

2024 INDUSTRY WHITE PAPER

# THE 2024 INNOVATION HANDBOOK FOR ECOM

LEADING AN UNSHAKABLE CULTURE OF INNOVATION FOR GOOD

IN COLLABORATION WITH





#### **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

LEADING INNOVATION IN AN LEGACY ORGANISATION

#### Alita Harvey-Rodriguez, Founder & Managing Director of MI Academy

If time has proven anything about business success, it's that having innovation as part of your leadership and culture is what defines the laggards Vs leaders.

But if you're working for a legacy or "old school" family owned business, you might be thinking, 'Of course!' But how do I get everyone on board when "We've always done it this way" seems to be the companies motto? Or you might even be a leader wondering, how do I inspire my staff to think strategically or innovatively to help us grow the business?

It is no secret that it takes creating a supportive environment where experimentation and calculated risks are encouraged in helping to overcoming resistance to change. But it's always easier said than done. Whether you're managing up or down, I sincerely hope the lessons shared here, help guide you out of the rut and into innovation leadership.

Remember, patience and persistence are key when introducing innovation in a traditional setting. By gradually building a culture that values creativity and forward-thinking, even the most "old school" businesses can adapt and thrive in today's rapidly evolving marketplace.





# 6 LESSONS IN LEADING INNOVATION IN A LEGACY BUSINESS

#### OT DEFINE YOUR AMBITION

This should be something that excites aspiration, and hope, not fear. Ambition is your higher purpose as a organisation.

#### **02** CREATE NEW RULES

Innovation in traditional organisations is fear-based. An urgent problem or potential threat. Set their sites into something new or improved, it's much more motivating. Remember innovation doesn't always need to be technical.

#### **03** FORM A LEADERSHIP MOVEMENT

This one is important! If you're going to make new-rules and stick to them, leadership buy-in is critical!

#### **Q4** PROVIDE A LICENSE TO EXPLORE

Break the "stay in your lane" short-term responsibility mentality. With defined ambition anyone who was unsure of innovation or has actively been blocking it might think again! Forge a new path for long term growth.

#### **05** SET HUNTING ZONES

You'll experience the value of this in the first exercise of game day! As important as license to explore is, setting boundaries, narrow your focus

#### **06** ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE BIG "WHY"

Create an emotional bridge between the past and the future.



# IMPACT OF INTERNAL HACKATHONS ON INNOVATION & CULTURE

Internal Hackathons can reduce staff turnover rates by as much as <u>50%</u>!

Additionally, employees are <u>17% more satisfied</u> with their job when they have a collaborative work environment.

#### MI ACADEMY'S HACKGAMES IS A

# PRESSURE COOKER FOR SIDEAS AND INNOVATION

# AND NOW IT'S TIME TO FLIP THE SWITCH!

Come with us as we pull back the curtain and reveal the secrets behind the spectacular showcase of ingenuity, creativity and technological excellence that was HackGames 2024.

### **⚠ Psst!**

Steal these ideas and strategies to take them back to your team!

# HOW TO USE THIS WHITE PAPER

01 GET INSPIRED

Get inspired by real data on how retailers are approaching innovation in 2024

03 INNOVATION OUTCOMES

Take inspiration from the five pitches delivered by our 2024 retailer teams. **02** LEARN THE PRINCIPLES

Learn the gamechanging principles of lean innovation.

04 TRY IT YOURSELF

Kickstart your own lean innovation with your very own HackGames template.



# CHAPTER 01 GET INSPIRED



# INSIGHTS FOR INNOVATION

So how straight forward is the real world application of innovation, and how are retailers stacking up?

In 2023 Incisv released their State of Industry, Innovation in Retail report and the key takeaways highlighted the disconnect between intent and implementation, as well as the top innovation priorities on retailer's minds right now.

The following 5 pages highlight the key insights influencing retailers. Have a read, soak up the data, and think about how they might apply to your organisation!

There is significant disparity between retailer's intent and ability to innovate.

Some of the factors contributing include:

- Hyper-awareness of financial risk
- Unwillingness to allocate resources
- Hesitation to change when sales are up
- Lack of internal capabilities to successfully implement

THIS IS
WHERE MI
ACADEMY
STEPS IN TO
HELP!

Most retailers understand the importance of innovation

However, few have the cultural foundation to innovate

Innovation is critical to our future growth strategy



We encourage and reward risk taking and experimentation



Our leadership is committed to investing in innovation



Innovation is a shared process for all functions and levels



We have a defined agenda and roadmap for innovation



We have a mature execution process for our innovation strategy



We plan to increase investments in innovation next year



We have a dedicated tea focussed on driving innovation



Innovation leaders in retail are consistently outperforming their peers in revenue growth and profitability across the sector.

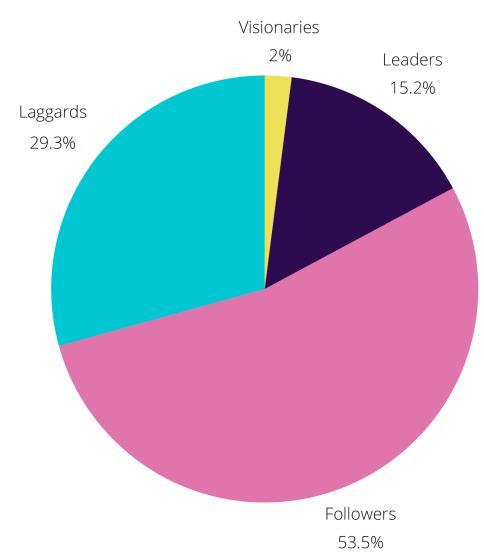
Visionaries and Leaders have 3 Year CAGR of 6.2%



Followers and Laggards
3 Year CAGR



### Innovation leaders outperform their peers across key business metrics



#### Terms of Reference

**Visionaries**-Innovation Leaders compared with their immediate peer group, emerging digital brands and tech leaders

**Leaders:** Innovation Leaders compared with their peer group

**Followers:** At par with most of their peer

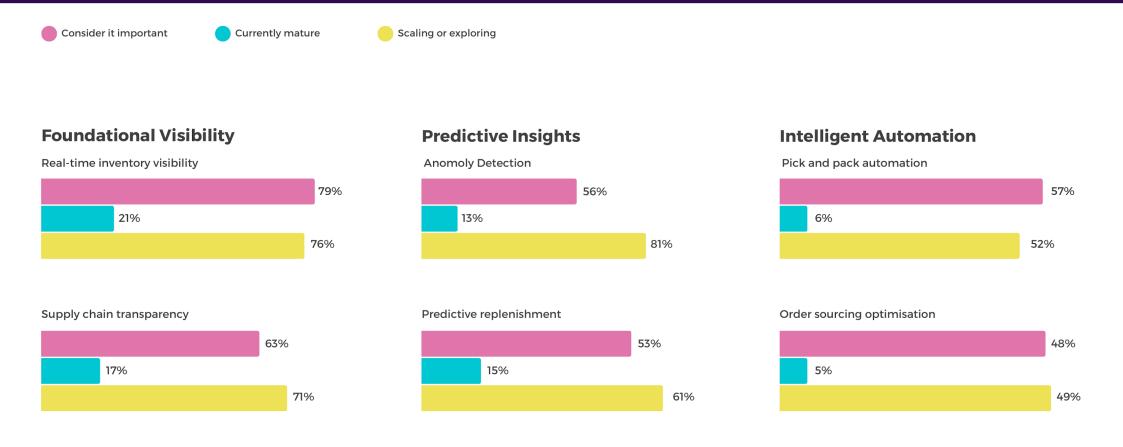
**Laggards:** Behind most of their peer group

State of Industry | Innovation in Retail 2023 | Incisiv

#### **Innovation Priorities Lie in Real-time Visibility**

Optimising and increasing capabilities to establish real time inventory visibility for customers is a top priority for retailers.

Strengthening the operations of the supply chain, and ultimately working toward automation will create a more seamless experience for shoppers



# **Inventory Visibility Reigns Supreme**

Beyond making product accessible across all channels, retailers are using data to optimise customer experience. This includes personalisation of promotions, providing alternate recommendations and preventing sell-outs



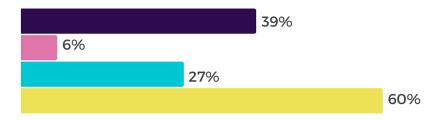
#### WHAT ABOUT CX?

From a CX perspective, retailer's top priorities for innovation are focussed heavily around unifying their physical and online stores for a seamless shopping experience, as well as levelling up personalisation and understanding what this means in a cookieless world.

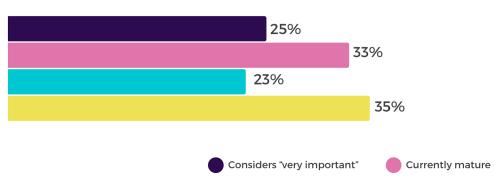




#### Cookieless personalisation



#### Enhanced checkout experience



Scaling

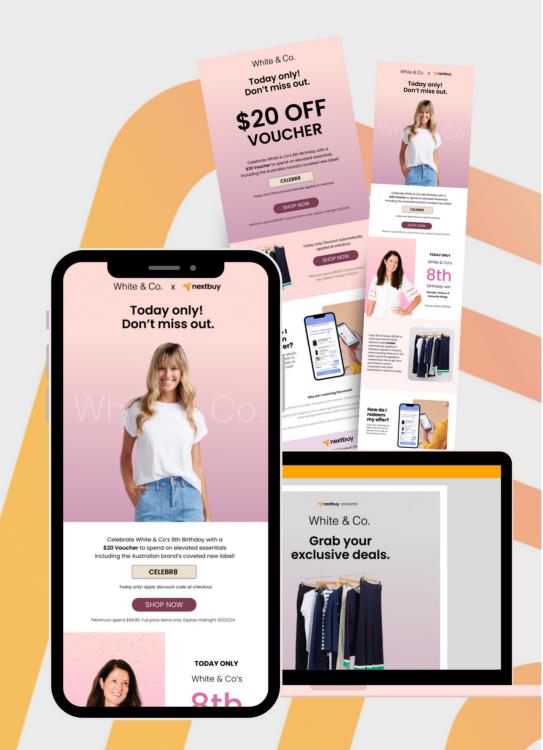
Exploring



# Ready for more sales?

Reach high-intent shoppers through our sponsored eDMS

**Book my campaign** 





CHAPTER 02
LEARN THE PRINCIPLES

#### HACKATHON

[hak-uh-thon] noun

A RETAIL-FOCUSSED PROBLEM STATEMENT

a competitive event in which people work in groups on software or hardware prejects, with the goal of creating a functioning product.

INDUSTRY-SHAPING
- IDEA!

#### HACKGAMES IS THE BRAIN CHILD OF MI ACADEMY



#### SKYROCKET YOUR REVENUE GROWTH

+700% in revenue over 12 months Tennis Gear



#### **UNLEASH EMAIL REVENUE**

98% increase in email marketing revenue in 90 days **ArtShed** 



#### **GAIN SPEED & EFFICIENCY**

7x increase in speed of delivery with Project Management **VetShop Group** 



#### **REVEAL GENIUS STRATEGIC INSIGHT**

Over 11,000+ Customers Surveyed **BlackMilk** 



#### **DRIVE RETENTION & LOYALTY WITH YOUR NPS RESULTS**

14+ increase in NPS over 12 Months **Mr. Toys Toyworld** 



#### **On-The-Job**

Informal and applied. Learn through experience, problem solving and practise. Bound to organisational goals & projects.

#### **Learn Through Others**

Learn through collaborative Interaction with peers, mentors and coaches.

#### **Formal Learning**

Structured, directive learning.

#### 4-PART DESIGN THINKING PROCESS

Every year we refresh our templates, giving players new opportunities to reframe their mindset and put proven innovation frameworks to work.



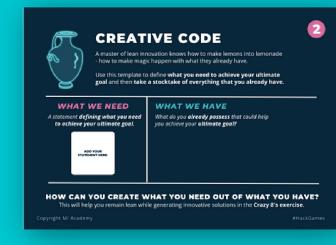
**01**AMBITION
FRAMEWORK

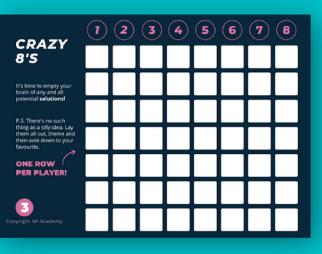
Helped players: Get super granular when defining their ambition.

Download on page #.

**02**CREATIVE
CODE

Helper players: Remain lean, listing out everything they already had to solve the problem.

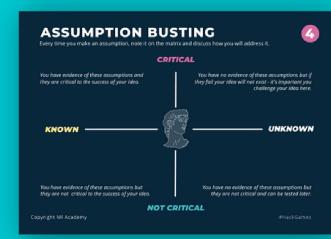




O3 CRAZY 8's

Helped players; Rapidly ideate solutions in a timeefficient, bias-free way. **04**ASSUMPTION
BUSTING

Help players: Stress-test their solution by naming and validating assumptions.





# **CHAPTER 03**STEAL THESE INNOVATION OUTCOMES FROM HACKGAMES



This is for everyone, not just for leaders!



Optimisation and Efficiency.
Supporting Homie in scaling their B2B operations.

#### **ULTIMATE GOAL**

Create a solution that streamlines Homie's B2B operations at scale with limited resources.



#### THE SOLUTION

#### **INITIATIVE 1: USER JOURNEY IS KING**

The team extensively mapped out the user journey of the B2B Homie customer. They mapped the current user journey in detail with what they have now, and then remapped the journey using learnings to understand what this could look like in the future.

#### **INITIATIVE 2: INDENTIFY FRICTION POINTS**

Through the exercise of User Journey Mapping, Team Adyen were able to pick up on friction points in the current journey, and use them to ideate solutions and identify opportunities to optimise for operational excellence and a seamless customer experience.

#### **INITIATIVE 2: AUTOMATION**

Automation and personalisation created a lean solution which enabled Homie to rapidly expand operations, reducing 75% of the delivery time without further stretching resources, delivering a seamless UX and CX.



Team Adyen used User Journey Mapping to identify the friction points within their current journey. Doing this enabled them to remap the user journey with opportunities revealed during the exercise, that would enable them to scale up operations.

Meet the financial technology platform that helps you realize your ambitions faster



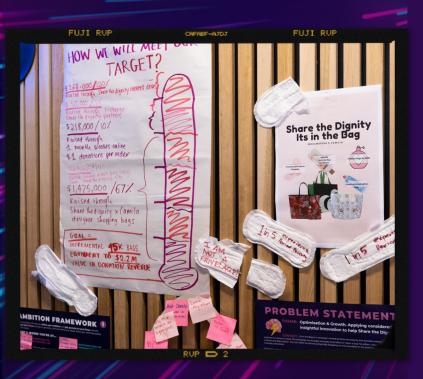
Let's talk



Optimisation & Growth. Applying considered and insightful innovation to help Share the Dignity

#### **ULTIMATE GOAL**

Develop a solution to help Share the Dignity bridge the gap and achieve their goal of filling 1 million bags by 2025



#### THE SOLUTION

#### **INITIATIVE 1: NEW STRATEGIC REVENUE STREAMS**

Team Overdose's goal was to develop new revenue streams which would enable them to get more hands on deck to reach their goal of fulfilling 1M bags by 2025. They proposed leveraging partnerships to create limited edition insulated resuable shopping bags designed by Camilla, which would be sold at 100% more than generic bags, with that extra \$1 made, going straight to Share the Dignity.

#### **INITIATIVE 2: PARTNERSHIPS**

Team Overdose highlighted Camilla Franks as an ideal partner due to her instantly recognisable, beautiful designs and cult-like customer base who view Camilla designs as collector items. This exposes Share the Dignity to a brand new audience and donor pool which they will experience the full benefit of in future.

It's also mutually beneficial for Camilla as they can align with a cause what directly impacts their customer base, supporting them in achieving CSR goals.

The addition of Woolworths to the deal as the supplier and retailer of the bags, leverages an existing relationship for Share the Dignity and enables them to bring this intitiative to the masses.



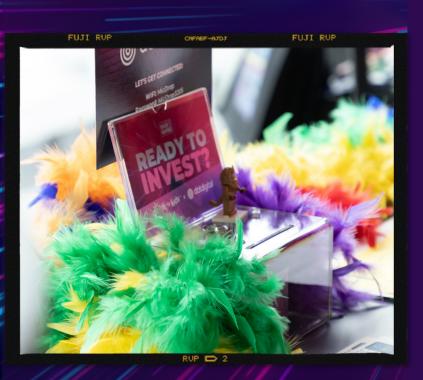
Team Overdose understood the power of strategic brand partnerships with their solution to partner with Camilla on exclusive bag designs. This is a brand aligned and mutually beneficial partnership that both sides will experience the halo effects from. When exploring potential brand partners, this is an important takeaway to consider, to gain maximum benefit from the deal.



Awareness and Growth. Apply and consider insightful marketing innovations to help TLC

#### **ULTIMATE GOAL**

Create a solution for TLC for Kids to expand and drive Tap 2 Distract's user volume for anyone, anytime, anywhere.



#### THE SOLUTION

#### **INITIATIVE 1: DRIVE NEW MARKETS**

Explore partnerships outside of hospitals such as Not for Profits, Educational and Health Institutions and Public Places. This includes schools, After School Care, Aged Care Facilitiesd, Sports Teams, GPs, Charities, Local Government, Airports and Airlines.

#### **INITIATIVE 2: TAKE A MOON SHOT**

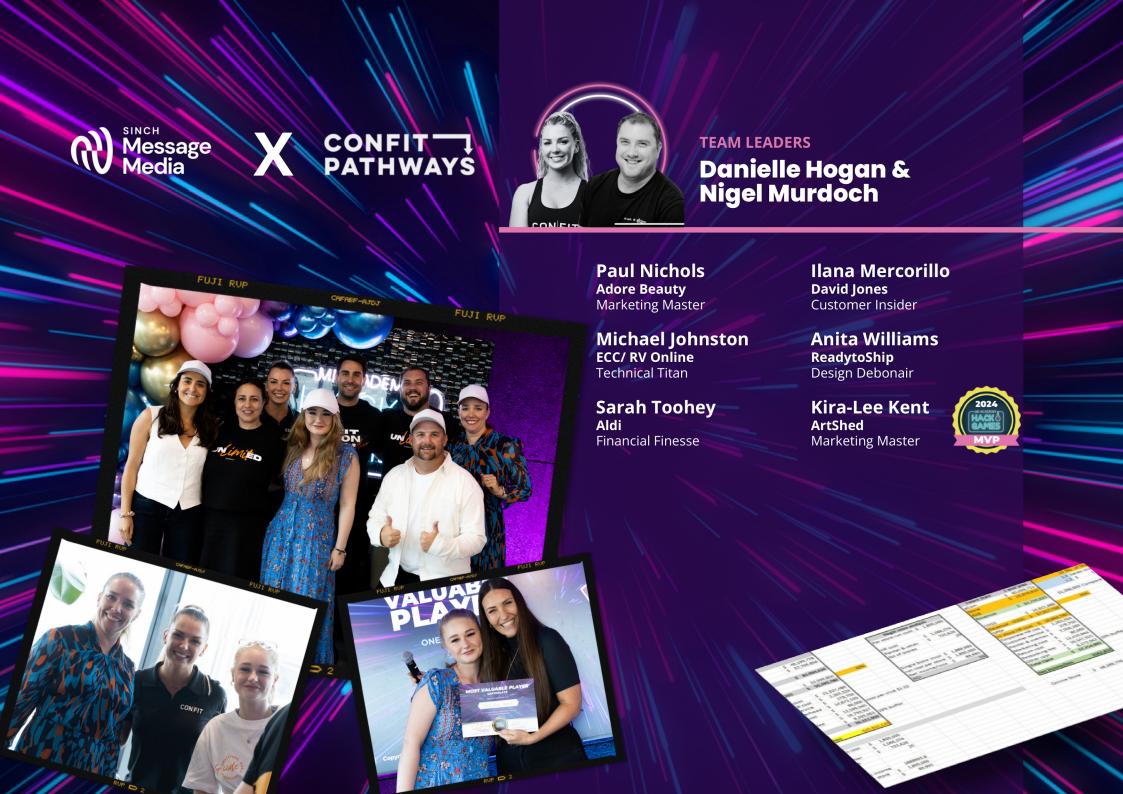
Leverage the influence of key philanthropists with a large audience. The golden goose being Richard Branson.

#### WHAT IS A MOON SHOT?

What is a Moonshot? We've used Moonshots a lot at MI Academy. In fact, some of the moon shots we have landed for our clients include locking down Natalie Bassingthwaite as a brand ambassador, developing a partnership with Bindi Irwin and Australia Zoo and having our client featured by Ellen Degeneres. Did we mention these were ALL free initiatives?



Team Dot Digital were especially bold with ideation of their moon shot: Operation Get Branson, to amplify awareness of the solution. Moon shots are essential for innovation and stretching the organsiation beyond current capabilites rapidly!



Awareness and Scale. Apply considered and insightful innovation for Confit's new commercial opportunity

#### **ULTIMATE GOAL**

Create a new commercial solution for Confit that is low touch from the team.



#### THE SOLUTION

#### **INITIATIVE 1: LEVERAGE EXISTING CAPABILITIES**

Confit's flagship initiative is centred around using fitness to reduce the rate of recidivism. The team leveraged these existing capabilities to explore commercial models to make sure Confit's existing resources weren't redirected away from the core mission.

#### **INITIATIVE 2: BUILDING A COMMERICAL MODEL**

Launching a fitness app and monetising subscriptions was a natural evolution of the newly launched Confit gyms. The app would enable Confit Gym to bring their training philosophy to the masses,

#### **INITIATIVE 3: ACCESSIBILITY**

The fitness app serves two purposes. It's a vehicle to commercialise the Confit brand and support breaking the stigma of formally incarcerated citizens. Its also accessible and affordable for those who are geographically or economically unable to engage with the physical Confit Gym.



Team Sinch Message Media used the Creative Code to identify what they had, and how they could leverage off those resources to create a new revenue stream and offering without adding any new development into the mix. It is all about enhancing what you have, and looking at it through a different lens.



# The ultimate guide to SMS.

Everything you need to know to successfully integrate SMS into your customer journey.

Free Playbook





Diversifying income for organisational sustainability. Apply considered and insightful innovation to help Culture is Life

#### **ULTIMATE GOAL**

Create a commercial solution that will allow Culture is Life to deliver greater access and connectivity to the Fullaship program beyond the core recipients.



#### THE SOLUTION

#### **INITIATIVE 1: LEVERAGE EXISTING CAPABILITIES**

**C**ulture is Life have unique leadership training programs which have First Nations values and perspectives at their core. Using these existing programs to partner with Australian Corporate companies.

#### **INITIATIVE 2: ALIGNING TO CSR INITIATIVES**

The service targets Australian Corporate's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and profits directly fund Culture is Life's core programming; The Fullaship Program.

The fee for service solution offers a 3-tier model of access to training services and resources, drawing on the core values of relationships, respect, reciprocity and responsibility with culturally immersive learning experiences.



Team Shipbob used Buyer Persona Mapping to approach their solution. In the empathy stage of Design Thinking, we look at three types of personas in order to empathise and define a solution that will solve a problem for the target market. Team Shipbob did this by identifying that there was an opportunity to align with Corporate CSR goals and initiatives.

# MI ACADEMY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE WE'VE JUST LOST A CLIENT

TRAINING AUSSIE eCOM TALENT IN-HOUSE



#### **MARKETING PERFORMANCE**

**Real Results:** Email revenue from \$2000p/a to 10% of total revenue in just 6 months – 34% increase in overall revenue YoY



#### STRATEGIC CREATIVITY

Real Results: Developed 5 scalable prototypes in 3 days



#### LEADERSHIP ALIGNMENT

**Real Results:** Unlocked performance & potential - Winners of Marketing Team of the Year, VetShop Group



#### **CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & LOYALTY**

**Real Results:** Increased NPS by 24 points in 12 months





Based on 56 reviews

Some things are better of in-house. We're not an agency, we're **Australia's most awarded project-based trainers**.

Our job is to build team capabilities for retail and eComm brands – training gives results for life. Not just life of one campaign.

We help Founders, CEO's & Managers gain marketing maturity by building more capable, strategic & high performing teams.

**STUDENTS + ALUMNI** 



3x growth in 12 months speed up delivery apéro

101% increase
in CVR
from email traffic in 30 days

MR TOYS
TOYWORLD

175% lift abandoned cart transactions in 30 days

Ready to develop your team? Click here to book in a 30 Minute Training Exploration





#### **POPULAR MI ACADEMY PROGRAMS**

#### **BUILD YOUR OWN 12 WEEK EMAIL MARKETING**

Upgrade your capabilities and outputs in just 12 weeks with over 32 beginner to advanced modules to choose from.

#### 8 WEEK VOICE OF CUSTOMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Reveal actionable insights direct from your customers to fuel customer-centricity across the organisation.

#### **CMO BLUEPRINT**

Our #1 bestseller! Investigate and identify your strategic priorities, budget performance potential, marketing operations efficiencies and marketing + CX maturity.

#### **TEAM ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP**

Unlock the unrivalled potential of aligned team. Boost moral, get laser focussed and improve communication. Choose from over 18 modules.

#### eSchool

Experience a new era of corporate learning from DIY workshop playbooks to short courses designed in collaboration with our industry's best retail leaders.

# TRAINING WHERE IT MATTERS

Discover opportunities to apply the principles of our award-winning HackGames to your organisation!

**GET OUR CMO BLUEPRINT** 

50% OFF

\$2,475 NOW \$1,237

GO TO

miacademy.com.au/researchinsights/cmo-blueprint OR

SCAN

To learn more!





# CHAPTER 04 TRY IT FOR YOURSELF

# EXCLUSIVE INNOVATION TEMPLATES SOLVE PROBLEMS QUICKLY & COLLABORATIVELY



Need a solution ASAP...but don't know where to start?

Coupled with the Ideas Slam Down instructions, the Assumption Busting template will help you quickly define your ambition and get super granular on your focus.

#### When to use it?

Are you staring down a customer, operational or strategic problem that seems too big to overcome. Take a deep breath, and start here!

#### **Ideas Slam Down**

This guy is super handy! Follow these instructions when you need to generate ideas or solutions in a time-efficient manner.

#### **BONUS: Creative Code Framework**

Use this template to take a stocktake of what you have in order to align it to what you need.

#### IDEAS SLAM DOWN

You have no idea how good an idea is until you share it!

#### **WHAT**

Throughout this gameplay you will use this process to rapidly-ideate, share and vote on your ideas.

#### WHY

There's a real art to our sharing ideas, and when we master it teams become unstoppable. This process will help you rapidly share your ideas in a judgement-free, efficient manner.

#### HOW

1.Each player needs a pen and stack of stickies. Set a timer for 5-8 minutes.

- 2. Hit start! Without discussing, note each idea that comes to mind on a separate stickie. One stickie note = one idea.
- 3. When time's up, take turns to share your ideas. Do not dive into further discussion just yet. If needed, repeat this process to lay down more ideas.
- 4. Once all ideas are on the table, your team leader will group together similar ideas in theme clusters.
- 5. Now it's time to vote! Each person gets 6 votes:



3 votes: an amazing idea

2 votes: hey, that'll work 1 vote: Mmm, not bad!

6. Tally up the votes and discuss your winning idea. Once you have reached a consensus it's time to move forward into the next part of the process!

Can't pick a winner? Your team leader has two extra votes they can allocate to break the tie!

### AMBITION FRAMEWORK

This template will help you **define your ambition** and **get granular on your focus**. Use the **Ideas Slam Down** process to generate, vote and refine your ideas. Place your winning stickies in the boxes.

#### STEP 1: WHERE YOU'RE AT...

YOUR WINNING STICKIE GOES HERE

WHERE DOES THE OPPORTUNITY LIE?

Why is it worth solving?



WHAT/WHO DOES THE PROBLEM/OPPORTUNITY IMPACT?

Who is really feeling the pain here? And what is being impacted?

#### STEP 2: WHERE YOU'RE GOING....

YOUR WINNING STICKIE GOES HERE

#### BY CREATING A SOLUTION WE WILL BE ABLE TO...

What would be the expected flow on effect of solving this problem?



WHAT DOES
SUCCESS NEED TO
LOOK LIKE?

What key metrics do you need to acheive?



### CREATIVE CODE

A master of lean innovation knows how to make lemons into lemonade how to make magic happen with what is already there.

Use this template to take a stocktake of what you have in order to align it to what you need.

#### WHAT WE HAVE

**Step 1:** Make a list of all the things you have that can be useful like, locations, relationships, people, tech, data... **What can you leverage?** 

**Step 2:** Generate ideas to solve your problem by mixing and matching what you have to achieve your goal

#### WHAT WE NEED

A statement **defining** what you need to achieve.

YOUR WINNING
IDEATION
DEFINED
AMBITION GOES
HERE

**AKA GOAL** 

#### **HOW CAN YOU CREATE WHAT YOU NEED OUT OF WHAT YOU HAVE?**

This will help you remain lean while building out your innovative solution.

BILLINI

havaianas<sup>®</sup>





























WANT TO JOIN THE HACK REVOLUTION?

### APPLY TO PLAY FOR 2025

TO JOIN A TEAM OF LEGENDARY RETAILERS AND HELP US



## HACK FOR HEROES



entworld















DECJUBA









**Retail Prodigy Group** 





















































# 6 LESSONS IN LEADING INNOVATION AT WORK

- O1 DEFINE YOUR AMBITION
- 02 CREATE NEW RULES
- **03** FORM A LEADERSHIP MOVEMENT
- **04** PROVIDE A LICENSE TO EXPLORE
- 05 SET HUNTING ZONES
- 06 ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE BIG "WHY"

# NOW FOR THE FUN PART...

We are super passionate about hosting the HackGames, but what truly drives us is the discussions and impact that reverberate long after the event has ended.

By investing in a culture of lean innovation, you can continue to drive growth, increase efficiency, and stay ahead of the competition - even in unfavourable conditions.

Beyond that, it makes work fun! A culture of lean innovation empowers your entire organisation by encouraging strategic creativity and continuous improvement.

Thank you for reading. Please, keep this white paper handy. Come back to it when you need to be inspired!

#### What now?

If you want a high-level overview of your organisation, our Future Blueprint is currently available at a 50% discount.

On the other hand, if you are seeking to accelerate your culture of innovation, hosting an event like the HackGames may be an excellent opportunity for you to explore.

Sounds like a plan? Shoot us an email at hello@miacademy.com.au



# INSPIRING EVENTS ON IN 2024

With a focus on in person events and training in 2024 there are more ways than ever to engage with the community

#### **APRIL**

Retail Fest | Gold Coast

#### MAY

CMO Blueprint Workshop | Melbourne

#### JUNE

CMO Blueprint Workshop | Brisbane Networking Event | Adelaide

#### **JULY**

Online Retailer | Sydney
Live Podcast and Networking | Melbourne

#### **AUGUST**

CMO Blueprint Workshop | Sydney HackGames: Rising Stars

# CLICK TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR THE EVENTS IN YOUR STATE

#### **INDUSTRY + AWARDS**























**2023 FINALIST** 

Outstanding Growth & Embracing Innovation categories LET'S GET SOCIAL! FIND US @MI ACADEMY

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