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**NEW!**



# Business Model Generation

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# Business Model Generation

*A Handbook for Visionaries, Game Changers, and Challengers*

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470 practitioners from 45 countries



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Are you an entrepreneurial spirit?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Are you constantly thinking about how to create value and build new businesses, or how to improve or transform your organization?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Are you trying to find innovative ways of doing business to replace old, outdated ones?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_



If you've answered  
“yes” to any of these  
questions, welcome  
to our group!

You're holding a handbook for visionaries, game changers, and challengers striving to defy outmoded business models and design tomorrow's enterprises. It's a book for the business model generation.

Today countless innovative business models are emerging. Entirely new industries are forming as old ones crumble. Upstarts are challenging the old guard, some of whom are struggling feverishly to reinvent themselves.

How do you imagine your organization's business model might look two, five, or ten years from now? Will you be among the dominant players? Will you face competitors brandishing formidable new business models?

This book will give you deep insight into the nature of business models. It describes traditional and bleeding-edge models and their dynamics, innovation techniques, how to position your model within an intensely competitive landscape, and how to lead the redesign of your own organization's business model.

Certainly you've noticed that this is not the typical strategy or management book. We designed it to convey the essentials of what you need to know, quickly, simply, and in a visual format. Examples are presented pictorially and the content is complemented with exercises and workshop scenarios you can use immediately. Rather than writing a conventional book about business model innovation, we've tried to design a practical guide for visionaries, game changers, and challengers eager to design or reinvent business models. We've also worked hard to create a beautiful book to enhance the pleasure of your "consumption." We hope you enjoy using it as much as we've enjoyed creating it.

An online community complements this book (and was integral to its creation, as you will discover later). Since business model innovation is a rapidly evolving field, you may want to go beyond the essentials in *Business Model Generation* and discover new tools online. Please consider joining our worldwide community of business practitioners and researchers who have co-created this book. On the Hub you can participate in discussions about business models, learn from others' insights, and try out new tools provided by the authors. Visit the Business Model Hub at [www.BusinessModelGeneration.com/hub](http://www.BusinessModelGeneration.com/hub).

Business model innovation is hardly new. When the founders of Diners Club introduced the credit card in 1950, they were practicing business model innovation. The same goes for Xerox, when it introduced photocopier leasing and the per-copy payment system in 1959. In fact, we might trace business model innovation all the way back to the fifteenth century, when Johannes Gutenberg sought applications for the mechanical printing device he had invented.

But the scale and speed at which innovative business models are transforming industry landscapes today is unprecedented. For entrepreneurs, executives, consultants, and academics, it is high time to understand the impact of this extraordinary evolution. Now is the time to understand and to methodically address the challenge of business model innovation.

Ultimately, business model innovation is about creating value, for companies, customers, and society. It is about replacing outdated models. With its iPod digital media player and iTunes.com online store, Apple created an innovative new business model that transformed the company into the dominant force in online music. Skype brought us dirt-cheap global calling rates and free Skype-to-Skype calls with an innovative business model built on so-called peer-to-peer technology. It is now the world's largest carrier of international voice traffic. Zipcar frees city dwellers from automobile ownership by offering hourly or daily on-demand car rentals under a fee-based membership system. It's a business model response to emerging user needs and pressing environmental concerns. Grameen Bank is helping alleviate poverty through an innovative business model that popularized microlending to the poor.

But how can we systematically invent, design, and implement these powerful new business models? How can we question, challenge, and transform old, outmoded ones? How can we turn visionary ideas into game-changing business models that challenge the establishment—or rejuvenate it if we ourselves are the incumbents? *Business Model Generation* aims to give you the answers.

Since practicing is better than preaching, we adopted a new model for writing this book. Four hundred and seventy members of the Business Model Innovation Hub contributed cases, examples, and critical comments to the manuscript—and we took their feedback to heart. Read more about our experience in the final chapter of *Business Model Generation*.

# Seven Faces of Business Model Innovation



## The Senior Executive

Jean-Pierre Cuoni,  
*Chairman / EFG International*

**Focus: Establish a new business model in an old industry**

Jean-Pierre Cuoni is chairman of EFG International, a private bank with what may be the industry's most innovative business model. With EFG he is profoundly transforming the traditional relationships between bank, clients, and client relationship managers. Envisioning, crafting, and executing an innovative business model in a conservative industry with established players is an art, and one that has placed EFG International among the fastest growing banks in its sector.



## The Intrapreneur

Dagfinn Myhre,  
*Head of R&I Business Models / Telenor*

**Focus: Help exploit the latest technological developments with the right business models**

Dagfinn leads a business model unit at Telenor, one of the world's ten largest mobile telephone operators. The telecom sector demands continuous innovation, and Dagfinn's initiatives help Telenor identify and understand sustainable models that exploit the potential of the latest technological developments. Through deep analysis of key industry trends, and by developing and using leading-edge analytical tools, Dagfinn's team explores new business concepts and opportunities.



## The Entrepreneur

Mariëlle Sijgers,  
*Entrepreneur / CDEF Holding BV*

**Focus: Address unsatisfied customer needs and build new business models around them**

Mariëlle Sijgers is a full-fledged entrepreneur. Together with her business partner, Ronald van den Hoff, she's shaking up the meeting, congress, and hospitality industry with innovative business models. Led by unsatisfied customer needs, the pair has invented new concepts such as Seats2meet.com, which allows on-the-fly booking of meetings in untraditional locations. Together, Sijgers and van den Hoff constantly play with new business model ideas and launch the most promising concepts as new ventures.



### The Investor

Gert Steens, *President & Investment Analyst / Oblonski BV*

**Focus: Invest in companies with the most competitive business models**

Gert makes a living by identifying the best business models. Investing in the wrong company with the wrong model could cost his clients millions of euros and him his reputation. Understanding new and innovative business models has become a crucial part of his work. He goes far beyond the usual financial analytics and compares business models to spot strategic differences that may impart a competitive edge. Gert is constantly seeking business model innovations.



### The Consultant

Bas van Oosterhout, *Senior Consultant / Capgemini Consulting*

**Focus: Help clients question their business models, and envision and build new ones**

Bas is part of Capgemini's Business Innovation Team. Together with his clients, he is passionate about boosting performance and renewing competitiveness through innovation. Business Model Innovation is now a core component of his work because of its high relevance to client projects. His aim is to inspire and assist clients with new business models, from ideation to implementation. To achieve this, Bas draws on his understanding of the most powerful business models, regardless of industry.



### The Designer

Trish Papadakos, *Sole Proprietor / The Institute of You*

**Focus: Find the right business model to launch an innovative product**

Trish is a talented young designer who is particularly skilled at grasping an idea's essence and weaving it into client communications. Currently she's working on one of her own ideas, a service that helps people who are transitioning between careers. After weeks of in-depth research, she's now tackling the design. Trish knows she'll have to figure out the right business model to bring her service to market. She understands the client-facing part—that's what she works on daily as a designer. But, since she lacks formal business education, she needs the vocabulary and tools to take on the big picture.



### The Conscientious Entrepreneur

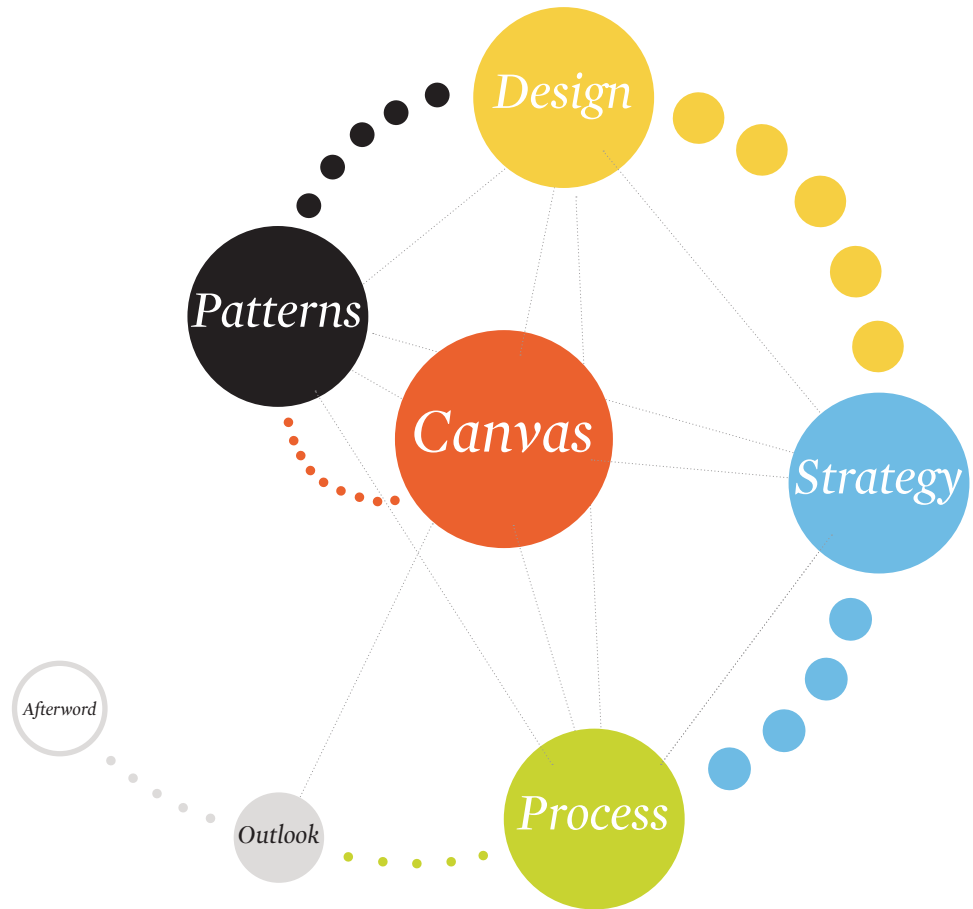
Iqbal Quadir, *Social Entrepreneur / Founder of Grameen Phone*

**Focus: Bring about positive social and economic change through innovative business models**

Iqbal is constantly on the lookout for innovative business models with the potential for profound social impact. His transformative model brought telephone service to over 100 million Bangladeshis, utilizing Grameen Bank's microcredit network. He is now searching for a new model for bringing affordable electricity to the poor. As the head of MIT's Legatum Center, he promotes technological empowerment through innovative businesses as a path to economic and social development.

# Table of Contents

The book is divided into five sections: ❶ The Business Model Canvas, a tool for describing, analyzing, and designing business models, ❷ Business Model Patterns, based on concepts from leading business thinkers, ❸ Techniques to help you design business models, ❹ Re-interpreting strategy through the business model lens, and ❺ A generic process to help you design innovative business models, tying together all the concepts, techniques, and tools in *Business Model Generation*. ● The last section offers an outlook on five business model topics for future exploration. ○ Finally, the afterword provides a peek into “the making of” *Business Model Generation*.



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*Car*



*was*



# *The Business Model Canvas*

*A shared language for describing, visualizing,  
assessing, and changing business models*



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Business Model

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Canvas Template

## Def\_Business Model

A business model describes the rationale of how an organization creates, delivers, and captures value

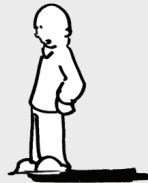
The starting point for any good discussion, meeting, or workshop on business model innovation should be a shared understanding of what a business model actually is. We need a business model concept that everybody understands: one that facilitates description and discussion. We need to start from the same point and talk about the same thing. The challenge is that the concept must be simple, relevant, and intuitively understandable, while not oversimplifying the complexities of how enterprises function.

In the following pages we offer a concept that allows you to describe and think through the business model of your organization, your competitors, or any other enterprise. This concept has been applied and tested around the world and is already used in organizations such as IBM, Ericsson, Deloitte, the Public Works and Government Services of Canada, and many more.

This concept can become a shared language that allows you to easily describe and manipulate business models to create new strategic alternatives. Without such a shared language it is difficult to systematically challenge assumptions about one's business model and innovate successfully.

We believe a business model can best be described through nine basic building blocks that show the logic of how a company intends to make money. The nine blocks cover the four main areas of a business: customers, offer, infrastructure, and financial viability. The business model is like a blueprint for a strategy to be implemented through organizational structures, processes, and systems.

# The 9 Building Blocks



CS

**1 Customer Segments**

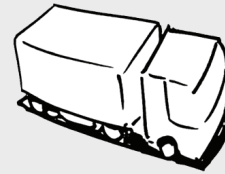
*An organization serves one or several Customer Segments.*



VP

**2 Value Propositions**

*It seeks to solve customer problems and satisfy customer needs with value propositions.*



CH

**3 Channels**

*Value propositions are delivered to customers through communication, distribution, and sales Channels.*



CR

**4 Customer Relationships**

*Customer relationships are established and maintained with each Customer Segment.*



R\$

### 5 Revenue Streams

*Revenue streams result from value propositions successfully offered to customers.*



KR

### 6 Key Resources

*Key resources are the assets required to offer and deliver the previously described elements ...*



KA

### 7 Key Activities

*... by performing a number of Key Activities.*



KP

### 8 Key Partnerships

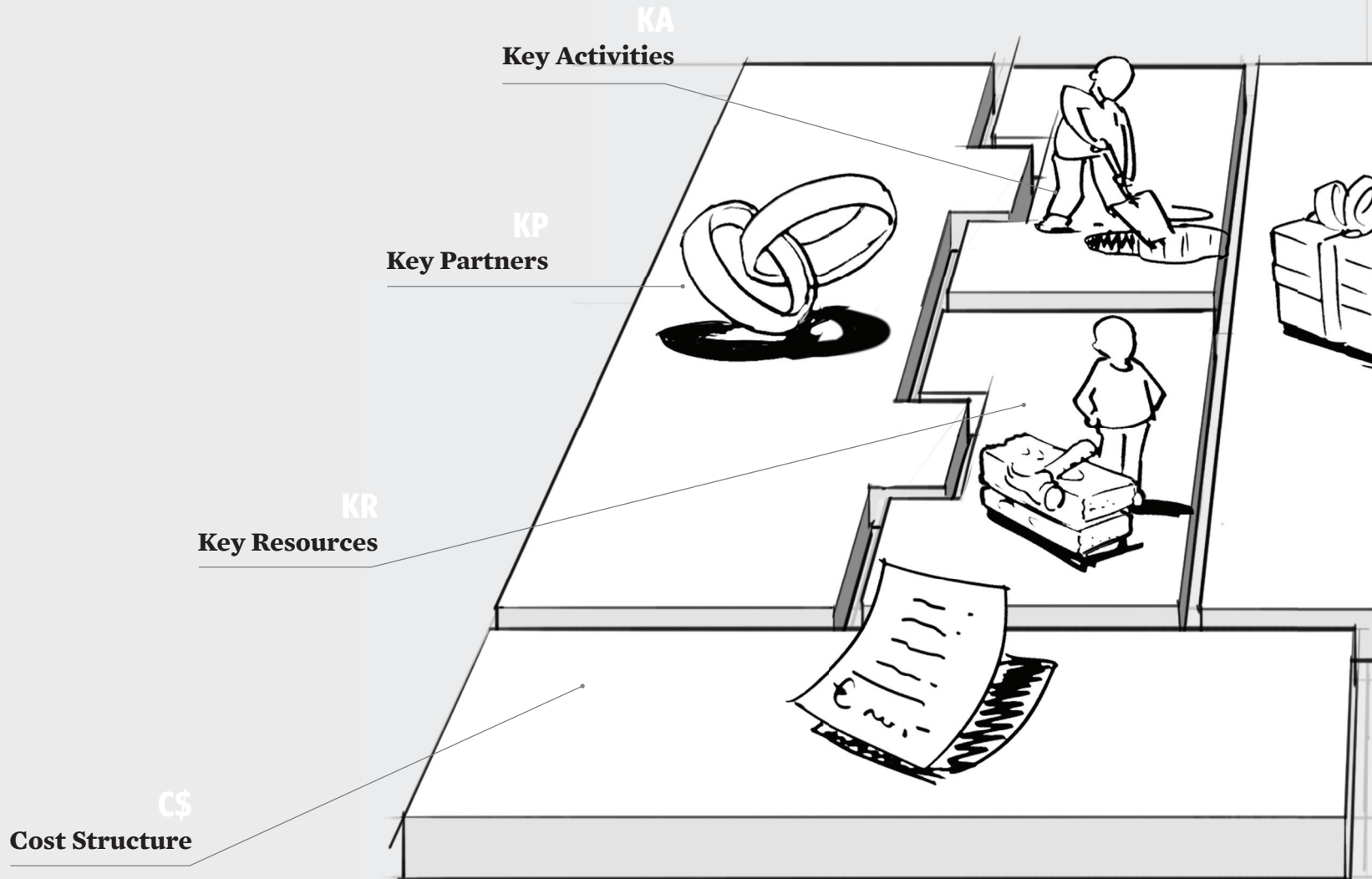
*Some activities are outsourced and some resources are acquired outside the enterprise.*



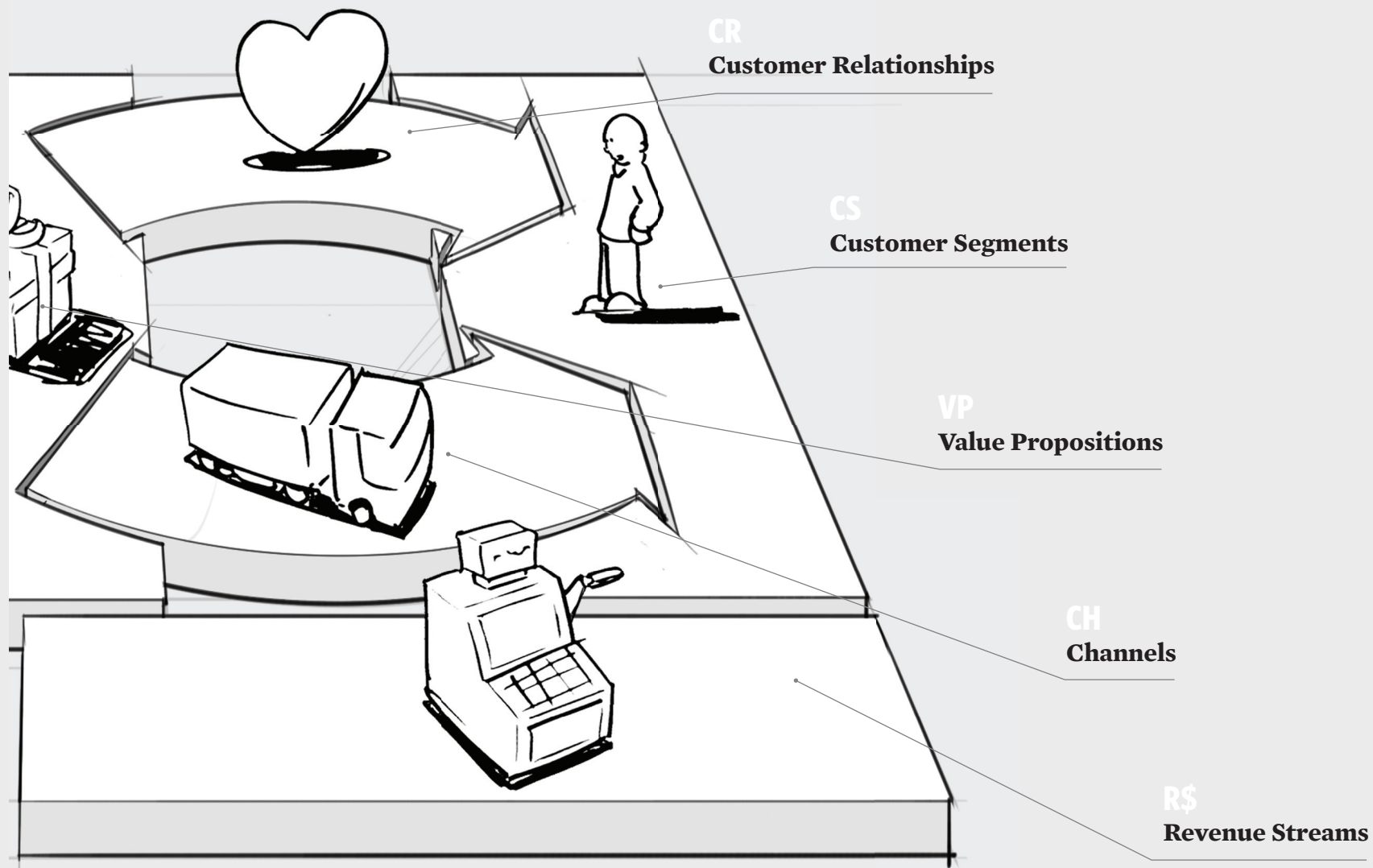
C\$

### 9 Cost Structure

*The business model elements result in the cost structure.*







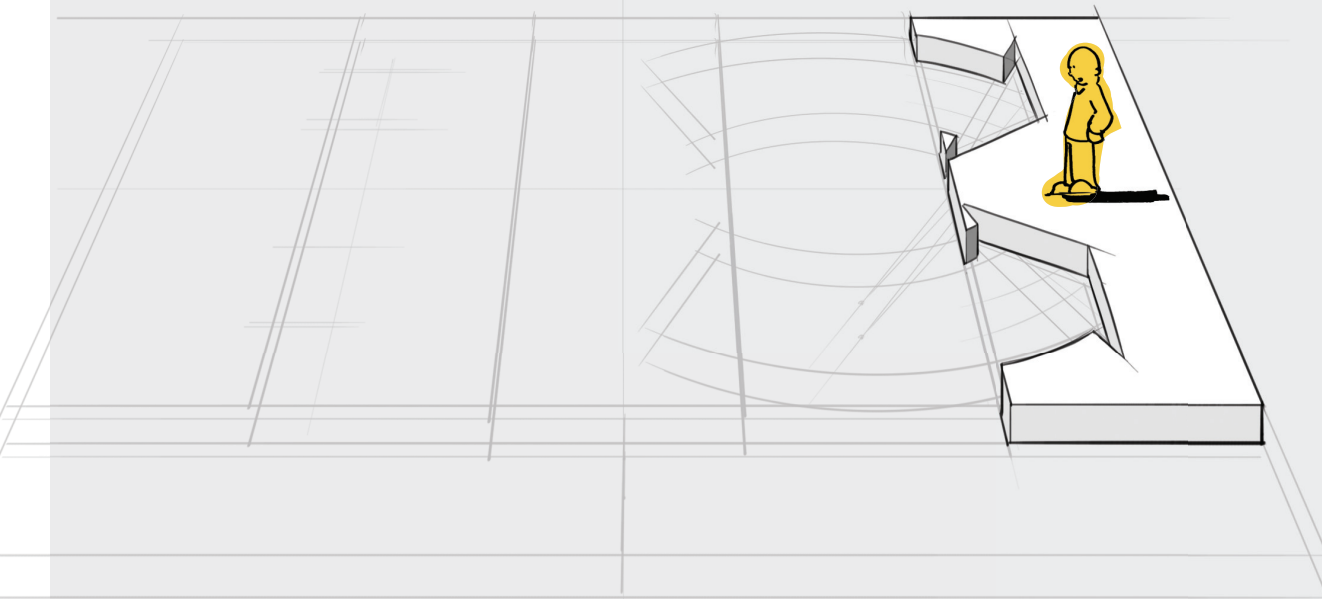
# Customer Segments

**The Customer Segments Building Block defines the different groups of people or organizations an enterprise aims to reach and serve**

Customers comprise the heart of any business model. Without (profitable) customers, no company can survive for long. In order to better satisfy customers, a company may group them into distinct segments with common needs, common behaviors, or other attributes. A business model may define one or several large or small Customer Segments. An organization must make a conscious decision about which segments to serve and which segments to ignore. Once this decision is made, a business model can be carefully designed around a strong understanding of specific customer needs.

Customer groups represent separate segments if:

- *Their needs require and justify a distinct offer*
- *They are reached through different Distribution Channels*
- *They require different types of relationships*
- *They have substantially different profitabilities*
- *They are willing to pay for different aspects of the offer*



# For whom are we creating value?

## Who are our most important customers?

*There are different types of Customer Segments.*

*Here are some examples:*

### **Mass market**

Business models focused on mass markets don't distinguish between different Customer Segments. The Value Propositions, Distribution Channels, and Customer Relationships all focus on one large group of customers with broadly similar needs and problems. This type of business model is often found in the consumer electronics sector.

### **Niche market**

Business models targeting niche markets cater to specific, specialized Customer Segments. The Value Propositions, Distribution Channels, and Customer Relationships are all tailored to the specific requirements of a niche market. Such business models are often found in supplier-buyer relationships. For example, many car part manufacturers depend heavily on purchases from major automobile manufacturers.

### **Segmented**

Some business models distinguish between market segments with slightly different needs and problems. The retail arm of a bank like Credit Suisse, for example, may distinguish between a large group of customers, each possessing assets of up to U.S. \$100,000, and a smaller group of affluent clients, each of whose net worth exceeds U.S. \$500,000. Both segments have similar but varying needs and problems. This has implications for the other building blocks of Credit Suisse's business model, such as the Value Proposition, Distribution Channels, Customer Relationships, and Revenue streams. Consider Micro Precision Systems, which specializes in providing outsourced micromechanical design and manufacturing solutions. It serves three different Customer Segments—the watch industry, the medical industry, and the industrial automation sector—and offers each slightly different Value Propositions.

### **Diversified**

An organization with a diversified customer business model serves two unrelated Customer Segments with very different needs and problems. For example, in 2006 Amazon.com decided to diversify its retail business by selling “cloud computing” services: online storage space and on-demand server usage. Thus it started catering to a totally different Customer Segment—Web companies—with a totally different Value Proposition. The strategic rationale behind this diversification can be found in Amazon.com's powerful IT infrastructure, which can be shared by its retail sales operations and the new cloud computing service unit.

### **Multi-sided platforms (or multi-sided markets)**

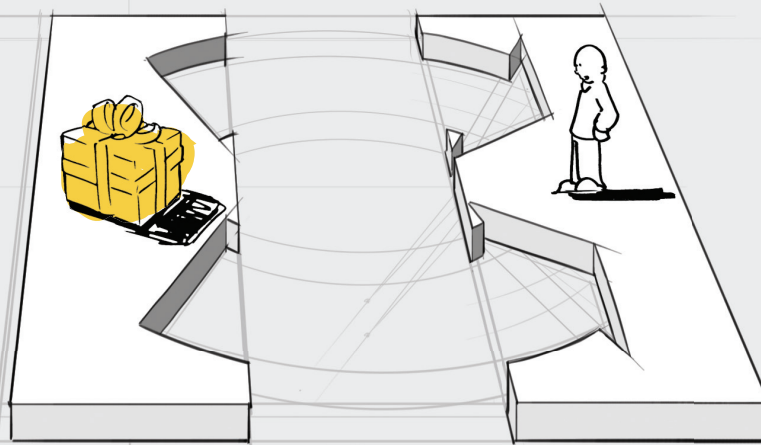
Some organizations serve two or more interdependent Customer Segments. A credit card company, for example, needs a large base of credit card holders and a large base of merchants who accept those credit cards. Similarly, an enterprise offering a free newspaper needs a large reader base to attract advertisers. On the other hand, it also needs advertisers to finance production and distribution. Both segments are required to make the business model work (read more about multi-sided platforms on p. 76).

# Value Propositions

**The Value Propositions Building Block describes the bundle of products and services that create value for a specific Customer Segment**

The Value Proposition is the reason why customers turn to one company over another. It solves a customer problem or satisfies a customer need. Each Value Proposition consists of a selected bundle of products and/or services that caters to the requirements of a specific Customer Segment. In this sense, the Value Proposition is an aggregation, or bundle, of benefits that a company offers customers.

Some Value Propositions may be innovative and represent a new or disruptive offer. Others may be similar to existing market offers, but with added features and attributes.



What value do we deliver to the customer?  
 Which one of our customer's problems are we helping to solve? Which customer needs are we satisfying?  
 What bundles of products and services are we offering to each Customer Segment?

*A Value Proposition creates value for a Customer Segment through a distinct mix of elements catering to that segment's needs. Values may be quantitative (e.g. price, speed of service) or qualitative (e.g. design, customer experience).*

*Elements from the following non-exhaustive list can contribute to customer value creation.*

#### **Newness**

Some Value Propositions satisfy an entirely new set of needs that customers previously didn't perceive because there was no similar offering. This is often, but not always, technology related. Cell phones,

for instance, created a whole new industry around mobile telecommunication. On the other hand, products such as ethical investment funds have little to do with new technology.

#### **Performance**

Improving product or service performance has traditionally been a common way to create value. The PC sector has traditionally relied on this factor by bringing more powerful machines to market. But improved performance has its limits. In recent years, for example, faster PCs, more disk storage space, and better graphics have failed to produce corresponding growth in customer demand.

#### **Customization**

Tailoring products and services to the specific needs of individual customers or Customer Segments creates value. In recent years, the concepts of mass customization and customer co-creation have gained importance. This approach allows for customized products and services, while still taking advantage of economies of scale.