Lecture 7: 
Team Formation

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Team Formation

• Final teams: end of this week!
• You choose your team
• Think about who you want to work with
• *Not your best friends!*
• Don’t be offended if your best friend works with someone else
• We trust you to form awesome teams
This week

• More opportunities to find potential teammates
• Start thinking about
  – Who you want to work with...
  – ... and who you don’t!
  – What role do you want in a team?
  – What role do you not want?
  – What ideas/opportunities in mobile apps excite you?
Team Formation: not just about you!

(there is no “I” in team)
What should you consider when selecting a co-founder?
Shared Passion

• Do you share a passion for the same problem?

• Will you both be committed to solving the problem?

• Even when times are bad?
Mutual Trust

• Something **will** go wrong!
• Situations, things, **people change**...
• You need to find someone you trust
  – Will they be loyal?
  – Will they be persistent?
  – Will they be fair?
  – Will they be honest?
  – Will they respect you? Will you respect them?
  – Will they help you be better?
• Believe in your instincts
Complementary Skills

• Teammates complement your skills
• Fill in your gaps
• Work together to become more
  – Symbolically: $1 + 1 + 1 = 5$
Areas of Expertise

Programming

Business

Communication
Roles

• One person will not do every job!
• Specialization
• Be very clear on your team who does what jobs
• Some overlap between roles
Roles

• Do you have people for every role?
  – Who will coordinate building product? **VP Engineering**
  – Who will coordinate attracting investors? **VP Finance**
  – Who will understand & sell to customers? **VP Marketing**
  – Who will attract & recruit new employees? **VP People**
  – Who will maintain the passion & organize overall? **CEO**
Compatible Personalities

• Must get along with each team member
• **Not** necessarily your best friend
• Someone with whom you can...
  – Feel energized
  – **Have fun** and laugh
  – Spend 2-3hrs of free time?
  – Be comfortable openly disagreeing?
  – Be comfortable if they disagree with you?
  – Feel comfortable reaching compromises?
Form Teams by Friday

• You have until Friday afternoon to find your co-founders

• 4-5 people per team

• Use the pyramid framework

• Each team must submit a contract

• Everyone must join a team to continue the course

• This is not a simulation. These will be your real teams!

• Choose carefully. This is the most critical decision you will make!
Team Contract

• Our team members are:
  – 1.
  – 2.
  – 3.
  – ...

• We are all passionate about and committed to solving the problem of ________________.

• We all mutually trust and respect each other.

• We have complementary skills and each agree to lead the following roles:
  – CEO: ______________________
  – VP Engineering: ______________
  – VP Finance: __________________
  – VP Marketing: ________________
  – VP People: ___________________
  – (Everyone must have a role. No more than two roles per person.)

• We feel comfortable sharing our ideas and voicing our opinions.

• We think we will have fun working together!