

# Models and illustrations from the book 'Hello \$Firstname'



## About the author

## Rasmus Houlind

Author and founder of Omnichannel Institute Chief Experience Officer at Agillic

#### Author:

"Hello \$Firstname: Profiting from Personalization" (2023)

"Make it all about me" (2019)

"Hvis det handler om mig, så køber jeg!" (2015)



linkedin.com/in/houlind

rasmus@omnichannelinstitute.com

+45 53 886 555



## A note from the author

The cornerstone of my authorship has always been to make the complexity of modern marketing comprehensible for the marketers who are actually there in the trenches making it happen. That's why I always strive to develop models to quickly and efficiently enable an understanding of complex topics.

Modern marketers struggle with communicating with top level management on the one hand and actually getting real marketing working on the other. And it's never a one-man-task. Teams who share the same mental images and use the same terms for their work are able to have unambiguous yet nuanced conversations about personalized marketing and customer experiences. That's a fundamental part of marketing success.

This document includes all the models used in the book 'Hello \$Firstname – Profiting from Personalization'. I encourage you to use and share these models with your teams, your colleagues and your friends. My only ask is that you please reference the book whenever you are doing so.

Rasmus Houlind, Copenhagen 2023





Figure 1. The Martech Landscape from 2011 to 2022, showing a growth of 6,521%

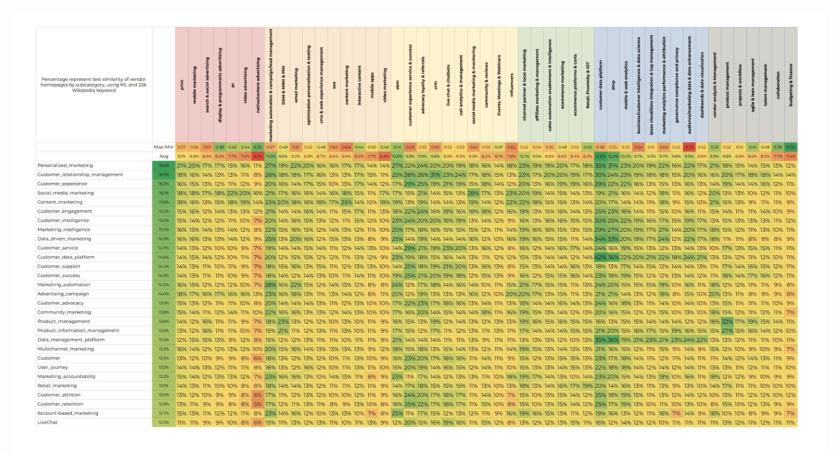




Figure 2. An overview of the most used marketing keywords across 10,000+ vendor websites: 'Personalized marketing' comes in at first place. Source: MartechTribe.com

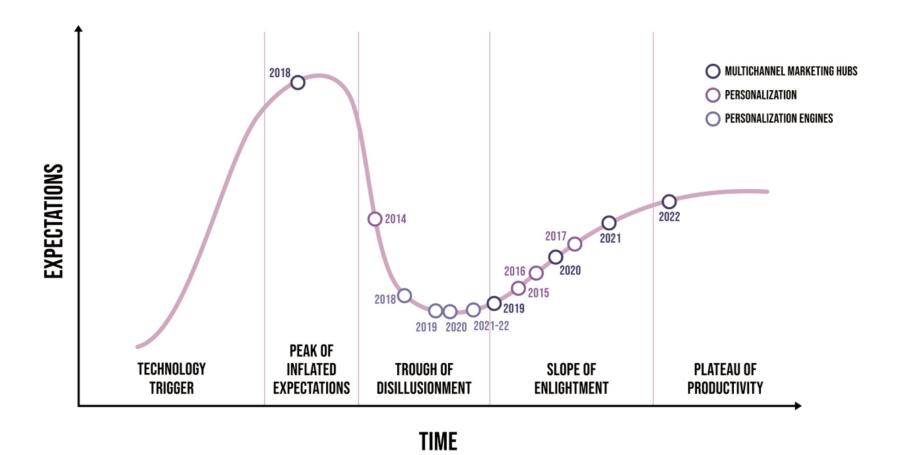


Figure 3. Personalization, personalization engines, and multichannel marketing hubs are moving forwards on Gartner's Hype Cycle for Digital Marketing.

EXPLICIT Personalization: Paid Media	CREEPY/HIGH RISK	CREEPY/HIGH RISK	CREEPY/HIGH RISK
EXPLICIT Personalization: Owned Media	OK	CONSIDER TRUST VS AUIDIENCE	CREEPY/HIGH RISK
IMPLICIT Personalization	OK	OK	OK
	ZERO-PARTY DATA Descriptive	FIRST-PARTY DATA Deterministic	THIRD-PARTY DATA PROBABILISTIC

Figure 4. The data types used for personalization and their impact on how consumers perceive creepiness.

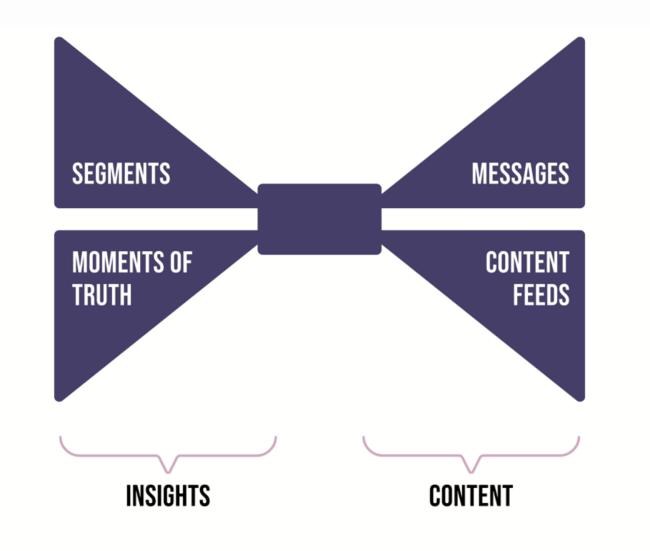


Figure 5. The Bowtie of Personalization

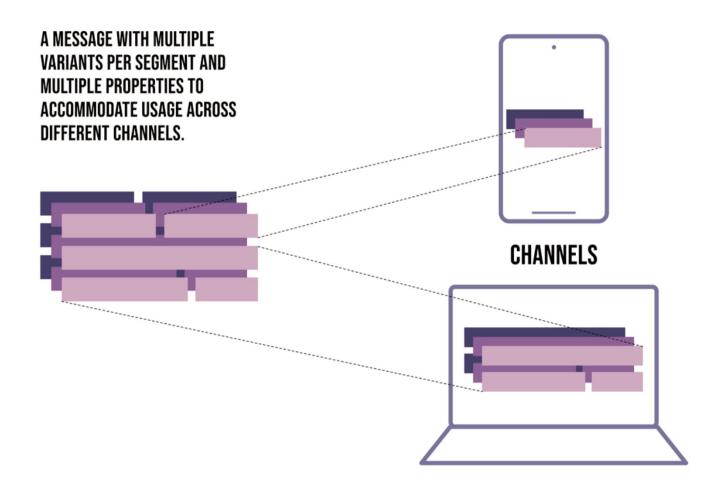


Figure 6. Ideally, personalization happens before a message is applied to a specific channel; the message will appear differently in each channel.

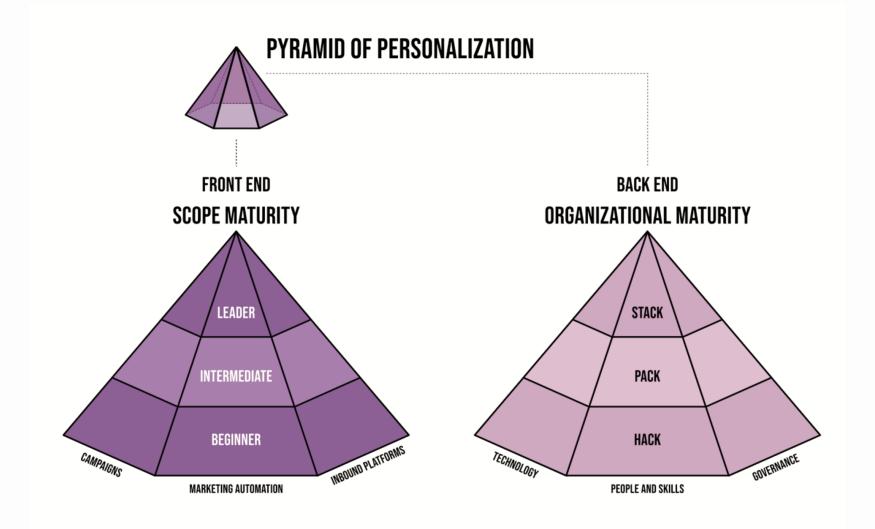


Figure 7. The front end and back end of the Pyramid of Personalization.

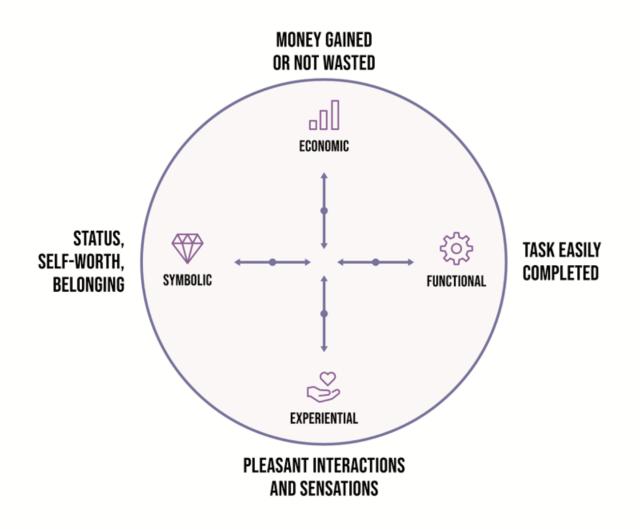


Figure 8. Forrester Research's four value dimensions.

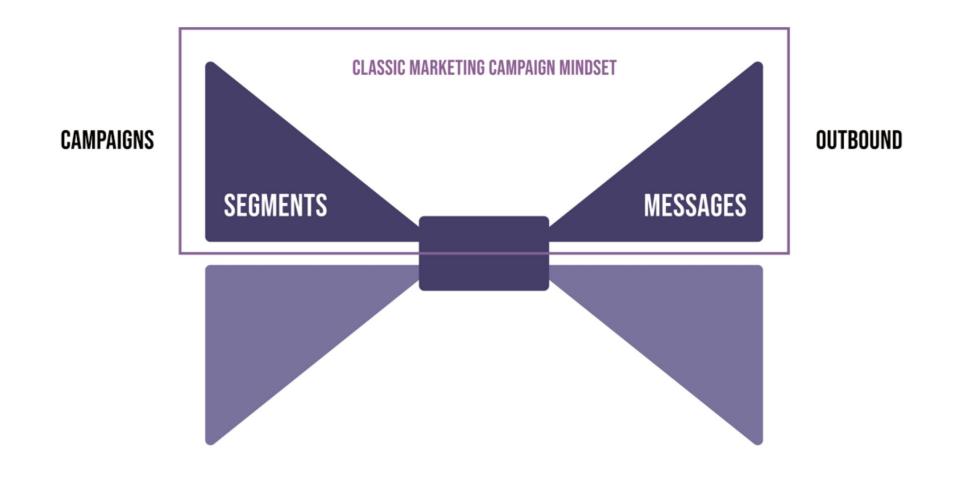


Figure 9. The top of the Bowtie of Personalization captures the essence of working with personalization in campaigns.

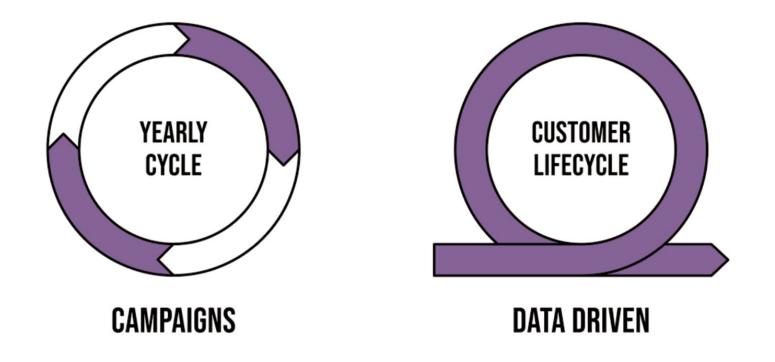
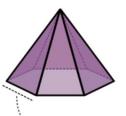


Figure 10. How campaigns diverge from data-driven customer lifecycle communication.



## PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - FRONT END SCOPE MATURITY

## **CAMPAIGNS**

LEADER

AI-BASED CALCULATION OF SEGMENTS ON ALL DATA TYPES
AI-BASED MATCH OF SEGMENTS WITH MESSAGES
LIFECYCLE MESSAGES AND 'CALLS TO ACTION' INCLUDED IN CAMPAIGNS
CHANNEL-AGNOSTIC CONTENT PRODUCTION
CHANNEL-AGNOSTIC PERSONALIZATION LOGIC
WIDE REUSE OF EXECUTION LOGIC WITH BUILT-IN SUPPRESSION PRINCIPLES
MOST SEASONAL CAMPAIGNS AUTOMATED
CAMPAIGNS SPAN MULTIPLE OWNED AND PAID CHANNELS

INTERMEDIATE

AUTOMATED EXCLUSIONS IN PAID MEDIA
SIMPLE RULE-BASED SUPPRESSION LOGIC IN USE
REUSE OF SEGMENTATION AND CAMPAIGN EXECUTION LOGIC
RULE-BASED SEGMENTATION ACROSS DATA TYPES
DEMOGRAPHIC AND VALUE-BASED SEGMENTATION IN USE
CAMPAIGNS SPAN MULTIPLE OWNED CHANNELS WITH MULTIPLE STEPS

**BEGINNER** 

MANUAL REPRODUCTION OF SEGMENTATION, CONTENT, AND EXECUTION LOGIC

MANUAL EXCLUSIONS IN PAID MEDIA

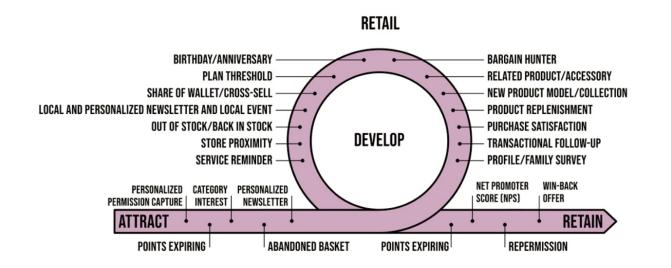
SIMPLE SEGMENTATION ON ZERO-PARTY DATA

SIMPLE 'HELLO SFIRSTNAME' PARAMETRIZATION OF OTHERWISE GENERIC EMAILS

PRIMARY MESSAGES ARE SIMPLE OFFERS AND DISCOUNTS

CONTENT LIVES IN-CHANNEL

SEPARATE EMAILS PER MESSAGE VARIANT



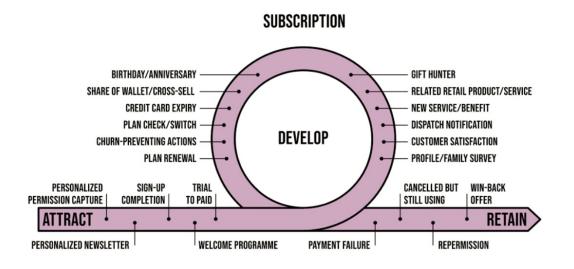


Figure 11. Examples of typical moments of truth in a retail and a subscription customer lifecycle. Source: *Make It All About Me*, Houlind & Shearer, 2019.

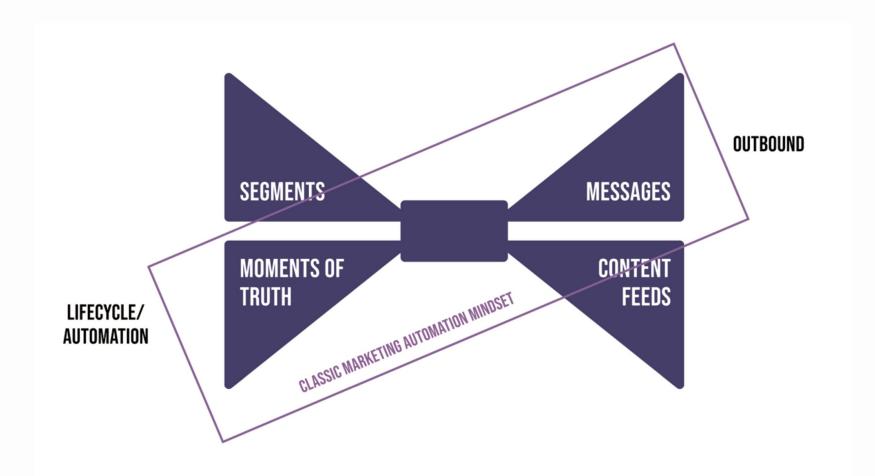


Figure 12. Marketing automation: matching moments of truth with messages that make a positive difference for the customer and your business.

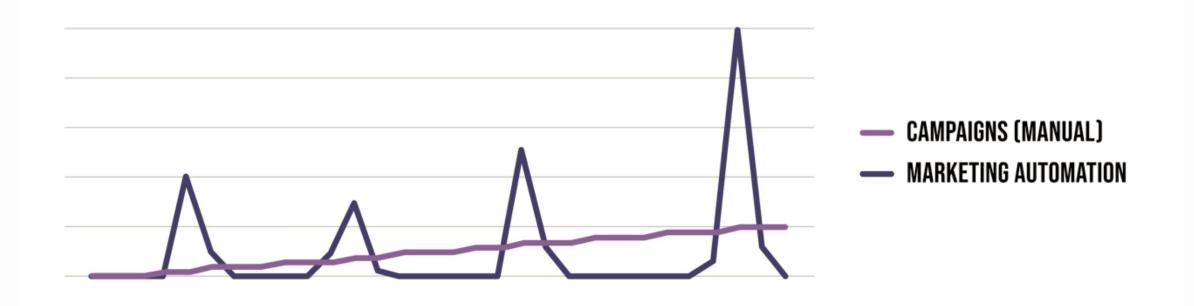
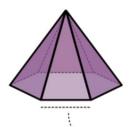


Figure 13. Value from marketing automation builds up incrementally as more automated flows are launched; value from campaigns is concentrated around blockbuster occasions.



# PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - FRONT END SCOPE MATURITY

## MARKETING AUTOMATION

LEADER

ALGORITHMIC INCLUSION OF CONTENT FEEDS IN EMAILS
PAID MEDIA IS PART OF KEY MARKETING AUTOMATION FLOWS
CENTRAL MESSAGES AND AI-BASED CALCULATION OF NBX
BALANCE BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND HELPFUL MESSAGES
VARIANTS OF MESSAGES PER SEGMENT
MOST CAMPAIGNS ARE AUTOMATED

INTERMEDIATE

SIMPLE RULE-BASED SUPPRESSION LOGIC

SIMPLE RULE-BASED INCLUSION OF CONTENT FEEDS IN EMAILS

MORE COMMERCIAL THAN DELIGHTFUL MOMENTS OF TRUTH IN PLAY

RULE-BASED DETERMINATION OF MOMENTS OF TRUTH ON MULTIPLE DATA TYPES

TRIGGERS BECOME LONGER FLOWS

2-3 MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS OF TRUTH IMPLEMENTED

USING THE FULL 'BOWTIE KNOT' (SEE CHAPTER 6)

**BEGINNER** 

MANUAL INSERTION OF PRODUCTS AS GRAPHIC SPLASH IMAGES IN EMAILS

NO MESSAGE VARIANTS FOR DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SEGMENTS

SEPARATE CONTENT, EMAILS, AND FLOWS FOR EACH COUNTRY, LANGUAGE, AND SEGMENT

PRIMARILY WEBSITE AND EMAIL DATA ARE USED IN TRIGGERS

NO TRANSACTIONAL DATA IN USE

FEW 'SINGLE EMAIL' TRIGGERS (E.G. SIGN-UP CONFIRMATION, ABANDONED BASKET)

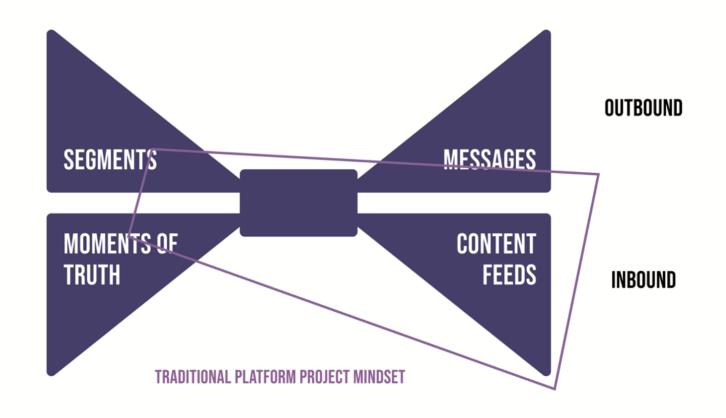
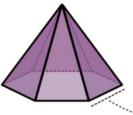


Figure 14. The structure of inbound platforms relates closely to the Bowtie of Personalization; personalization on inbound platforms normally starts with content feeds.



# PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - FRONT END SCOPE MATURITY

## INBOUND PLATFORMS

LEADER

PERSONALIZED MESSAGES INCORPORATED ACROSS ALL INBOUND PLATFORMS

USE OF CENTRAL PERSONALIZED MESSAGES AND INSIGHTS (NBX)

CONTENT FEEDS MATCHING MOMENTS OF TRUTH DYNAMICALLY CREATED USING AI

CONTENT FEEDS RANKED AND CREATED DYNAMICALLY PER INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMER USING AI

INTERMEDIATE

PERSONALIZATION FOR BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN CUSTOMERS
SIMPLE RULE-BASED PERSONALIZATION OF FRONT-PAGE HERO MESSAGE
CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT OF PRODUCT AND CONTENT FEEDS
ALGORITHMIC RANKING OF PRODUCTS PER CUSTOMER WITHIN CATEGORIES USING AI

BEGINNER

MANUAL MANAGEMENT OF ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN PRODUCTS AND CONTENT RANKING OF PRODUCTS AND CONTENT BASED ON GENERAL POPULARITY PERSONALIZATION APPLIES FOR KNOWN CUSTOMERS ONLY PERSONALIZATION ONLY HAPPENS BEHIND A LOG-IN ('MY ACCOUNT') CONVERSION RATE OPTIMIZATION (CRO) IS THE FOCUS OF THE WEBSITE TEAM

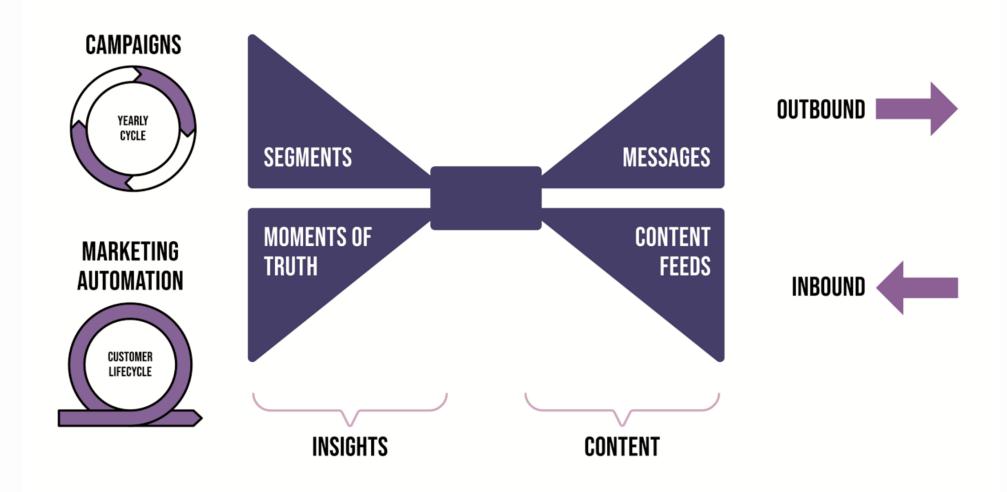


Figure 15. Each corner of the bowtie has its primary use case.

#### TYING IT ALL UP IN THE BOWTIE OF PERSONALIZATION

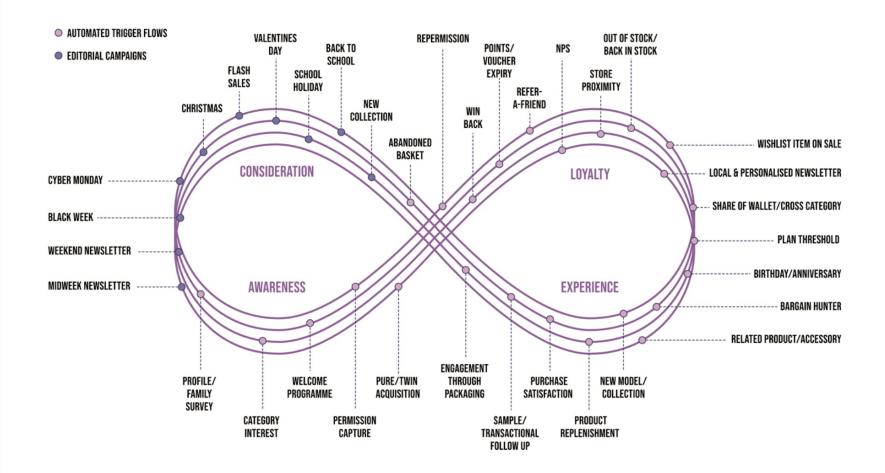


Figure 16. Typical retail customer journey from 'Awareness' to 'Consideration', 'Experience', and 'Loyalty'; along the way, a customer experiences marketing and communication from both campaigns and marketing automation.

#### PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - FRONT END **SCOPE MATURITY** CENTRAL CONTENT LOGIC TRUE OMNICHANNEL ALGORITHMIC FEEDS PERSONALIZED FEED SELECTION LEADER AI ENHANCED CENTRAL NBX BY AI **CONTENT FEEDS PER** SUPPRESSION FRAMEWORK MESSAGE VARIANTS MOMENT OF TRUTH MULTISTEP OWNED MEDIA **RULE BASED** RULE BASED MESSAGES DEMOGRAPHIC AND INTERMEDIATE MOMENTS OF TRUTH, MESSAGES, FEEDS ALGORITHMIC FEED RANKING VALUE BASED SEGMENTS PERSISTENT LOGIN AND ID 'KNOT' IMPLEMENTED RULE BASED SEGMENTATION MANUAL PRODUCT GRAPHICS ADVERTISING SEPARATELY SEPARATE EMAILS CONTENT FEEDS BY POPULARITY BEGINNER OPD SEGMENTS PER SEGMENT PERSONALIZATION BEHIND LOGIN PARAMETRIZED \$FIRSTNAME 'SINGLE EMAIL' TRIGGERS CAMPAIGNS MARKETING AUTOMATION INBOUND PLATFORMS

Figure 17. The front end of the Pyramid of Personalization.

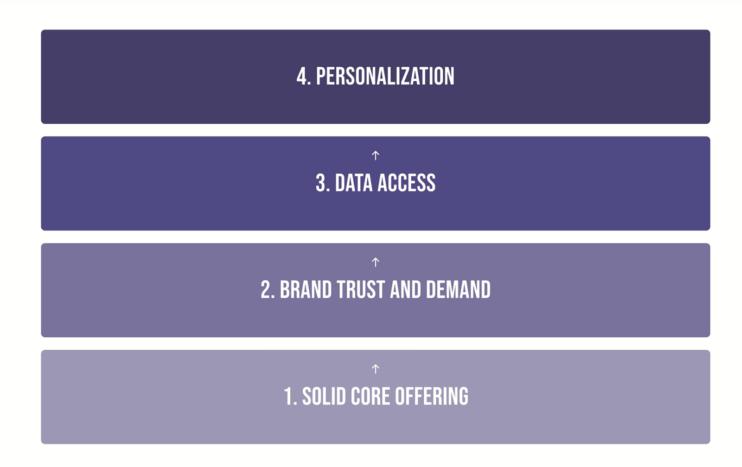


Figure 18. Personalization requires that your core offering is in place, you have established brand trust and demand, and you have access to plentiful customer data.

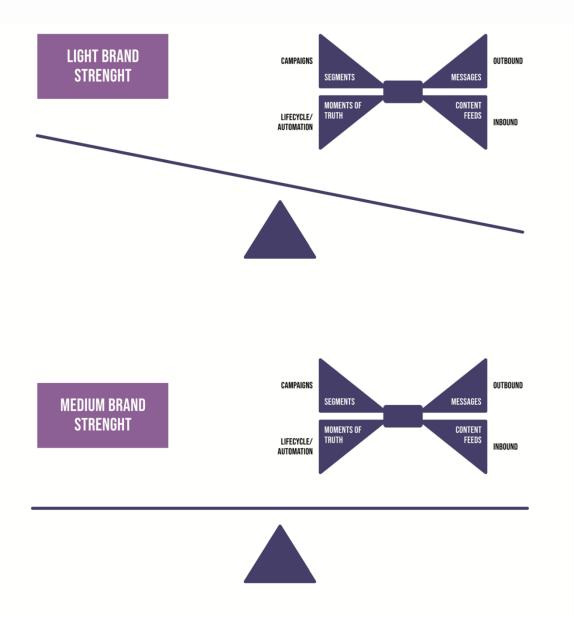


Figure 19. A strong brand brings great leverage to your personalization efforts; before brand strength is created, personalization makes little difference.

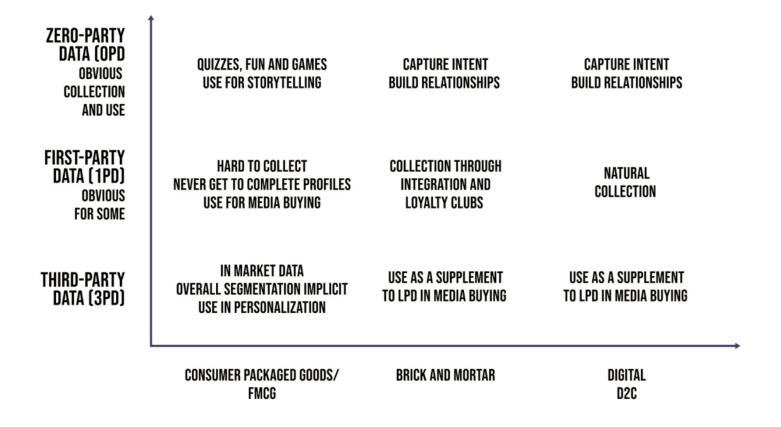


Figure 20. Brands from different industries have varying opportunities for collecting and using customer data (see definitions of zero-party (ZPD), first-party (1PD), and third-party (3PD) data in the paragraph on 'data types' below).

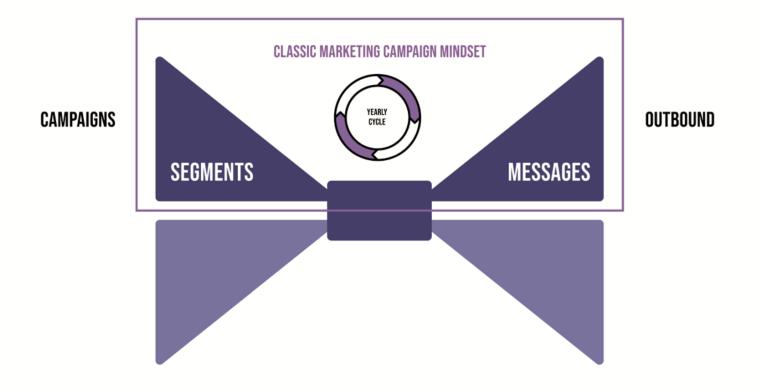


Figure 21. Classic FMCG is stuck in the upper part of the Bowtie of Personalization.

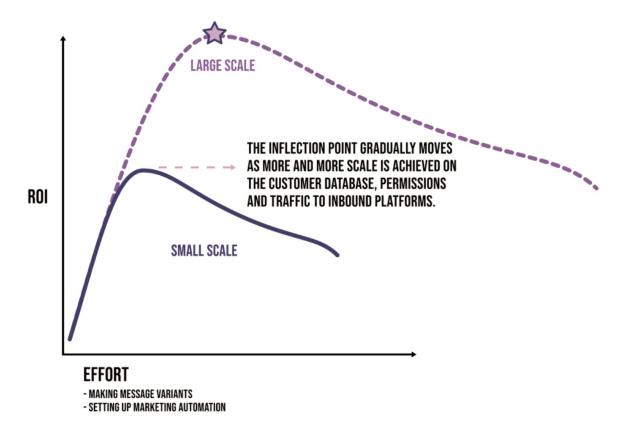


Figure 22. The additional effect of personalization is highly dependent on the scale of your database: the larger the database, the more you can justify investing in personalization.

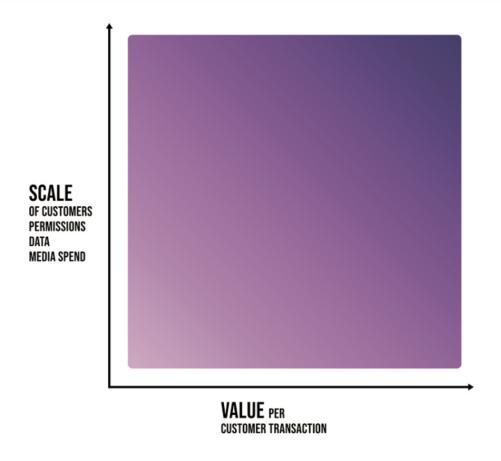


Figure 23. The combination of Scale of your database and Value per transaction is a determining factor for deciding if personalization is profitable.

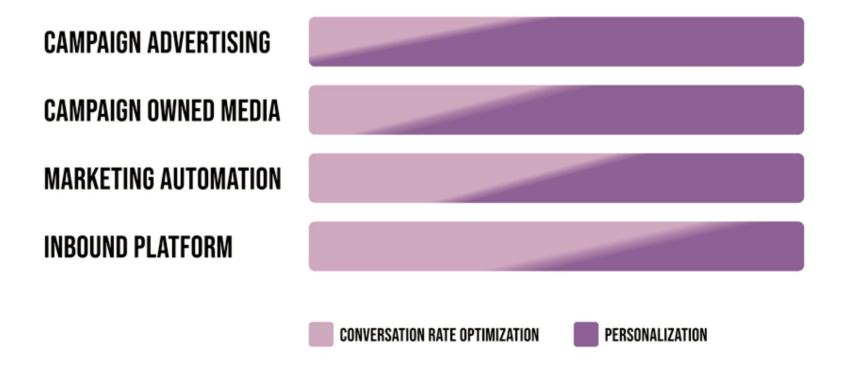


Figure 24. The moment to switch from optimizing the general experience to personalizing the specific experience varies between the marketing disciplines.



Figure 25. The Omnichannel Hexagon: a maturity model for evaluating omnichannel marketing maturity.

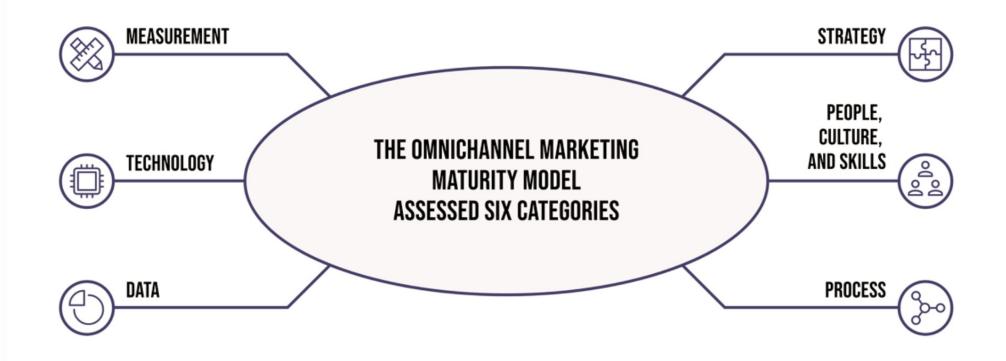


Figure 26. The omnichannel marketing maturity assessment by Forrester Consulting.



Figure 27. Productizing marketing.

### PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - BACK END ORGANIZATIONAL MATURITY MARTECH GOVERNANCE **CUSTOMER CONTENT PLATFORM JOURNEY FOCUS** STACK CONTACT AND **CUSTOMER DATA PLATFORM** REORGANIZE SUPPRESSION POLICIES ECOMMERCE MA FOCUS HR ALIGNED PACK MARKETING AUTOMATION PLATFORM INSOURCE DATA OPERATIONS CRM SYSTEM **CAMPAIGN FOCUS** PROCUREMENT AND HACK **EMAIL SERVICE PROVIDER** IT GOVERNANCE OUTSOURCE CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY PEOPLE AND SKILLS GOVERNANCE

Figure 28. The back end of the Pyramid of Personalization: how to organize optimally for personalization.

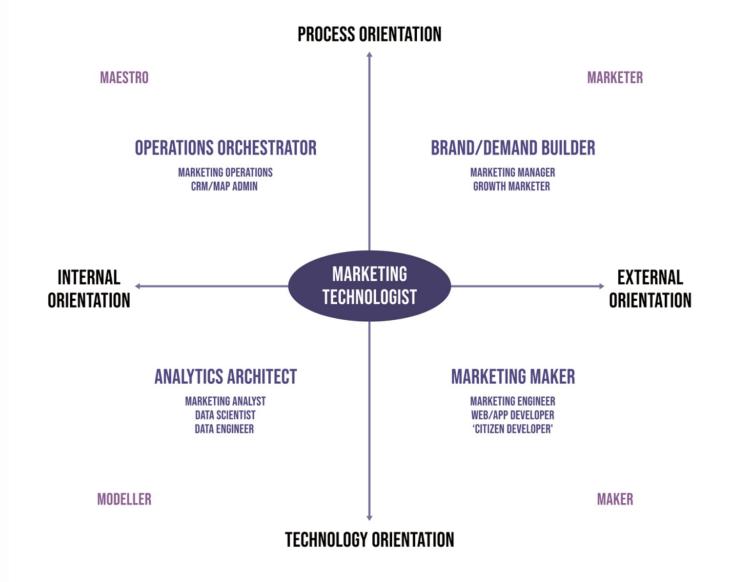


Figure 29. Scott Brinker's four archetypes/roles of marketing technologists.

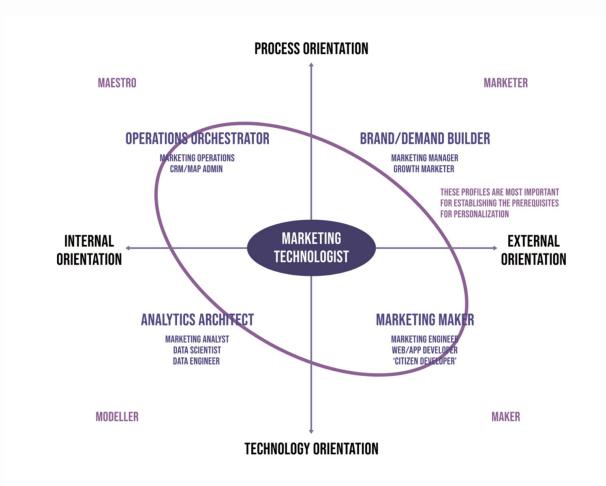


Figure 30. Skills needed to build the foundation for personalization are mainly from the Maestro and the Maker archetypes.

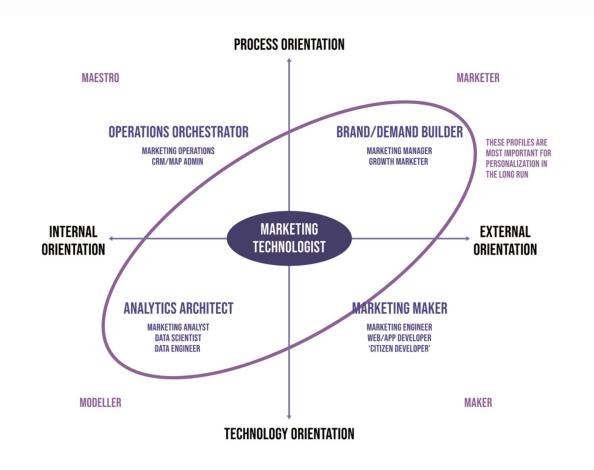


Figure 31. Skills needed to execute personalized marketing from an already existing foundation are mainly from the Marketer and Modeller archetypes.

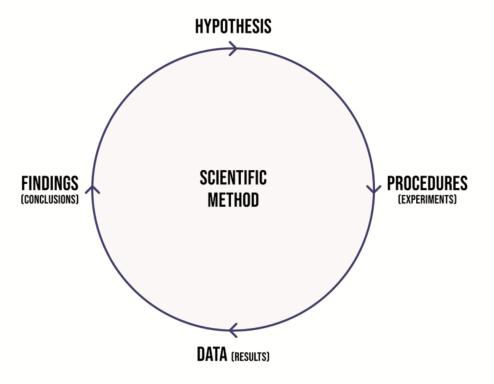


Figure 32. Netflix's agile operating model for continuously improving their product offering, including their marketing and retention communication.

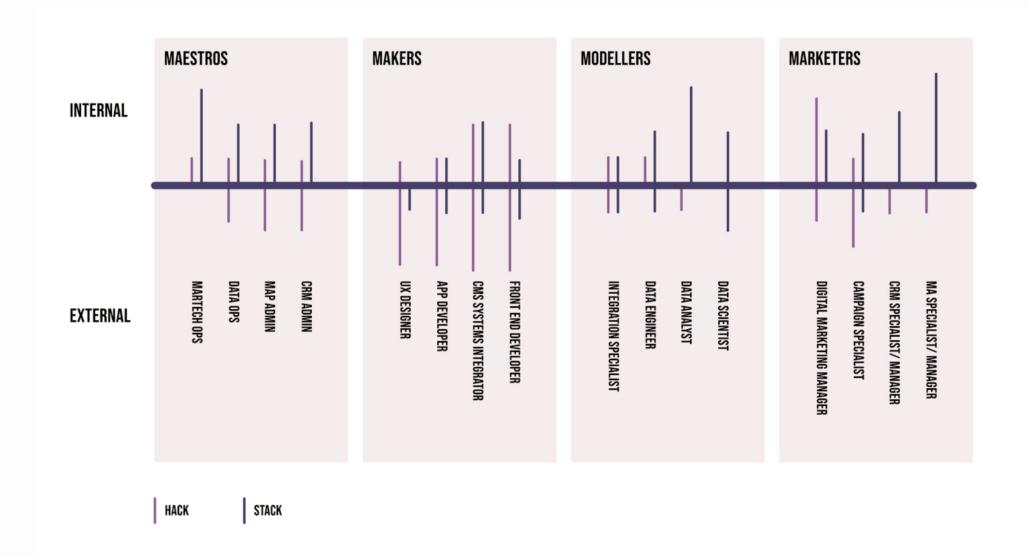
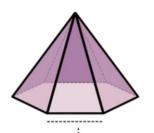


Figure 33. Hack vs Stack – people and skills.



# PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION- BACK END ORGANIZATIONAL MATURITY

### PEOPLE AND SKILLS

STACK

JOURNEY FOCUS

AGILE OPERATING MODEL

CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAMS
INTERNAL DATA ANALYSTS

AGENCY SUPPORT FOR EXTRA PAIRS OF HANDS

PACK

EXECUTION FOCUS
SEPARATE TEAMS BY MARKETING DISCIPLINE
AGENCY SUPPORT ON KEY ROLES

HACK

PLATFORM FOCUS
IN-CHANNEL CAMPAIGN EXECUTION
HEAVY USE OF AGENCIES

### PACE LAYERED MODEL



Figure 34. The PACE layered model.

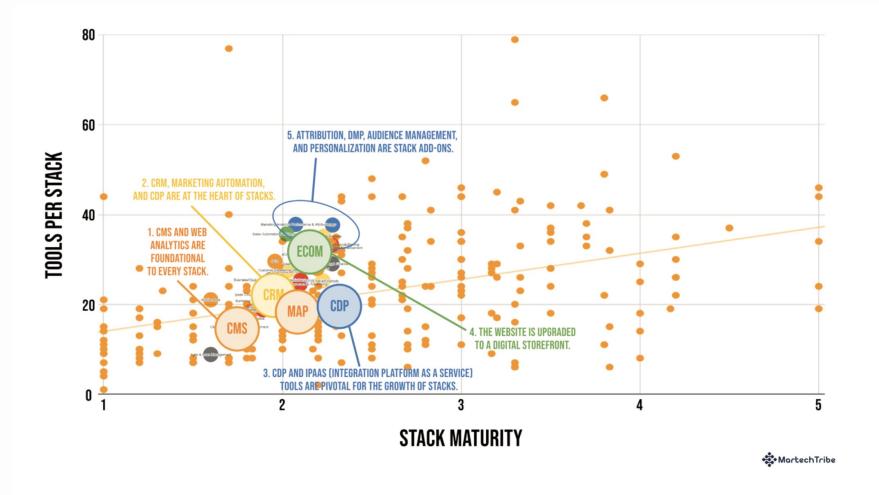


Figure 35. How martech stack maturity correlates with the implementation of systems of record (DMP: data management platform, see the text below for explanations of the additional abbreviations).

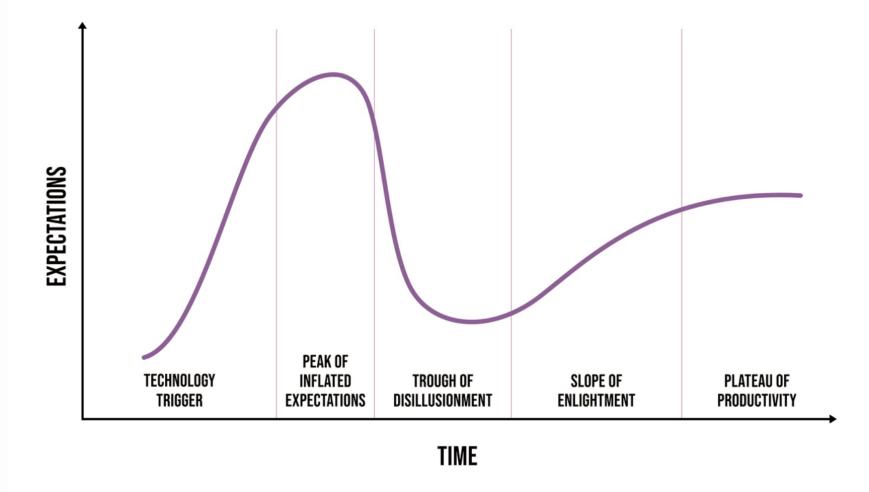


Figure 36. The Gartner hype cycle.

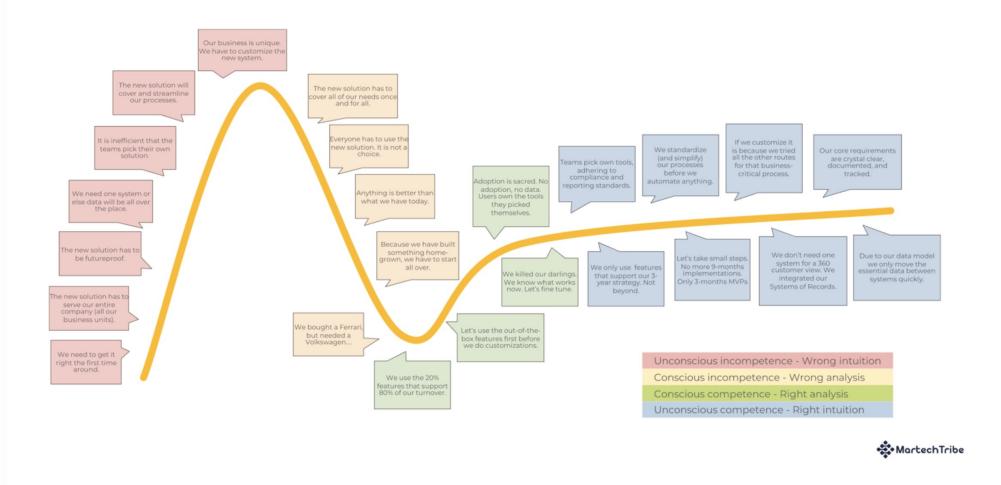


Figure 37. Four stages of technology competence: markets, companies, and individuals all have their own learning curves.

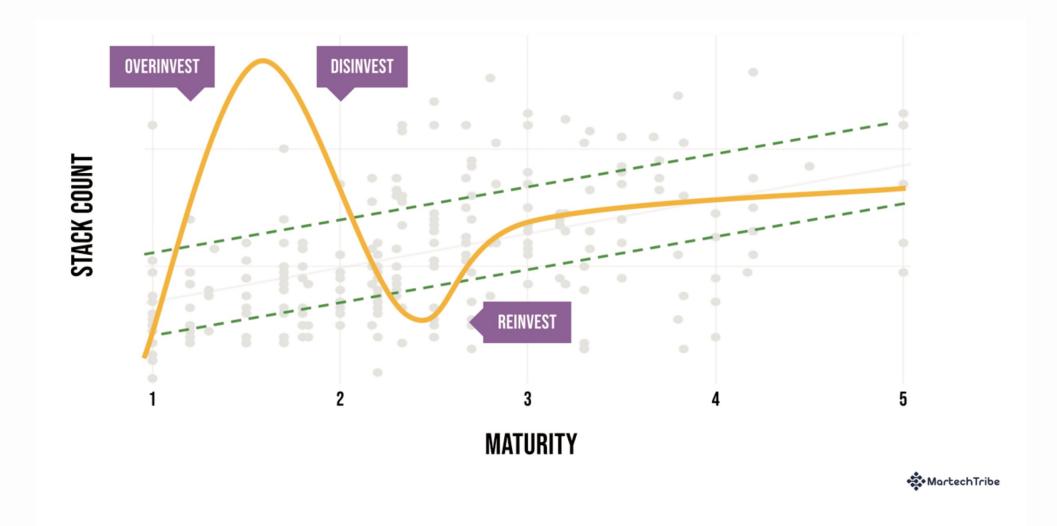
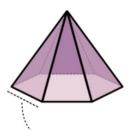


Figure 38. Flattening the martech hype cycle: navigating your team through the various stages.



## PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - BACK END ORGANIZATIONAL MATURITY

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

STACK

CUSTOMER CONTENT PLATFORM FULLY INTEGRATED
CUSTOMER DATA PLATFORM FULLY INTEGRATED
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR INTEGRATIONS
MULTIPLE ATOMIZED TOOLS IN STACK
ONGOING STACK TRIMMING AND RIGHTSIZING

PACK

ECOMMERCE FULLY INTEGRATED

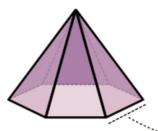
MARKETING AUTOMATION PLATFORM FULLY INTEGRATED

DATA INTEGRATIONS SECURED THROUGH DATA OPERATIONS

CLEAR MARTECH ROADMAP GUIDES TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

HACK

PLATFORM PROJECT APPROACH
EMAIL SERVICE PROVIDER IN USE FOR NEWSLETTERS
CRM SYSTEM INTEGRATED FOR ALL B2B
CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND WEB ANALYTICS IMPLEMENTED
INVESTMENTS THROUGH BEST-OF-INTEGRATION PARADIGM



## PYRAMID OF PERSONALIZATION - BACK END **ORGANIZATIONAL MATURITY**

### **GOVERNANCE**

MARTECH GOVERNANCE STACK CONTACT AND SUPPRESSION POLICIES

**RETAIL MEDIA POLICIES** 

**HR POLICIES** 

MARKETING OPERATING MODEL

DATA OPERATIONS

PERSONALIZATION ACCOUNTABILITY

**BRAND GUIDELINES** 

IT GOVERNANCE

PROCUREMENT PROCESSES

MARKETING LEGISLATION COMPLIANCE

HACK

PACK

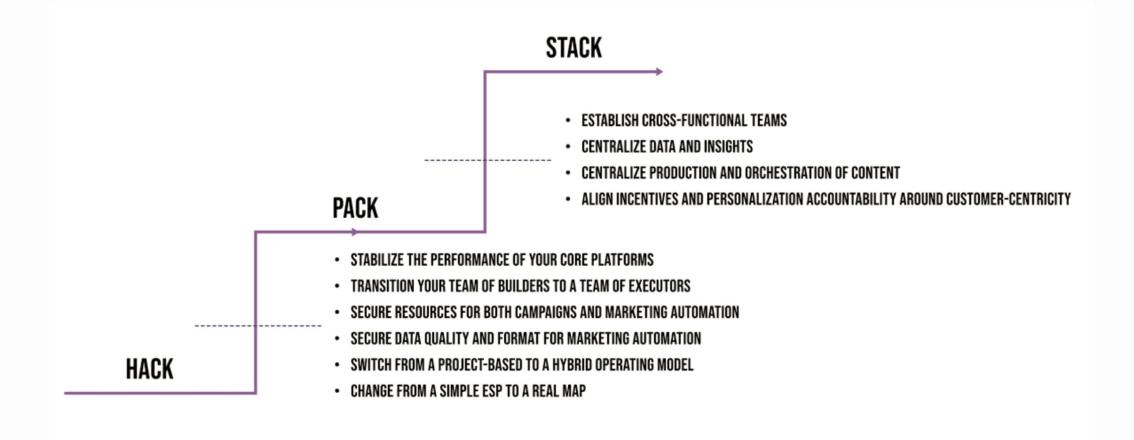


Figure 39. Breaking through the glass ceilings.

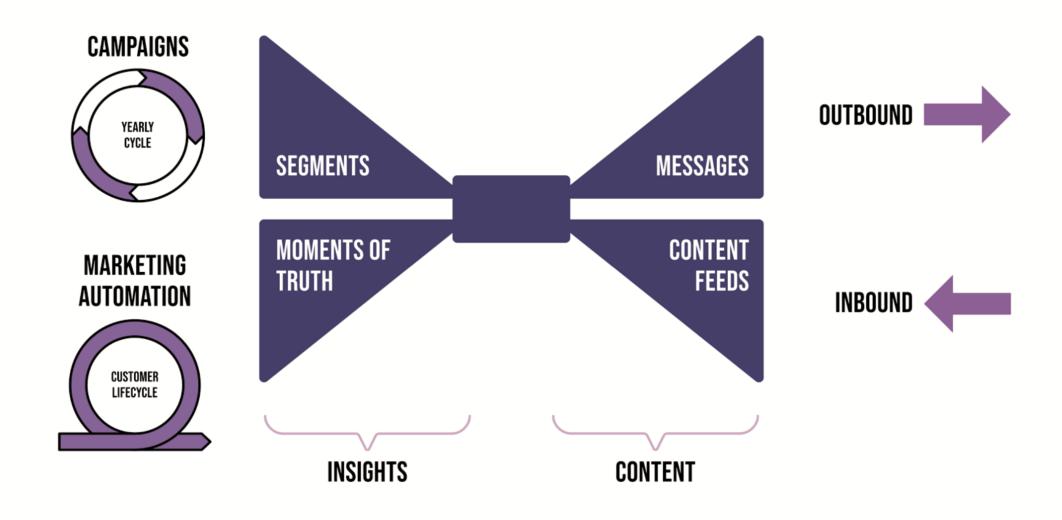


Figure 40. The complete Bowtie of Personalization.