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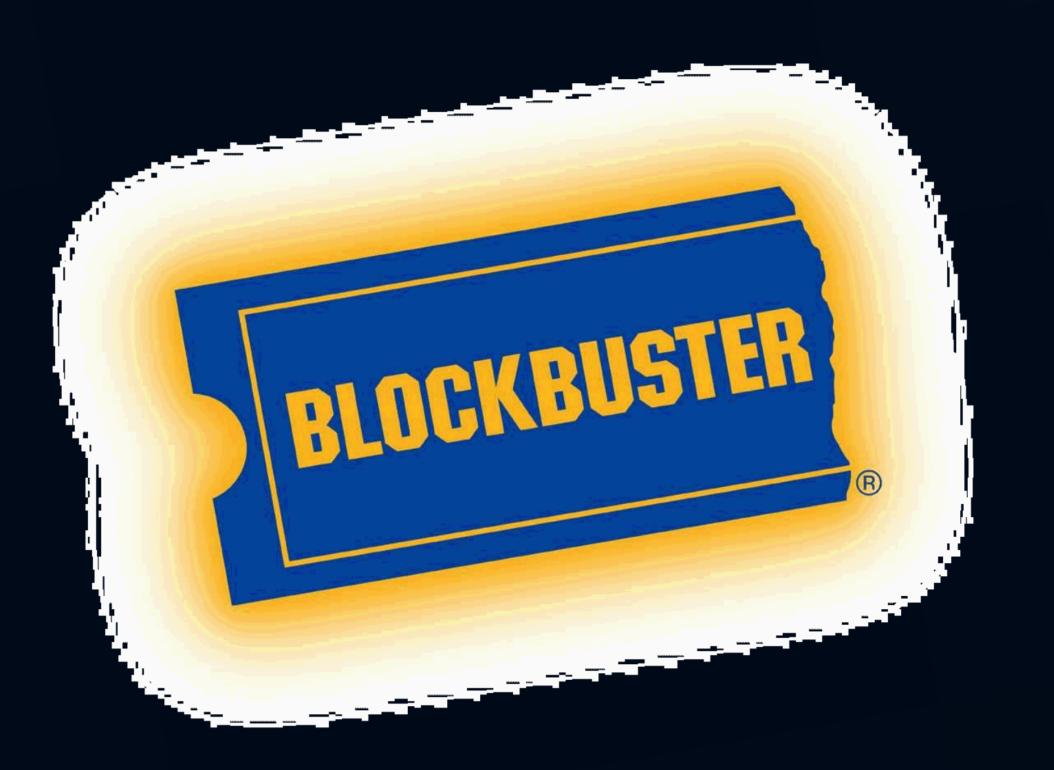
In the beginning...

stores, but instead was formed of local rental businesses that operated in competition with each other.

Initially the movie rental industry was a competitive market, there were no large chain companies with multiple stores, but instead was formed of local rental businesses that operated in competition with each other.

Development of Blockbuster

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In 1977 the first video rental store was opened in LA, and this sparked a chain of independent start-up companies until the creation of Blockbuster in 1985. This was the beginning of an almost monopolistic market, with Blockbuster owning 1,000 stores and Movie gallery close behind with 850. There were few other real competitors.

