Building Adaptive & Agile Regional Networks

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Region vs. Region

- Silicon Valley vs. Route 128/Boston
- San Diego vs. Houston
- Austin vs. Pittsburgh
What’s the Difference?

• The best connected region *always* wins!
  – Some networks are better than others
  – Great amount of Research on this
• Resilient, adaptive network patterns show up again and again...
  – Research
  – Experience
  – Nature
• It’s not so much the nodes, but how they are connected...
  – It’s the Connections, Stupid!
How do you build an effective network?
Accidental Network v0.5
Intentional Network v1.0
Building Strategic Networks

- Core – Periphery
  - Similarity in the Core
  - Diversity in the Periphery

- Quickly access knowledge and ideas within the network and in neighboring networks

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Building Networks

1. Start with what you have

2. Build a solid, resilient CORE

3. Build a radial, diverse PERIPHERY
Build a Solid CORE

- Interconnected Triangles
- Strong Ties
- Build on Similarity
- Short Path Lengths
  - Everyone knows what’s going on
- Resilience, not ossification

Those that know each other
Build a Radial Periphery

- Open Triangles
- Build on Diversity
- Weak Ties
- Maximize Reach
  - Access to a variety of knowledge, experience and ideas
- Exploration through overlapping boundaries

Those that don’t know each other
Next Steps

1. Build the Core
   - Close triangles locally
   - Connect complementary skills

2. Expand the Periphery
   - Discover new triangles globally
   - Bring in new ideas

3. Go to 1. and Repeat
Our Making Change Network