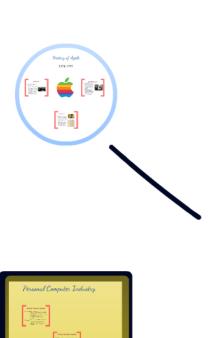


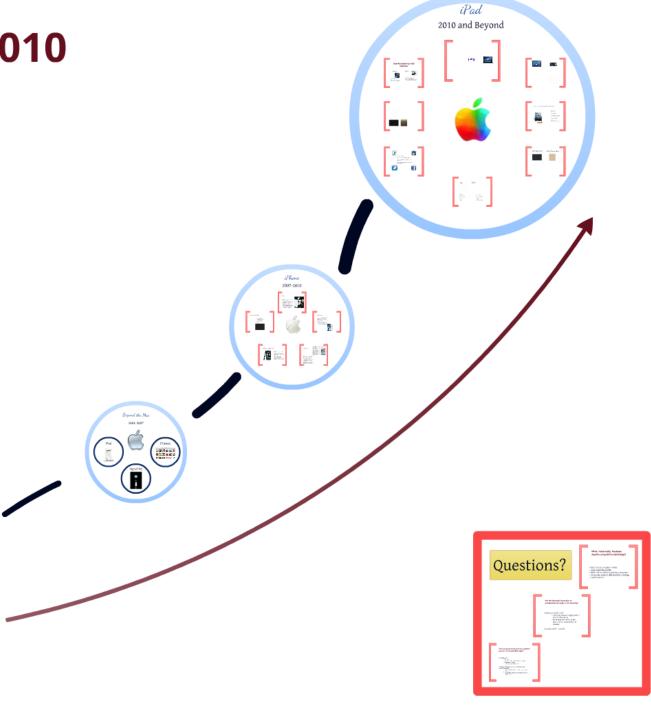
The Case Solutions.com

Apple Inc. in 2010

A Case Study







History of Apple

1976-1997









Early Years

1976-1985: Steve Jobs & Steve Wozniak

- Started by two college dropouts on April Fool's Day 1976
- Mission: "Bring an easy-to-use computer to market," which led to the Apple II release in April 1978
- Proprietary System: practiced horizontal integration relied on its own proprietary designs and refused to license its hardware to 3rd parties; as opposed to IBM's relatively "open system"
- Competition: IBM became the "industry standard," so Apple introduces the Macintosh in 1984. Very user friendly, but lack of compatible software (proprietary system) limited sales.
- Result: Net Income Fell 62% fr. 1981-84, Jobs is forced out of the company by 1985



Life without Jobs

1985-1993: Apple under John Sculley

- By pushing into new markets like Desktop Publishing & Education, Apple's worldwide market share recovered & stabilized at ~8%.
 By 1990, Apple had \$1B in cash & was the "most profitable PC company in the world"
- Complete Desktop Solution: easy to use, plug-and-play hardware, software, and peripherals; IBM narrows the gap w. release of MS Windows
- Top-Of-The-Line Strategy: premium products for a premium price to loyal customers, committed 9% of costs to R&D
- Competition: In 1990, Apple moves to "low-cost producer" strategy to compete with volume leader IBM and creates \$999 Mac Classic. However, both worked together on \$500 million in joint ventures
- Result: Gross margin drops to 34% (14 pts below 10 yr avg) & Sculley forced out

