

# Unified Commerce is the Future of Retail



The battle for Baghdad

Are the Gandhis finished?

Don't raise interest rates

China's Berkshire Hathawa

Dope is the new pizza

**How far will Amazon go?** 



The Economist

A special report on the future of Europe

The Trump doctrine: US and them

Science's publishing problem

Terror in London

**Amazon's empire** 

And what could threaten it



INSIDE THIS WEEK: TECHNOLOGY QUARTERLY

The Economist

BASE PROPERTY.

Ratan Tata's lessons for India

Egypt on the edge

The Big Long: betting on US housing

Putin alone

Abraham Lincoln, management theorist

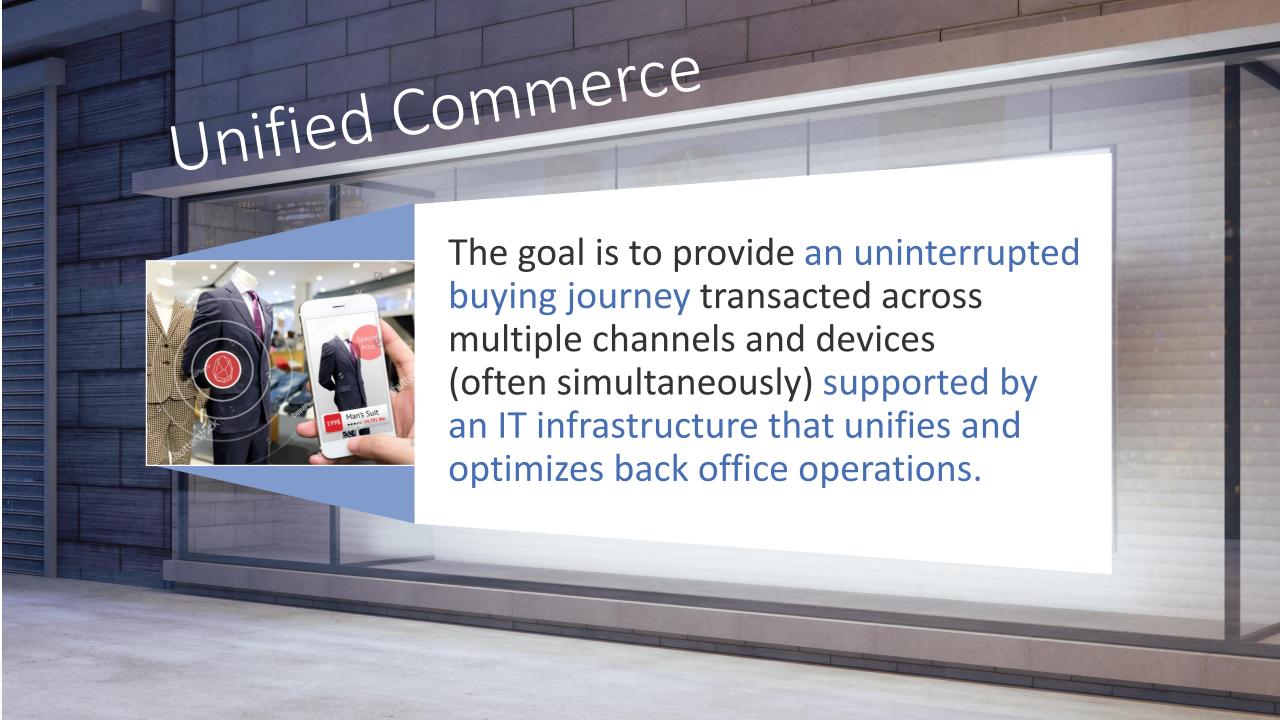
Survival of the biggest

The internet's warring giants









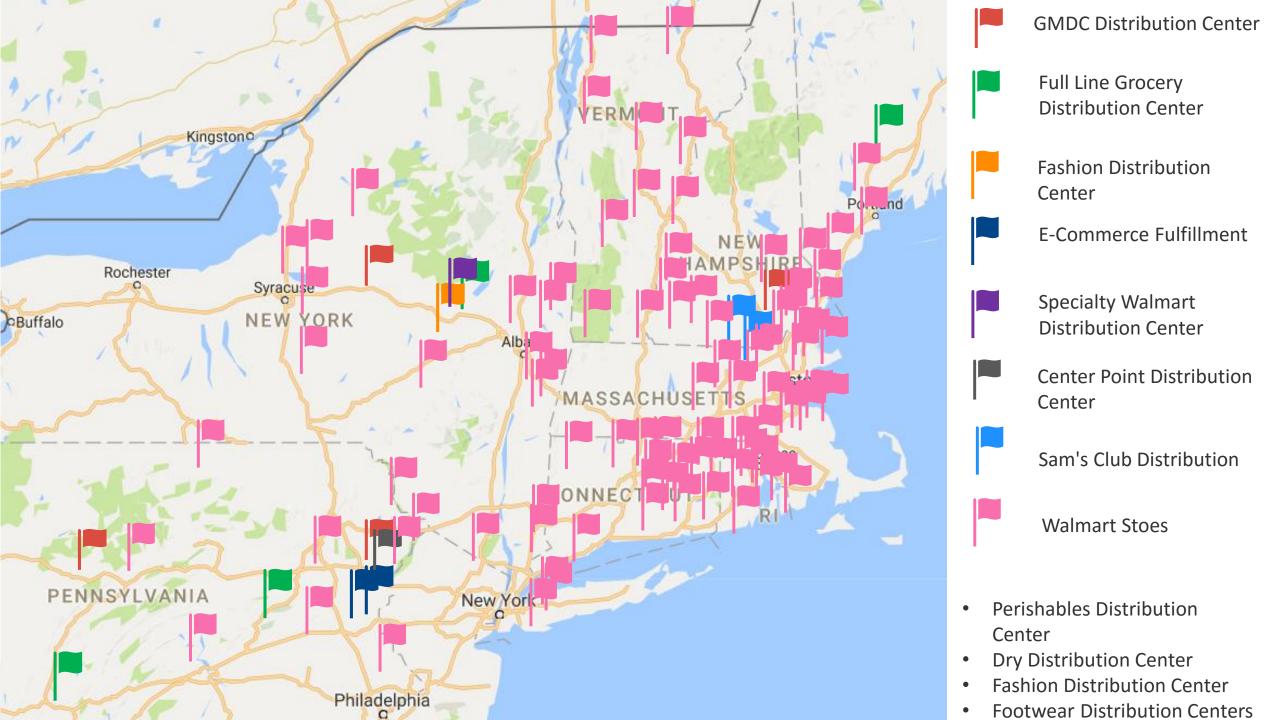
# Unified Commerce



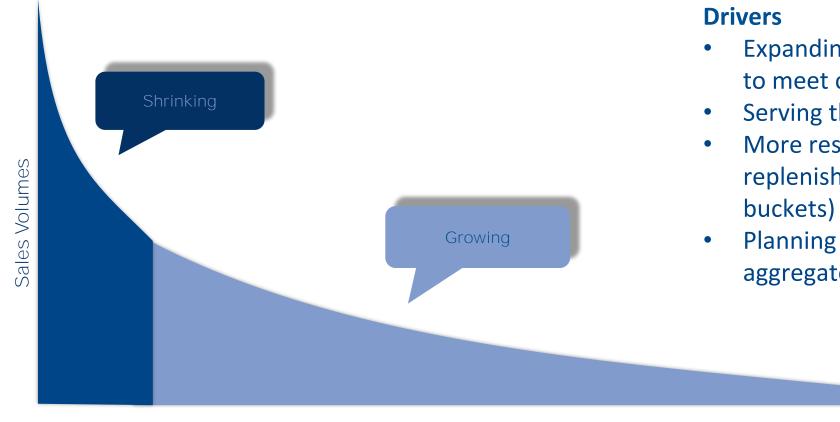


# **E-Commerce**





### Things Have Changed – The "Long Tail" Continues to Grow



- Expanding SKU proliferation to meet customer needs
- Serving the consumer
- More responsive high granularity replenishment cycles (smaller time buckets)
- Planning at SKU-Location, not aggregates

SKU Count

### Service Is Provided by "Good Inventory" (Not by a "Good Forecast")

Serving the customer based on the quality of the forecast may be a driver of improved service levels for fast movers...

But serving the customer based on the quality of the forecast will not improve service level for slow movers. It must come from inventories.



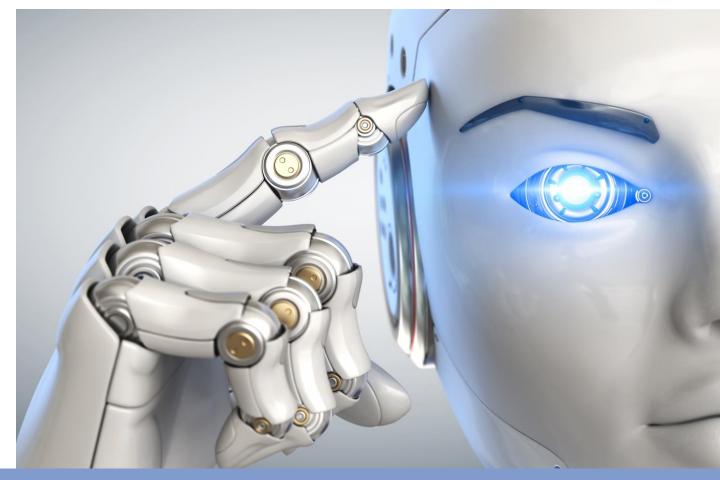
### **Unified Commerce: Business Requirements**

### What:

Service (and Demand) driven replenishment.

### How:

By dynamically allocating optimal inventory mix across the multi-echelon network, at high frequency



This implies an increase of two orders of magnitude of planning decision frequency

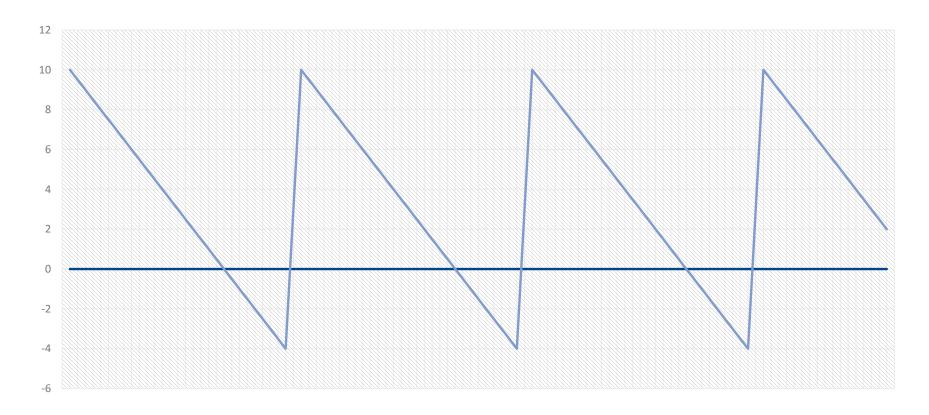
### Why SC Automation is a Critical Factor

- High planning frequency
- Shortage of supply chain planning talent
- ...In making decisions under uncertainty people replace the complex task of assessing probabilities with limited and simplified heuristic principles that can lead to severe systematic errors.

Judgement under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases (Science, 1974)

Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman.

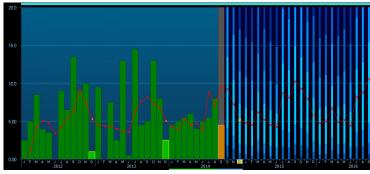
### Representativeness Heuristics: "Misconception of Chance"

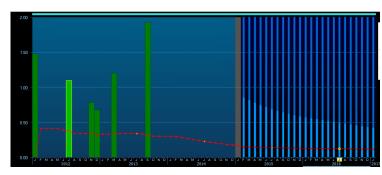


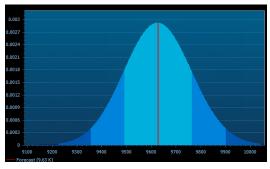
Representing a case of 72% service level with classical saw tooth, measurement during short periods of time can provide either 100% or zero service level with "hysteric" consequences.

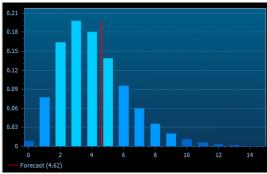
### Availability Heuristics: Forecast Vs. Expectation

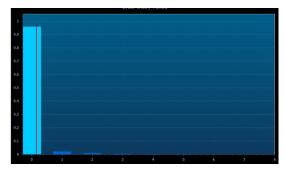












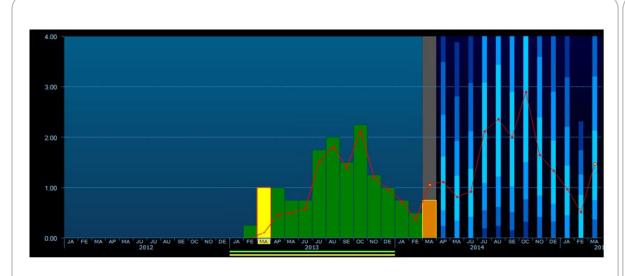
When demand is stable or "Normal", the expected value and most probable value are similar.

When demand is lumpier with skewed distribution, the mode is at the left of the expectation.

In "Tail" items with intermitted demand, the most probable value is zero! But the forecast is never zero.

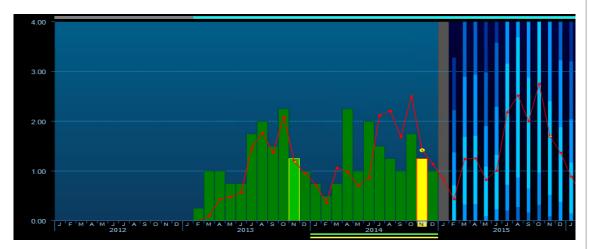
With zero forecast one keeps zero stock and provides no service.

### "Illusion of Validity": Over-fitting



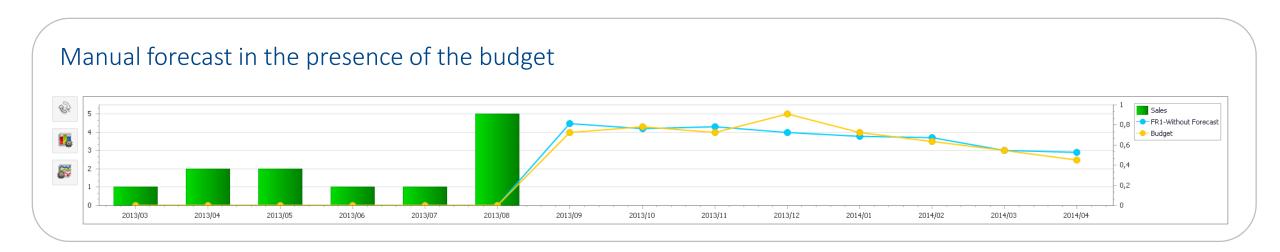
The peaks of August and October are random fluctuations or a seasonal variation.

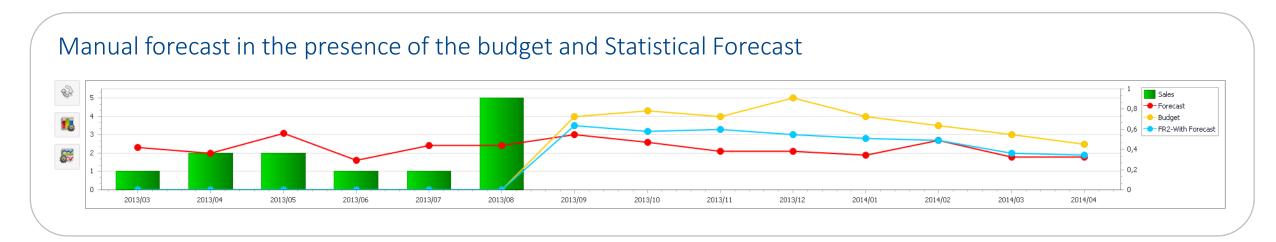
Over-fitting provides "high quality of the match between selected outcome and the input"; an illusion of consistency



Unfortunately, the accuracy of the March 2014 forecast for the rest of the year is poor as random fluctuations dominate the demand.

### **Availability Heuristics: Anchoring**





### It Comes Back to Amazon

Amazon and its successful competitors are already operating with highly automated supply chain planning and optimization processes







# Skånska Byggvaror Case Study of Retail Automation



## About Skånska Byggvaror

- Leading Swedish online building materials retailer
- Founded in 1965, began online operations in 1998.
- 15th largest Swedish e-tailer and the leader in building materials
- Owned by Byggmax
- Rapid growth since 2015



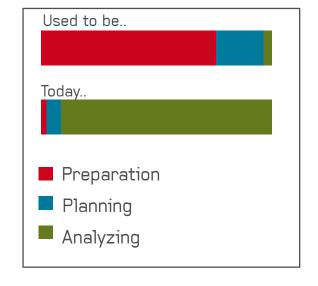


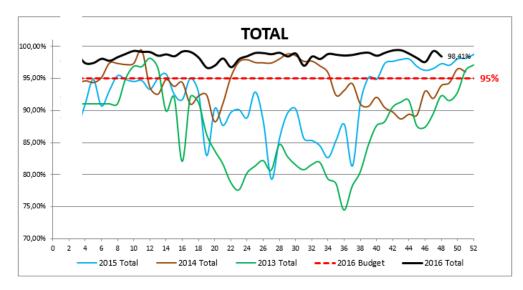
### Background

- Internal process review in 2014 found planning as a key function to enable growth
- Both processes and tools needed to be improved
- Skånska Byggvaror reviewed a number of planning tools and selected SO99+ delivered by Optilon
  - Enable high product availability strong belief that SO99+ could deliver higher service levels then competing tools
  - Inventory Optimization S099+ method guarantees service levels at lowest possible inventory
  - Planning Automation S099+ is enabling high automation in both demand forecasting as well as in replenishment

## Results by Planning Automation

- Service all-time high, 85 % => 98,4%
- Service level consistent and stable, above target every week since go-live
- Inventory turns improved about 20%
- Automated planning included impact of campaigns





"After a calendar year with SO99+ we've managed to automate pretty much the whole forecasting process and most parts of the order management process. Which has led to less administration and more work with analyzing our patterns. In turn, this had led to significant improvements on availability, both increasing and stabilizing the levels. All for the greater good of our Customer value", comments Mike Opdahl, Supply Manager Skånska Byggvaror.