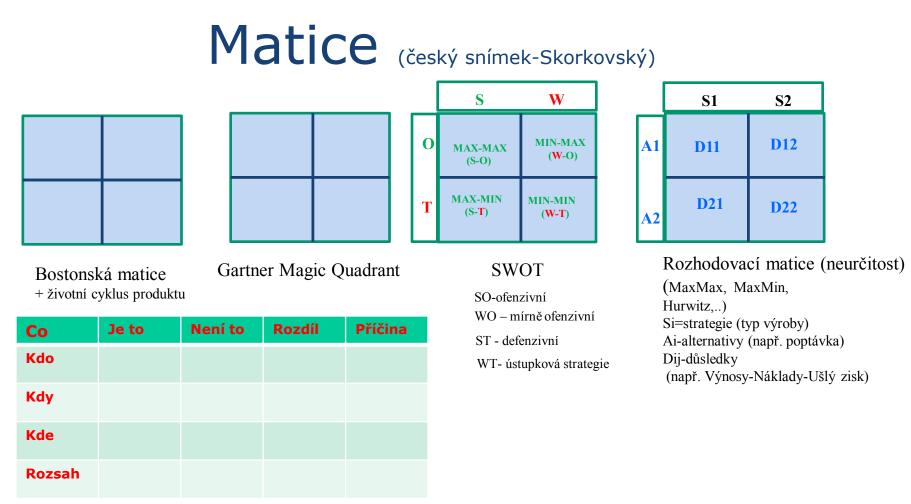


http://www.bized.ac.uk

Product Life Cycles and the Boston Matrix





Kepner-Tregoe



- Product Life Cycle shows the stages that products go through from development to withdrawal from the market
- Product Portfolio the range of products a company has in development or available for consumers at any one time
- Managing product portfolio is important for cash flow



• Product Life Cycle (PLC):

- Each product may have a different life cycle
- PLC determines revenue earned
- Contributes to strategic marketing planning
- May help the firm to identify when a product needs support, redesign, reinvigorating, withdrawal, etc.
- May help in new product development planning
- May help in forecasting and managing cash flow



• The Stages of the Product Life Cycle:

- Development
- Introduction/Launch
- Growth
- Maturity
- Saturation
- Decline
- Withdrawal



• The Development Stage:

- Initial Ideas possibly large number
- May come from any of the following
 - Market research identifies gaps in the market
 - Monitoring competitors
 - Planned research and development (R&D)
 - Luck or intuition
 - Creative thinking inventions, feeling
 - Futures thinking what will people be using/wanting/needing 5,10,20 years hence?

Development stage

- MS DOS -> windows
- iPhone > smart phones
- nano technologies
- Kinect sensors ->
- Robotics->











Product Development: Stages

- New ideas/possible inventions
- Market analysis is it wanted? Can it be produced at a profit? Who is it likely to be aimed at?
- Product Development and refinement
- Test Marketing possibly local/regional
- Analysis of test marketing results and amendment of product/production process
- Preparations for launch publicity, marketing campaign



Introduction/Launch:

- Advertising and promotion campaigns
- Target campaign at specific audience?
- Monitor initial sales
- Maximise publicity
- High cost/low sales
- Length of time type of product



• Growth:

- Increased consumer awareness
- Sales rise
- Revenues increase
- Costs fixed costs/variable costs, profits may be made
- Monitor market competitors reaction?



• Maturity:

- Sales reach peak
- Cost of supporting the product declines
- Ratio of revenue to cost high
- Sales growth likely to be low
- Market share may be high
- Competition likely to be greater
- Price elasticity of demand?
- Monitor market changes/amendments/new strategies?



• Saturation:

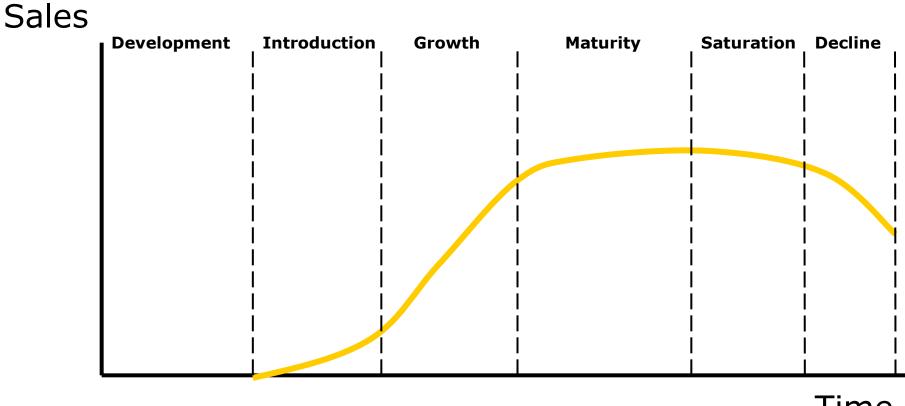
- New entrants likely to mean market is 'flooded'
- Necessity to develop new strategies becomes more pressing:
 - Searching out new markets:
 - Linking to changing fashions
 - Seeking new or exploiting market segments
 - Linking to joint ventures media/music, etc.
 - Developing new uses
 - Focus on adapting the product
 - Re-packaging or format
 - Improving the standard or quality
 - Developing the product range



• Decline and Withdrawal:

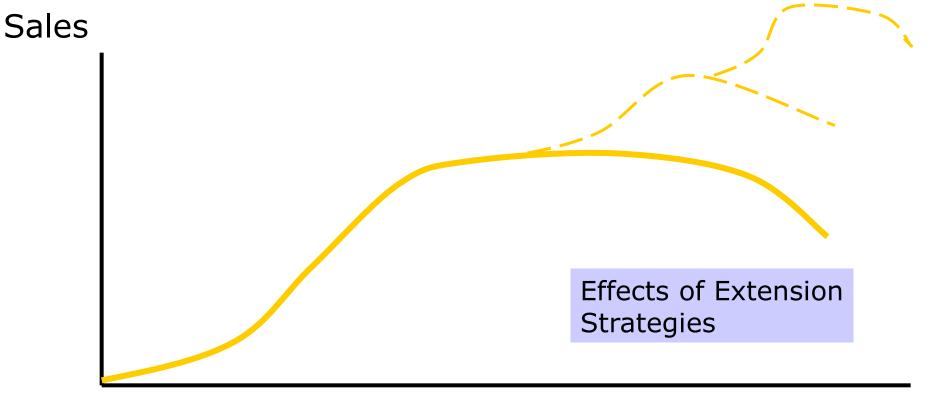
- Product outlives/outgrows its usefulness/value
- Fashions change
- Technology changes
- Sales decline
- Cost of supporting starts to rise too far
- Decision to withdraw may be dependent on availability of new products and whether fashions/trends will come around again?





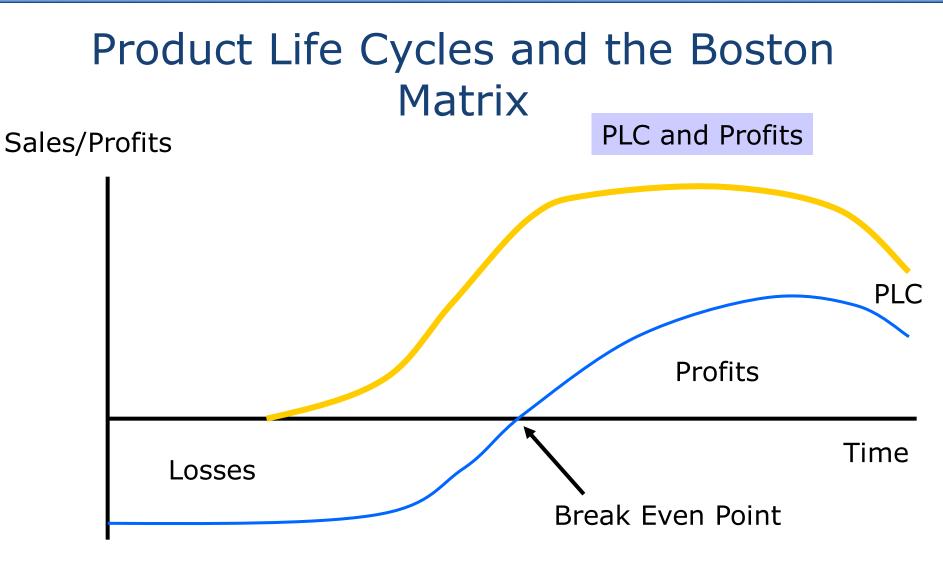
Time





Time







• The Boston Matrix:

- A means of analysing the product portfolio and informing decision making about possible marketing strategies
- Developed by the Boston Consulting Group
 a business strategy and marketing consultancy in 1968
- Links growth rate, market share and cash flow



- Classifies Products into four simple categories:
- Stars products in markets experiencing high growth rates with a high or increasing share of the market
- Potential for high revenue growth





Cash Cows:

- High market share
- Low growth markets – maturity stage of PLC
- Low cost support
- High cash revenue
 - positive cash
 flows



• Dogs:

- Products in a low growth market
- Have low or declining market share (decline stage of PLC)
- Associated with negative cash flow
- May require large sums of money to support

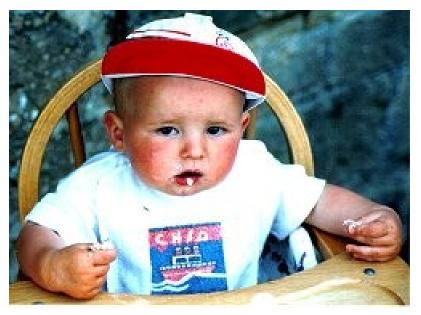


Is your product starting to embarrass your company?



• Problem Child:

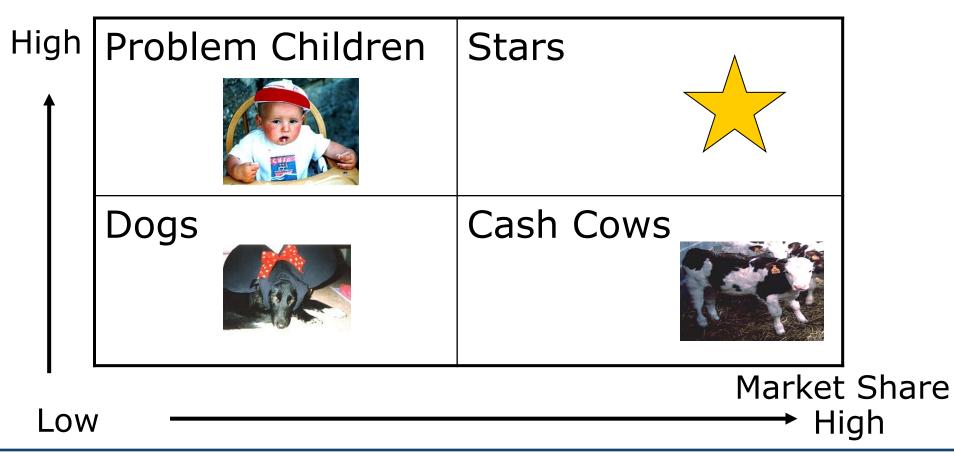
- Products having a low market share in a high growth market
- Need money spent to develop them
- May produce negative cash flow
- Potential for the future?



Problem children – worth spending good money on?



Market Growth





- Implications:
- Dogs:
 - Are they worth persevering with?
 - How much are they costing?
 - Could they be revived in some way?
 - How much would it cost to continue to support such products?
 - How much would it cost to remove from the market?



• Implications:

• Problem Children:

- What are the chances of these products securing a hold in the market?
- How much will it cost to promote them to a stronger position?
- Is it worth it?



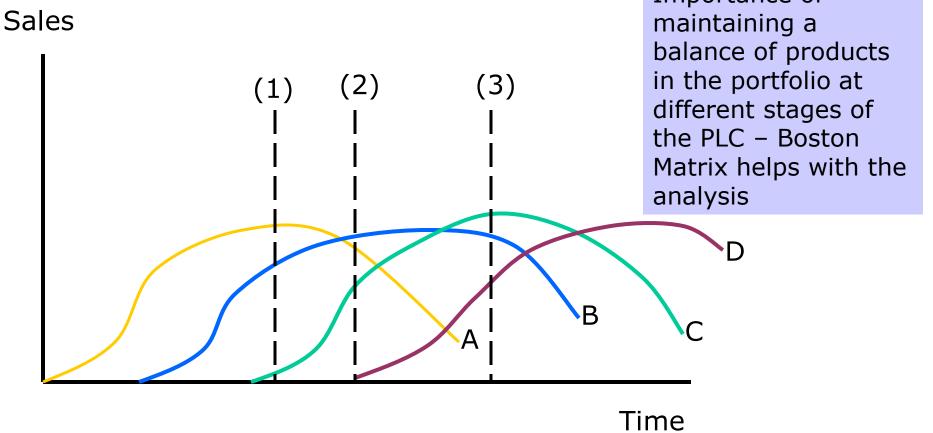
- Implications:
- Stars:
 - Huge potential
 - May have been expensive to develop
 - Worth spending money to promote
 - Consider the extent of their product life cycle in decision making



- Implications:
- Cash Cows:
 - Cheap to promote
 - Generate large amounts of cash use for further R&D?
 - Costs of developing and promoting have largely gone
 - Need to monitor their performance the long term?
 - At the maturity stage of the PLC?

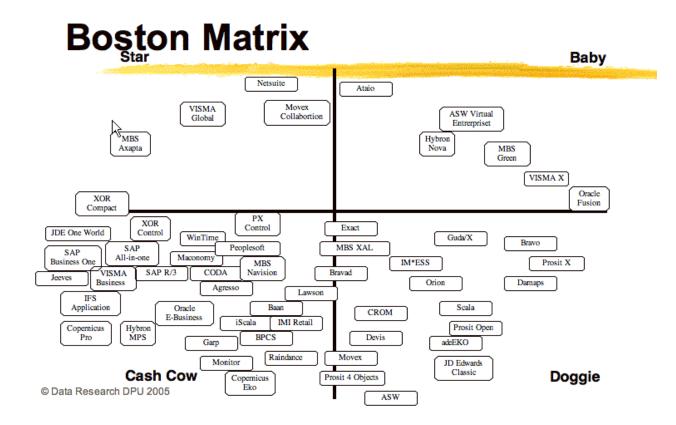


The Product Life Cycle and the Boston Matrix Importance of





Bostonská matice – zdroj : http://www.dpu.se/boston_e.html



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And the reality....

ERP market Just this minute

