Guerilla Production Tactics

Unconventional Supply Chains for Unconventional Products **@bunniestudios**

I Like to Make Hardware

I Have Many Strange Projects...



Most are "Boutique" Projects...



Produced in Low Volume, Few Customers...



Boutique Hardware:

Unique Idea, Small Market;

No Investors

How to Make?

One Common Approach: "Look Before You Leap"



Problem: It's Scary...



Another Common Approach: "Fail Forward Fast"



Problem: Only Unicorns Can Fly, Normal People Fall



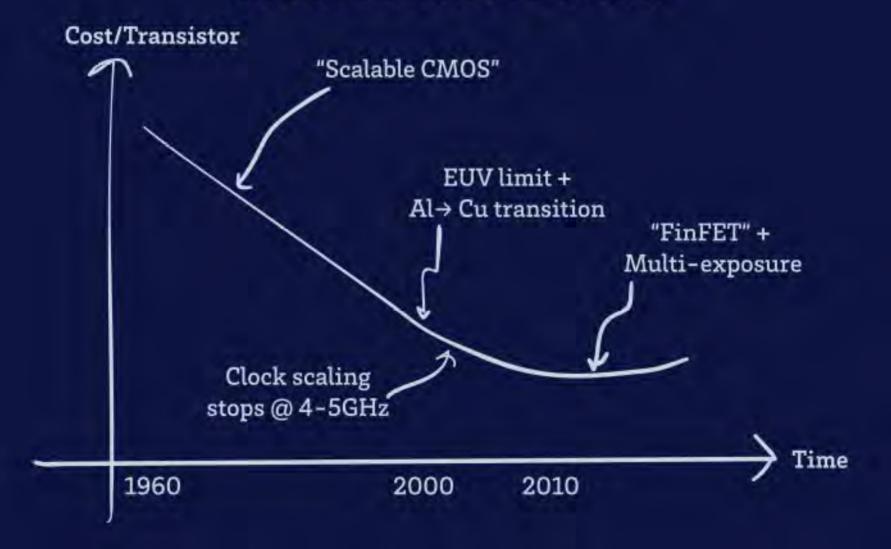
So How Do I Make? "Guerilla Production Tactics"

Three Factors that Enable Guerilla Production Tactics

- 1) The Ending of Moore's Law
- 2) The Normalization of Open Innovation
- 3) Crowdfunding

Factor #1: Moore's Law is Dead

Moore's Law is Dead



Meaning: More Investment Does Not Mean More Performance

2009 Maker vs Corporation



- Arduino Uno
- 20 MHz, single core



- iPhone 3GS
- 600 MHz, single core

2019 Maker vs Corporation



- Raspberry Pi 3B+
- 1.4 GHz quad-core



- iPhone XR
- 2.49 GHz hexa-core

Old Capability Approaches New Capability

• Chips used in older products now less different from chips in new products



Similar Trend in Manufacturing



\$1mm investment in top-of-line
Assembly equipment

Depreciate 3 yrs, sell as Scrap for \$100k

Use for 10 yrs, sell as scrap For \$10k

Picked up by small factories (but same capability)

High-end capability for low price

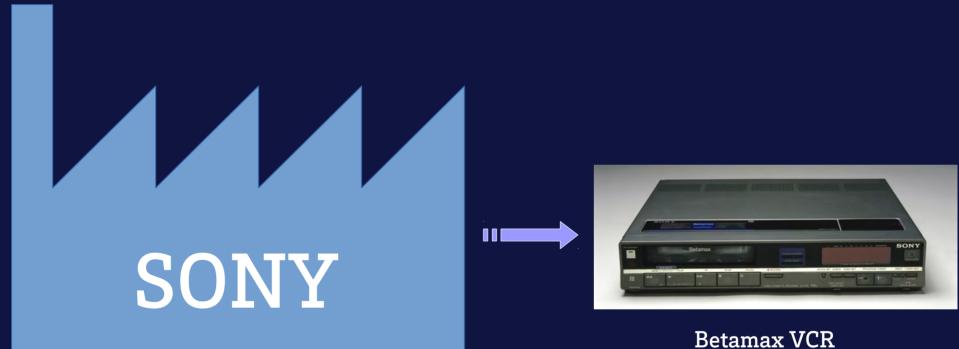
Summary: Impact of Moore no More

- More investment does not mean more performance
- Smaller gap between "old" and "new" parts
- Smaller gap between "old" and "new" factories

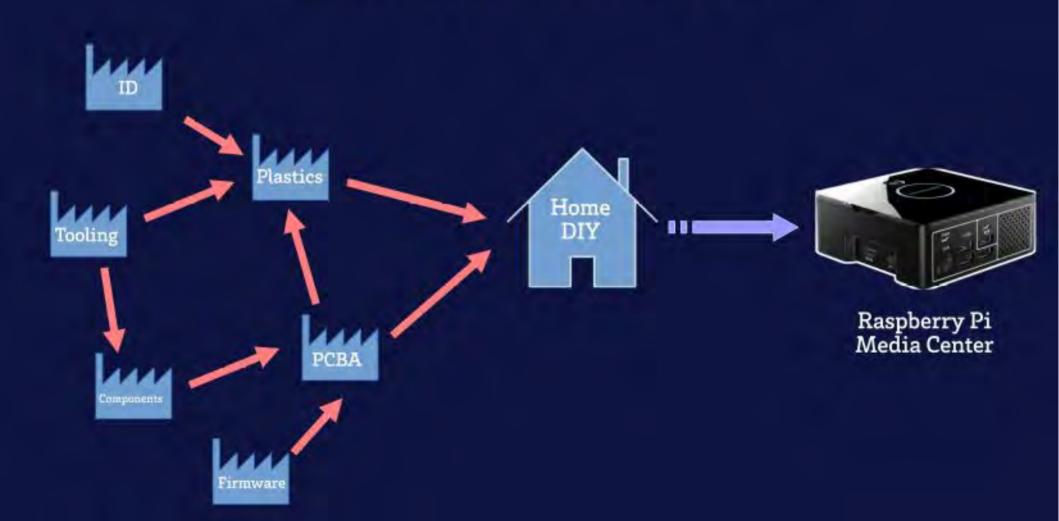
- Think like guerilla:
 - Consider smaller/older factories
 - Use existing modules and parts to reduce engineering and risk (less make more buy)
 - Older, cheaper modules can be "good enough"

Factor #2: Normalization of Open Innovation

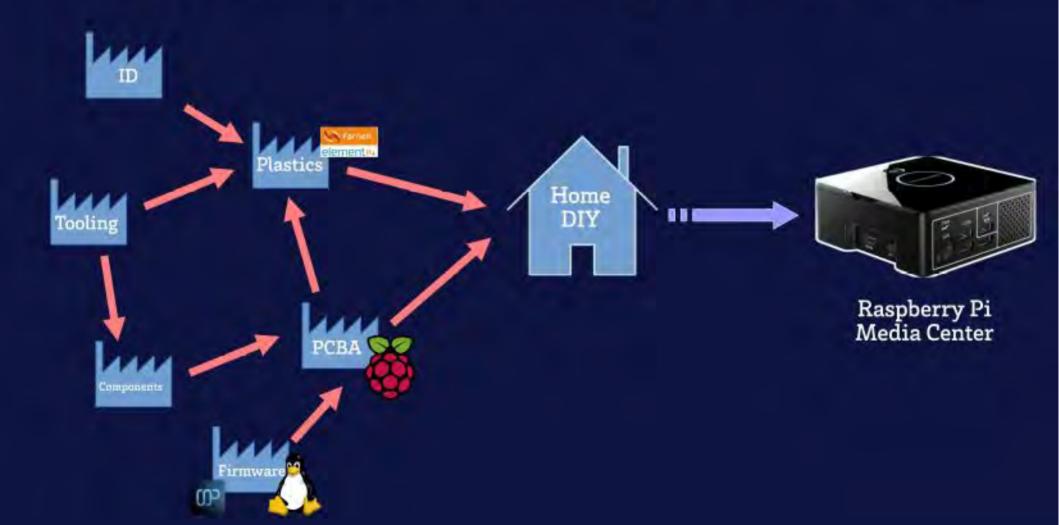
Before Open Innovation



After Open Innovation



Innovators Can Focus on One Specialty Yet "Full Stack" Product Emerges from Network



Betamax





Betamax



SONY



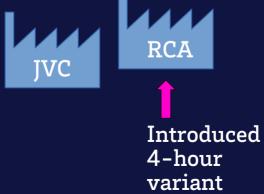


Betamax









Betamax



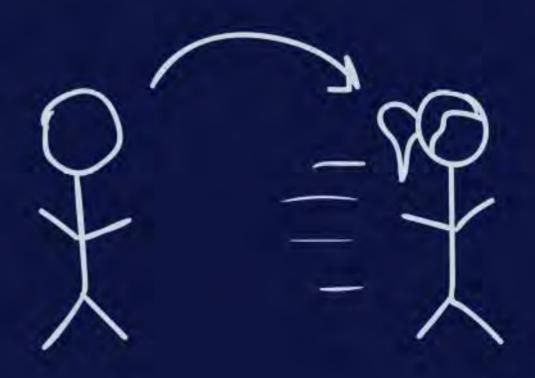






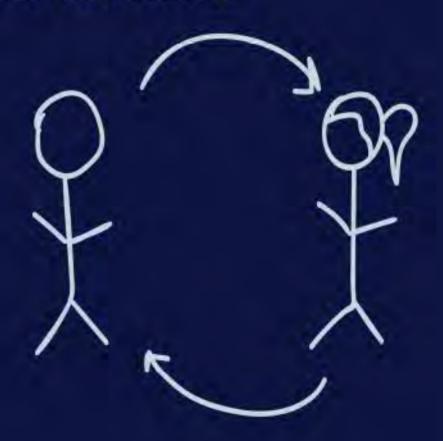
Open Innovation: Don't Be Afraid to Share

 Concern: sharing means your idea will be stolen



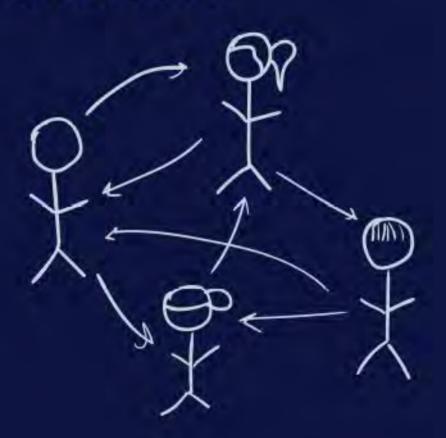
Open Innovation: Don't Be Afraid to Share

- Reality: you can "steal back" any improvements
 - Also known as "collaboration"



Open Innovation: Don't Be Afraid to Share

- · Why it works:
 - Sharing unlocks a network of collaborators
 - Legal licenses (GPL, CC-SA) set expectations of reciprocity
 - Cheaters who steal face network pressure to comply



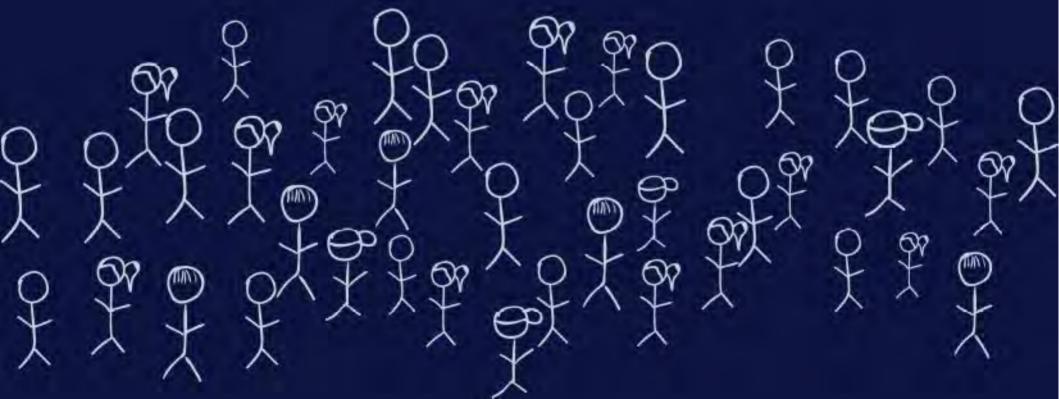
...But Wouldn't it Be Great if Collaborators Could Also Finance Each Other?



Factor #3: Crowdfunding

What is Crowdfunding?

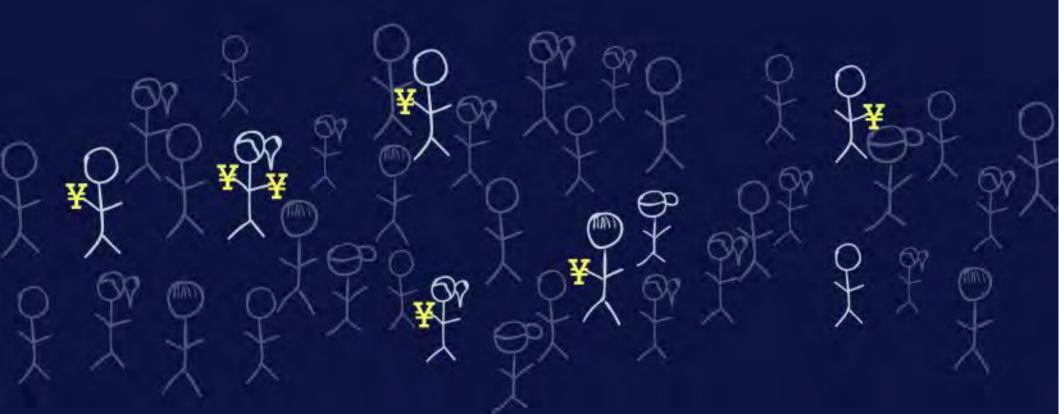
It's Exploring a Network People



Finding the Real Customers



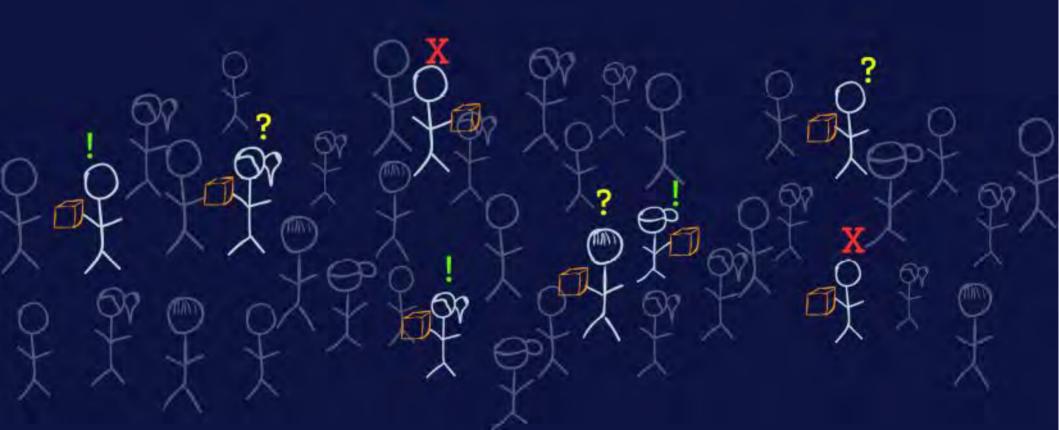
Gathering Support at a Level They Can Afford



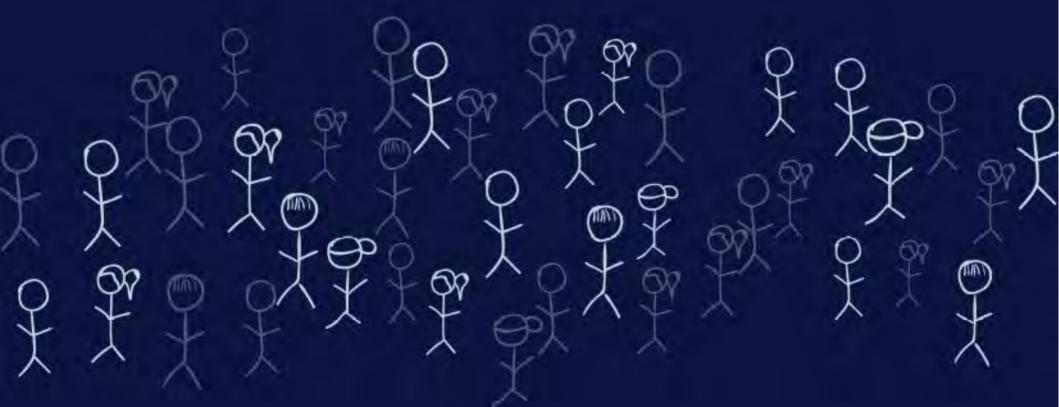
Solving Their Problem With Your Product



Sharing in Their Feedback, Ideas & Improvements



Thus Improving, so You Can Grow Your Customer Base



Crowdfunding

- A method to:
 - Validate market
 - Gather early adopters
 - Raise money
 - Improve your product in manageable stages

Crowdfunding vs. Venture Capital (VC)

Benefits

- Backers care more about your technology than your profitability
- No debt, no investors more control
- Less effort than pitching, managing VC

Drawbacks

- Smaller amount of money raised
- Best results when you are humble
 - VC has best results when you exaggerate
- Brutally open process

Case Study: Novena



It Started Actually as a Router...



Thanks to Lots of Open Source Components



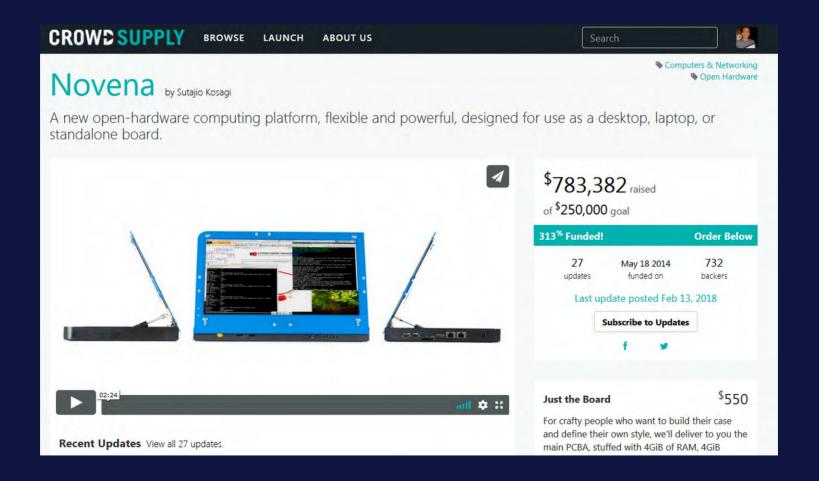


I Could Hack it Into a "Laptop"

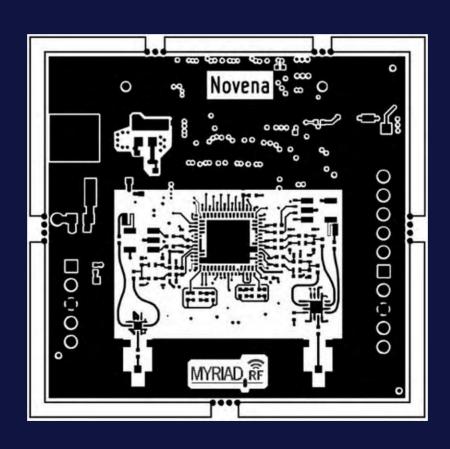




Crowdfunded!



Users Spoke Up About Their Favorite Use Case, An Open-Source SDR...



Production Moved Ahead...



Lots of CNCs



Built Originally by Investment in Smartphones...



And a Small Production Line



Finally, on Customer's Desks!



http://www.taoexmachina.com/images/novena1.jpg

My Happy Outcome

- Understood open laptop market much better
- Realized it's not my thing
- Other businesses now doing it...



So, What Was this? Look Before You Leap? Fail Forward Fast?



My Approach: "Shuffle Forward With Conviction"



How to Take Small Steps with Confidence? "Guerilla Tactics" Recap

- 1) End of Moore's Law:
 More Invesment is not Always Better
 Innovation "Trickle Down" to Makers
- 2) Normalization of Open Innovation: Sharing ideas enables specialization Virality drives adoption
- 3) Crowdfunding:
 Low-risk validation of market
 Funding directly from customers with aligned interests

Thank You! @bunniestudios

