

# Equity Compensation\*

*Rules of thumb, guidelines, conventional wisdom & other considerations*

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*\*Several slides are “hidden.” You may want to review them.*

# Equity Compensation Topics (1 of 8)

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1. Overview
2. Founders' Pie
3. Slicing the Founders' Pie
4. Stock Options
5. Vesting
6. Small Piece of a Large Pie
7. Rules of Thumb & Clichés
8. Final Thoughts

# Why do you care about equity compensation?

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- If you are a founder, you have to decide how to share the “Founders’ Pie”
- If you are recruiting someone, you must decide how many stock options to offer a prospective hire
- If you are a prospective hire, you must evaluate the number of stock options you’ve been offered
- If you are an employee, stock options are usually tied to annual incentive compensation
- The creation of a stock option pool impacts valuation and ownership percentage



# Equity Compensation Securities

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- Common stock
  - Founders' stock and exercised options
- Restricted common stock
  - Recruitment incentives considered better than stock options by the recruit
- Stock options
  - Primary recruitment & retention incentive
- Warrants
  - Vendor payment instead of cash

# Equity Compensation Vesting

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- Common stock
  - Company's buyback rights of founders' stock over four years
- Restricted common stock
  - Company's buyback rights over four years
- Stock options
  - Right to buy shares in the future at a price established when granted
  - Outright ownership vests over four years
- Warrants
  - No vesting, owned outright when granted

# Equity Compensation Vesting Mechanics

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- Most frequently used vesting schedule
  - 25% vest on first anniversary (cliff vesting)
  - $\frac{1}{36}$ th of the balance vests per month over three years
- Stock options
  - Ownership of the options vests over four years
- Owned shares of founders & restricted stock of recruits
  - The company's right to buyback expires over four years
- Accelerated vesting
  - Specific senior positions may have acceleration at a liquidity event



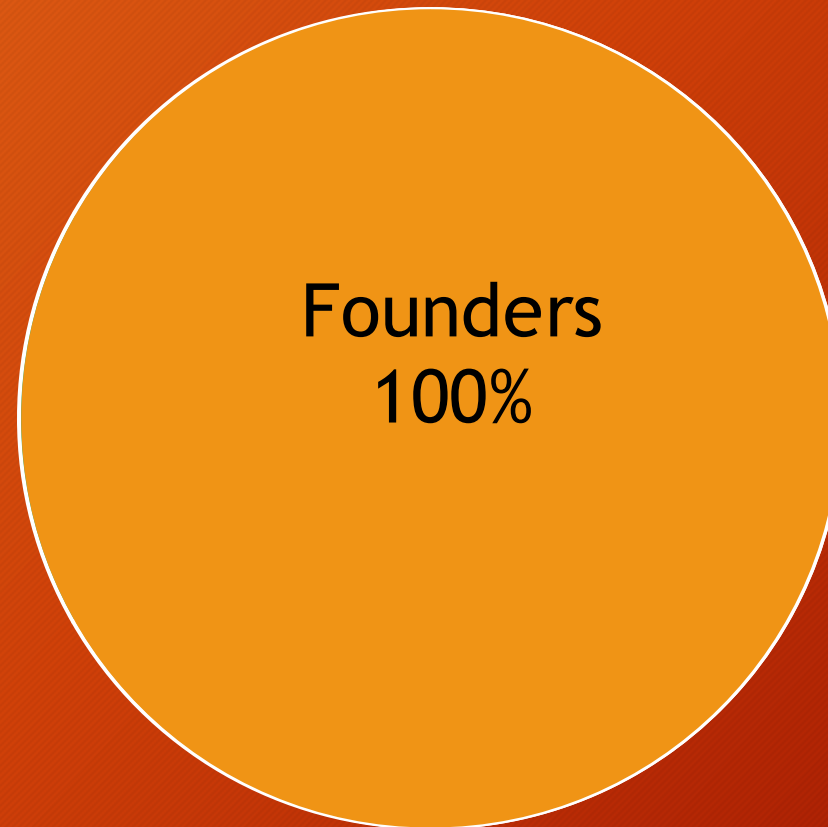
## Equity Compensation (2 of 8)

# The Founders' Pie

Getting started correctly is critical!

# When you start a company, you have to decide who owns what

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# Founders' Pie

## *Conventional Wisdom*

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- Count the number of founders
- Divide the number of founders into 100
- That's the “fair” percentage for each founder

Founders	Percent
2	50.0%
3	33.3%
4	25.0%

Conventional wisdom is wrong,  
and could be FATAL!

# Think about 2 founders, what if?

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- One jumps into the company & the other keeps her “day” job, “helping” at night & on weekends
- One wants to lease company cars for the founders & and the other doesn't
- The company is doing well
  - One founder more current income
  - The other wants to leave the money in the company & change the world



# Think about 2 founders, what if?

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- One jumps into the company & the other keeps her job, “helping” at night & on weekends
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Just imagine 3 or more founders!

Equity Compensation (3 of 8)  
**Slicing the Founders' Pie**

Frank Demmler

# Slicing the Founders' Pie

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- How much stock ownership should go to whom?
- Contributions to date
- Contributions in the future
- Incentive alignment



# University Spinout - 4 Founders

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- Founder #1: Inventor - senior faculty, won't leave the university, created university-patented IP
- Founder #2: Business guy (MBA?) - jumps in and is responsible for getting things done
- Founder #3: Post-doc - knows how to make the technology work, joins the company
- Founder #4: Lab tech - happened to be in the right place at the right time

# Considerations of Value

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Contributions in certain areas are of particular value to a venture.

Idea

Commitment and Risk

Skills,  
experience,  
track record,  
contacts

Business  
model

Responsibility

# How Important Is Each Element?

On a Scale of 1-10

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7

Idea

5

Skills,  
experience,  
track record,  
contacts

Commitme  
nt and Risk

7

2

Business  
model

Responsibility

6



# How Important Is Each Element?

On a Scale of 1-10

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## ***Absolute Scores (1-10)***

	<i><b>Weight</b></i>
<b>Idea</b>	7
<b>Business Plan</b>	2
<b>Domain Expertise</b>	5
<b>Commitment &amp; Risk</b>	7
<b>Responsibilities</b>	6

# Relative Contributions of Founders' Importance of Each Component

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## ***Absolute Scores (1-10)***

	<i>Founder 1</i>	<i>Founder 2</i>	<i>Founder 3</i>	<i>Founder 4</i>
<b>Idea</b>	10	3	3	0
<b>Business Plan</b>	3	8	1	0
<b>Domain Expertise</b>	6	4	6	4
<b>Commitment &amp; Risk</b>	0	7	0	0
<b>Responsibilities</b>	0	6	0	0

# Relative Contributions of Founders' Both Factors Combined

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## Absolute Scores (1-10)

	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Founder 1</i>	<i>Founder 2</i>	<i>Founder 3</i>	<i>Founder 4</i>
<b>Idea</b>	7	10	3	3	0
<b>Business Plan</b>	2	3	8	1	0
<b>Domain Expertise</b>	5	6	4	6	4
<b>Commitment &amp; Risk</b>	7	0	7	0	0
<b>Responsibilities</b>	6	0	6	0	0



# Relative Contributions of Founders

## Weighted Scores

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### ***Absolute Scores (1-10)***

	<i>Founder 1</i>	<i>Founder 2</i>	<i>Founder 3</i>	<i>Founder 4</i>
<b>Idea</b>	70	21	21	0
<b>Business Model</b>	6	16	2	0
<b>Domain Expertise</b>	30	20	30	20
<b>Commitment &amp; Risk</b>	0	49	0	0
<b>Responsibilities</b>	0	36	0	0

# Relative Contributions of Founders Compiled

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## Absolute Scores (1-10)

	Founder 1	Founder 2	Founder 3	Founder 4	
Idea	70	21	21	0	
Business Model	6	16	2	0	
Domain Expertise	30	20	30	20	
Commitment & Risk	0	49	0	0	
Responsibilities	0	36	0	0	
Total Points	106	142	53	20	321
% of Total	33.0%	44.2%	16.5%	6.2%	100.0%

# Relative Contributions of Founders

## Preliminary Founders' Pie Estimates

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### Absolute Scores (1-10)

	Founder 1	Founder 2	Founder 3	Founder 4	
Idea	70	21	21	0	
Business Model	6	16	2	0	
Domain Expertise	30	20	30	20	
Commitment & Risk	0	49	0	0	
Responsibilities	0	36	0	0	
Total Points	106	142	53	20	321
% of Total	33.0%	44.2%	16.5%	6.2%	100.0%

Only use for guidance. Do not use the calculated values.



# What if you got it wrong?

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- Vesting of founders' shares can be a partial solution
- Can you get founders to consider a “do-over”?
  - Use the Founders' Shares Calculator
- If not, can you barter an equity trade for something else?
  - accelerated vesting, consulting agreement, health care coverage extended
- Threaten to leave
- Leave
- Raise a new round of investment and let the new investors “fix” things

# What if you got it wrong?

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- Can you get founders to consider a “do-over”?
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- Threaten to leave
- Leave
- ~~Raise a new round of investment and let the new investors “fix” things~~

**DO NOT DO THIS!**

## Equity Compensation (4 of 8) Stock Options

What's the big deal?



# A Stock Option Is

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- The right to buy a share of stock sometime in the future
- At a price established at the time of grant, i.e. the exercise price
- A typical option expires on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the grant

# What's the Big Deal about Stock Options?

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- It is the "proverbial pot of gold!"
- For example, you are granted 100,000 stock options with a \$1 exercise price
- Company is acquired in 5 years for \$10 per share
  - Buy 100,000 shares of stock at \$1 per share  
= \$100,000 is paid out
  - Immediately sell 100,000 shares at \$10 per share  
= \$1,000,000 is received
  - Gain: **\$900,000**

# How many options is enough?

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- Depends on total shares on a fully diluted basis
- You **MUST** know how many fully-diluted shares exist to evaluate an offer of options

Options	Fully-diluted Shares	Ownership %
1,000	100,000	1.00%
10,000	1,000,000	1.00%
100,000	10,000,000	1.00%



## Equity Compensation (5 of 8) Vesting

Now you see it, now you don't!

# Vesting Schedule

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- A grant of options does not mean you own those options
- You earn those options over time - vesting
- Purpose: to keep the employee motivated to stay with the company
- Typical schedule: 4-year vesting period
  - 25% of options cliff vest on the first anniversary
  - $1/36^{\text{th}}$  of the balance per month over the next 3 years

# Vesting Schedule Considerations

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- Cliff vest means lump sum vests (a year's worth)
- One year cliff vest means, in essence, that you're on probation for the first year
- Monthly vesting thereafter tethers you to the company for an additional 3 years
- Similarly, if the company is acquired, unvested options tether you to the acquiring company



## Equity Compensation (6 of 8) Small Piece of a Large Pie

What does that mean?

# The Way It's Supposed to Work

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	Start	
	Shares	%
Founders	100,000	100.00%
Option Pool 1		
Option Pool 2		
Option Pool 3		
Total Options	0	0.00%
Investor 1		
Investor 2		
Investor 3		
IPO		
Total Investors	0	0.00%
Total	100,000	100.00%
Pre-financing value		
Post-financing value		
Investment		
Price per share		
Value of Founders' Shares		

# The Way It's Supposed to Work

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	Start		Series A	
	Shares	%	Shares	%
Founders	100,000	100.00%	100,000	30.00%
Option Pool 1			66,667	20.00%
Option Pool 2				
Option Pool 3				
Total Options	0	0.00%	66,667	20.00%
Investor 1			166,667	50.00%
Investor 2				
Investor 3				
IPO				
Total Investors	0	0.00%	166,667	50.00%
Total	100,000	100.00%	333,333	100.00%
Pre-financing value			\$ 1,000,000	
Post-financing value			\$ 2,000,000	
Investment			\$ 1,000,000	
Price per share			\$ 6.000	
Value of Founders' Shares			\$ 600,000	



# The Way It's Supposed to Work

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	Start		Series A		Series B	
	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%
Founders	100,000	100.00%	100,000	30.00%	100,000	11.25%
Option Pool 1			66,667	20.00%	66,667	7.50%
Option Pool 2					111,111	12.50%
Option Pool 3						
Total Options	0	0.00%	66,667	20.00%	177,778	20.00%
Investor 1			166,667	50.00%	166,667	18.75%
Investor 2					444,444	50.00%
Investor 3						
IPO						
Total Investors	0	0.00%	166,667	50.00%	611,111	68.75%
Total	100,000	100.00%	333,333	100.00%	888,889	100.00%
Pre-financing value			\$ 1,000,000		\$ 5,000,000	
Post-financing value			\$ 2,000,000		\$ 10,000,000	
Investment			\$ 1,000,000		\$ 5,000,000	
Price per share			\$ 6.000		\$ 11.250	
Value of Founders' Shares			\$ 600,000		\$ 1,125,000	

# The Way It's Supposed to Work

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	Start		Series A		Series B		Series C	
	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%
Founders	100,000	100.00%	100,000	30.00%	100,000	11.25%	100,000	7.27%
Option Pool 1			66,667	20.00%	66,667	7.50%	66,667	4.84%
Option Pool 2					111,111	12.50%	111,111	8.07%
Option Pool 3							28,674	2.08%
Total Options	0	0.00%	66,667	20.00%	177,778	20.00%	206,452	15.00%
Investor 1			166,667	50.00%	166,667	18.75%	166,667	12.11%
Investor 2					444,444	50.00%	444,444	32.29%
Investor 3							458,781	33.33%
IPO								
Total Investors	0	0.00%	166,667	50.00%	611,111	68.75%	1,069,892	77.73%
Total	100,000	100.00%	333,333	100.00%	888,889	100.00%	1,376,344	100.00%
Pre-financing value			\$ 1,000,000		\$ 5,000,000		\$ 20,000,000	
Post-financing value			\$ 2,000,000		\$ 10,000,000		\$ 30,000,000	
Investment			\$ 1,000,000		\$ 5,000,000		\$ 10,000,000	
Price per share			\$ 6.000		\$ 11.250		\$ 21.797	
Value of Founders' Shares			\$ 600,000		\$ 1,125,000		\$ 2,179,688	



# The Way It's Supposed to Work

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	Start		Series A		Series B		Series C		IPO	
	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%
Founders	100,000	100.00%	100,000	30.00%	100,000	11.25%	100,000	7.27%	100,000	5.81%
Option Pool 1			66,667	20.00%	66,667	7.50%	66,667	4.84%	66,667	3.88%
Option Pool 2					111,111	12.50%	111,111	8.07%	111,111	6.46%
Option Pool 3							28,674	2.08%	28,674	1.67%
Total Options	0	0.00%	66,667	20.00%	177,778	20.00%	206,452	15.00%	206,452	12.00%
Investor 1			166,667	50.00%	166,667	18.75%	166,667	12.11%	166,667	9.69%
Investor 2					444,444	50.00%	444,444	32.29%	444,444	25.83%
Investor 3							458,781	33.33%	458,781	26.67%
IPO									344,085	20.00%
Total Investors	0	0.00%	166,667	50.00%	611,111	68.75%	1,069,892	77.73%		
Total	100,000	100.00%	333,333	100.00%	888,889	100.00%	1,376,344	100.00%		
Pre-financing value			\$ 1,000,000		\$ 5,000,000		\$ 20,000,000			
Post-financing value			\$ 2,000,000		\$ 10,000,000		\$ 30,000,000			
Investment			\$ 1,000,000		\$ 5,000,000		\$ 10,000,000			
Price per share			\$ 6.000		\$ 11.250		\$ 21.797			
Value of Founders' Shares			\$ 600,000		\$ 1,125,000		\$ 2,179,688		\$ 10,898,438	

5.81%  
\$10,898,438



## Equity Compensation (7 of 8) Rules of Thumb

Frameworks for thinking about equity  
compensation

# From 30,000 feet

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- At the end of the day, founders and management will own 20% - 33% of the company (at the time of an exit)
- During the early stages of the company, stock option pools are likely to be in the 10% - 25% range. Pools are often replenished with each round.

# Frank's Rules of Thumb

*when considering a single employment offer*

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CEO	“rainmaker”	8.0%-12.0%
COO	“the business guy”	4.0%-8.0%
VPs	1-2 “key” players	2.0%-3.5%
VPs	Other	1.0%-2.5%
CFO	“supply & demand”	0.5%-1.0%



# Other Rules of Thumb

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- Directors 0.50% - 1.00%
- Advisors 0.25% - 0.50%
- Founder vesting
  - 25% cliff at first anniversary +  $\frac{1}{36}$  per month for 3 years
- Vesting acceleration at change of control
  - Management-friendly: double trigger
  - Investor-friendly: no acceleration (remember the earlier tethering comment?)

# Clichés

*with some elements of truth*

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- Focus on the share price. As long as it's going up, you're OK.
- Cosmetics matter. Option grants of tens-of-thousands of shares can be persuasive, even if the actual value is miniscule.
- It is the CEO's job to sell the vision. Candidates must be excited about opportunity and their role in realizing it. "Compensation is secondary."

Equity Compensation (8 of 8)  
**Final Thoughts**



# Final thoughts

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- Budget your equity distribution over a reasonable time frame
- Don't do anything without strong professional assistance
- Develop a network of mentors and advisors who can help you design something appropriate for you and your company
- *Don't do anything without strong professional assistance*