



# Founders Institute: Accounting for Startups





## Outline: Learn Sequentially

### 🍃 Phase 1: Garage (<\$100k)

- Business goal
- Expenses

### 🍃 Phase 2: Seed (<\$1m)

- Business goal
- Expenses
- Projecting Revenue

### 🍃 Phase 3: Funded (>\$1m)

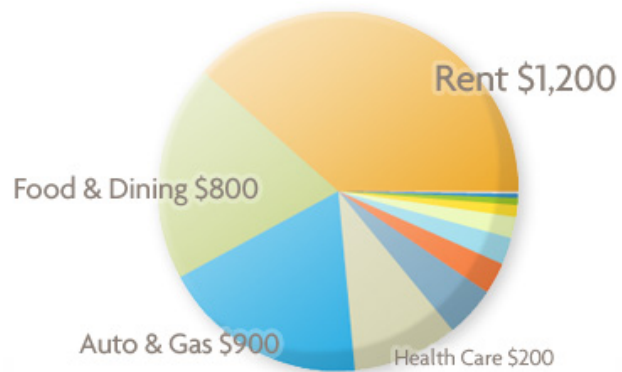
- Business goal
- Expenses
- Budgeting & growth model





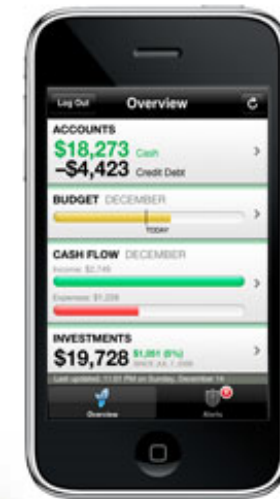
Mint.com is the #1 personal finance web application . . .

Helps users gain control over and do more with their money



- See all accounts in one place
- Understand & categorize spending
- Set budgets
- Track investments
- Find savings (Ways to Save)
- Avoid fees
- Educational blog content

Accessible on the go (iPhone) and across the web (Yahoo!)





Aaron = Geek ... with accounting skills



Duke: EE / Comp. Sci.  
Princeton: PhD Dropout



Financial + Managerial  
Accounting







## Garage: Goal = Prototype

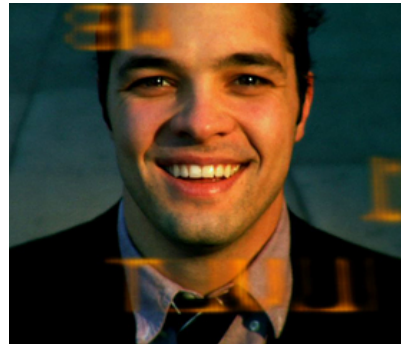
### Pre-revenue Valuation:

- Prototype development



+\$500k /  
engineer

- Idea
- Market Research
- Business Plan



-\$250k /  
business guy





## Garage: Expenses

Expenses	Minimum Cost
Founders (living expenses)	\$30k / yr
Engineering First Hires (low salary, high equity 1-5%)	\$30-50k / yr
Office (by the cube)	\$400 / cube / mo
Tech (laptops + couple of servers + dev software)	\$10k
Legal (Corporate setup)	Deferred payment for 0.50 – 0.75% of co.
2 founders + 1 engineer/contractor (Assumes 1 technical + 1 business founder)	<b>= \$150k / year burn</b>

→ Raise Seed money within 9 mo.





# Seed: Goal = Alpha Launch

- Usable, but not polished or scalable product
- Headcount: 5-6
  - 3-4 engineers
  - 1 product / frontend
  - 1 business generalist

The screenshot shows the MINT Money Intelligence dashboard for a user named Aaron. The interface includes a navigation bar with tabs for Summary, Accounts, Investments, Debt, Real Estate, Goals, Budget, and Offers. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Cash Accounts:** Lists Wells Fargo - Checking (\$3,450), BOA - Savings (\$10,934), Capital One Platinum (-\$296), and MBNA Princeton Gold (-\$1,290). It also features a transfer suggestion to ING Direct Orange Savings for 4.40% APR.
- Investments:** Lists E\*Trade Financial (\$13,450), Fidelity (\$100,934), Vanguard - IRA (\$32,592), and Vanguard Mutual (\$6,902), with a total of \$153,878. A summary box shows a daily gain of +\$910 (0.6%).
- My Money:** Displays a net change of +\$1,976. It includes a pie chart for income breakdown (Wages: \$4,000, Investment: \$139, Other: \$61) and a history table for November deposits.
- November deposits table:**

Edit	Posted	Category	Desc/Merchant	Deposit
	10/31/2006	Wages	Mint Software	\$40.00
	10/31/2006	Interest	E*Trade	\$50.00
	10/31/2006	Capital Gains	E*Trade	\$40.00
	10/05/2006	Wages	Mint Software	\$14.95
	10/31/2006	Other	Best Buy RETPUR	\$50.00
	10/31/2006	Other	Capital One RETPUR	\$40.00
	10/05/2006	Wages	Mint Software	\$14.95
- Alerts & Email** and **Who Owes Me Money** sections are also visible.





## Seed: Expenses

Expenses	Cost	Annual
<b>Salaries</b> (equity decreases, salaries rise, but below market)	\$50 - 90k / yr	\$450k
<b>Overhead</b> (facilities + benefits + taxes + food + laptops)	+20%	\$100k
<b>Legal</b> (...and VCs will make <i>you</i> pay for the financing)	\$25k (incorporation) \$2k / mo (general)	\$50k
<b>Total burn</b> (5-6 person team)		<b>= \$600k / yr</b>

→ Raise Series A within 12 mo.



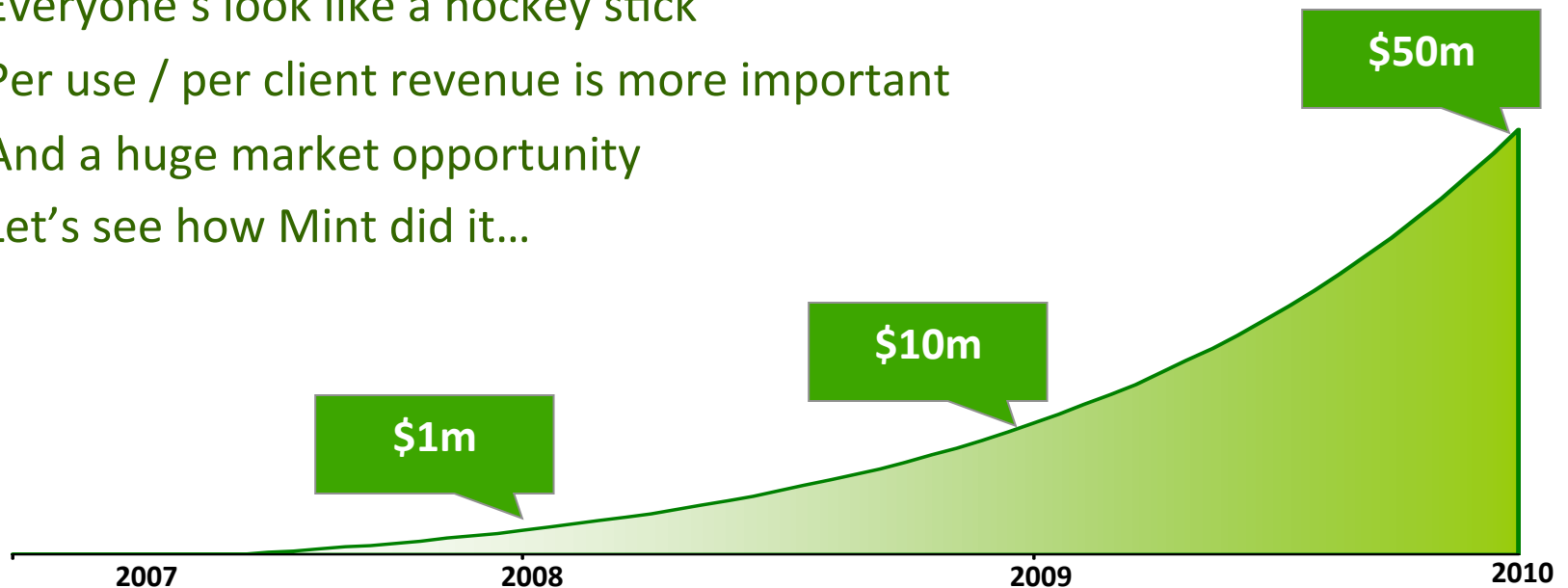




## Seed: Revenue Projections

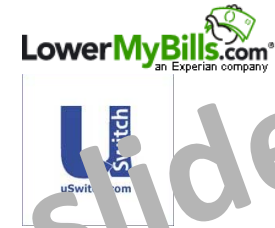
You have a revenue model, right?

- Your absolute revenue projections will be bullshit (see below)
- Everyone's look like a hockey stick
- Per use / per client revenue is more important
- And a huge market opportunity
- Let's see how Mint did it...





# Competition: Quicken & LowerMyBills

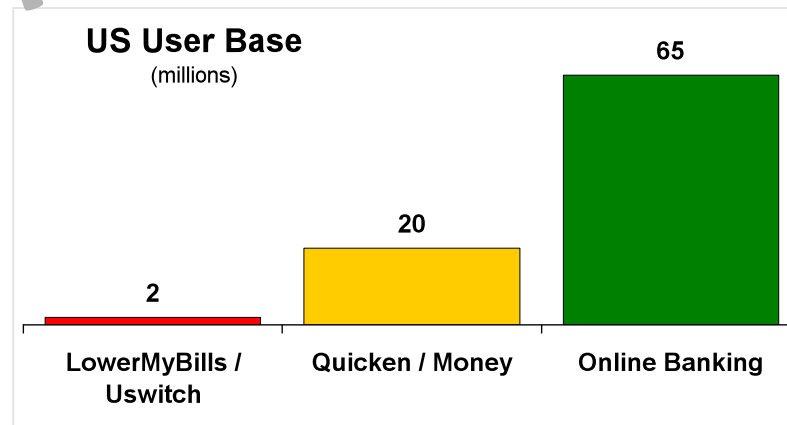


- Difficult to use
- Costs money: \$30-70
- Does not save or make user money

→ 4 of 5 quit within one month

Save money, but...

- Manually search for deals
- No insight into your finances



Mint - Money Intelligence

Original Mint late 2006 slide



# Lead-Gen & CPA

## Opportunity: \$30+/user/yr

Category	Where on Mint	CPA Revenue	Frequency Of Action	User Adoption Rate (%)	= Goal Rev User / Year
Credit Score	WTS	\$36	2 yr	20%	\$3.60
Credit Cards	WTS	\$60	2 yr	10%	\$3.00
Check/Save	WTS	\$30	2 yr	10%	\$1.50
IRA	Center	\$100	3.5 yr	5%	\$1.40
Brokerage	Inv/WTS	\$200	Once	5%	\$2.00
CDs	WTS	\$30	Once	10%	\$0.60
Daily Savings	Txn	\$150	1 mo	20%	\$3.60
Insurance	WTS	\$15	2 yr	10%	\$0.75
Comm Services	WTS	\$50	2 yr	10%	\$2.50
Mortgage Refi.	WTS	\$200	Once	5%	\$2.00
Travel	Goals	\$50	2 yr	10%	\$2.50
Home Improve	Goals	\$200	Once	5%	\$2.00
Edu & 529	Goals	\$200	Once	5%	\$2.00
					<b>= \$30</b>

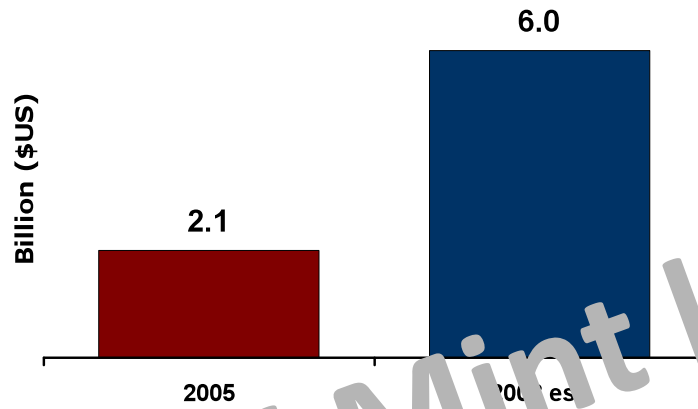
Original Mint 2007 slide





# Business Model: Referrals & Lead Generation

Lead-Gen



- 7% of \$16B online ad market
- Fastest growing ad segment
  - Up 160% from 2004 to '05 (Source: A)
- \$1.0B in mortgage lead-gen, to triple by 2008 (Experian)

20 - 65 M	x	\$30	=	\$0.6 - 1.8 B
User base		Rev/user/yr		Mint Opportunity

Original Mint late 2006 slide







Funded = Launch & Lead

## Goal:

Launch a real product &  
grow a profitable business

## “Hidden” Expenses:

- Legal: patents, trademarks, contracts, financing, employment, immigration
- Consultants: SEO, SEM, design, logos, DB tuning, etc.





## Funded: Expenses

Expenses	Cost
<b>Salaries + Overhead</b> (Salaries at market + taxes + benefits + facilities)	\$200k / yr
<b>COGs</b> (customer service, SMS, bandwidth, servers to scale)	Widely varying
<b>Legal</b> (contracts, patents, employment scale up with headcount)	\$10-50k / mo
<b>Total burn</b> (30 person team)	<b>= \$6.0m / yr</b>

→ Profitable with 2 years

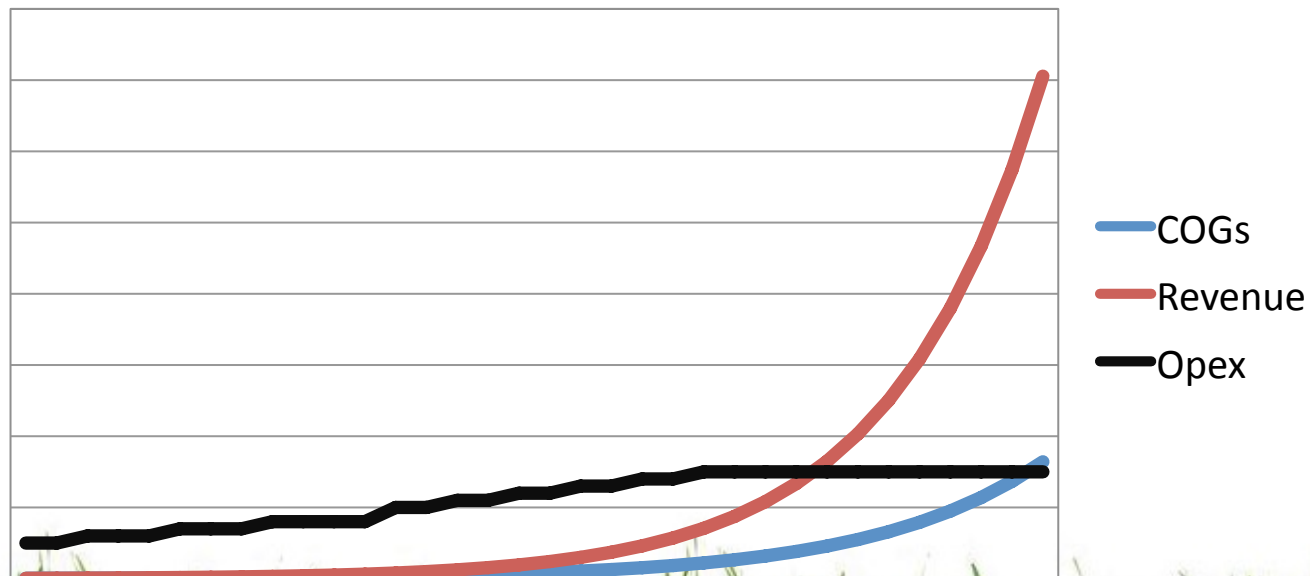




## Build a Model

- Show user grow, retention, COGs, revenue per sale/user, profit
- Accumulated loss lets you know when to raise
- Back fit with actuals

**Revenue vs. Expenses**





Acquired: More than \$\$\$

- Nerd → CEO
- Creating something from nothing...the source of all wealth in the world.
- Self-confidence







Questions?

