



TRUSTED PARTNERS TO EXCEPTIONAL ENTREPRENEURS

IEEE Boston Entrepreneurs' Network

Raising Money from VCs

April 2012

Ascent Venture Partners

Who we are

- Investment team of six, dedicated to investing in IT innovation for the enterprise
- Supporting early-stage entrepreneurs



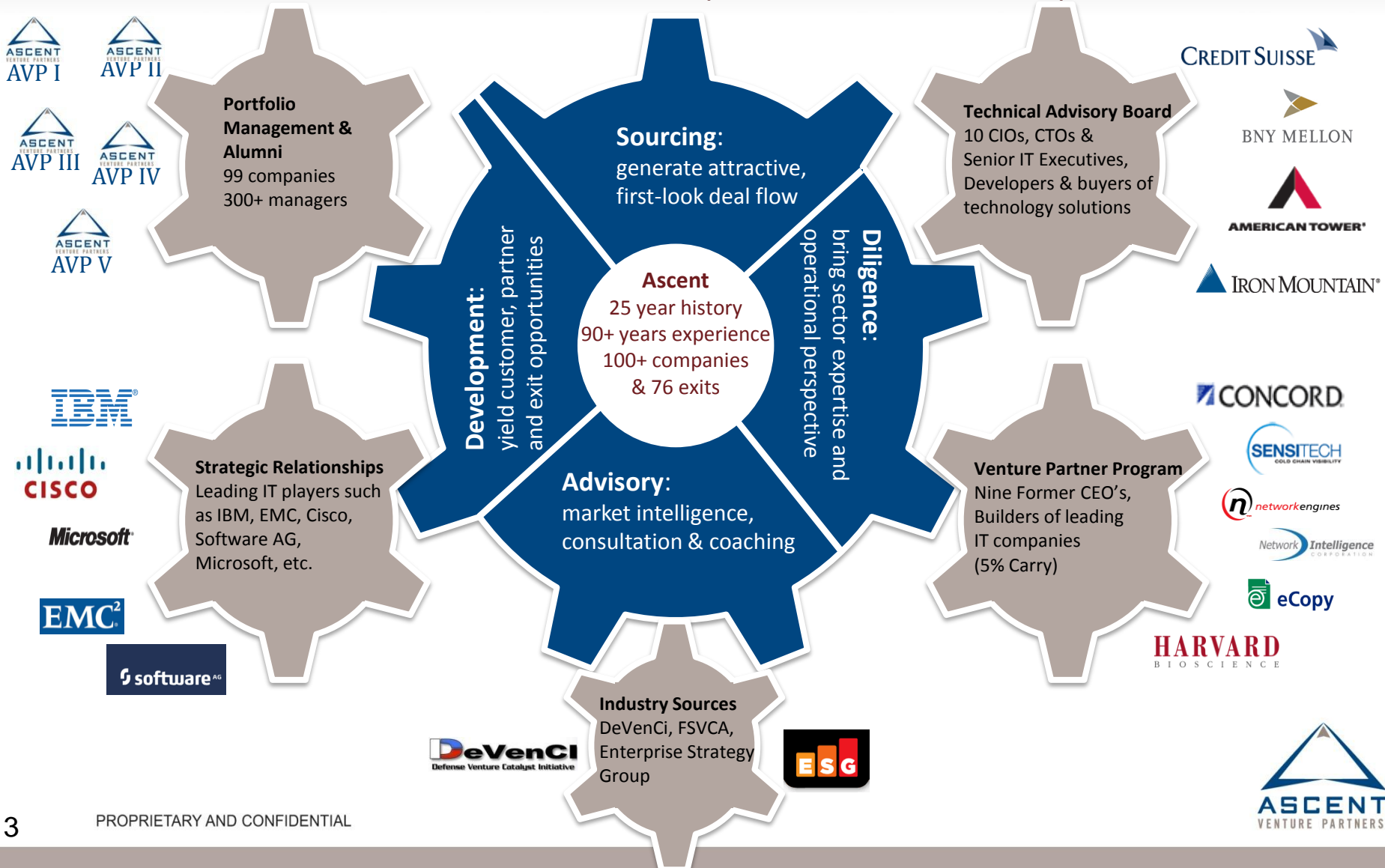
TRUSTED PARTNERS TO EXCEPTIONAL ENTREPRENEURS

At the forefront of enterprise tech investing

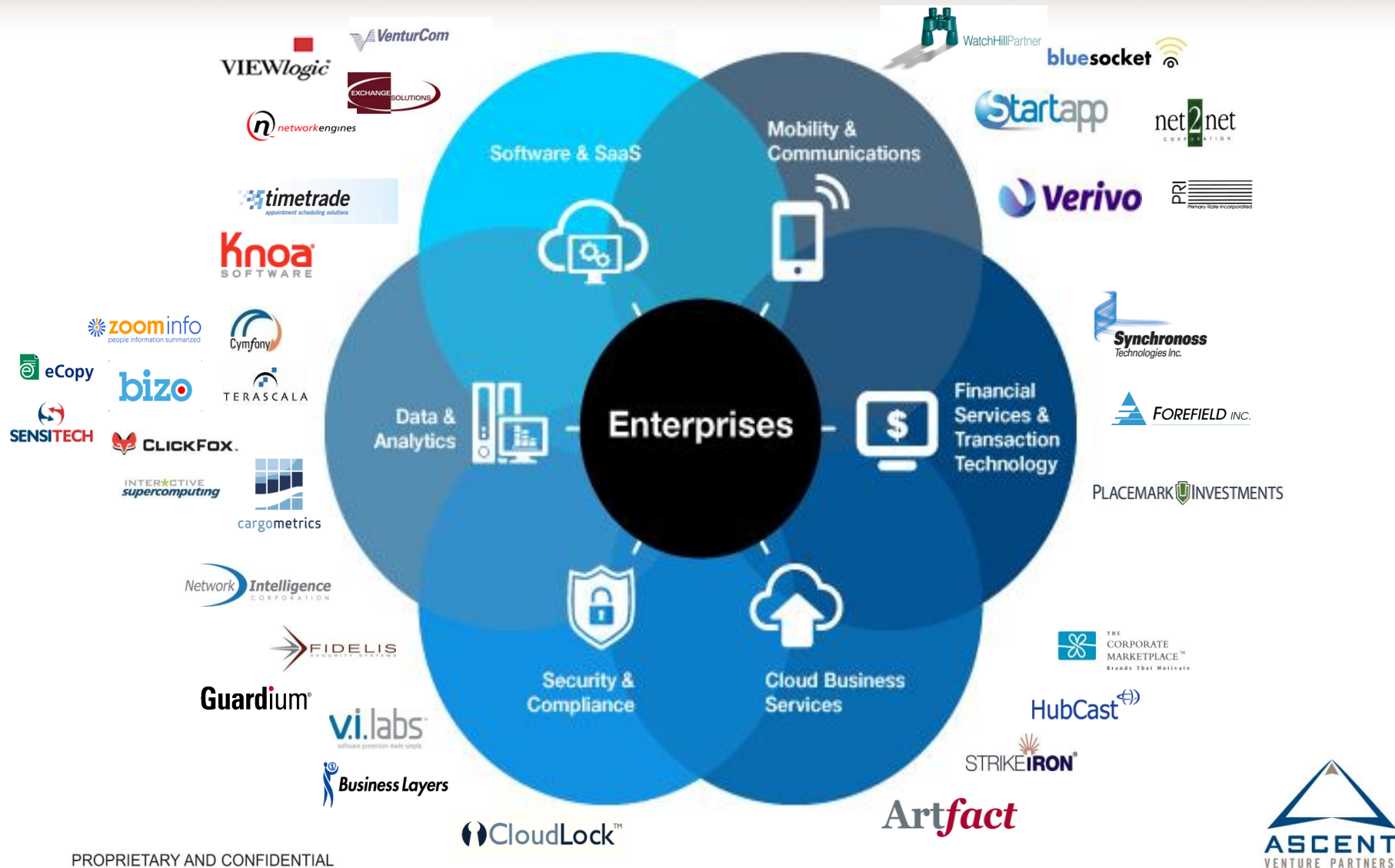
- We have backed more than 100 early-stage, emerging technology companies since 1985, generating more than \$10 billion in enterprise value
- We leverage our extensive network to make connections for portfolio companies to investors, customers, partners and advisors that can support their long-term success.

Flywheel Effect of Established and Focused Network

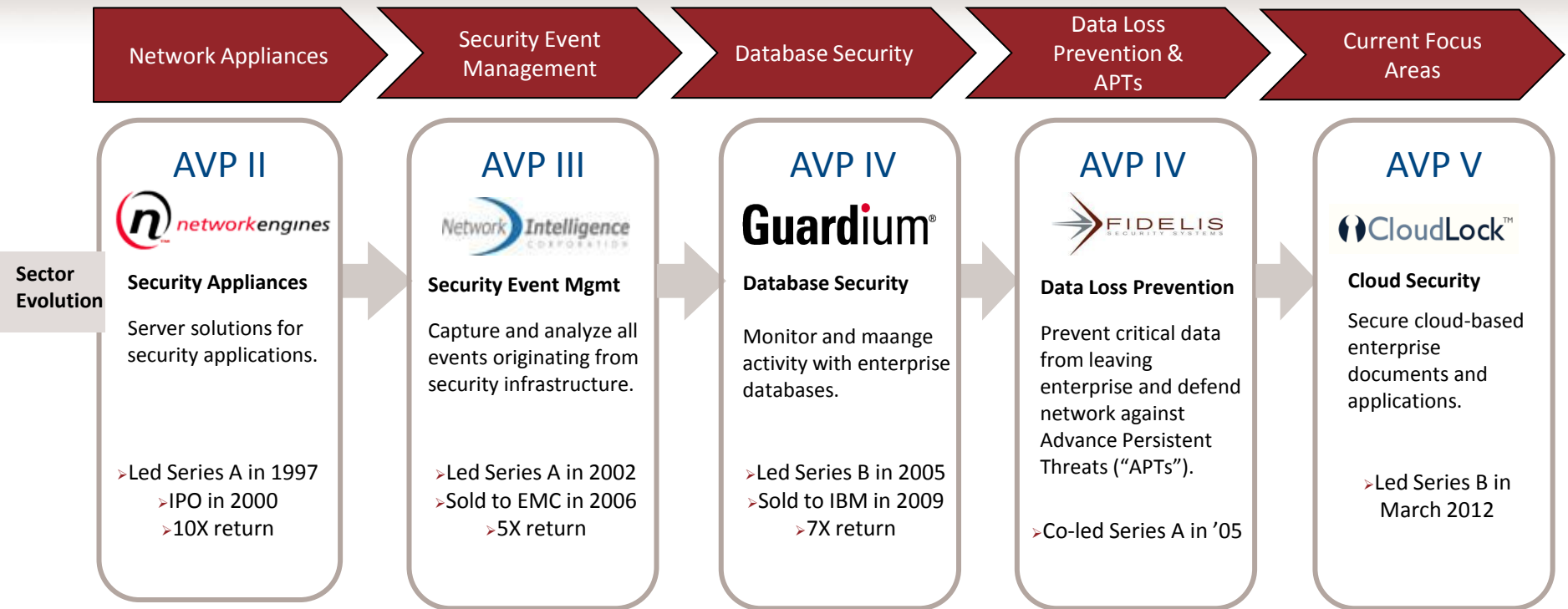
Level of momentum in Ascent's Enterprise IT network is hard to replicate



Current Investment Focus Areas



Ascent Investment Model – IT Security Case Study



Ascent Investment Facts & Figures

- 25% of Ascent's deals involve managers with whom Ascent has worked before
- 40% of Ascent deals are sourced through sector knowledge/proactive research
- Seek to identify market leaders of high-growth emerging IT markets

Ascent Venture Partners: Matt Fates

Experience:

Ascent Venture Partners	2002– Present
Norwest Venture Partners	1998– 2000
Alex Brown & Sons	1996 – 1998

Areas of Focus: Data Management, IT Security,
Enterprise IT, Cloud Security

Current Investments:

HubCast

TCMPi

FIDELIS
SECURITY SYSTEMS

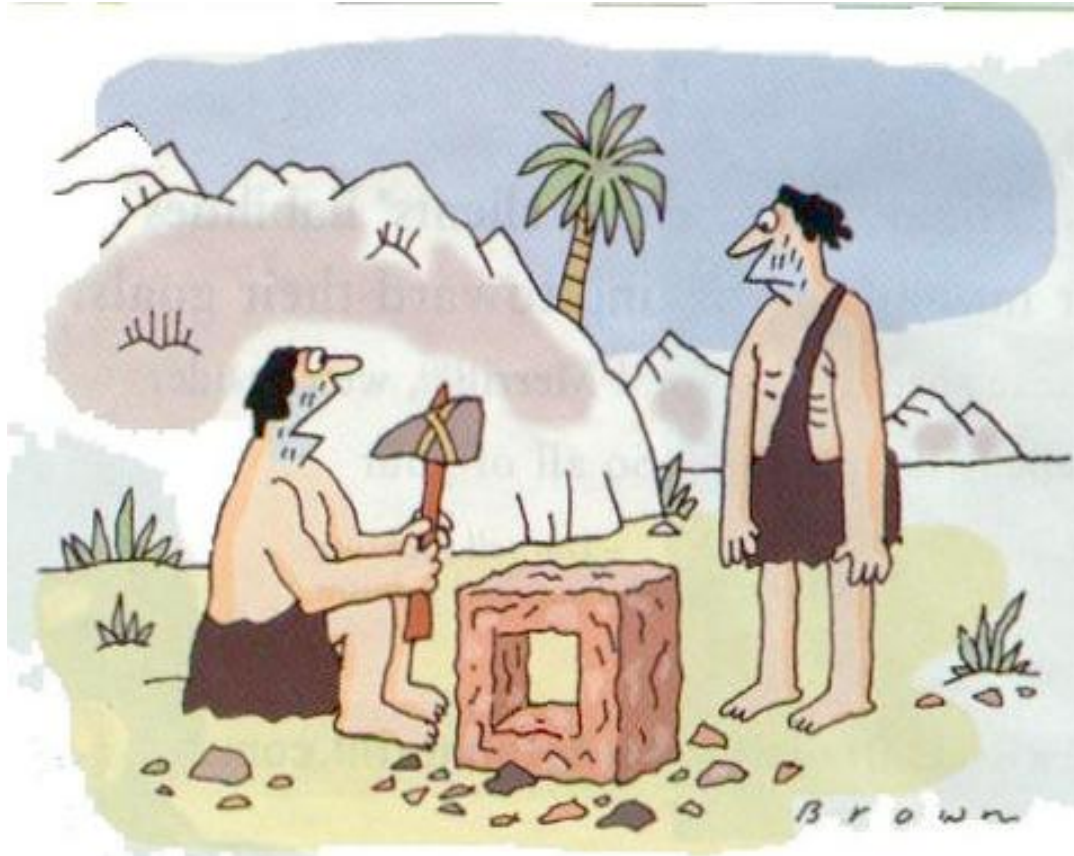
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Education - Double Major in Computer Science and Economics from Yale University
- MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth (Tuck Scholar)



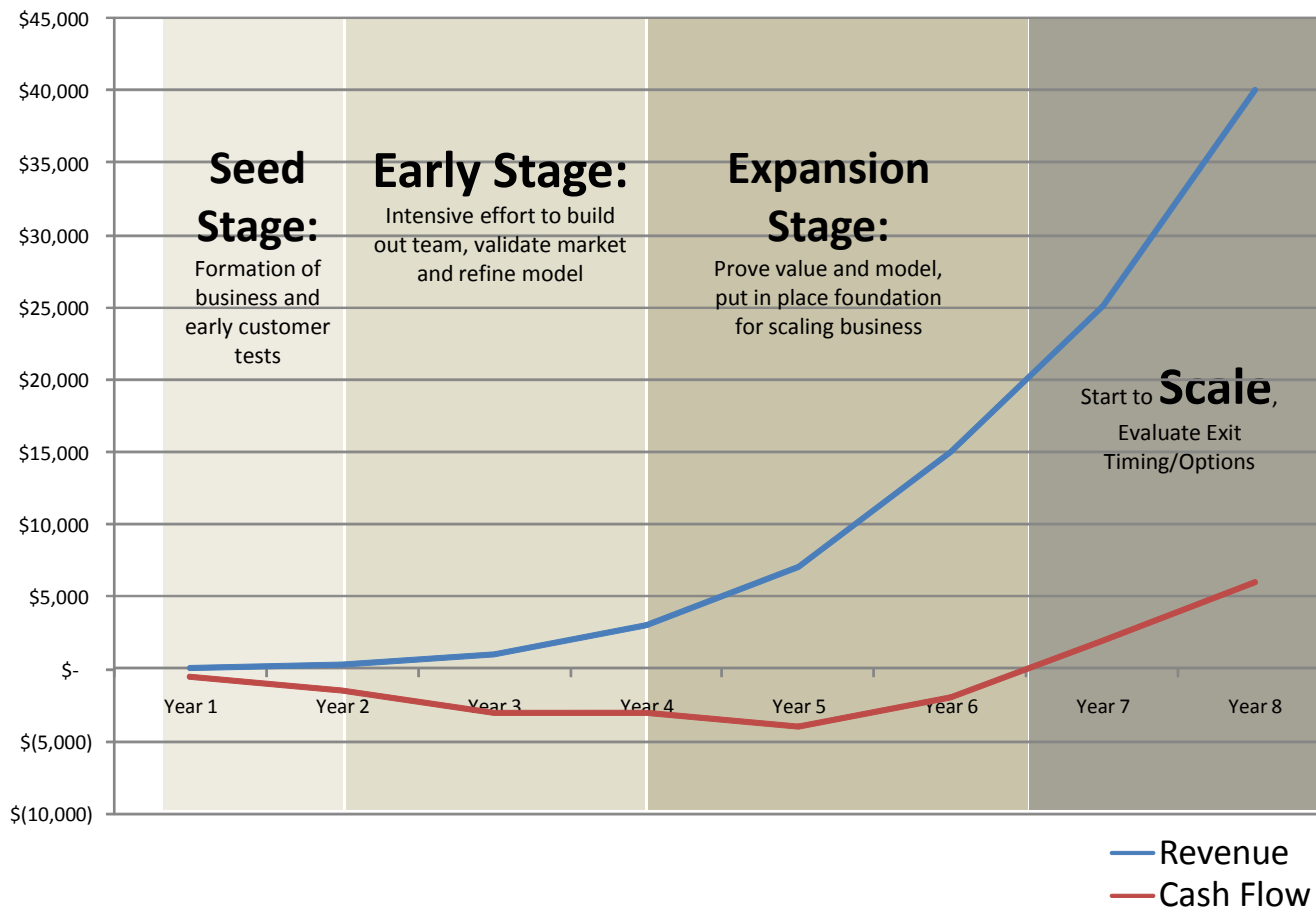
What is Venture Capital?



"I call my invention 'The Wheel,' but so far I've been unable to attract any venture capital."

Early Stage Venture Model – How it Works

Typical Trajectory of a Good Venture Backed Company



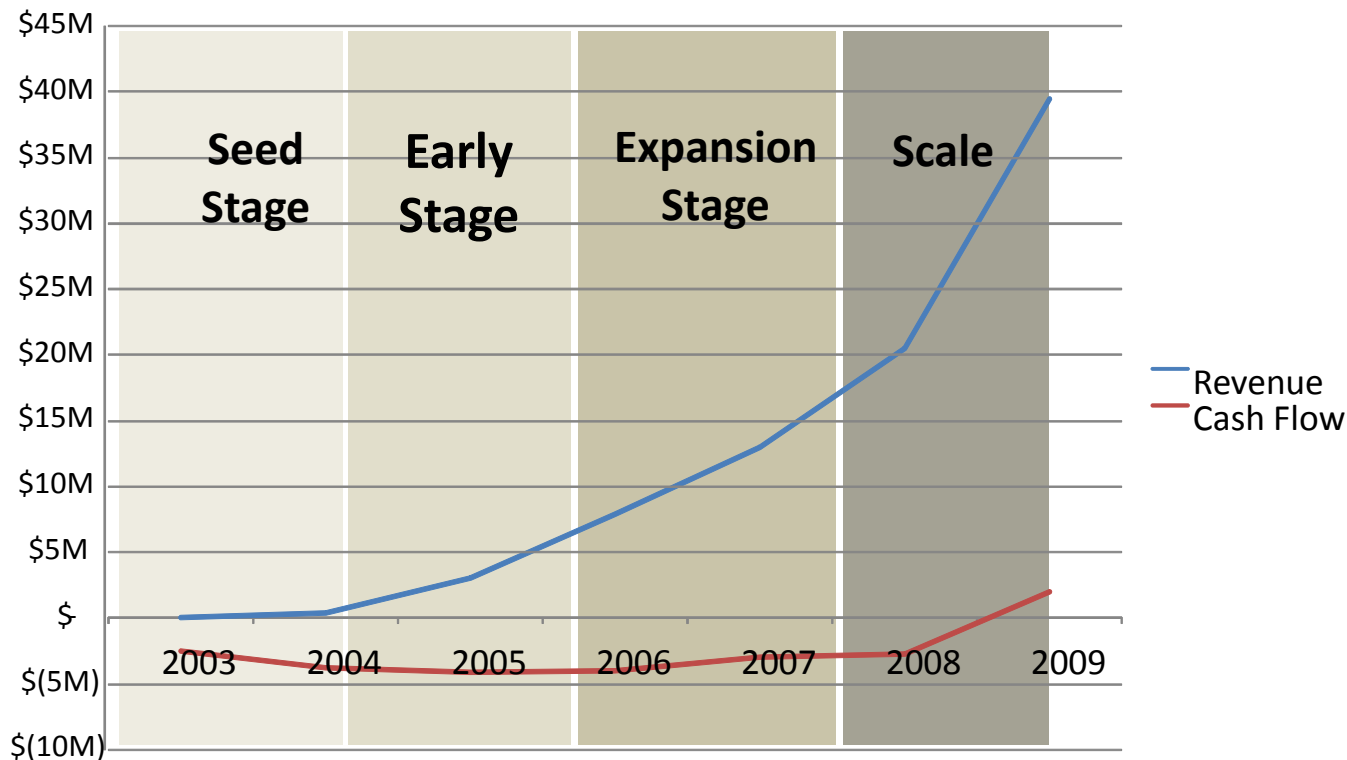
- **Stage:** After initial customer traction but prior to scale; enables 20% - 30% ownership stakes for \$2M - \$5M initial investment.
- **Capital efficient:** \$12M - \$20M of total capital.
- **Rapid growth:** revenue growth of 75% to 150% per year.
- **Contained time to exit:** reach substantive momentum and scale 5 to 6 years after investment.

Early Stage Venture Model

Case Study: Guardium

Guardium®

Guardium of Waltham, MA develops database security and compliance solutions. The Company's appliance-based *SQL Guard* product family provides visibility and control over database activity. Guardium's solutions address concerns such as security assessment, auditing, access policy control, and regulatory compliance.



November 2009



acquires

Guardium®

How Companies Break the Model

- **Raise too much capital**
- **Too many 'resets' or major changes**
- **Slow growth**
- **Too long to an outcome**

What Does this Mean for Entrepreneurs

- **Make sure your business model fits venture**
- **Target those groups where there is a strong fit**
- **Network to get in (nothing new)**
- **Be prepared to work with a VC**



What gets us Excited

Common relationships, experiences – a connection



What gets us Excited

Relevant experience and unique insight into market



What gets us Excited

Highly scalable business model



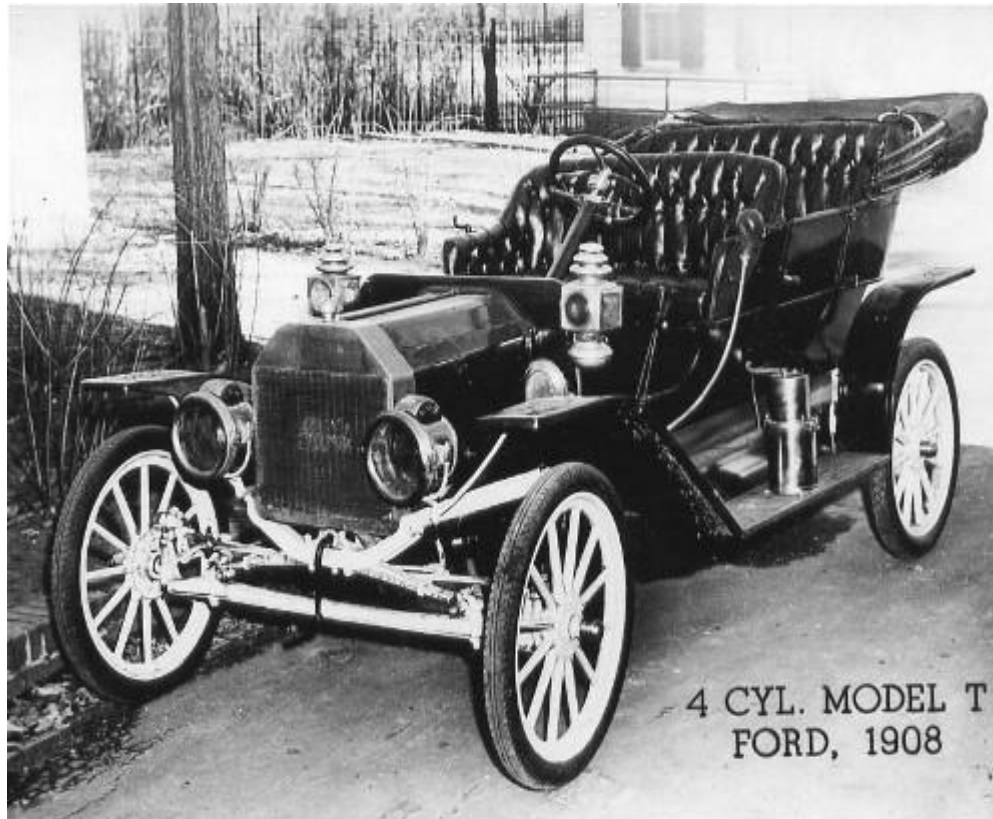
What gets us Excited

Prove you can do a lot with a little



What gets us Excited

Early traction we can extrapolate from



What gets us Excited

Understand working with a VC partner



Thank You

Questions?