

Not just Skype: Estonia as a Start-Up Country

Lecture 4 of course 'The innovative Estonia'

Arko Olesk Tallinn University/Postimees









- Most start-ups per capita (?)
- \$65 million of investments in first six months of 2015



Skype – the 'Estonian Nokia'

- A team of Estonian coders
- Kazaa P2P file sharing
- Skype 2003
- Sold to eBay in 2005 (\$2.6 bn)
- Acquired by Microsoft in 2011 for \$8.5 bn









Successful exits

- Modesat
- FitsMe Virtual Fitting
 Room
- GrabCad –
 collaborative
 working tool
 for engineers,
 ca \$100 M







Projects

- Fortumo mobile payments
- Pocopay mobile banking
- GuardTime cyber-security provider
- Signwise eSignature and authentication
- ZeroTurnaround Java development tools

Positively surprising

 Erply – online point-of-sale and retail software system
 Estonia.eu

More projects



Click & Grow



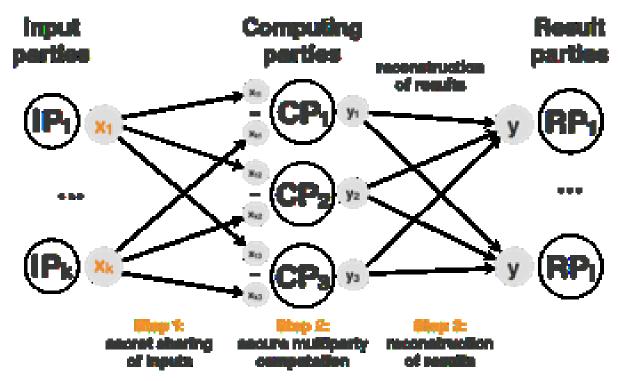
Starship – local delivery robot



Sharemind

Allows computing encrypted data

the sharemind model







Even more projects

- Lingvist language learning
- Tsolutions bus tickets
- Jobbatical connecting talent to employers for short term gigs
- Fleep business messenger
- VitalFields farm management software
- Planet OS big data managements
- Skeleton supercapacitors
- Taxify taxi sevice





Support structure

- Incubators and startup accelerators
- Angel investors
- Garage48 startup hackathlon
 - MSQRD (€100 M Facebook deal)
- Ajujaht prime-time TV show, competition of business ideas



