

Formprint – Channel Conflict



What's your decision?

- Projected breakeven between ISR and Direct
- Feasibility of success of either approach
- Is the ISR option viable?

The Facts of the Case

- 3D modeling industry
- Additive vs subtractive manufacturing
- Why does it matter?
- New Ortho500
- Competitive market
- Distribution options

Ortho500

- Why does marketing want ISRs?
- Why go after the non hospital market?
- How much different is the sales cycle?

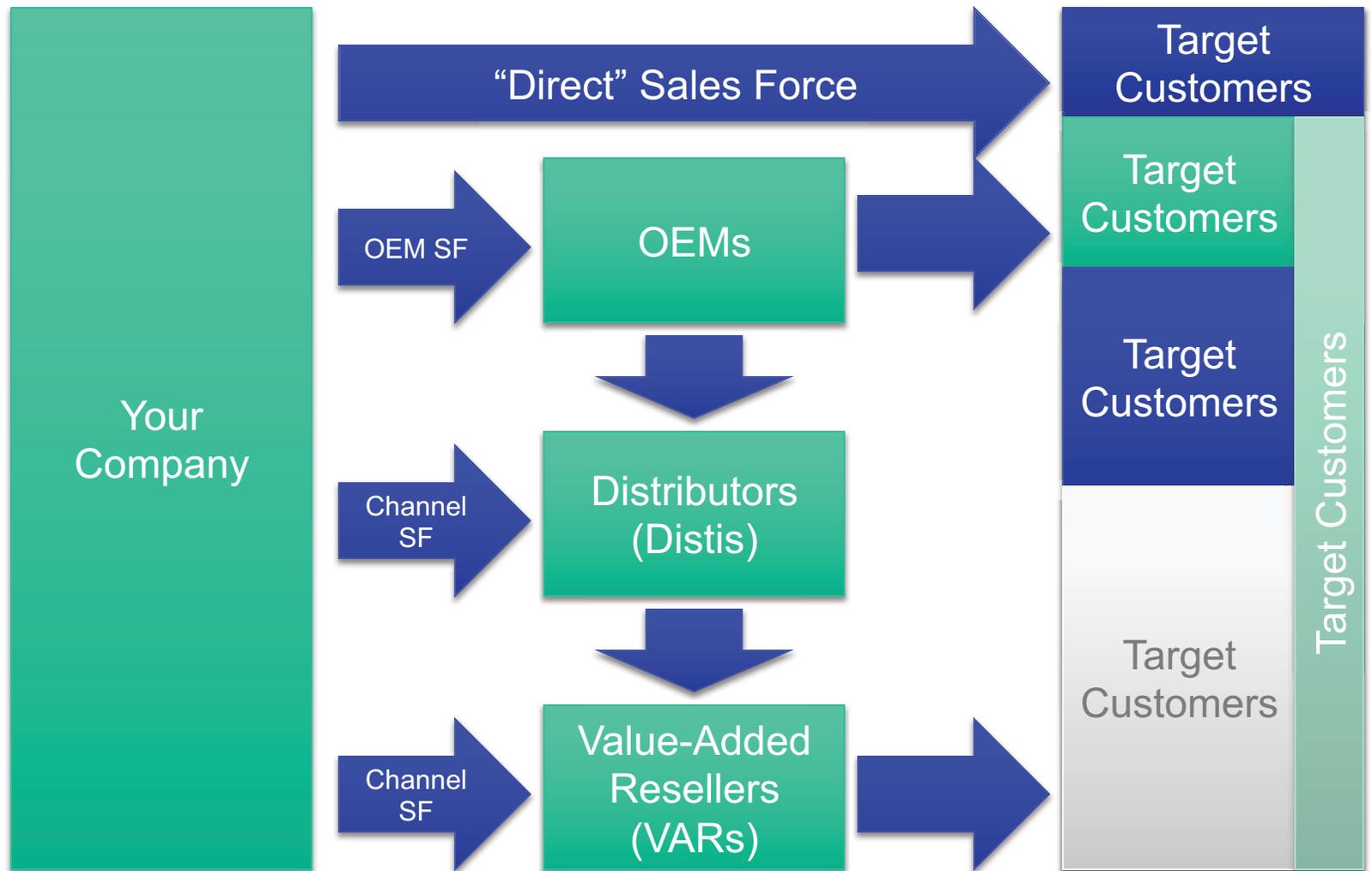
ISRs

- What are benefits
- What's the cost of sale?

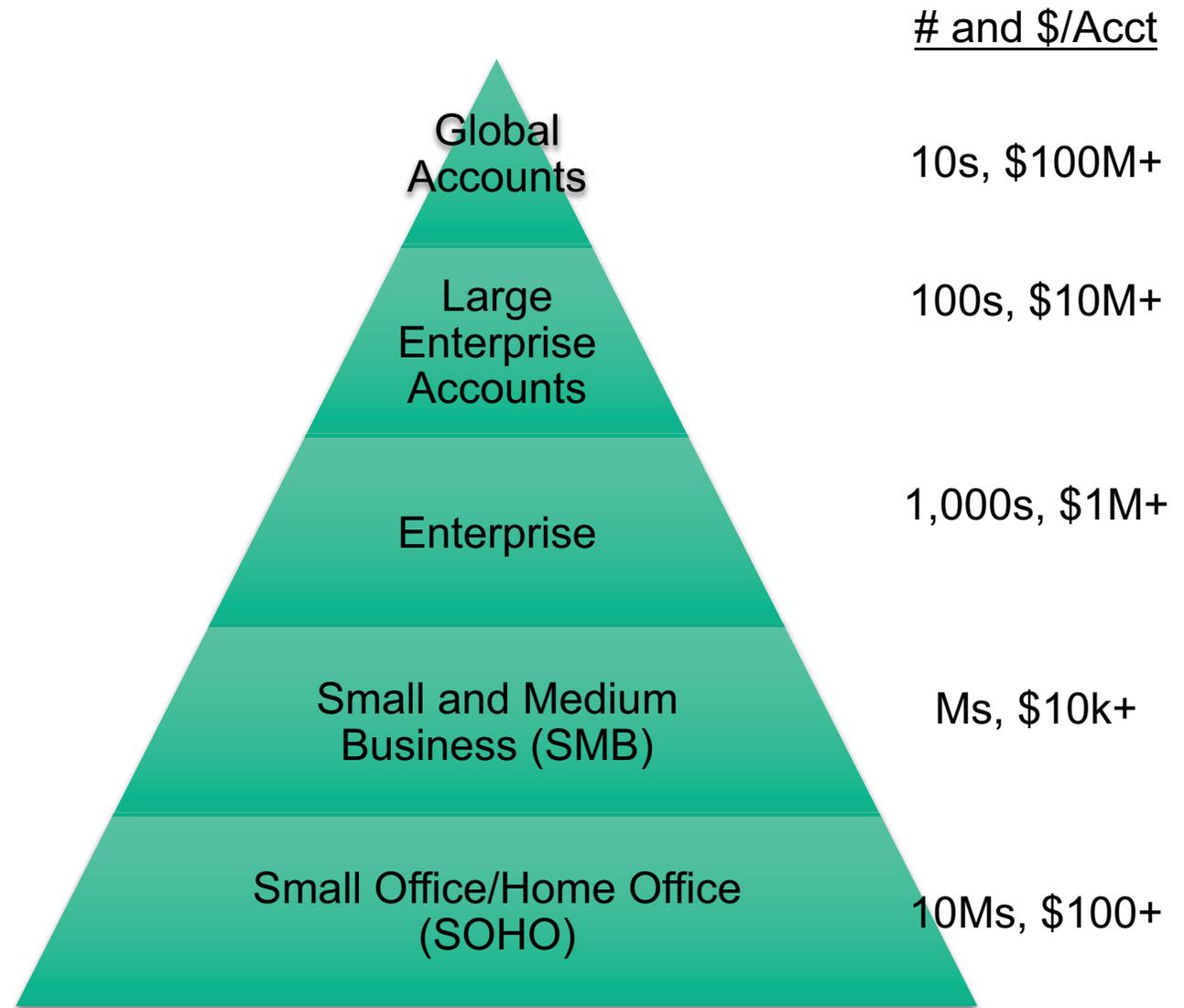
Run the numbers



Sales Channels



Coverage vs. Cost to Serve



Different Financial Models

	Direct Sales	Channel Sales	OEM Sales
Gross Sales	100	100	100
Discount %	0%	15%	50%
Net Sales	100	85	50
COGS	10	10	10
GM	90	75	40
GM%	90%	75%	40%
Sales Expense	30	5	1
Marketing	20	35	0
R&D	20	20	24
G&A	5	5	5
Net Profit	15	10	10

Diagram annotations: A blue arrow labeled "Reduce this" points from the Direct Sales Sales Expense (30) to the Channel Sales Sales Expense (5). A blue arrow labeled "To fund" points from the Channel Sales Sales Expense (5) to the Channel Sales Net Sales (85). Another blue arrow points from the OEM Sales Sales Expense (1) to the OEM Sales Net Sales (50).

Is channel conflict good?

Strengths of the Channel

- They often already know the customers
- They are selling products that complement yours
- They only get paid when they make a sale
- They may or may not have inventory
- They are a form of leverage

What are the downsides of Channel?



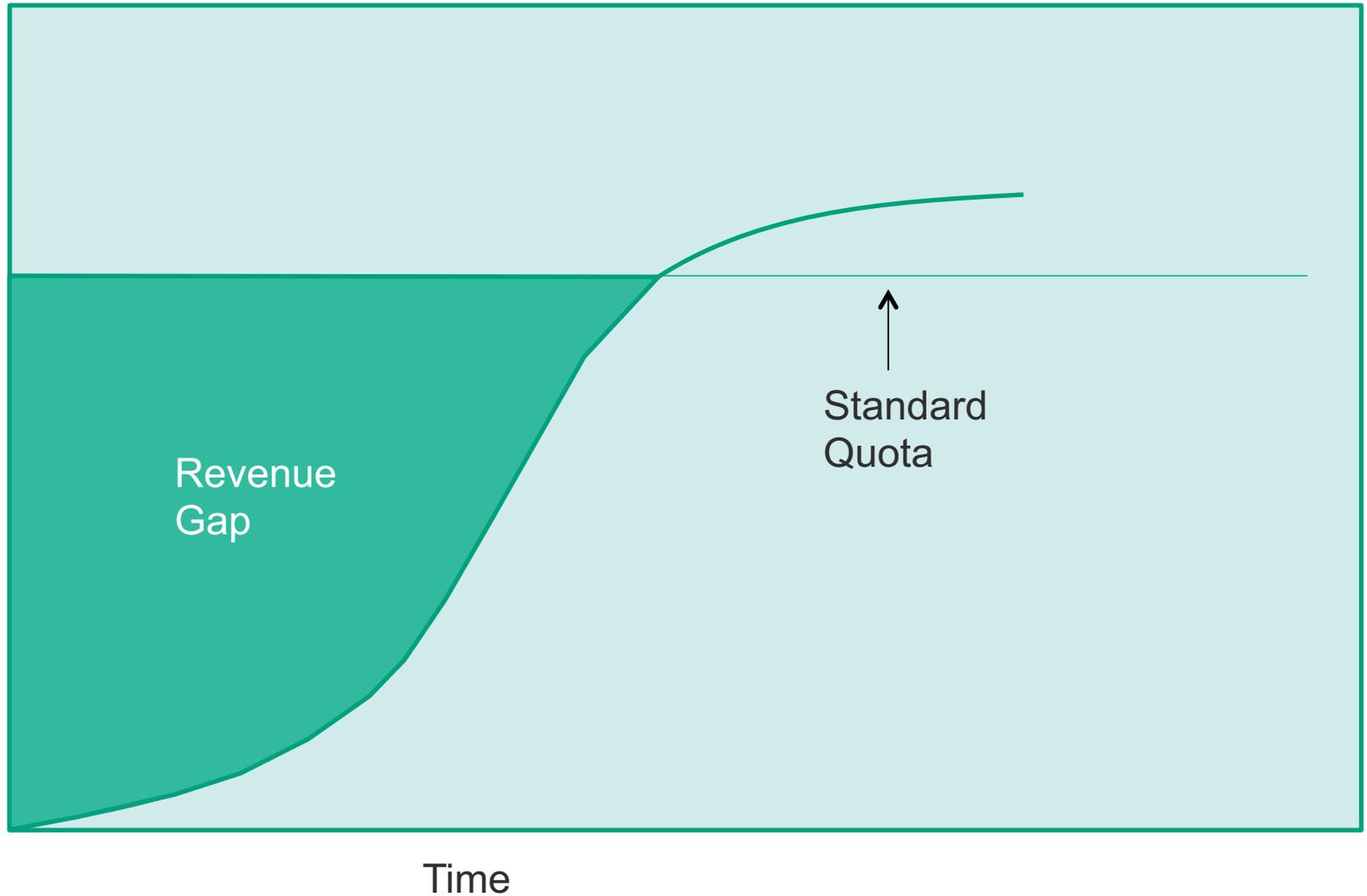
Downsides of the Channel

- They usually ONLY call on existing accounts
- They are very protective of those accounts
- They may switch suppliers at any time.
- They cover certain industries and certain geographies... but not necessarily where you need them
- Their attention is split between multiple suppliers

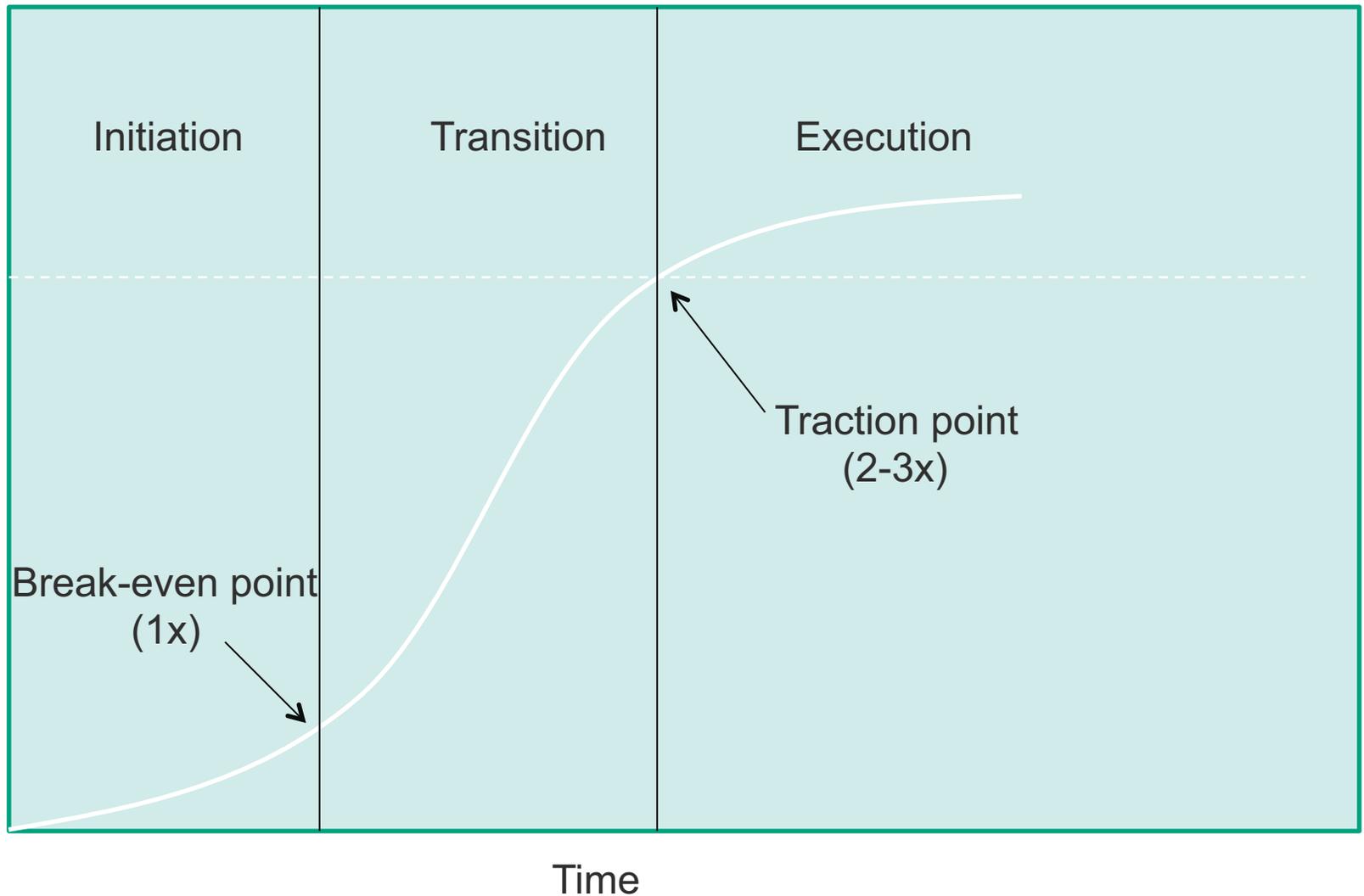
What else?

- They sometimes get purchased
- They have little true loyalty
- They are a barrier between you and the customer
- They are less profitable than direct ...
or are they?

Sales Learning Curve



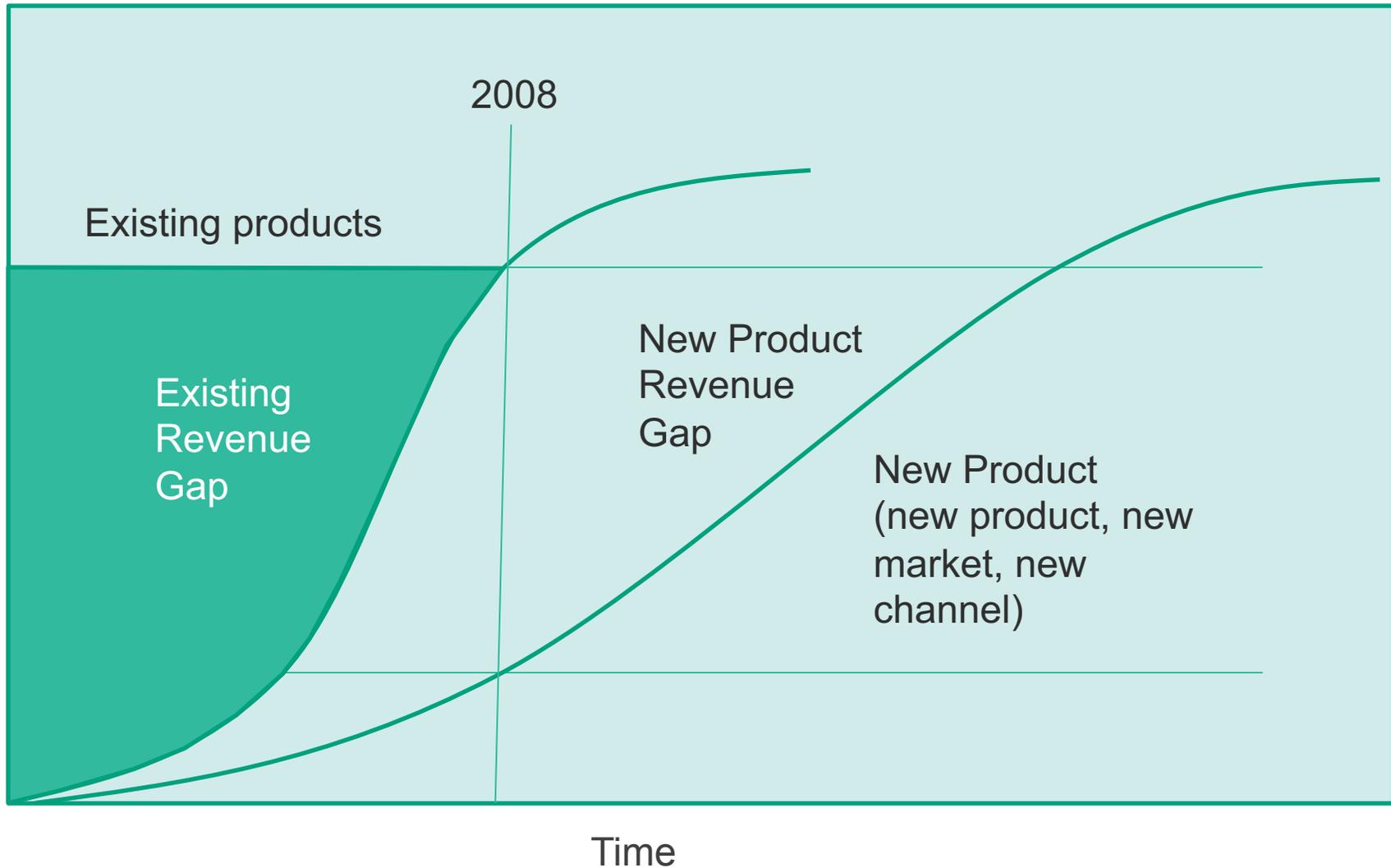
Ramping up the learning curve



Characteristics of each phase

- Initiation
 - ▶ renaissance rep
 - ▶ Passionate about technology
 - ▶ Comfortable with ambiguity
 - ▶ Resourceful – creates own sales tools
 - ▶ Catalyst for communication between customers and company – product marketing
- Transition
 - Begin structure/territories
 - Quota bearing
- Execution
 - ▶ Hustle, pace
 - ▶ Structured, organized
 - ▶ Wants clarity of product value prop, target market, sales cycle, etc.
 - ▶ Just wants to sell!

Tale of two products



Your channel as your customer

- How do you
 - ▶ Recruit
 - ▶ Train
 - ▶ Manage
 - ▶ Quota
 - ▶ Support
 - ▶ terminate

Sales cultures

- Direct - EMC
- Channel - Citrix
- Systems Integrator - SAP
- OEM - Intel

How does a channel partner make money

- Economics of:
 - ▶ Taking on a new product
 - ▶ Training your team
 - ▶ Quota
 - ▶ Competing with other partners

Sales Organization

- Who does channel report to:
 - ▶ VP Sales
 - ▶ GEO leader
- How does the channel get paid

What else...

- They themselves may have channel issues...
- Their indirect channel may be competing with your direct/indirect channel
- They cannot necessarily police their channel any better than you can yours

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

15.387 Entrepreneurial Sales
Spring 2015

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.