

The Innovation Game

What's Your Exit Strategy?

Brian Zubert

Director, Thomson Reuters Labs – Waterloo Region @bzubert



Why Does Your Company Need You?

- Changing Market Conditions?
- New Technology?
- Aging Stack?
- Bad Habits?

What's Your Burning Platform?



Big Data & Artificial Intelligence

Why Now?

• What's changed that's accelerating the needs of Thomson Reuters?

Big Data & Artificial Intelligence

- Why Now?
- Big Data:
 - Storage is effectively unlimited
 - Data being generated at an unparalleled rated

Big Data & Artificial Intelligence

- Why Now?
- Big Data:
 - Storage is effectively unlimited
 - Data being generated at an unparalleled rated
- Machine Learning & Deep Learning:
 - Algorithms are decades old
 - Memory and computing power reached a tipping point
 - Distributed computing put us over the top

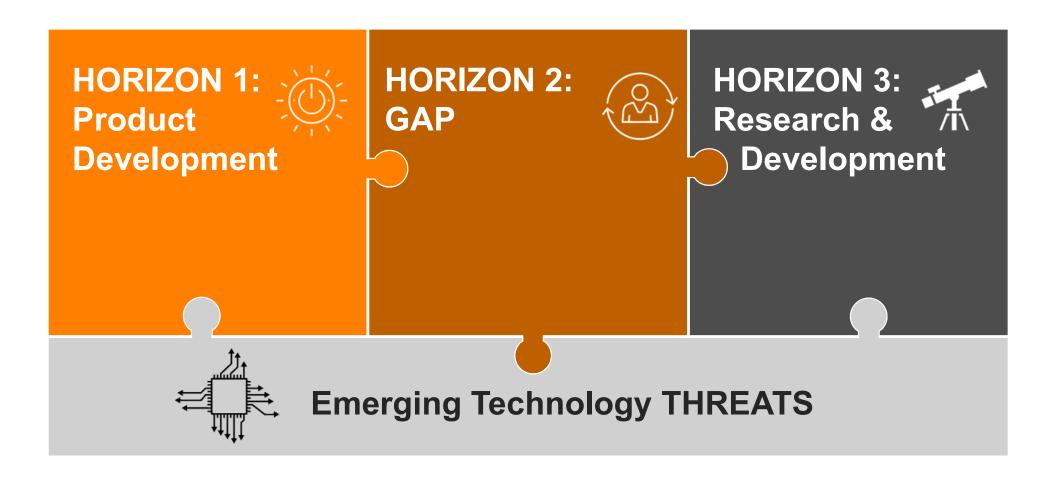
Other Burning Platforms at Communitech

- Canadian Tire
 - Market conditions: e-commerce putting pressure on brick & mortar retail
- General Motors
 - New tech: autonomous vehicles and electric vehicles
- TD
 - New tech + aging tech stack: blockchain, digital currencies, and virtual banking
- LCBO
 - Regulatory change: legalization of marijuana
- Royal Canadian Air Force
 - Aging tech + slow processes: troops at risk

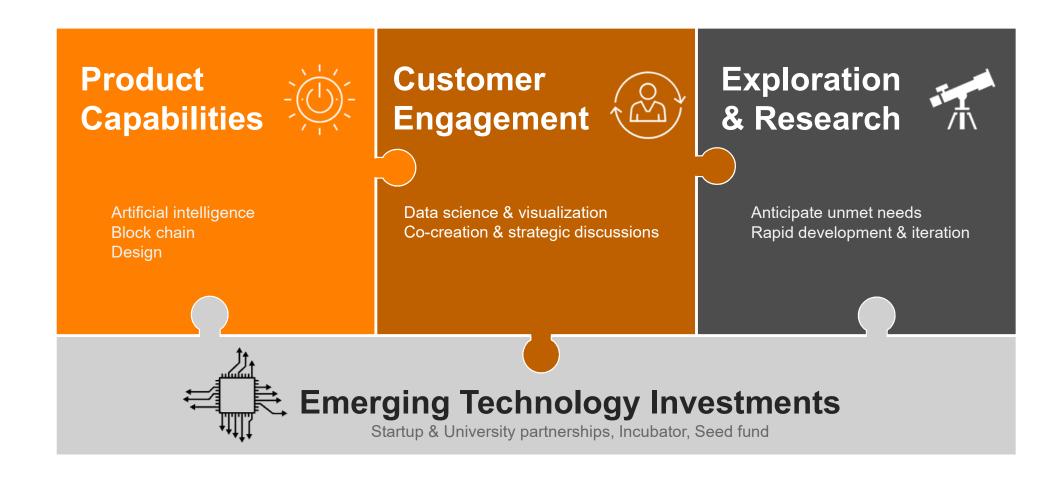
Who's Got This?



Understand What You Have and What You're Missing



Thomson Reuters Labs Fills the GAP & Addresses the THREATS



SEVEN LABS GLOBALLY – Heavy Investment in Data Science



Boston



Waterloo



London



ZurichThe Incubator



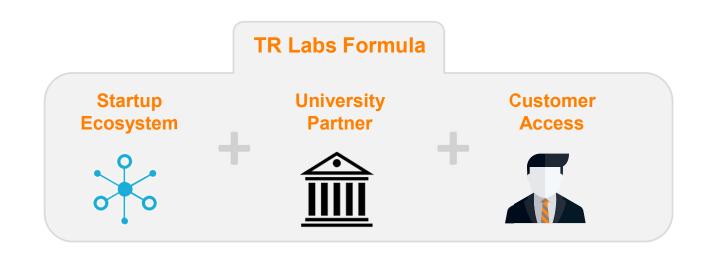
Cape Town



Singapore



San Francisco





Why Do You Need a Lab Anyway?

- \$100M / 5 Year Projects
 - Traditional new product development is long and expensive
 - It's (almost) never ok for startups, why is it normal for enterprise?
- Near Term Goal Addiction
 - Make this year's targets
 - MAYBE set the stage for next year
- Rigid Project and Product Management
 - Little ability to act on new opportunities or react to changing tech or market conditions
 - Near impossible to stop a train wreck

Work Yourself Out of a Job (your current job)

- #1 Export: Cultural Change
 - Every project is a proof point
 - Recruit and train your next champion
- Tech Freedom: Encapsulation
 - New dev shouldn't pay for the sins of software past
 - Wrap the old stuff, build on top of it with modern tech
- MVP for Change: Land & Expand
 - Build a body of irrefutable work
 - Call on your champions, recruit a team to go Lean
 - Be their coach, engineer their success
 - Expand to other teams



Thank You

Questions?

Brian Zubert

Director, Thomson Reuters Labs – Waterloo Region @bzubert

