## **ProtonMail**





# Swiss start-up success through Crowdfunding

CSW Summit Geneva, May 26, 2015

## Swiss innovation incubator





Status Start-up incubation since 1991

Private non-profit foundation supported by canton of Geneva

Mission Catalyse innovation and create economic value

Incubator Found, host, accelerate & grow innovative tech start-ups

Industry Medtech, ICT, Fintech & Cleantech

Impact 40+ companies, 150 jobs, CHF 50M+ raised, 10+ M&A exits



1. Offices 3700 m<sup>2</sup> professionally equipped space, hosting 40+ cos

2. Services Administration, accounting, legal, company foundation

**3. Coaching** By serial entrepreneurs & industry experts

**4. Financing** Seed financing + access to partners for A rounds

### Fongit is the ideal home for a successful start-up

## Introduction



- Talk Overview
  - Startup Crowdfunding in Switzerland
  - Case Study: ProtonMail
  - Future and Outlook

## Why Crowdfunding?



- Test product / market fit / pricing and positioning
- Gain exposure

International reach

An ideal platform for launching a product

## Who can Crowdfund?



 Initially: pre-sales of consumer goods

Today: virtually any product or service





- Public perception of crowdfunding is shifting
- Pre-orders → Platform for revolutionary change

Perfect match for disruptive technologies

## Keys to Crowdfunding Success



- Disruptive technology
- Consumer facing
- Broad appeal
- Credible team
- Social good
- Bold execution (product, video, social and media)

A good crowdfunding campaign is one that tells a meaningful story



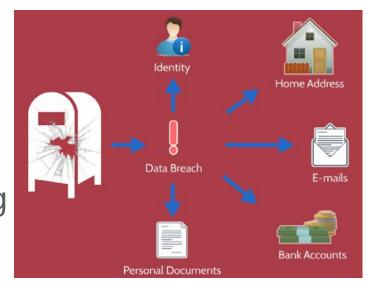
Case Study 1:

**2** ProtonMail





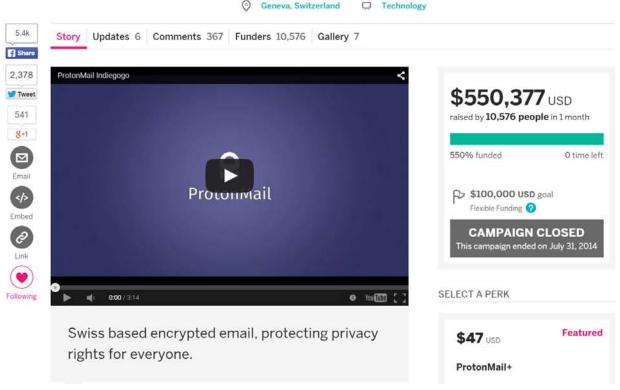
- Key Statistics
  - Founded in 2013 by CERN researchers
  - Raised 500,000 CHF on Indiegogo (record for software)
  - Now the world's largest end-to-end encrypted email provider (500,000 signed up)
- Zero knowledge technology
- Complex cryptography is invisible to users
- New model for safeguarding personal data online







#### **ProtonMail**



- Hit 5x funding target in 1 month
- Demonstrated market exists for the product
- Grew userbase 2x over course of the campaign





- Raised 500,000 CHF in far less time than a traditional financing round
- All funds raised were non-dilutive
- Energized the public around the world behind the product and mission
- Received valuable media coverage for free
- Demonstrated strong willingness to pay for the product
- Obtained a core group of early adopters for further product optimization



### Other Case Studies



## fongit



For Your Eyes Only: the graphic book from Greg Guillemin



This is a graphic book from the 'Secret Life Of Heroes' illustration series.

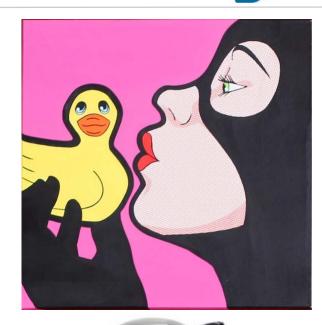
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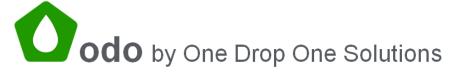
Greg. 'Léon' Guillemin



793 backers pledged \$62,28 bring this project to life.



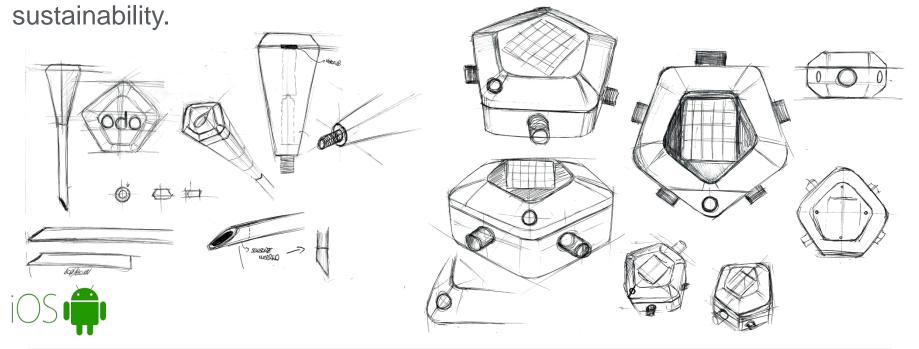
## Kickstarter for testing new business models





We are on a mission to reduce the impact of human activities on potable water reserves, providing the most advanced, efficient, sustainable and **smart irrigation solution**. At an affordable price. For everyone.

This isn't just about smart gardening: this is a social movement for water



Kickstarter campaign launch: JULY 2015



### Thank You

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