# The New Economics of E-Commerce: Interpreting the Marketplace



## Robert J. Kauffman

Carlson School of Management University of Minnesota



Based on (1) R. J. Kauffman and E. A. Walden, "Economics and Electronic Commerce: Survey and Directions for Research," *International Journal of Electronic Commerce*, 5, 4 (June 2001), 4-115, (2) Q. Dai and R. J. Kauffman, "Business Models for Internet-Based E-Procurement and B2B Electronic Markets: An Exploratory Study, in *Proceedings of the 34<sup>th</sup> Hawaii International Conference on Systems Science*, Maui, HI, January 2001, IEEE Computer Society Press, Los Alamitos, CA, 2001, (3) A. M. Chircu and R. J. Kauffman, "Reintermediation Strategies in Business-to-Business Electronic Commerce," *International Journal of Electronic Commerce*, 4, 4 (Summer 2000), 7-42, and (4) A. M. Chircu and R. J. Kauffman, "Strategies for Internet Middlemen in the Intermediation / Disintermediation / Reintermediation Cycle. *Electronic Markets*, 9, 2 (February 1999), 109-117.



# Speaker's Biography

Robert J. Kauffman is Professor and Department Chair of Information and Decision Sciences at the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota. His current research interests center on IT and organizational strategy, electronic commerce, adoption and diffusion of technology, the economics of information systems, applications of IT in financial services, and measuring the value of IT investments. He received a B.A. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, an M.A. from Cornell University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Industry Administration, Carnegie Mellon University. Rob has held faculty positions at New York University and the University of Rochester. His research appears in Information Systems Research, MIS Quarterly, Decision Science, Communications of the ACM, Journal of Management Information Systems, Journal of the Association of Information Systems, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, and International Journal of Electronic Commerce.

He has twice co-chaired the annual *Workshop on Information Systems and Economics* (**WISE**) Rob also acts as an associate editor for *Management Science, International Journal of Electronic Commerce, International Journal of Intelligent Systems in Accounting, Finance and Management, Journal of <i>Management Information Systems,* and the newly- announced *Information Systems and E-Business Management.* His newest research article, due out in *Organization Science* in November/December 2001, is on reservation system competition in the airline industry. He also completed a special issue of the *Journal of Management Information Systems* on "Economics, Electronic Commerce and Organizational Strategy," which is due out in Fall 2001. This follows up a prior issue of *Communications of the ACM* that he edited in August 1998 on "Economics and Information Systems." In his spare time, Rob likes to travel, sail small boats, and play the piano. He lives with his wife, Jean, and daughter, Lauren, in Bloomington, Minnesota.



# 'The EBay of Blank ...?'

- Internet IPOs: Wit Capital
- On-line stock trading: Charles Schwab
- Electronics retailing: Buy.com
- Books: Amazon.com
- B2B E-Markets: E-Steel.com

But the opportunities aren't like they used to be – at least when venture capital is required.

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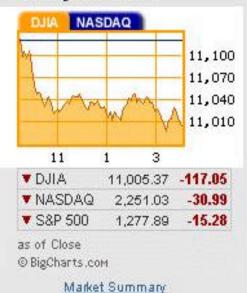
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### Today's Markets



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### **Empowering Direct Material Supply Networks**

May 28, 2001

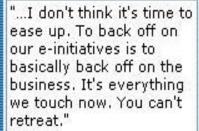
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-- Jacques Nasser, CEO of Ford Motor Co.

Business 2.0 May 29, 2001



e-STEEL<sup>SM</sup> is an internet software company that creates competitive advantage for buyers and suppliers of <u>direct materials</u>. We build and operate <u>web-based applications</u> that enable you to manage your <u>supply network</u> transactions, information, and partner relationships. Our solutions enable buyers to <u>manage the full procurement cycle</u> to reduce material costs, improve quality, and increase flexibility. Suppliers are able to <u>control sales channels</u> to increase customer loyalty, reduce costs, and speed inquiry to payment. e-STEEL has a proven track record for delivering the solution that meets your specific business requirements on time and on budget.

The e-STEEL SupplyNetwork enables any company involved in the direct materials supply chain to leverage web-based technology to manage their supply network. Network Sponsors and Members can conduct the full range of transactions from inquiry to settlement and capture all transactional information in one place to monitor

# Visit e-STEEL Public Exchange

### Highlights

- Business 2.0: The Re-Education of Jaques Nasser
- e-STEEL Launches Initial
   Phase of Major
   e-Commerce Private
   Marketplace for BHP Steel

### **Customer Success**

"Our partner e-STEEL has successfully demonstrated its ability to deliver an enhanced and extended platform that combines existing and new applications, and features an increased level of flexibility."

-- Kirby Adams, President of BHP Steel\*



# Driving Principles in Electronic Commerce?



Ask: What principles can be leveraged for competitive advantage in your context?

- Space
- Time
- Value
- Efficiency
- Markets

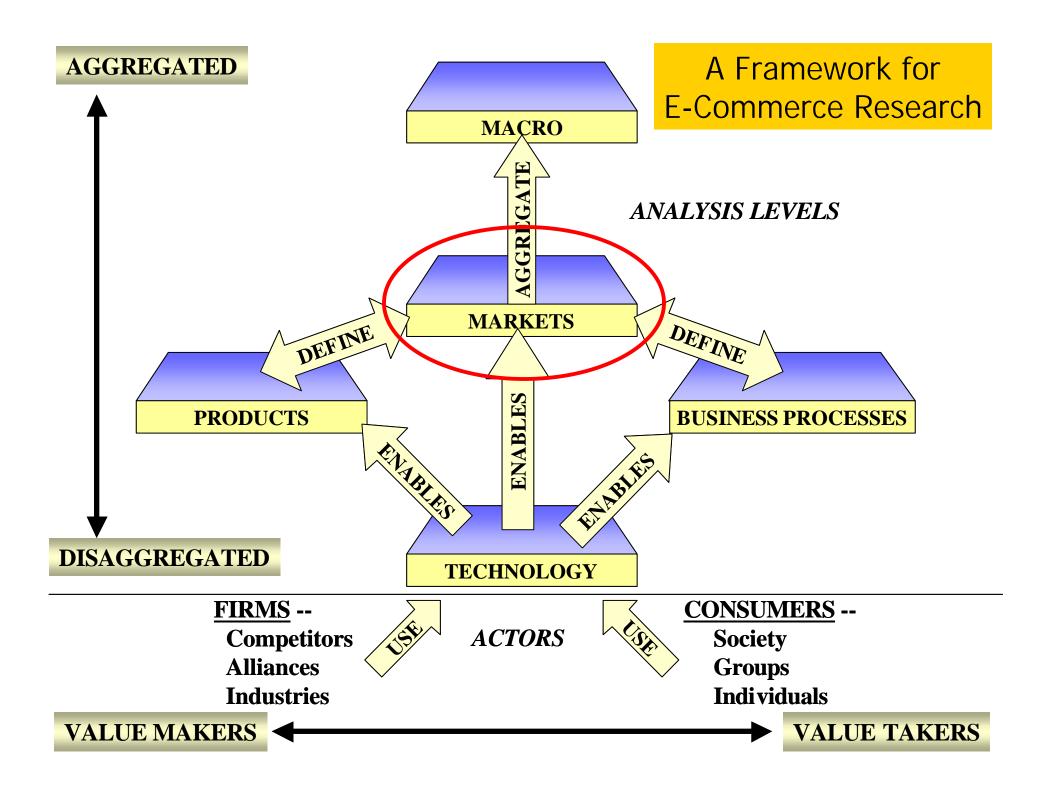
- Transactions
- Impulse
- Growth
- Matter
- People

Source: Business 2.0, http://www.business2.com/magazine/2000/03/20735.htm



# Why Examine E-Commerce from Economics Perspective?

- Depth and breadth of the applicable theory
- Maturity, rigor and precision of the analytical techniques
- Natural emphasis on decisionmakers, products, processes, firms, markets and aggregate economic behavior
- Power of econometric methods to handle large-scale data analysis



# Applicable Economic Theories

LEVEL OF ANALYSIS	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	RELEVANT ECONOMIC THEORIES	
Technology	Agent technology, network infrastructure, structural standards (TCP/IP, HTML, XML, objects, middleware, encryption, etc.)	Public goods theory, efficient pricing, game theory, negotiation, network externalities and standards	
Product	oduct Digital products, information, Pricing theory, version information goods, services goods, switching cost externalities and standard scale and scope		
Business Process	EDI, interorganizational systems, browsers, email, intranets and extranets	Adoption theory, economics of design, cost-benefit analysis, allocation of benefits, IT value, negotiation, economies of scale and scope, game theory	
Market	Internet-based businesses, electronic markets, financial services and analytics	Auction theory, industrial organization, transaction costs, market microstructure, intermediation, adoption and diffusion, perfect competition, returns to scale, optimal market structure	
Macroeconomy	World Wide Web, Internet-based corporate recruiting, new labor markets, electronic payments, fraud and security	Monetary economics, taxation theory, labor economics, regulatory economics, public goods	







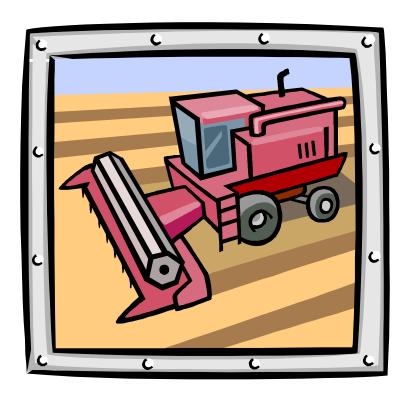
- I. Technologies
- II. Business processes
- III. Electronic markets and e-intermediation
- IV. Firm strategies in the marketplace

... all through the interpretative lens of economic theory and thinking



# I. Technologies







"Almost any decision about a given technical solution will be risky, *until* it becomes clear than there is sufficient installed base for the solution to become *cost-effective* and *value-effective* as a network."

 Standards combat among e-commerce solution providers complicate matters

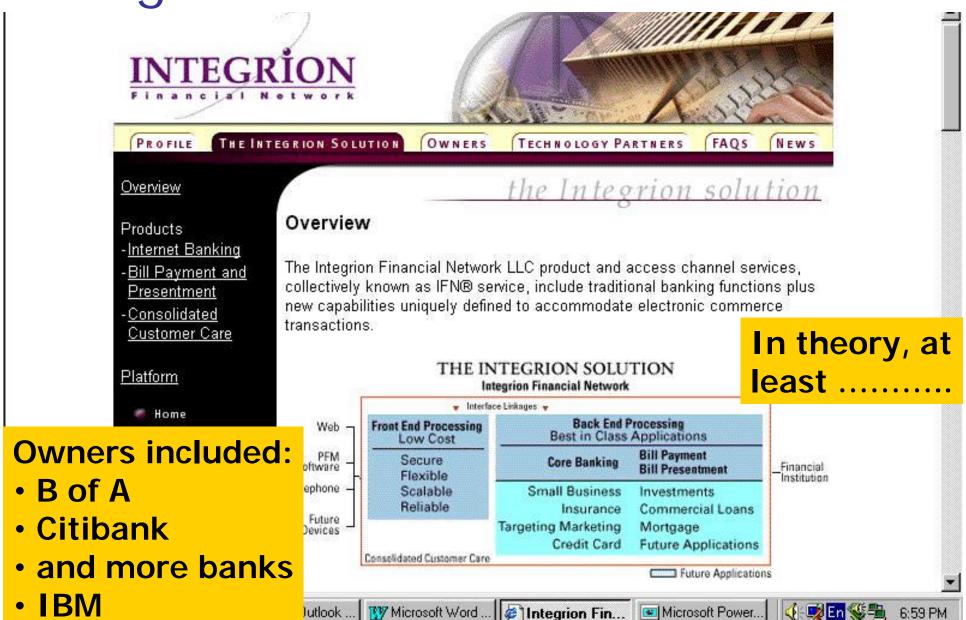




# Contested Ground

- There are many domains in e-commerce in which standards combat is occurring:
  - DotCom and e-business infrastructures
  - Web-based travel reservation systems
  - Internet-based B2B procurement markets
- E-billing is a good example -- no longer a revolution, but an evolution that we are seeing in the marketplace ... and it's focused on IT

Integrion's Solution Sounded Great



# But Who Will Win in E-Billing?

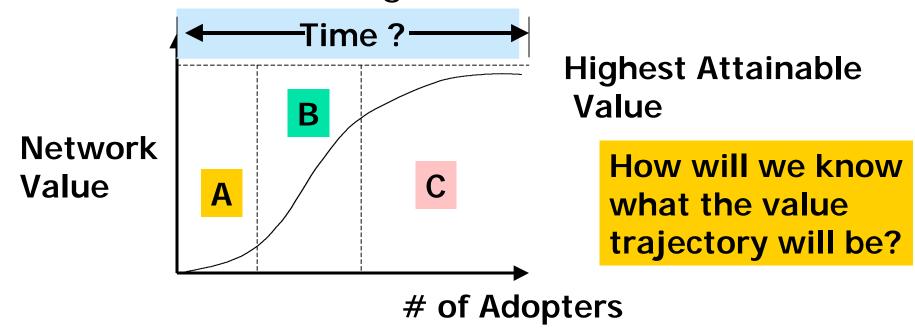


Microsoft is behind Transpoint too. What does this tell us? And so is Citibank ... Real options, here, don't you think? Nobody knew how this combat would come out.



## Network Externalities Tell You

- The value of a technology standard increases with the number of adopters
- Externalities grow over time





# Amidst This Standards Combat

Senior managers must think about IT investments consistent with the value trajectory for

network externalities

- Don't want to get on the wrong "bandwagon"
- So waiting has "real option value"

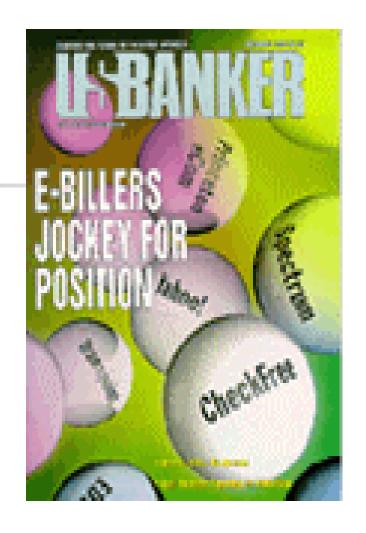


# Tap Into Installed Base

- Larger network installed bases are consistent with higher valuation and earlier corporate adoption of technological innovations
- Installed base: examples --
  - number of vendors in an e-billing network
  - number of search engine users
  - number of firms using XML
  - number of buyers/sellers in an e-auction

# But Timing is a Big Gamble

- Whom do we bet on?
  - Banks?
  - Consolidators?
  - Internet portals?
  - Software solution vendors?
- Translation: Who's in the position to generate the greatest externalities <u>soon</u>?



# Seek Out "Spatial" Externalities, Too



eBay's recent alliance with AutoTrader.Com is a good case in point: excellent externality growth, but regional focus.



# Be Market Savvy on Standards

"Take advantage of the wisdom of the market in gauging the value of standards; markets, even if they are wrong sometimes, are usually not wrong for long."



# II. Business Processes





# IT Used to Mass Customize in E-Commerce



## The product:

- physical goods and information goods
- create unique product bundles

# The selling process:

- one-on-one marketing with IT
- create unique value propositions by segment





# IT Used to Selectively Commoditize Products to Create Liquidity

## categorieS

Automotive NEW!

<u>Antiques</u> (65921)

Books, Movies, Music (414019)

Coins & Stamps (114216)

Collectibles (925256)

**Computers** (100773)

Dolls, Figures (57516)

Jewelry, Gemstones

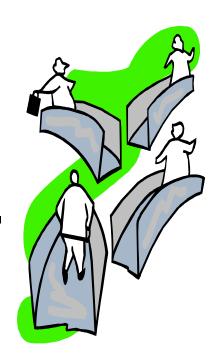
Photo & Electronics (52042)

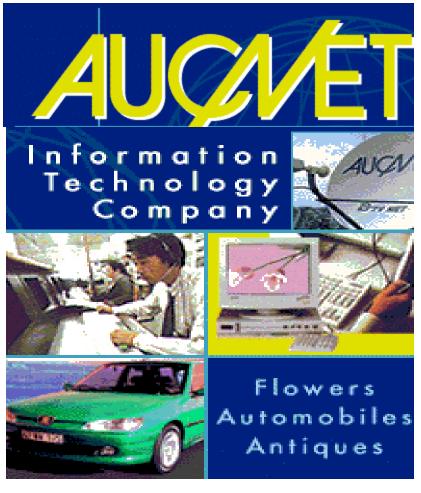
Pottery & Glass (176126)

Sports Memorabilia
(346882)

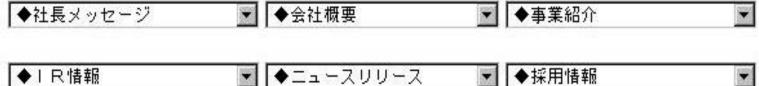
Toys, Bean Bag Plush
(290013)

Miscellaneous (299947)
all categories...









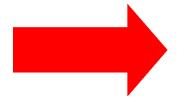


◆5月14日 オークネット、全国現車オークション会場の ライブ中継 ネットワーク機築に向け、戦略 的提携を積極展開! ー T V オーグョン専門会社な らではの優位性を生かし、双方にメリットあ る提携実現へ一

◆5月7日 <u>オークネット・アンティーク事業部「時計才</u> ークション」開催日程、特集企画決定! A trusted third-party made all the difference in enhancing transactability of used cars in this e-market

# T Used for Product Rebundling

- Natural market re-segmentation based on consumer preferences
- "Death spiral" and "adverse selection"
- Product and service, or both?



Leverage the unique capabilities of the firm with IT



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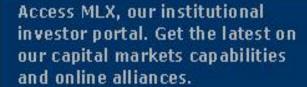
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Merrill Lynch HSBC - UK - Merrill Lynch HSBC announced the launch of its full transactional service for U.K. private investors.

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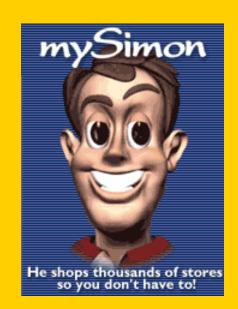


# Add Agents to the Process

 Everything we sell is going to the Internet, where business and retail customers can easily compare prices, service

Ask: Are your "agents" working for you?





# III. Electronic Markets and E-Intermediation







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### Weather

View current U.S. weather.

Enter Zip Code to view conditions for a specific area.



International Weather

### **Market News**

### Rooster Call<sup>SM</sup>

05/25/2001--Some signs of heat returning to the Midwest/Plains. Will recent soybean/soymeal buyers look to take profits in front of the long weekend?

Written by: Duane Lowry

▶ Previous Rooster Calls<sup>SM</sup>

### **Daily Feature**

### Agrinet

## The Market at Your Fingertips

Monday, May 28, 2001 -- For all things market-wise, you're likely to find it here. Written by: Laura Engelson, Farm Progress

▶ Previous Daily Features

### Ag News

### WorldTrak: UN Program Aims for School Lunch

Monday, May 28, 2001 -- First shipment of food headed for Kenya, Australia leans on biotech-free edge in soy market and Argentina sees itself free of foot-and-mouth disease by 2003.

Written by: Editors, Farm Progress

### Decision Making in the Digital Age

Monday, May 28, 2001 -- Don't let information overload delay decisions.

Written by: Dale McDonald, Rooster News Network

### A Beefy Day

Monday, May 28, 2001 -- Americans still like their beef -- especially this weekend. Memorial Day is the beefiest holiday of them all.

### Futures Markets

	Mo	Last	Chg
<u>Corn</u>	N	1.912	
Soybeans	N	4.472	
Wheat	N	2.596	*
<u>Dats</u>	N	1.116	
Soybean Oil	N	14.530	
Soybean Meal	N	166.200	
Cotton	N	40.550	*
Rough Rice	N	552,000	*
Lean Hog	M	66.750	
Feeder Cattle	Q	91.170	
Live Cattle	M	73.900	
Heating Oil	M	0.782	
Propane Gas	M	0.510	*
A CONTRACT OF STREET	31.6774	0.00	

Quotes on time delayed basis and reflect Project A (night session) where appropriate.

commodities for more detail.

### Rooster<sup>SM</sup> Poll

Click on individual

What's your biggest frustration with your current Internet Service Provider?

# Operational Efficiency --An Intermediary Issue









 Reduce your costs by engaging the "right" kinds of middlemen

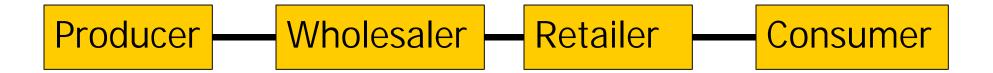
B2C: infomediaries

B2B: e-procurement exchanges

Ask: How can we provide aggregation, buying power, matching and business intelligence? And more?



# Traditional Industry Value Chain -- Retail Example



	Producer	Wholesaler	Retailer	Consumer*
Value Added	\$20.45	\$11.36	\$20.91	
Selling Price	\$20.45	\$31.81	\$52.72	\$52.72

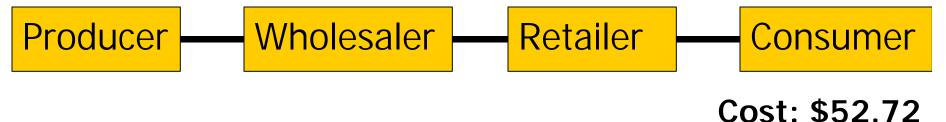
Ask: Are the value chain costs acceptable?

**Note:** Example based on Benjamin, R., and Wigand, R. "Electronic Markets and Virtual Value Chains on the Information Superhighway," *Sloan Management Review*, 36, 2, Winter 1995, pp. 62-72.



# Identify Your Alternative Industry Value Chains

## **Traditional Value Chain**



## **Partial Value Chain Disintermediation**



Cost: \$41.34

### **Full Value Chain Disintermediation**

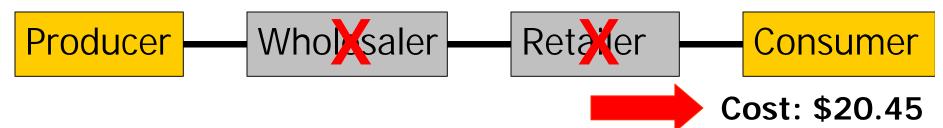
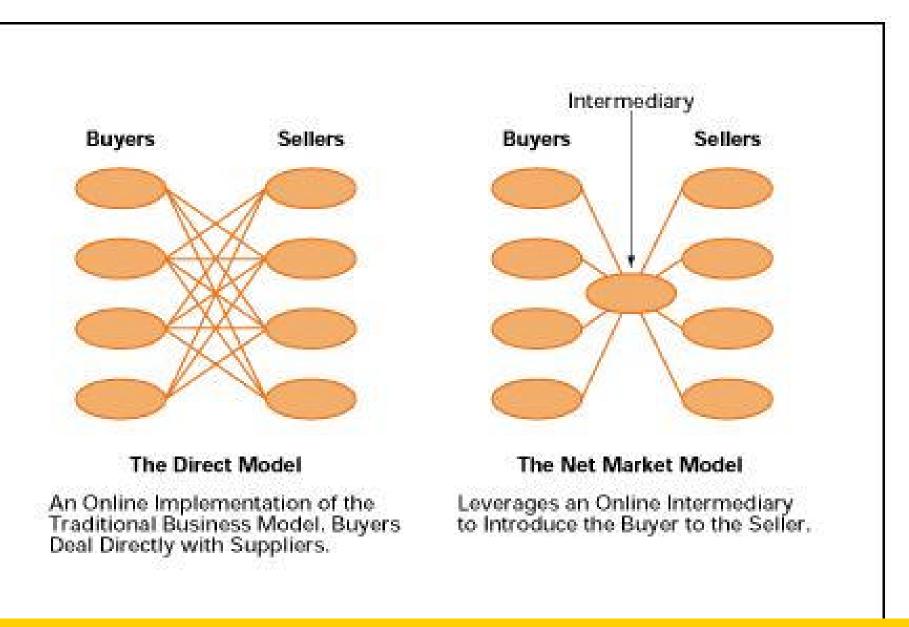


Fig.3: Models for Trade Between Buyers and Sellers



**Source**: Jupiter Communications, "US Business to Business Trade Projections," September 2000.

# Models for Trade Between Buyers and Sellers, 1997-2003



Source: Jupiter Communications, "US Business to Business Trade Projections," September 2000



## **B2B Procurement Markets**

**Basic Market Functions:** 

- -Aggregation
- -Matching
- Facilitation

**Management Needs:** 

- -Market intelligence
- -Business relationships
- -Business processes

**Technology Adapters:** 

- Integrators
- Standards providers
- Outsourcing vendors

Source: Dai and Kauffman (2001)

- Support market functions and mgmt requirements
- Provide technology infrastructures, business models
- Function as "technology adapters" in marketplace



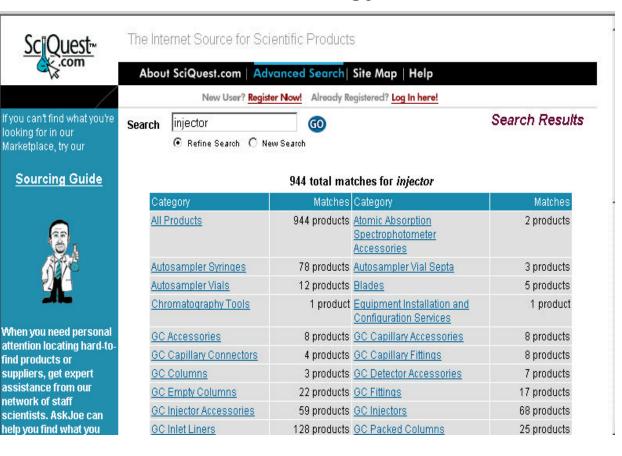
# E-Market Function: Aggregation

- Private, buyerspecific e-cataloging
  - Pre-qualified suppliers
  - Prices are negotiated offline
  - System integration and connectivity is important
  - Schlumberger, Inc., and CommerceOne

- Public, buyer-neutral e-cataloging
  - Adopted for purchases in small lot quantities
  - Demand is of low predictability and high variety
  - Low price volatility
  - SciQuest.com

# SciQuest.com – Public E-Catalog

- SciQuest.com aggregates product catalogs for pharmaceutical, chemical and biotechnology industries.
- Lists 600
   suppliers, and
   more than 1
   million products.
- Buyers can search and shop among all catalogs.



Source: www.SciQuest.com

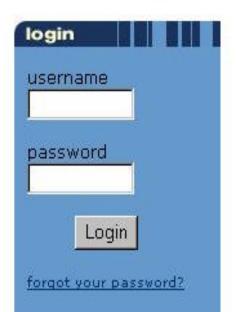












#### novopoint news

April 26, 2001 Novopoint secures second round... [more]

April 17, 2001 Novopoint selects Exodus...





## welcome to novopoint

Novopoint is an Industry Operating System (I-OPS) that connects buyers and sellers of food and beverage ingredients and related services and gives them a one-point resource through which they can integrate and gain access to mission-critical services and information.

Companies of all sizes can take advantage of Novopoint's hosted, browserbased access to exchange critical information and conduct business over the Internet.

By reducing transactional and logistical workloads, Novopoint will enable buyers and sellers to concentrate on strengthening their strategic relationships while extracting even more value from their supply chains.



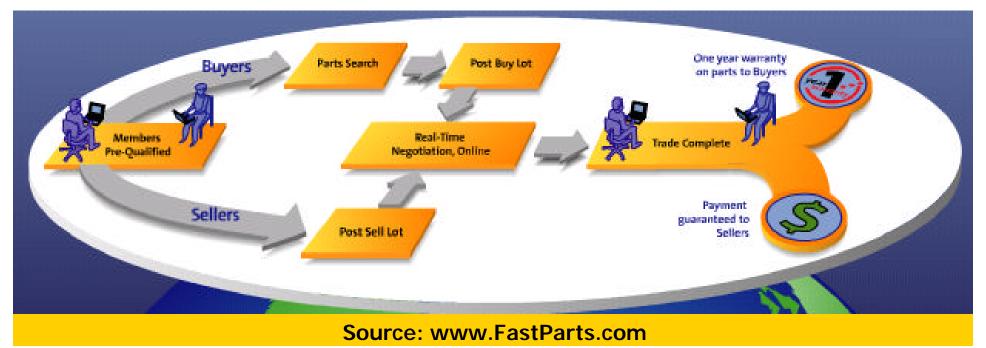
## E-Market Function: Matching

- Private negotiation mechanism
  - Preselect participants for bids
  - Used for purchasing direct goods in large quantities
  - e-Steel.com

- Public bidding mechanism
  - Open bids
  - Especially suitable for exchange excess capacities and inventories
  - FastParts.com

# Public Bidding: FastParts.com

- To serve procurement professionals with "excess inventories on cancelled jobs and inventory shortages for unforecasted orders".
- In SOLD!Auction, sellers post offers to all members who bid against each other in an anonymous context.



## Dynamic Trading Processes: Pradium



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## E-Market Function: Facilitation

- Online transaction settlement: Net market makers are partnering with financial institutions and transportation providers to offer services for transaction settlement.
- Procurement expertise: General and industry-specific purchasing expertise are value-adding services provided by online markets.



## Online Financial Services

- Internet-based financial services: Electronic payment, electronic invoicing, credit facilities, foreign exchange, wire transfer, and automatic clearinghouse.
- For example: Ariba is partnering with American Express and Bank of America to develop a line of B2B online financial service

## Ariba B2B Commerce Platform



Source: www.Ariba.com



- Delivery and logistics: Smooth information flow among multiple players in the process of delivery is the focus.
- E-markets specialized in delivery and transportation become logistics providers for other e-markets.
- Example: Optimum-Logistics.com is partnering with ChemConnect.com



Source: www.ChemConnect.com



# Expertise and Market Intelligence

- Procurement expertise is built into tools for cost calculation.
  - Example: An online bond market, Axess.com provides analytic and advanced modeling capabilities to help fixed income securities investors trade their portfolios
- Market intelligence is derived from integrated data of sales and transactions
  - Example: MuniCenter.com, another bond e-market, acts as an information portal for fixed income securities investors, too

TECHNOLOGY

BENEFITS

press news jobs

RESEARCH

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## Market Axess To Acquire trading edge, inc.

- To Add Anonymous Trading to Market Transforming Fixed-Income Platform
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Market Axess, a leading Internet-based multi-dealer research and trading platform for credit products, today announced that it will acquire <u>Trading Edge, Inc.</u>, which owns BondLink, the premier technology for anonymous trading of fixed-income products. [details].

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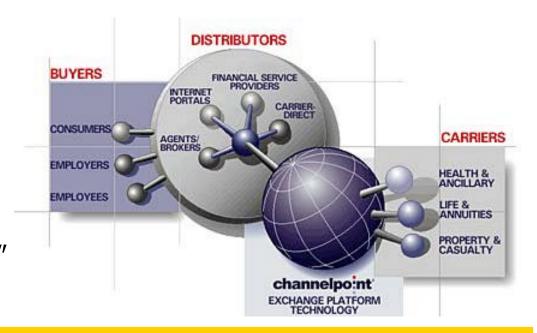
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- Workflow management: In document or information-intensive industries, business models are built to streamline business processes.
- ChannelPoint
   "streamline[s] and
   automate[s] the
   insurance
   distribution process"



Source: www.ChannelPoint.com



## E-Markets Function As Adapters

- E-markets connect buyers and sellers; form networks of participating firms.
- Network externalities the value of an online market increases as more firms join it, attracting further more participants.
- Compatibility between different technologies promotes network adoption.
- Adapters set up interfaces between different technologies to enable at least partial compatibility.

# IV. Firm Strategy in the Market







## What You Can Do ...

- Face it: You may not be able to do it all on your own, if you haven't been early to market for e-business opportunities
- Partner for:
  - Content
  - Access
  - Application development
- License technology you need
- Continuously innovate





## Partner for Content

- Figure out a way to partner with an "aggregator" for selling products and services in your industry: don't let others do it first!
- Competitive advantage sources:
  - You can customize and brand the content
  - You can retain control over your customers' transactions





## Expedia.

Home Page Travel Agent Deals

Places to Go

Partnering for content at Rent a c Microsoft Expedia: providing links to vacation booking engines

#### Deals

Highlights

Vacation Packages

Cruises

Resorts.

Accommodations

Sports & Adventure

Casino Destinations

Family Vacations

Travel Merchandise

Special Deals



#### Vacation Packages

#### FEATURING



Check out our great new site, now with even here! more fabulous vacation packages and hot specials at amazing prices! You'll find the best deals on quality air/hotel vacations to exciting destinations like Orlando, Hawaii, Mexico, Las Vegas, the Caribbean and Europe. Wherever you want to go Vacation. Outlet can get you there for less!



#### TravelRes Direct

Book vacations and cruises online! Vegas from \$83 per night, 3 night Bahamas from \$174.



#### Continental Airlines Vacations

Cool Vacations is the online vacation package expert for your travel needs.







## Partner for Access

- Work with an electronic intermediary that provides services for other agents involved in e-commerce
  - B2B portal providers
- Competitive advantage sources:
  - You can try to partner with a leading B2B portal provider with whom you or the intermediary has an exclusivity agreement





# Partner for Application Development

- Aggressively establish alliances with established e-commerce industry participants
- Sources of competitive advantage:
  - Gather the right combination of assets (technological and industry-specific expertise) in a way that is otherwise not possible



# Amex Travel Related Services' Recent Partnerships

- Microsoft, for online travel booking
- Portable, for expense mgmt







# License Technology

- Find a competent provider from which to buy the "right" technology
- Share in the profits result from transactions that are referred to you by other web sites
- Sources of competitive advantage:
  - The technology is complex enough such that it cannot be copied easily
  - No industry standards are established yet

# Technology Licensing at ITN.Com

## **ITN Partner**

## Put The World's Most Widely Used Travel Booking System To Work On Your Web Site.

For companies that want to offer online travel booking services on their Web sites and let ITN provide turnkey ticket fulfillment, the ITN Partner Site Program is the ideal solution.

Adding travel reservation capabilities to your Web site is a great way to attract more visitors and new business - and gives customers a good reason to return to your site more often. It can also be a source of incremental revenue generated from travel purchases and advertising placed on your ITN Partner Site booking pages.

Whether they're business travelers who need to get to their next meeting, or people just shopping for a great vacation, visitors to your ITN Partner Site will have access to more than 500 airlines, 50 car rental companies, and 33,000 hotels. ITN handles worldwide ticketing and fulfillment with full service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

#### ITN Products

## ITN Global Manager ™

Used by corporations for employee travel.

## FlightRez TM

The booking engine that lets airlines serve travelers directly.

#### **ITN Partner**

Used by third-party public Web sites to provide travel services.

Note: ITN.com is now known as GetThere.com



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