

**It's lonely at the top.**

How do you build your support network  
from there?

# Hi, I'm Amy Truong.



- **20 Years Eng Leadership**
- **Tech Executive.** VP of Engineering, Taskrabbit and Patreon
- **Wide span of domains.** Space Tech, Open Source, Creative Economy, Consumer Marketplaces
- **Talk to me about:** Scaling Team Efficiency, Women in Tech, AAPI Community Outreach

Let's get our bearings.

# Let's get our bearings.

## 🤔 Who is your boss?

Maybe they're the CEO or Founder.  
Have they done your job before?

*Do they know what it's like to be you?*

## 🤔 Who are your directs?

Are your former peers now  
your directs?

Is your first team changing?

*Do they know what it's like to  
be you?*



**You're now at the top.**  
(Congrats!)

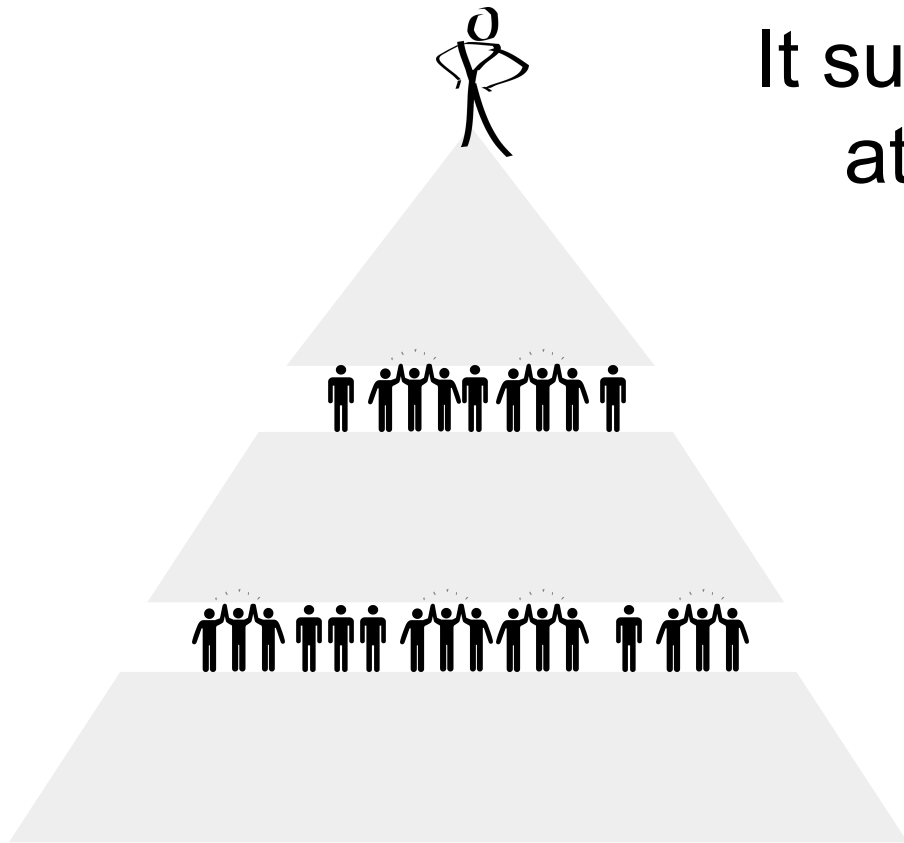


## Who are your peers?

Do they understand your craft  
as an Engineering leader?

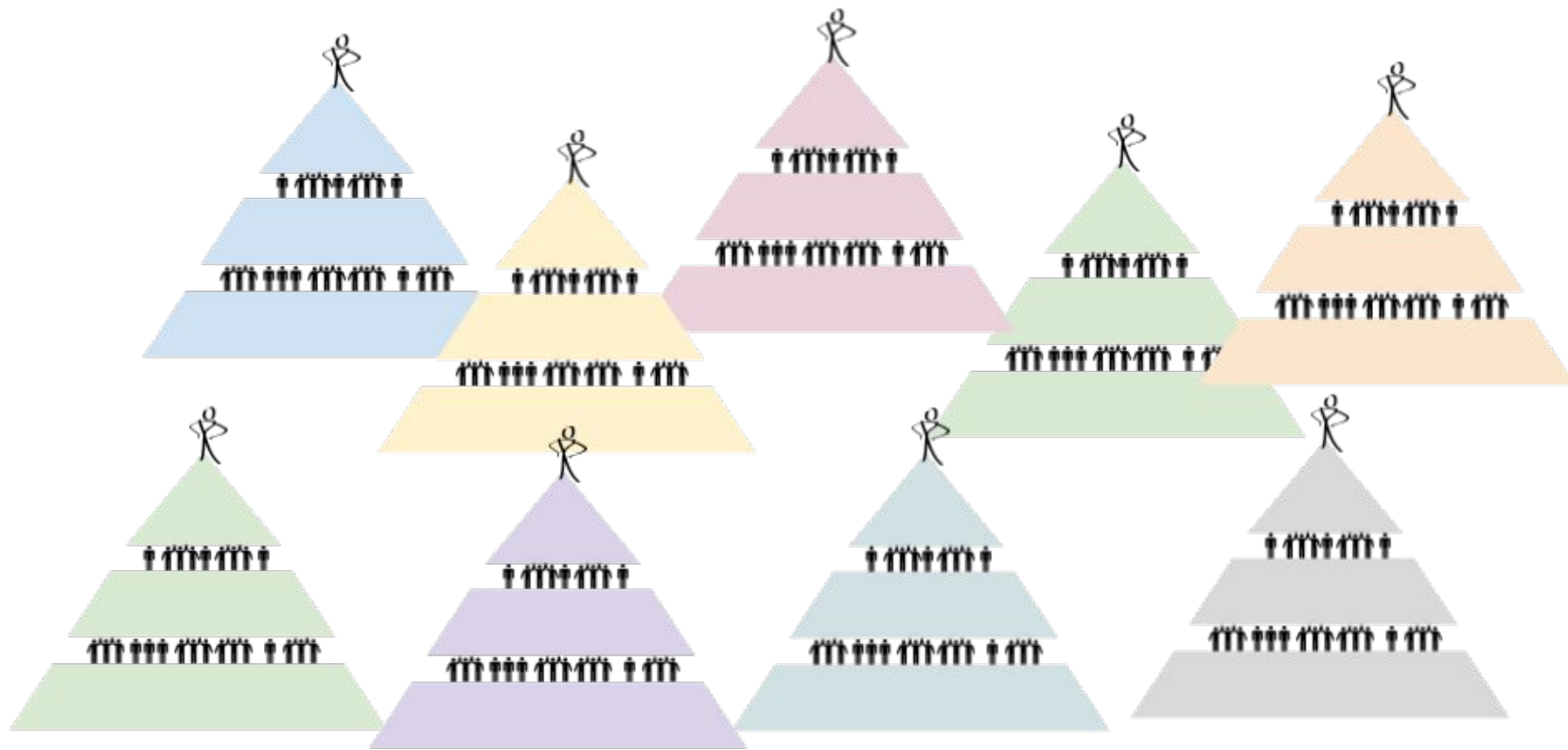
*Do they know what it's like to  
be you?*



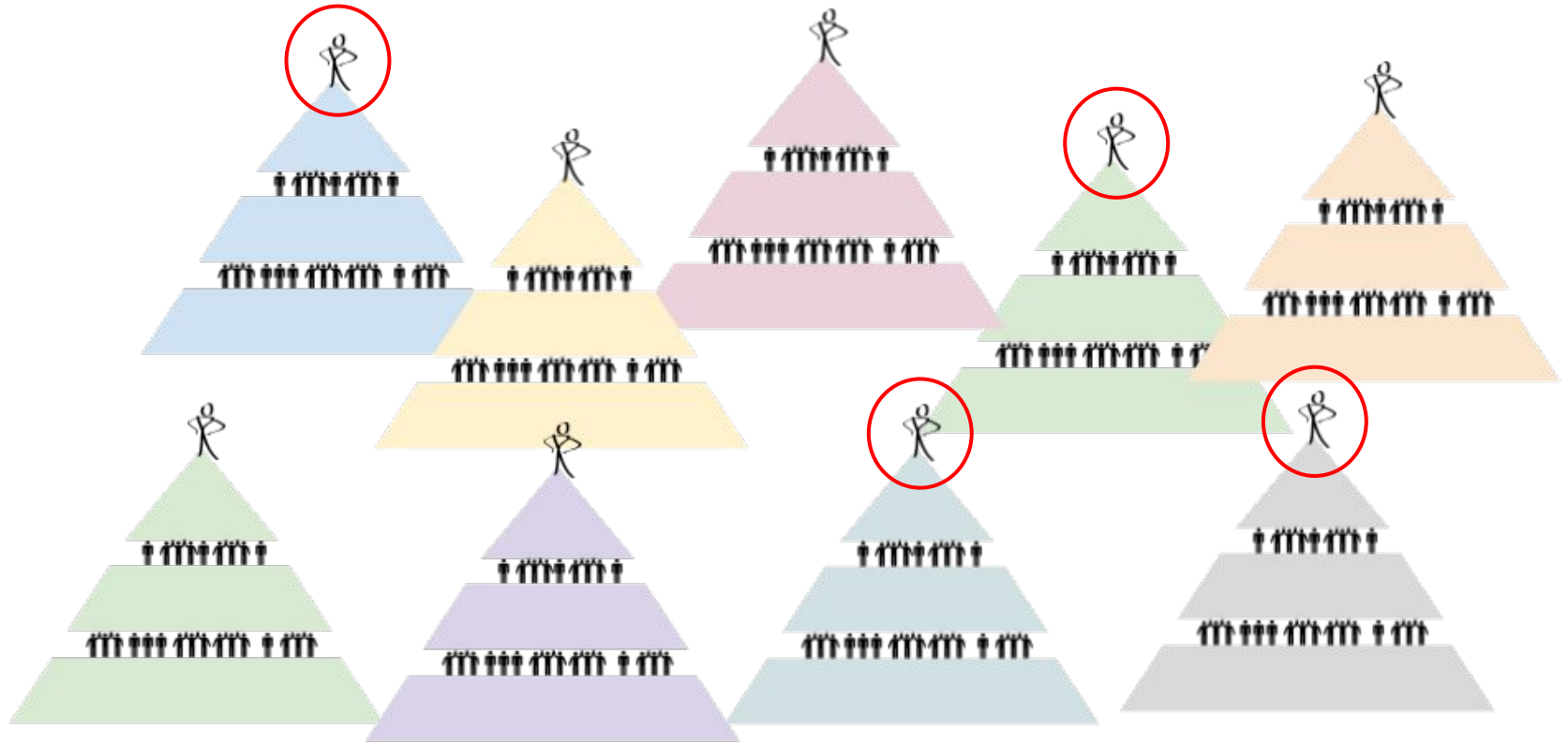


It sure is lonely  
at the top.

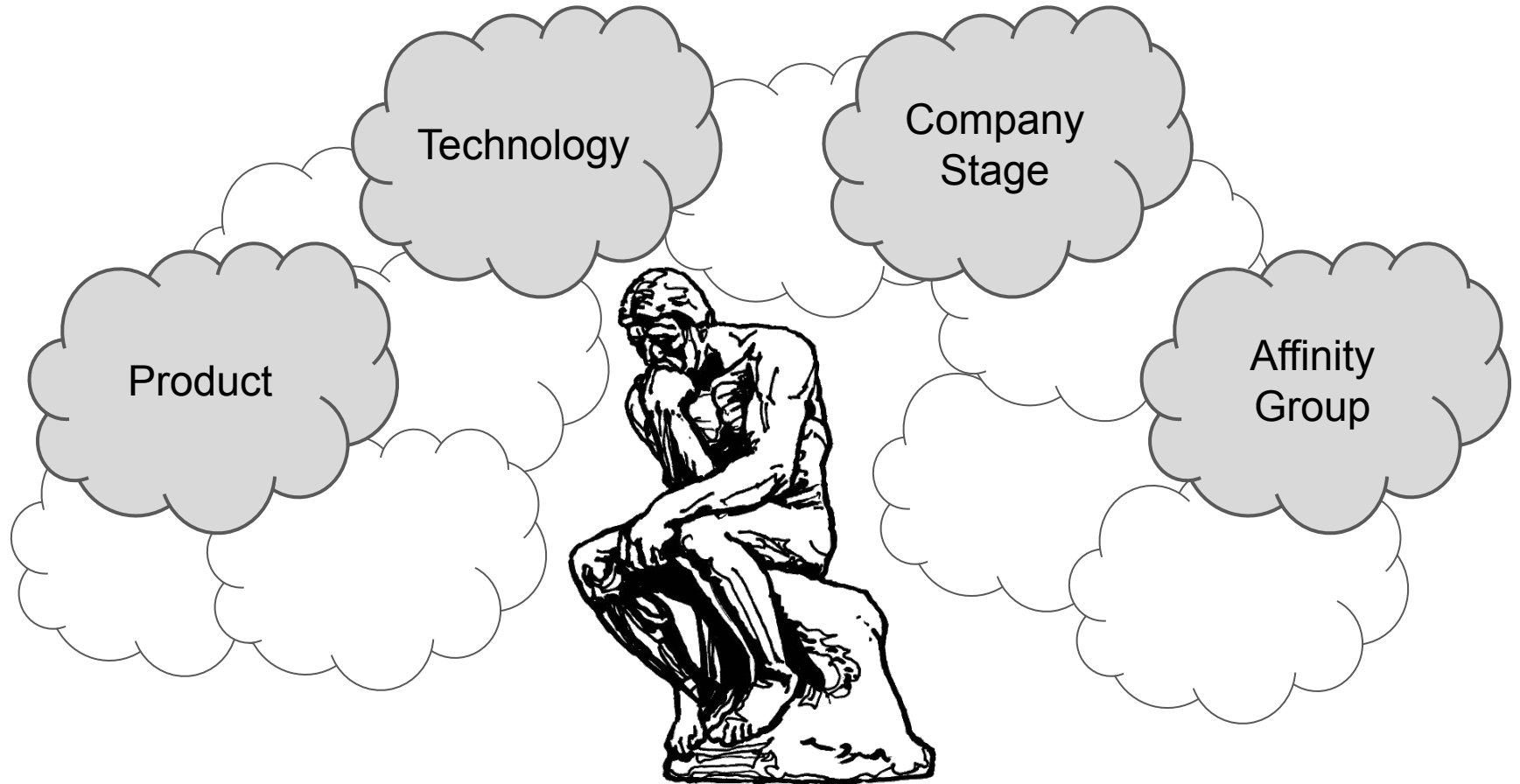
Luckily, you're not alone.



# Expand Your Peer Group Across the Industry



# Where to expand?





# Tactical Tips

- Go through your LinkedIn “Rolodex”



- Ask a colleague to make an introduction  
... or introduce yourself!

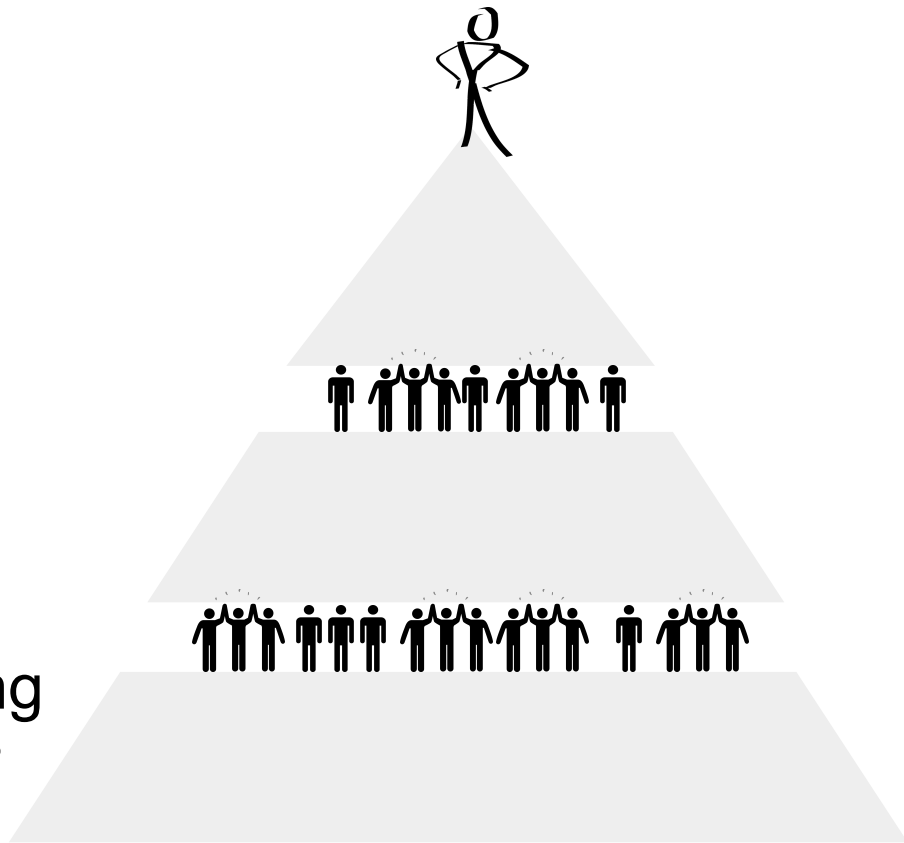


- Submit a talk with another fellow leader.



- Carve out time to join meetups.





What's happening on the ground?

You climbed up the ladder.

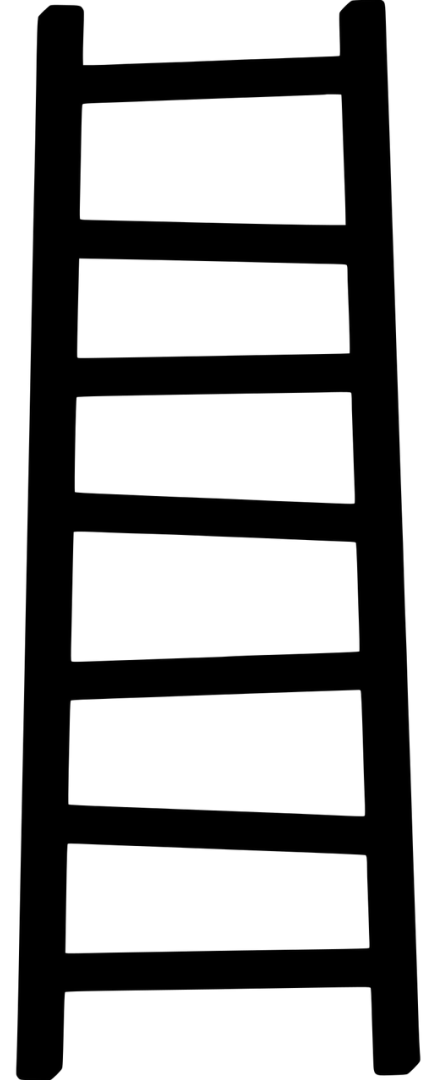
So, let people come up to you.

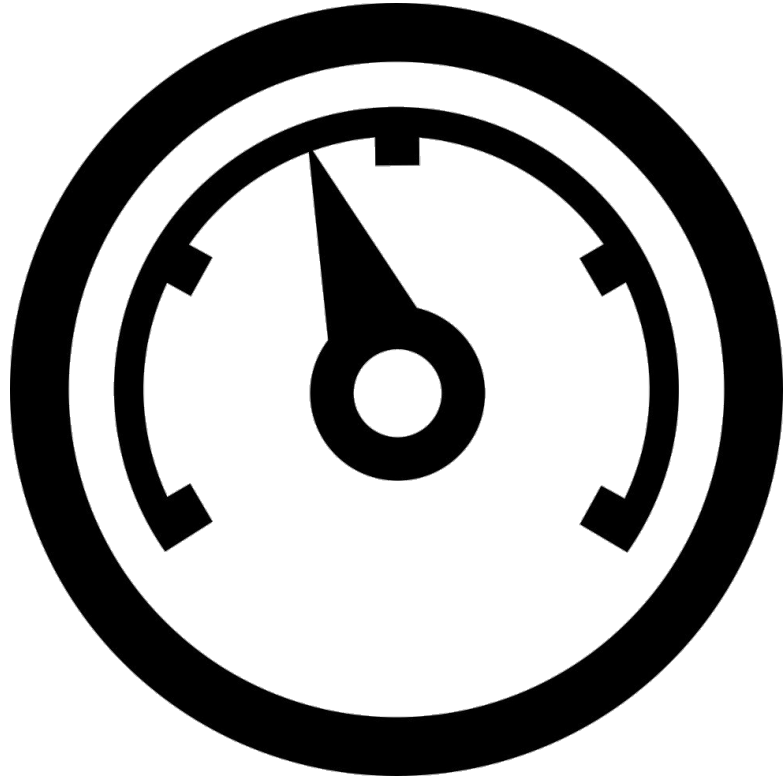
Connect with your Skip-Levels

Don't forget to bring their direct managers along. 😊



And unlock a treasure trove of information

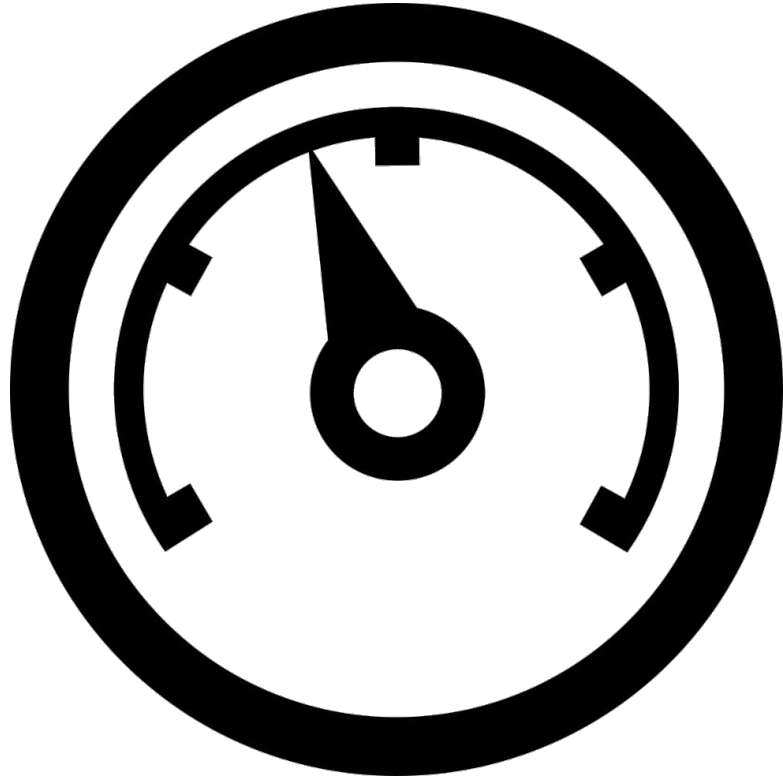




Pressure test  
your vision.

# Story Time!





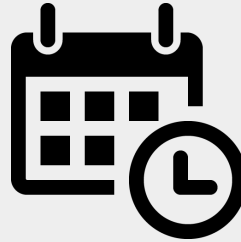
Pressure test  
your vision.

Build alignment.

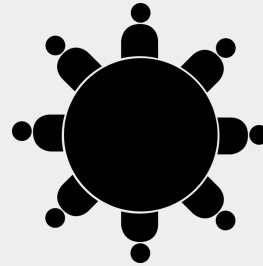
Inspire each other.

# Tactical Tips

- Office Hours



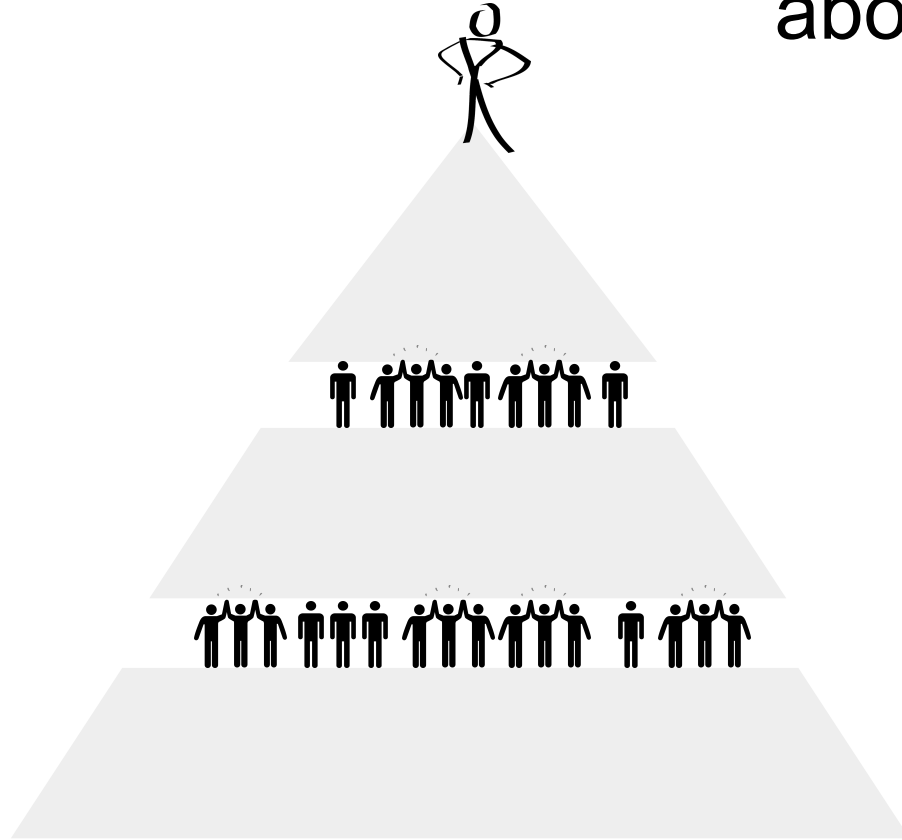
- Round Tables



- Host a Summit

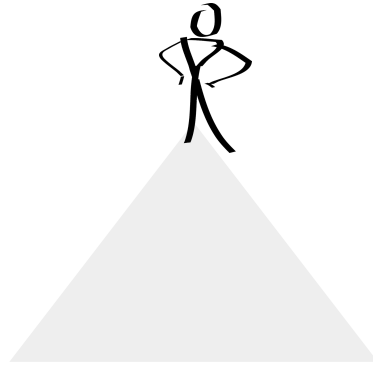


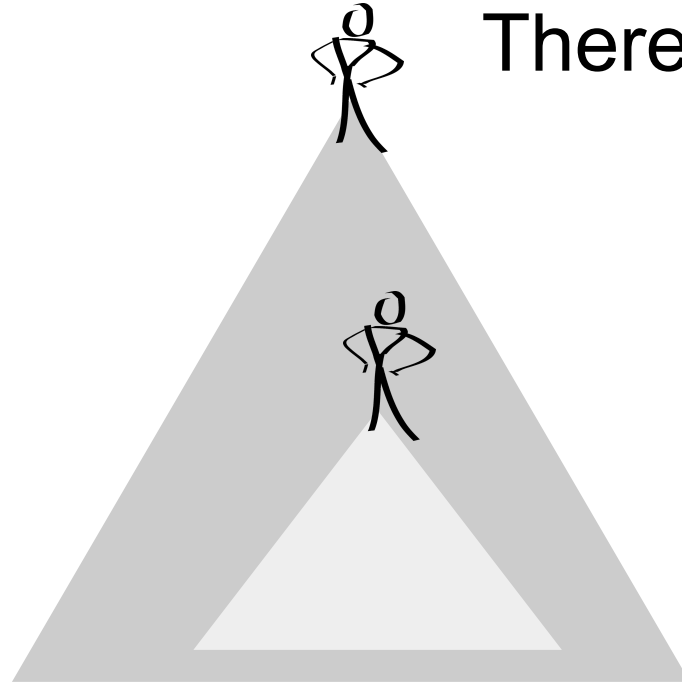
What's going on  
above you?





There's another  
ecosystem up there.





There's your boss...



... who has to answer  
to a lot of other people.



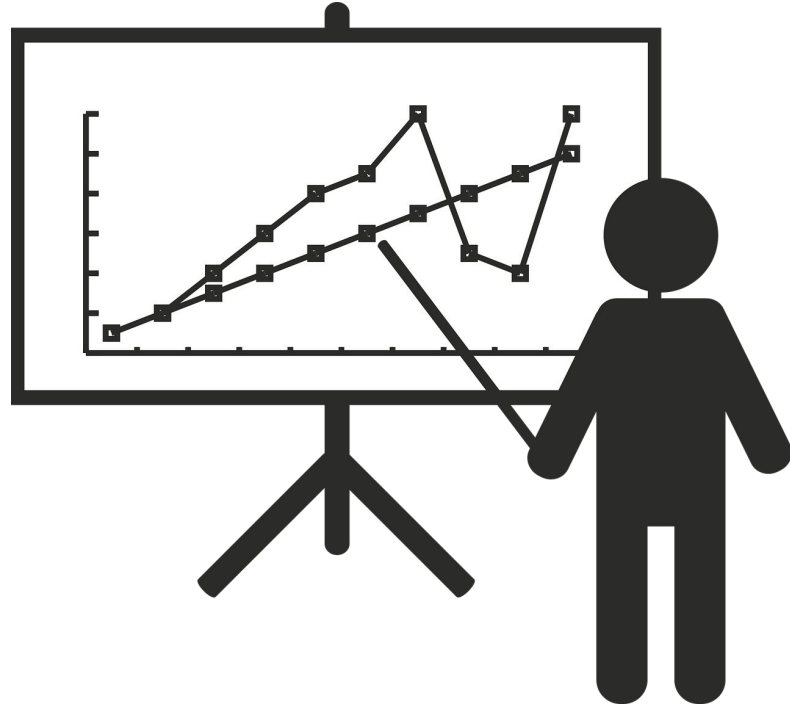
**Board  
Members**

**Investors**

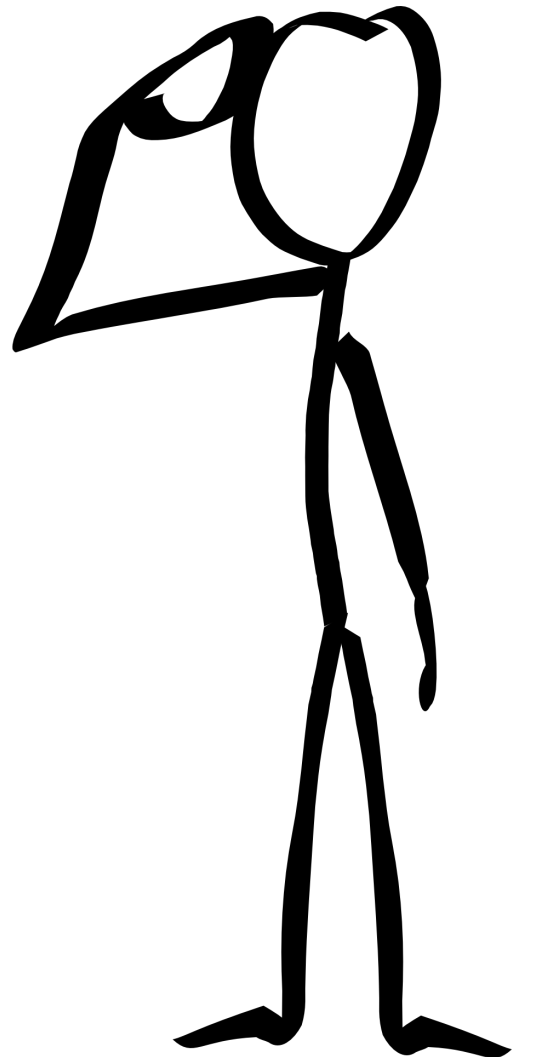
**The  
Public**



Help your boss tell the story. ... Find out what resonates.



How do I find out what resonates?



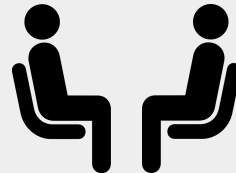
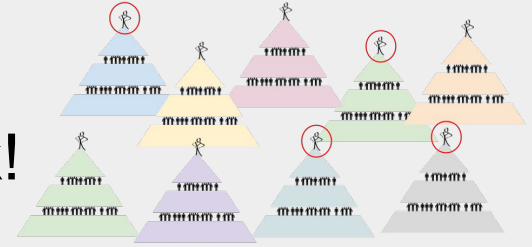
# Know Your Board and Investors

- What's their background?
- Why are they here?
- How much skin do they have in the game?
- What do they care about the most?



# Tactical Tips

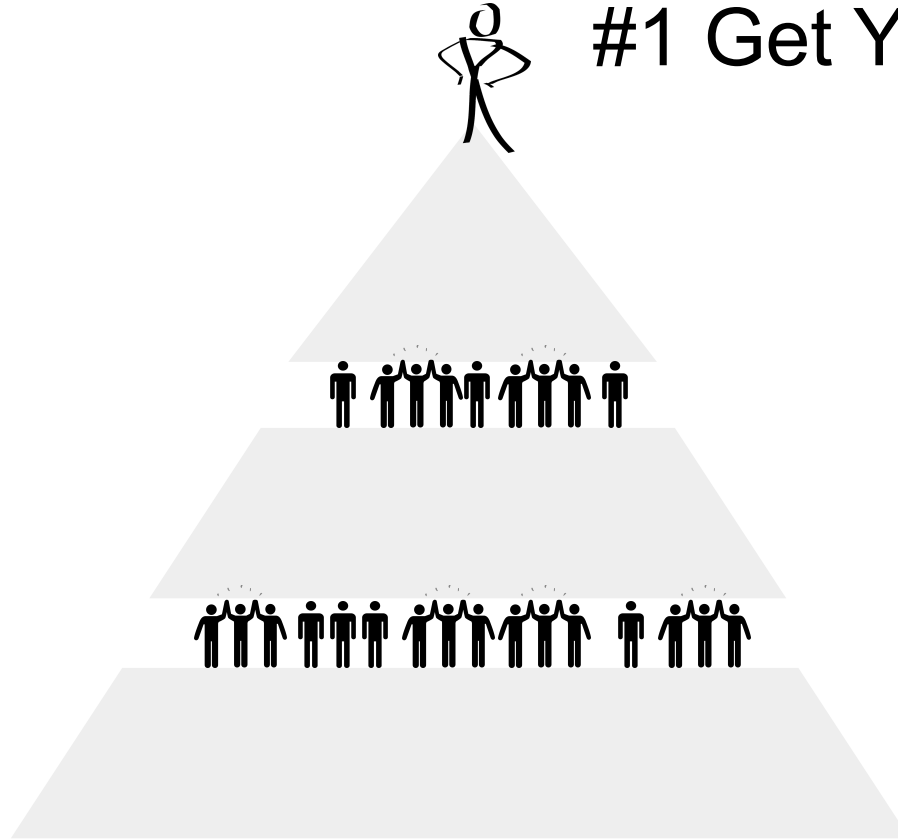
- Use your new Expanded Peer Network!
- Research on your own --  
LinkedIn, Twitter, Crunchbase
- Accept any opportunity for 1:1 time



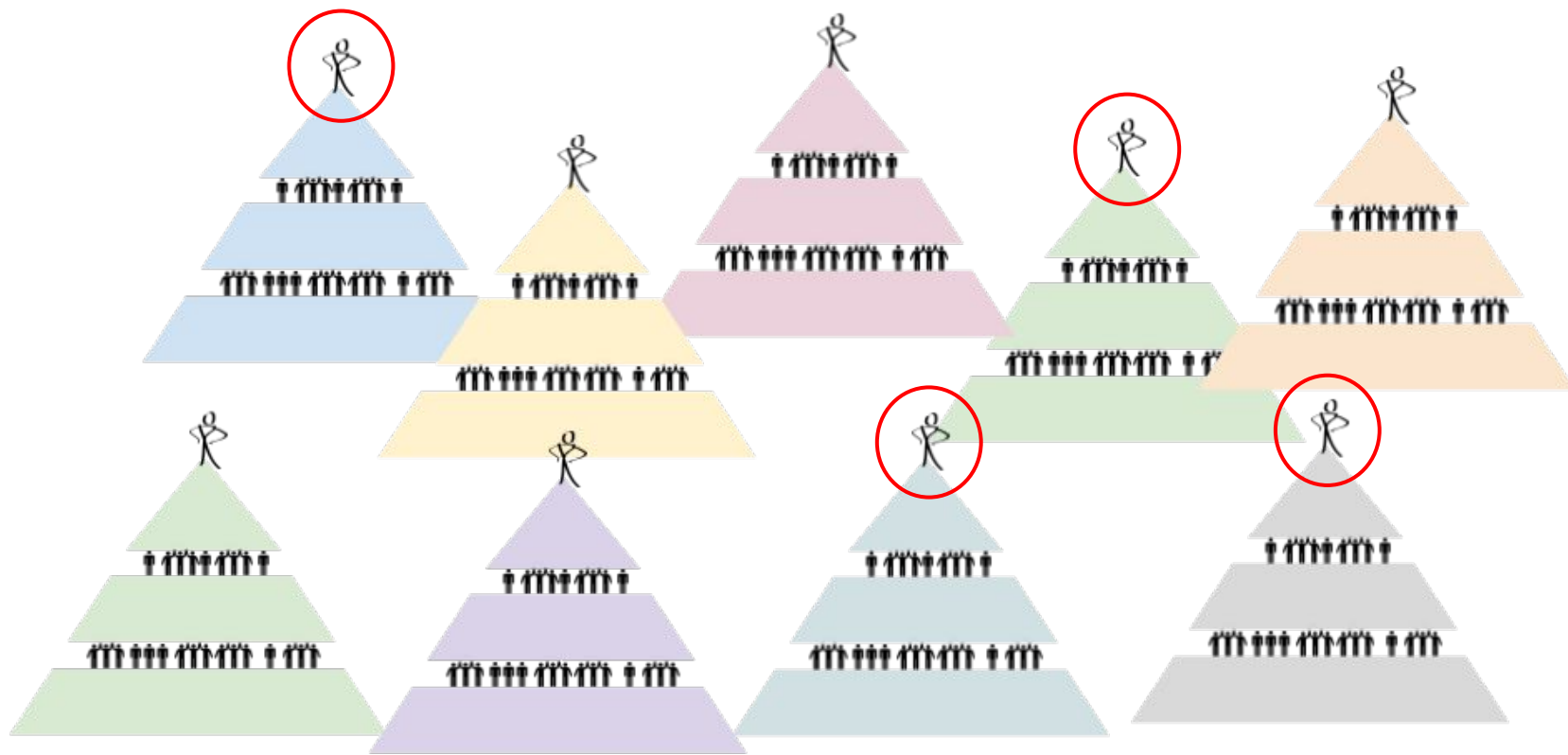


# Key Takeaways

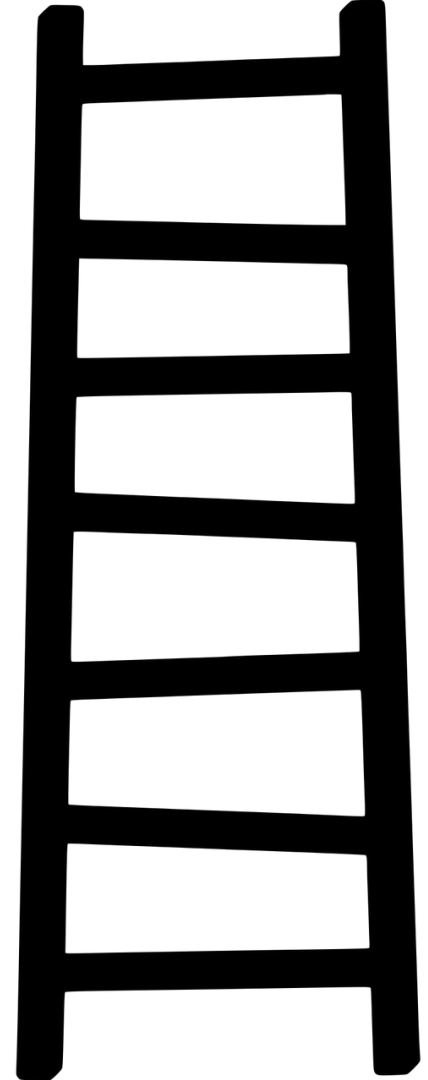
# #1 Get Your Bearings



# #2 Expand Your Peer Network



#3 Connect With Your Skip-Levels



#4 Know Your Board & Investors  
and help your boss tell the story.



# THANK YOU



[linkedin.com/in/amytru](https://www.linkedin.com/in/amytru)



[@amyt](https://twitter.com/amyt)

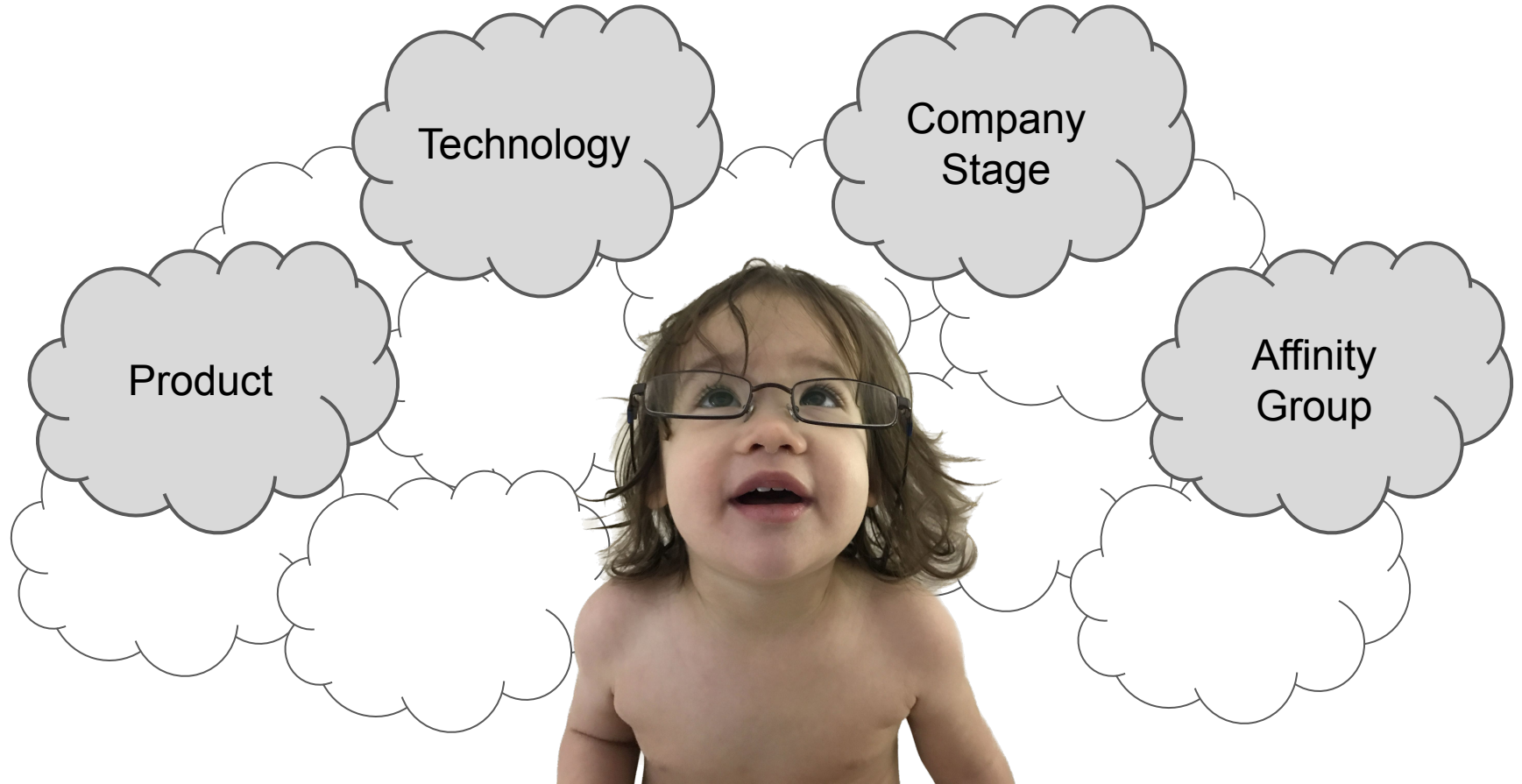
# Appendix

# Graphics Used

- Stick Man Clip Art: <http://www.clker.com/clipart-209967.html>
- The Thinker Clip Art: <https://imgbin.com/png/Y1nvrBVV/the-thinker-sculpture-drawing-masterpiece-png>
- Rolodex Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/rolodex-clip-art-png/JCqTTqnk](https://favpng.com/png_view/rolodex-clip-art-png/JCqTTqnk)
- Handshake Clip Art: <https://imgbin.com/png/lfqm6CgU/handshake-computer-icons-encapsulated-postscript-png>
- Presentation Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/presentation-icon-presentation-symbol-clip-art-png/Gm1Hg6vg](https://favpng.com/png_view/presentation-icon-presentation-symbol-clip-art-png/Gm1Hg6vg)
- Clock Clip Art: <https://imgbin.com/png/5AiqhEYG/clock-encapsulated-postscript-png>
- Treasure Chest Clip Art: [https://www.kindpng.com/imgv/iTTmbbb\\_treasure-chest-icon-clipart-png-download-clipart-treasure/](https://www.kindpng.com/imgv/iTTmbbb_treasure-chest-icon-clipart-png-download-clipart-treasure/)
- Pressure Test Icon: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/pressure-icon-pressure-clip-art-hydrostatic-test-png/PhjhbPKh](https://favpng.com/png_view/pressure-icon-pressure-clip-art-hydrostatic-test-png/PhjhbPKh)
- Story Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/neverending-story-tattoo-abziehtattoo-black-and-white-paper-drawing-png/9gpzdgTQ](https://favpng.com/png_view/neverending-story-tattoo-abziehtattoo-black-and-white-paper-drawing-png/9gpzdgTQ)
- Calendar Icon: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/calendar-download-calendar-time-icon-png/szfxjBdj](https://favpng.com/png_view/calendar-download-calendar-time-icon-png/szfxjBdj)
- Round Table Icon: <https://imgbin.com/png/7ARsQijw/round-table-meeting-png>
- Team Meeting Icon: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/icon-meeting-clip-art-png/PbwFHjaN](https://favpng.com/png_view/icon-meeting-clip-art-png/PbwFHjaN)
- Teamwork Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/industrial-worker-teamwork-royalty-free-clip-art-png/kXZqbrNn](https://favpng.com/png_view/industrial-worker-teamwork-royalty-free-clip-art-png/kXZqbrNn)
- Tree Roots Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/tree-roots-root-tree-clip-art-png/iiYuFE7v](https://favpng.com/png_view/tree-roots-root-tree-clip-art-png/iiYuFE7v)
- Presenter Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/scientist-speaking-cliparts-presentation-science-scientist-research-academic-conference-png/dkRS9gHQ](https://favpng.com/png_view/scientist-speaking-cliparts-presentation-science-scientist-research-academic-conference-png/dkRS9gHQ)
- Thinking Stick Figure Clip Art: <https://imgbin.com/png/gnEXn8WB/stick-figure-png>
- Board Meeting Clip Art: <https://imgbin.com/png/2CPwxzNE/meeting-board-of-directors-advisory-board-business-organization-png>
- Laptop Clip Art: [https://favpng.com/png\\_view/laptop-laptop-iphone-8-computer-monitors-desktop-computers-png/24uvX5gJ](https://favpng.com/png_view/laptop-laptop-iphone-8-computer-monitors-desktop-computers-png/24uvX5gJ)
- 1:1 Meeting Clip Art: <https://imgbin.com/png/gaKc5XGJ/semi-structured-interview-job-interview-recruitment-png>



# Define your own cohort



How can you be a part of *your boss'* support network?



Build up confidence with their stakeholders.

Business is flourishing.

Foundation is solid.

