# **E-Business Market Dynamics** Spring 2001 Christopher S. Rollyson E-Business Strategy for Global Enterprises Business Strategy for Startups/Spinouts

## E-Business adoption will be strong, helped by a dark horse

- New level of sobriety among VCs, entrepreneurs, service providers and investors
  - Into the chasm
  - The hype is on how bad things are
- Culling process that's focusing efforts of core groups of players
- Climb out of the chasm by using web applications
  - Technology will prove its worth by saving money, not by growing revenue
  - Galvanizing impact on corporate players

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#### BAMs will pursue a new wave of successful spinouts

- First efforts were expensive learning experiences that could not succeed
  - Walmart, nbci.com, nyt.com, bluelight.com
  - All the talent was in start-ups; lack of knowledge among corporate managers
- Today, there's plenty of talent around, with bruises to show and valuable lessons to contribute;-)!
- The balance is shifting overall to a corporate game
  - More familiar territory for BAMs
  - Growing recognition that solutions require technology/start-up savvy and corporate wisdom
- The gift of time
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# The pure-plays that survive will run themselves like more traditional businesses

- No longer a prediction, just inescapably true
- We've lived in an off-line world
  - Convergence of off-line and on-line will slow the pace
- Pure-plays will stop talking about how to change the world
  - Instead, will target incremental change
- The search for BAM talent and industry domain knowledge

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#### Internet time: the fate of the speed imperative

- Internet time: "because we could"
  - Hyperconnectivity and digitization: communicate thought instantly and pervasively
  - Distinction between fascinating ideas and bankable reality not that easy
- 2001: time to market not mission-critical in many cases
  - It has become a long game
  - Comprehensive picture of the whole solution and the complexity of integrating BAM world
- Internet time with a reality handicap ;-)!

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# Alliances between pure-plays and BAMs will carry the day

- One thing hasn't changed: hyperconnectivity continues to grow
  - Individuals and organizations are inescapably on a network of ideas, technologies, resources
    - The need to identify core value, draw from the network for noncore resources
    - Requires vision for what to keep organic
  - What nodes does the organization want to own?
- Reconciliation between off-line and on-line
  - "E" people learning bricks
  - BAM managers have been cramming
- Amazon-ToysRUs deal
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#### Mass matters

- BAMs have the advantage for the long term: it's a bricks world
  - Volume for exchanges
  - Funding
  - Influence
- Understanding of economies of scale
  - Increasingly important due to shorter product life cycles

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## A new oxymoron, long overdue

- "Website Benefits Realization" or downsizing
  - Websites are expensive and will have to prove their worth
    - Little knowledge of how websites create value
    - Down market culling will bring this to the fore
    - Look to the Big Five to bring solutions to market
- Difficulty due to conflict of interest among providers
- Similar dynamic to ERP disaster

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# Amazon.com will become known as a BAM enabler extraordinaire

- Superiority in overall preferences and behavior
- Digital systems and processes to mine them
- Wide scope by design
- Examples
  - PwC Website Diagnostic
  - Forrester PowerRankings
- Pervasive "understanding" of customers
  - Negligible variable cost

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#### E-Markets and netmarkets: a mixed year

- E-Markets/consortia: dynamism and sense of threat is gone
  - Expect slow progress at best
  - "Consortium" means that slow members can sabotage overall progress
- Netmarkets/entrepreneurs
  - Best case scenario to develop niche "plug in" solutions for emarkets, which will be slow in coming
  - Focus on diminishing transaction costs from internal corporate platform, rather than open netmarket
  - Many defunct already

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## The fate of start-ups and VCs

- Perspective on a seemingly bleak climate
  - 1998-99 exclusively domain of Early Adopters and Visionaries
  - Pragmatists and Main Street not in the picture yet
- "Two guys and a business plan" no longer viable
- VCs cutting losses and cleaning up portfolios: extra cautious
- Corporates still smarting from first wave of spin-outs
- That said, knowledge capital will lead people to take risks as soon as they can
- Start-ups who can structure themselves for this harsh environment will do well
  - Still have the advantage for ramping up raw innovation
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## Coming attraction to the Late Majority: supply chain

- Enterprise metaphor: customers and inputs, hence the "chain"
- Supply chains are expensive due to a lack of information
  - Perfect targets for Internet/web solutions
  - Example: diminish safety stocks
- The holy grail: "the glass pipe"
- Supply chain focus will persist for several years
  - Will require a lot of focus to get done

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#### E-Business is business

- Sounds corny, but it's profound
- The conflict of established forces and new upstarts
  - The result will be a synthesis of the two
  - Adoption process will be long and opportunities continuous
- Watch the impact of hyperconnectivity and digitization
  - Example: email v. telephone
  - Example: direct mail v. web pages
  - Multiply this by trillions of interactions
- E-Business redefines communication and interaction
  - It's a big job
- 2000 turning point: there will be time
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