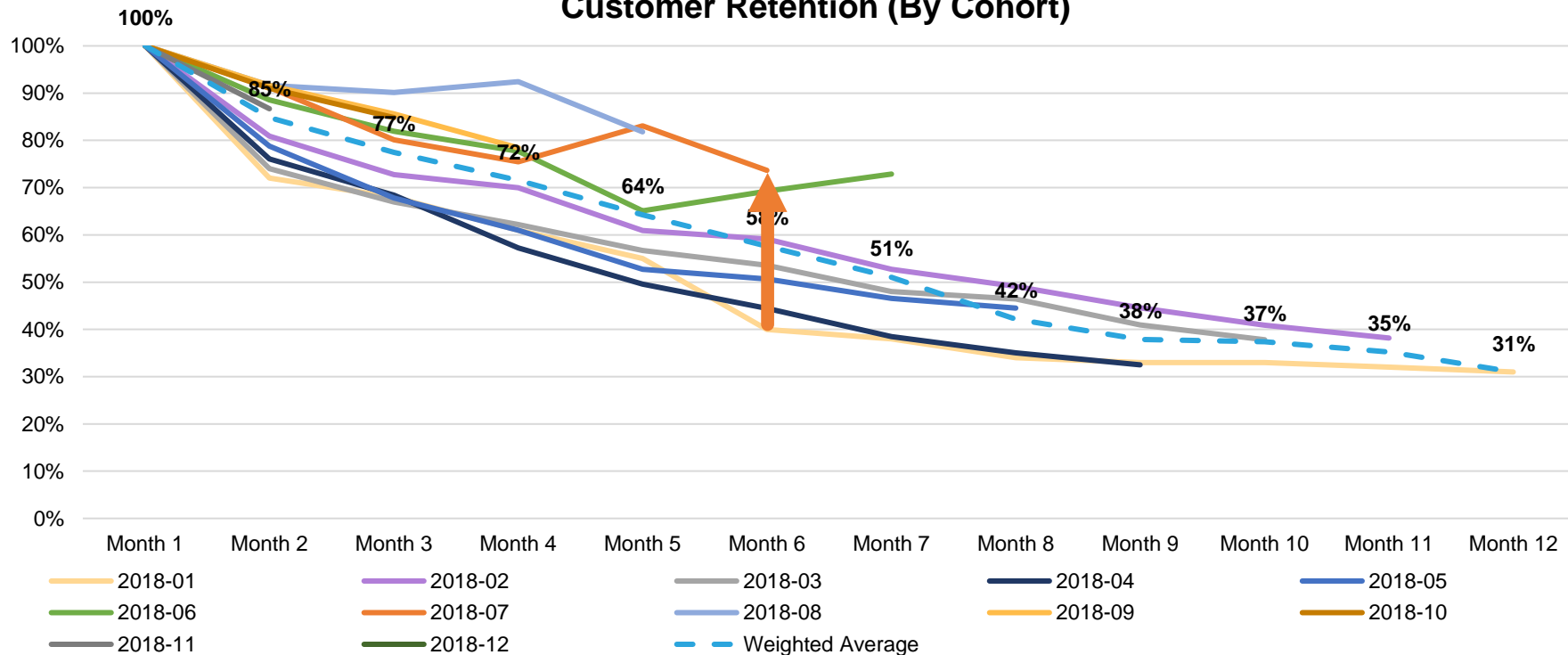
# EXAMPLE 1: CUSTOMER RETENTION

Customer Retention (Average)



# EXAMPLE 1: CUSTOMER RETENTION

## Customer Retention (By Cohort)



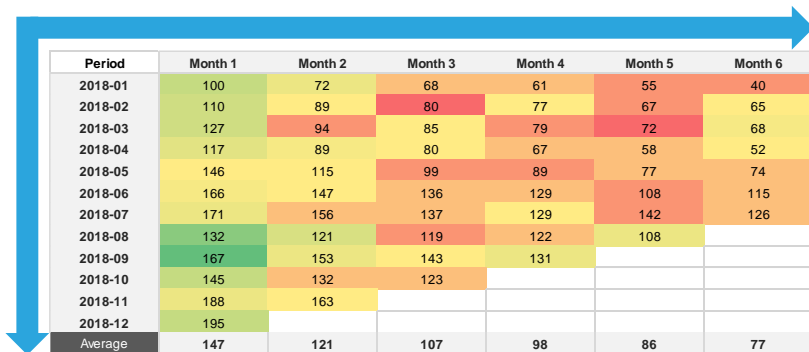
Note: Numbers shown above are made up and for purely illustrative purposes only.



# EXAMPLE 1: CUSTOMER RETENTION

Show cohorts with absolute numbers...

## Number of active customers



Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100	72	68	61	55	40
2018-02	110	89	80	77	67	65
2018-03	127	94	85	79	72	68
2018-04	117	89	80	67	58	52
2018-05	146	115	99	89	77	74
2018-06	166	147	136	129	108	115
2018-07	171	156	137	129	142	126
2018-08	132	121	119	122	108	
2018-09	167	153	143	131		
2018-10	145	132	123			
2018-11	188	163				
2018-12	195					
Average	147	121	107	98	86	77

... And with percentage figures

## Customer retention rate

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100%	72%	68%	61%	55%	40%
2018-02	100%	81%	73%	70%	61%	59%
2018-03	100%	74%	67%	62%	57%	54%
2018-04	100%	76%	68%	57%	50%	44%
2018-05	100%	79%	68%	61%	53%	51%
2018-06	100%	89%	82%	78%	65%	69%
2018-07	100%	91%	80%	75%	83%	74%
2018-08	100%	92%	90%	92%	82%	
2018-09	100%	92%	86%	78%		
2018-10	100%	91%	85%			
2018-11	100%	87%				
2018-12	100%					
Average	100%	85%	77%	72%	64%	58%

# EXAMPLE 2: NUMBER OF ORDERS AND AVERAGE ORDER VALUE

Number of Orders by Cohort

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	2	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.6
2018-02	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.8
2018-03	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.3
2018-04	3.1	3.2	2.7	3.1	3.4	3.4
2018-05	2.6	2.4	2.7	3.4	3.5	3.3
2018-06	2.4	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.1	4.6
2018-07	3.1	2.8	3.3	3.7	4	4.7
2018-08	2.6	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.3	
2018-09	2.7	3.4	3.8	4.1		
2018-10	3.2	3.5	3.9			
2018-11	3.1	3.4				
2018-12	3.3					
Average	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5

AOV by Cohort

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	\$17	\$15	\$16	\$19	\$17	\$16
2018-02	\$19	\$21	\$18	\$22	\$25	\$21
2018-03	\$21	\$21	\$23	\$22	\$27	\$27
2018-04	\$21	\$18	\$23	\$28	\$25	\$29
2018-05	\$19	\$21	\$19	\$23	\$27	\$31
2018-06	\$18	\$21	\$23	\$25	\$26	\$32
2018-07	\$21	\$22	\$24	\$28	\$30	\$34
2018-08	\$22	\$23	\$24	\$32	\$35	
2018-09	\$23	\$23	\$26	\$35		
2018-10	\$24	\$27	\$32			
2018-11	\$26	\$29				
2018-12	\$23					
Average	\$21	\$22	\$23	\$26	\$27	\$27

# EXAMPLE 3: REVENUE RETENTION

## Revenue

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	\$3,400	\$2,537	\$2,109	\$2,595	\$2,260	\$1,697
2018-02	\$4,837	\$4,673	\$3,221	\$3,606	\$4,020	\$3,822
2018-03	\$6,492	\$4,441	\$4,979	\$4,778	\$6,152	\$6,059
2018-04	\$7,490	\$5,223	\$5,065	\$5,743	\$4,993	\$5,187
2018-05	\$7,376	\$5,912	\$5,012	\$7,096	\$7,363	\$7,626
2018-06	\$7,171	\$8,026	\$10,010	\$12,025	\$11,601	\$16,928
2018-07	\$11,185	\$9,741	\$10,995	\$13,364	\$17,040	\$20,135
2018-08	\$7,550	\$9,184	\$10,567	\$16,397	\$16,254	
2018-09	\$10,371	\$11,809	\$14,128	\$18,799		
2018-10	\$11,136	\$12,474	\$15,350			
2018-11	\$15,153	\$16,238				
2018-12	\$14,929					
Average	\$8,924	\$8,205	\$8,144	\$9,378	\$8,710	\$8,779

## Revenue Retention Rate

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100%	75%	62%	76%	66%	50%
2018-02	100%	97%	67%	75%	83%	79%
2018-03	100%	68%	77%	74%	95%	93%
2018-04	100%	70%	68%	77%	67%	69%
2018-05	100%	80%	68%	96%	100%	103%
2018-06	100%	112%	140%	168%	162%	236%
2018-07	100%	87%	98%	119%	152%	180%
2018-08	100%	122%	140%	217%	215%	
2018-09	100%	114%	136%	181%		
2018-10	100%	112%	138%			
2018-11	100%	107%				
2018-12	100%					
Average	100%	98%	106%	128%	126%	128%

# IT IS IMPORTANT TO LOOK AT BOTH THE DEMAND AS WELL AS SUPPLY SIDE!

Number of Active Customers

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100	92	88	81	75	68
2018-02	110	109	100	97	87	85
2018-03	127	114	105	99	92	88
2018-04	117	109	100	87	78	72
2018-05	126	115	109	99	87	84
2018-06	146	127	116	109	88	95
2018-07	151	136	107	99	112	96
2018-08	132	111	99	112	88	
2018-09	167	143	123	111		
2018-10	145	122	103			
2018-11	188	143				
2018-12	195					
Average	142	120	105	99	88	83

Customer retention rate

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100.00%	92.00%	88.00%	81.00%	75.00%	68.00%
2018-02	100.00%	99.09%	90.91%	88.18%	79.99%	77.27%
2018-03	100.00%	89.76%	82.69%	77.95%	72.44%	69.29%
2018-04	100.00%	93.16%	85.47%	74.36%	66.67%	61.54%
2018-05	100.00%	91.27%	86.51%	78.57%	69.65%	66.67%
2018-06	100.00%	86.99%	79.45%	74.66%	60.27%	66.07%
2018-07	100.00%	90.07%	70.86%	65.56%	74.17%	63.58%
2018-08	100.00%	84.09%	75.00%	84.05%	66.67%	
2018-09	100.00%	85.63%	73.65%	66.47%		
2018-10	100.00%	84.14%	71.03%			
2018-11	100.00%	76.06%				
2018-12	100.00%					
Average	100.00%	88.39%	80.36%	76.84%	70.42%	66.20%

Number of Orders

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	2	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.7	3.1
2018-02	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.5
2018-03	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.2	4.3
2018-04	3.1	3.2	2.7	3.1	3.4	3.7
2018-05	2.6	2.4	2.7	3.4	3.5	3.3
2018-06	2.4	2.6	3.2	4.4	4.1	5
2018-07	3.1	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.8	4.3
2018-08	2.6	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.6	
2018-09	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.8		
2018-10	3.2	3.5	3.9			
2018-11	2.7	2.9				
2018-12	3.3					
Average	2.70	2.75	2.84	3.18	3.46	3.89

Order retention rate

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100.00%	115.00%	95.00%	110.00%	135.00%	155.00%
2018-02	100.00%	108.70%	95.65%	91.30%	104.35%	152.17%
2018-03	100.00%	95.83%	104.17%	112.50%	133.33%	179.17%
2018-04	100.00%	103.23%	87.10%	100.00%	109.68%	119.35%
2018-05	100.00%	92.31%	103.85%	130.77%	134.62%	126.92%
2018-06	100.00%	108.33%	133.33%	183.33%	170.83%	208.33%
2018-07	100.00%	90.32%	106.45%	119.35%	122.58%	138.71%
2018-08	100.00%	126.92%	142.31%	161.54%	176.92%	
2018-09	100.00%	92.59%	88.19%	103.70%		
2018-10	100.00%	109.38%	121.88%			
2018-11	100.00%	107.41%				
2018-12	100.00%					
Average	100.00%	104.55%	107.49%	123.61%	135.91%	154.24%

Average Order Value

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	\$17.00	\$15.32	\$15.32	\$19.34	\$17.12	\$16.32
2018-02	\$19.12	\$21.00	\$18.30	\$22.30	\$25.00	\$21.00
2018-03	\$21.30	\$20.54	\$23.43	\$22.40	\$26.70	\$27.00
2018-04	\$20.65	\$18.34	\$23.45	\$27.65	\$25.32	\$29.34
2018-05	\$19.43	\$21.42	\$18.75	\$23.45	\$27.32	\$31.23
2018-06	\$15.32	\$21.00	\$23.00	\$24.53	\$26.20	\$32.00
2018-07	\$21.10	\$22.30	\$24.32	\$19.30	\$18.34	\$26.30
2018-08	\$12.00	\$17.00	\$24.00	\$34.00	\$41.00	
2018-09	\$23.00	\$18.56	\$26.00	\$35.00		
2018-10	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$32.00			
2018-11	\$26.00	\$29.30				
2018-12	\$23.20					
Average	26.18	21.07	22.96	25.33	25.88	26.17

Order value retention

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
2018-01	100.00%	90.12%	95.00%	113.75%	100.71%	96.00%
2018-02	100.00%	109.83%	95.71%	116.63%	130.75%	109.83%
2018-03	100.00%	96.43%	110.00%	105.16%	125.35%	126.76%
2018-04	100.00%	88.81%	113.56%	133.90%	122.62%	142.08%
2018-05	100.00%	110.24%	96.50%	120.69%	140.61%	160.73%
2018-06	100.00%	137.08%	150.13%	160.12%	171.02%	208.88%
2018-07	100.00%	105.69%	115.26%	91.47%	90.05%	124.64%
2018-08	100.00%	141.67%	200.00%	283.33%	341.67%	
2018-09	100.00%	98.70%	113.04%	152.17%		
2018-10	100.00%	112.50%	133.33%			
2018-11	100.00%	112.69%				
2018-12	100.00%					
Average	100.00%	109.43%	122.35%	141.92%	152.85%	138.42%

Do it all again for the supply side!



# GROWTH STAGE

# WHAT MATTERS MOST AT THE GROWTH STAGE?

**Core focus in growth-stage marketplaces: growth at scale and efficiency**

- Cohort segmentation
- Share of wallet
- Growth efficiency metrics

# THE EVOLUTION OF COHORT ANALYSIS: EARLY STAGE VS. GROWTH STAGE VIEW

## Early stage view

- Set-up tracking **infrastructure** for cohorts as early as possible (mention tools)
- **Evaluate cohorts regularly**
- **Retention** should be **stabilizing**, and **cohorts improving**
- Spot “tipping points”
- Start to identify traits of power users and focus on finding more of them!



## Growth stage view

- Cohort data can become blurry when **new customer groups or markets are tackled**
- Need to start evaluating cohort data **by customer segment (remember: averages are misleading)**
- Which markets, demographics, channels are performing better vs. worse? This should inform where to amplify vs. pull-back growth

# SHARE OF WALLET TELLS YOU HOW VITAL YOU ARE BECOMING ON BOTH THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY SIDES

Example: How do you assess the cohort below?

## GMV by Month

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
2018-06	\$7,171	\$8,026	\$10,010	\$12,025	\$11,601	\$16,928	\$13,358



# SHARE OF WALLET TELLS YOU HOW VITAL YOU ARE BECOMING ON BOTH THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY SIDES

Example: How do you assess the cohort below?

## GMV by Month

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
2018-06	\$7,171	\$8,026	\$10,010	\$12,025	\$11,601	\$16,928	\$13,358

Answer: Retention looks great, but still hard to evaluate relative product-market fit

→ **Assess share of wallet = actual demand / potential demand of the customer**

- **Call your customers** to find out their potential demand, then compare how much is transacted via marketplace
- Understand the reasons why a customer is fulfilling demand via other channels
- The closer to 100% the share of wallet, the better the product market fit (in most cases)
- Can you drive de facto exclusivity?

# CAC: COMMON PITFALLS

- Only including acquisition costs instead of a **fully-loaded number** including salaries, overhead, tools
- Not including **non-media costs**, i.e. referral costs, free trials, etc.
- Only considering demand-side acquisition, but neglecting supply-side
- Only looking at blended CAC, and **not distinguishing paid CAC vs. blended CAC**
- Looking at numbers in aggregate rather than **by channel**

# BREAKING DOWN CAC

Paid acquisition costs

Organic acquisition costs\*

Supply acquisition costs

*Fully loaded*

Fully-loaded acquisition costs

# BREAKING DOWN CAC

Total acquisition costs



Total customers acquired



Blended CAC

Most people stop here...

# BREAKING DOWN CAC

... but we recommend showing paid CAC as well

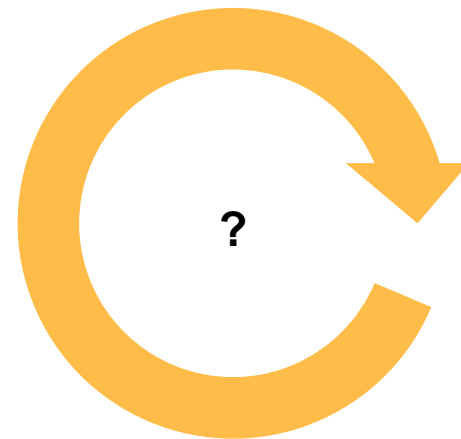
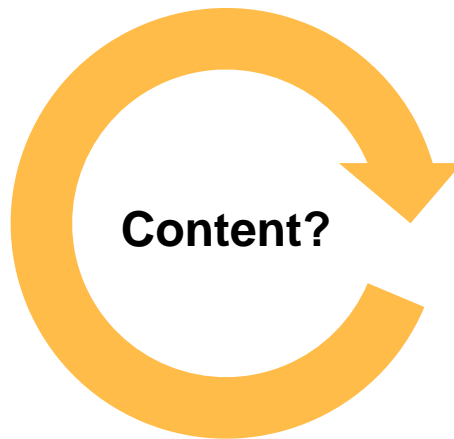
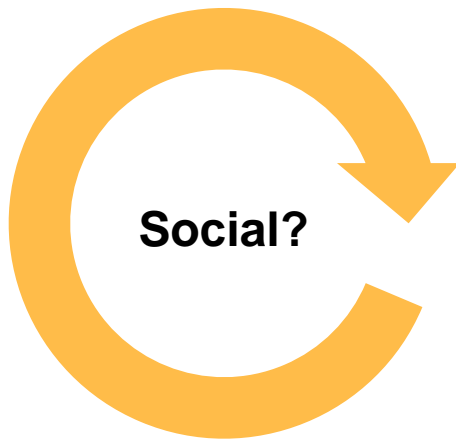
$$\text{Paid acquisition costs} \div \text{Paid customers acquired} = \text{Paid CAC}$$

# BREAKING DOWN CAC

We also recommend looking at CAC by channel:

FB acquisition costs	÷	Total customers acquired from FB	=	FB CAC
Google acquisition costs	÷	Total customers acquired from Instagram	=	Instagram CAC
SEM acquisition costs	÷	Total customers acquired from SEM	=	SEM CAC

# ORGANIC, PRODUCT-LED ACQUISITION IS THE MOST DURABLE AND EFFICIENT FORM OF GROWTH



# CAC: WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

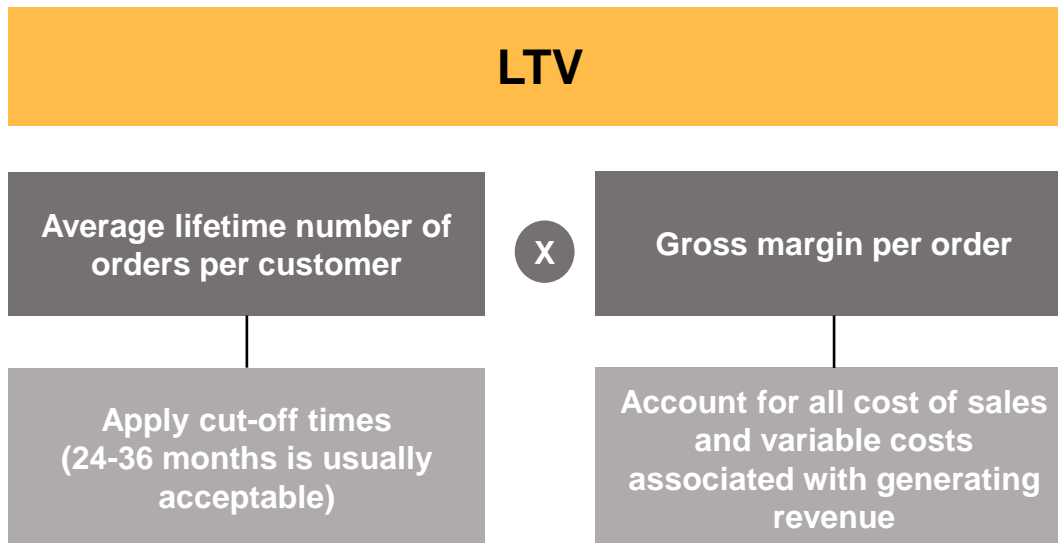
- **Diversity of acquisition channels**
- **At least one paid channel** that is performing well and scalable
- **Stable CAC** as absolute marketing spend grows
- **Increasing share of organic** often a good indicator of organic growth loop(s)



# LTV: COMMON PITFALLS

- Assuming an “infinite” customer lifetime versus capping at a defined period
- Looking at revenue LTV instead of gross margin LTV

# BREAKING DOWN LTV



# LTV / CAC IS ONE OF THE BEST MEASURES OF UNIT ECONOMICS AND GROWTH EFFICIENCY

$$\text{LTV} \div \text{CAC} =$$

<1x  
= Bad

1-2x  
= Needs improvement

2-3x  
= OK

>3x  
= Great

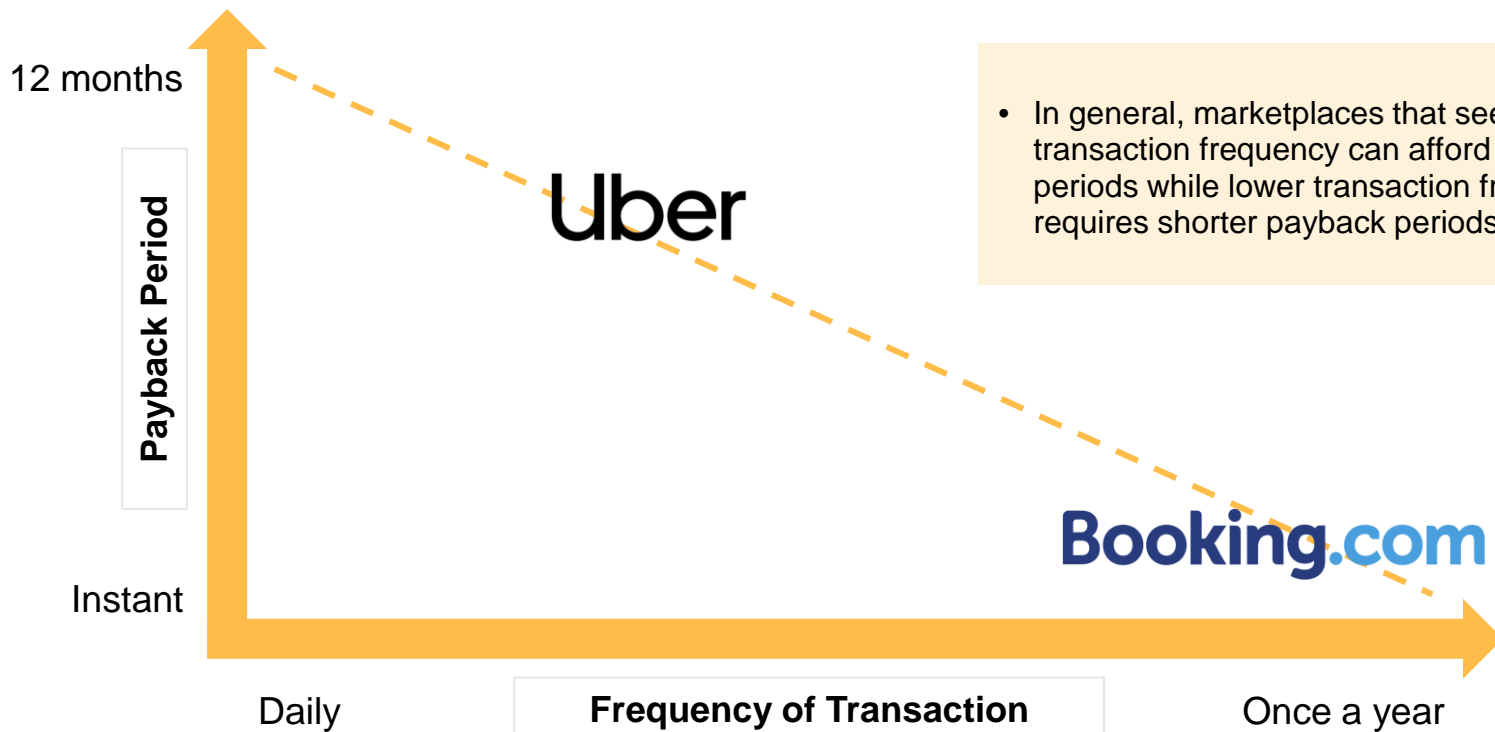
# PAYBACK PERIOD IS AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT METRIC!

Payback time = Length of time needed to recoup customer acquisition cost

## Example

<i>Per Customer</i>	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10
Revenue	\$51	\$47	\$59	\$60	\$85	\$89	\$122	\$110	\$80	\$137
(x) Gross Margin	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
Gross Profit	\$36	\$33	\$41	\$42	\$60	\$62	\$85	\$77	\$56	\$96
Cumulative Gross Profit	\$36	\$69	\$110	\$152	\$212	\$274	\$360	\$437	\$493	\$588
CAC	(\$350)									
Cumulative Contribution	(\$314)	(\$245)	(\$136)	\$17	\$229	\$503	\$863	\$1,300	\$1,792	\$2,381

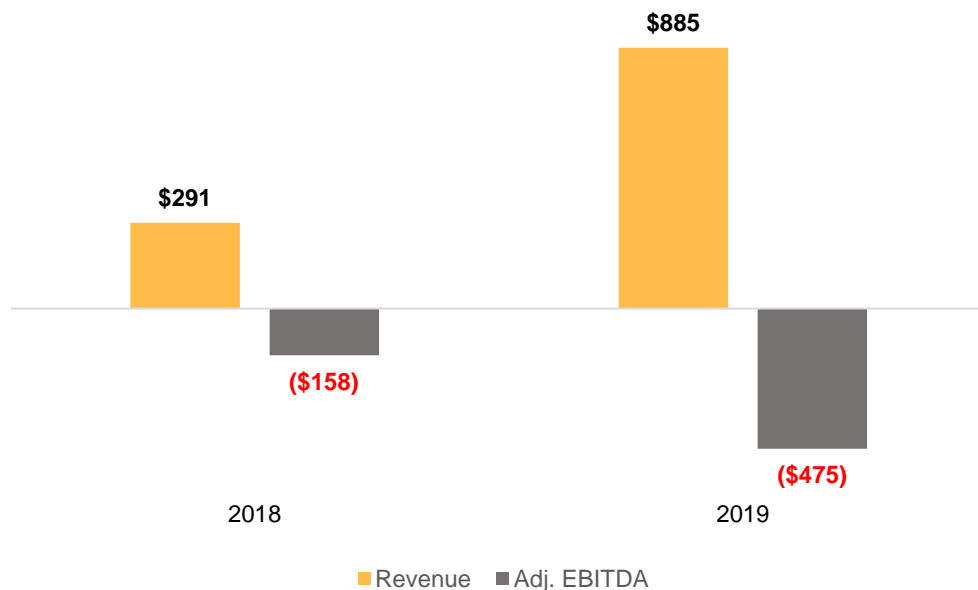
# NOT ALL BUSINESS ARE CREATED EQUAL... CLEARLY ARTICULATE YOUR TYPE OF BUSINESS



- In general, marketplaces that see higher transaction frequency can afford longer payback periods while lower transaction frequency requires shorter payback periods

# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

DoorDash: Revenue and Adjusted EBITDA



- Although revenue is growing at a nice clip, losses have mounted: the company had an EBITDA loss of \$475M in 2019 up from \$158M in 2018
- For every \$1 revenue generated, they lost 54 cents in EBITDA in both 2018 and 2019
- This does not appear to be a very efficient business...

# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

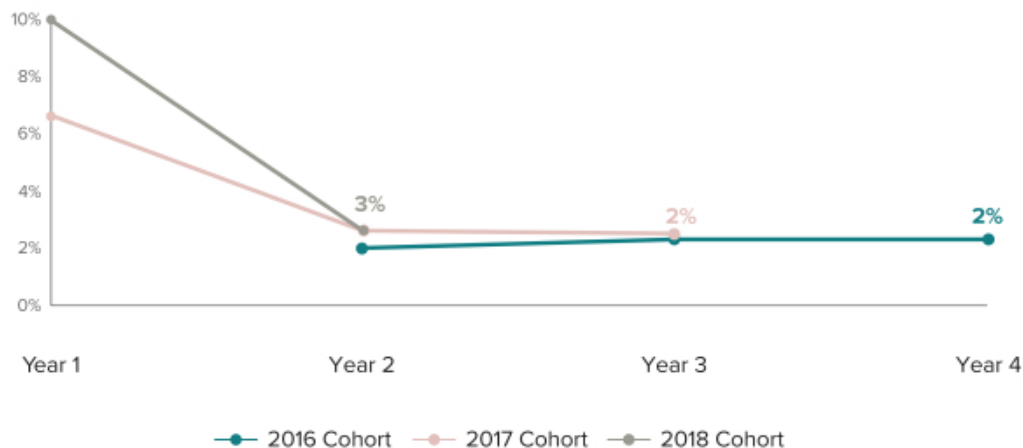
Marketplace GOV by Cohort, Indexed to Year 1

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
2016 Cohort	1.00x	1.38x	1.39x	1.57x
2017 Cohort	1.00x	1.48x	1.62x	
2018 Cohort	1.00x	1.65x		

- DoorDash customers are sticky and spend more over time: cohort GMV exhibits negative churn (i.e. net expansion)
- Notice that retention has improved with each cohort – a clear signal of the network effect in DoorDash's business

# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

Adjusted Sales & Marketing and Promotions as % of Marketplace GOV by Cohort

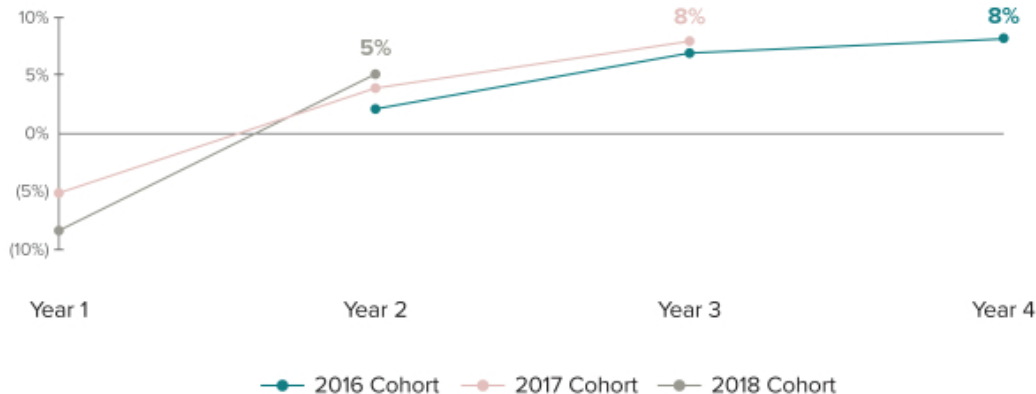


- DoorDash invests into S&M early in a cohort's life cycle to acquire new customers and encourage repeat behavior
- Spend normalizes by the second year cohorts are on the platform



# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

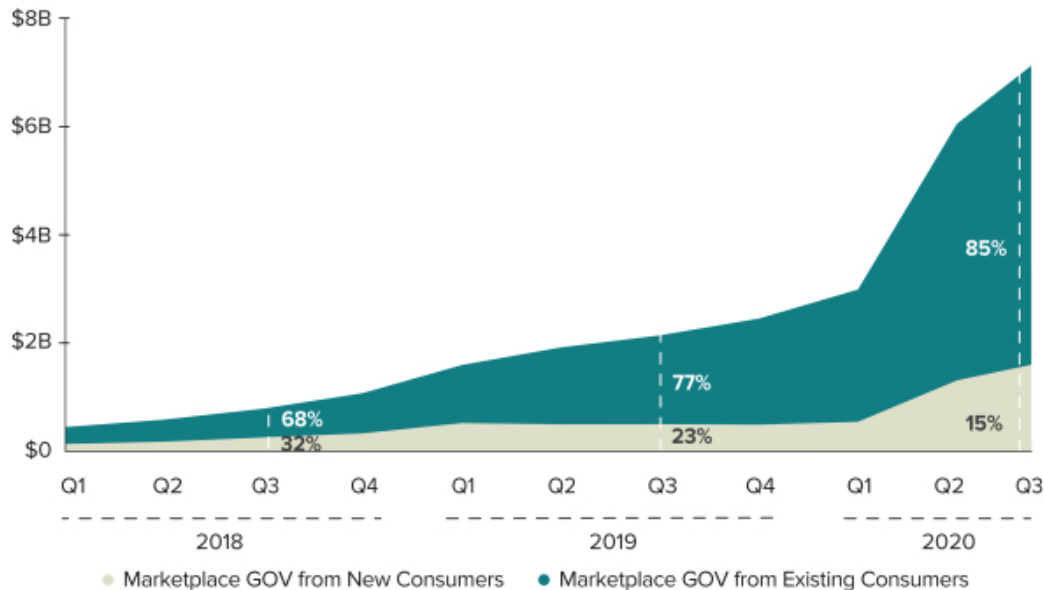
## Contribution Profit (Loss) as % of Marketplace GOV by Cohort



- Contribution margin (gross margin less S&M) is generally negative in the first year of a cohort's life, due to upfront investment in customer acquisition
- As cohorts age, contribution margin turns positive driven by cohort GOV expansion and operational efficiency

# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

## Marketplace GOV from New Consumers & Existing Consumers



- As consumers make DoorDash a regular activity, repeat use results in a greater proportion of GMV being generated by existing consumers (accelerated in 2020 by COVID-19)
- The growing proportion of existing consumers (“aging base”) is meaningful in driving operating leverage

# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

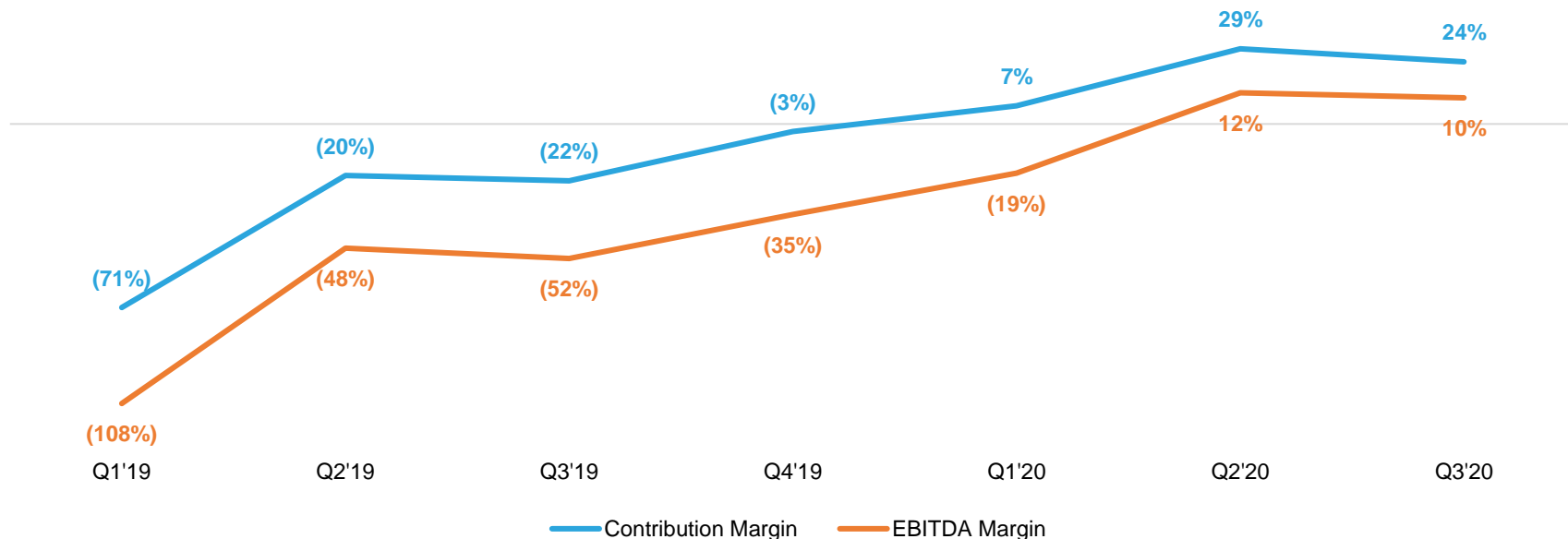
1. Cohort expansion over time (>100% revenue retention)
2. S&M focused early in cohort life cycle (no ongoing reliance)
3. Gross margin leverage
4. Strong repeat behavior



*Efficiency*

# GROWTH EFFICIENCY: REAL LIFE EXAMPLE IN DOORDASH

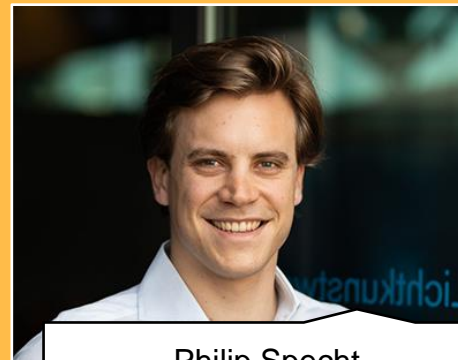
## DoorDash: Contribution Margin and EBITDA Margin



# THANK YOU!



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