



# **Bernstein University US 2025**

**US** Internet

October 2025

Mark Shmulik – Senior Analyst, U.S. Internet

#### **Bernstein US Internet Team**



#### Mark Shmulik, Senior Research Analyst

- + 20+ years of experience specializing in digital business models and disruption
- + Career has been a random walk down tech street
  - + Advisory: McKinsey & Co. (digital practice), Altman Solon
  - + Venture Capital: Seraphim Capital, Arts Alliance
  - + Trade organizations: GSMA (telecom), IAB (digital ads)
  - + Industry: (Telus Mobility, Compass)
- + HBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business, MBA from London Business School



#### Wenhuan Chang, Senior Research Associate

- + 6.5 years of working experience. Previously worked at Bain & Company (digital & consumer practice) and Bilibili Inc. (online video platform in China). Covered US Payments at Bernstein
- + BE in Industrial Engineering from Tsinghua University, MBA from Wharton



#### Lavnik Balyan, Research Associate

- + 1.5 years of sell-side experience. Previously covered IT Hardware at Bernstein
- + BSE in Computer and Information Science and MSE in Data Science from the University of Pennsylvania

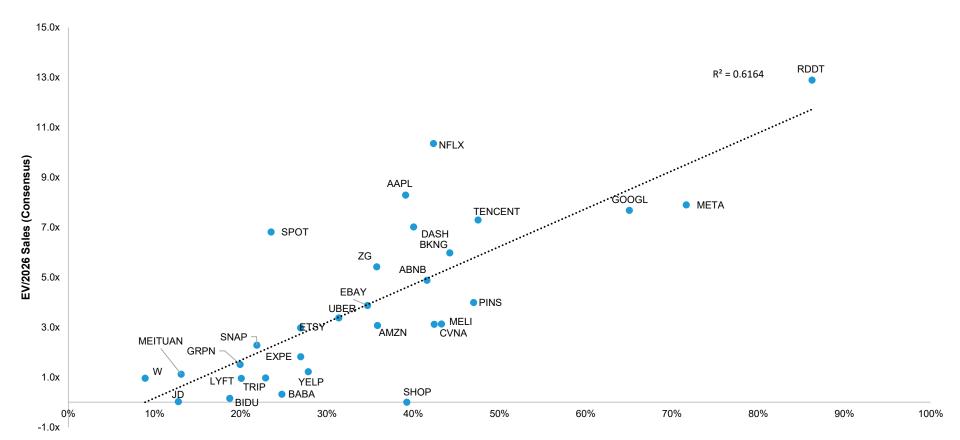
#### Some ground rules for Internet investing

- There's no such thing as an Internet company: the Internet is a channel. The businesses are retail, IT services, advertising, media, and software.
- Disruption perception > actual disruption: Crypto, metaverse, TikTok, Gen Al...
   Investors <u>always</u> question Internet moats, and it <u>will almost always</u> affect the stock price.
- Growth > everything, but everything matters too. What happens when an Internet company stops growing? It's not good. But now profits and FCF finally matter too.

#### **Coverage snapshot**

		Valuation											
	Company	Share Price	MARKET CAP	EV	EV / 2024 Rev.	EV / 2026 Rev.	EV / 2026 EBITDA	2024 Revenue	2025 Revenue	2026 Revenue	2024-26 Revenue CAGR	2026 EBITDA	2026 EBITDA Margin
	AMZN	220	2,347,027	2,405,764	3.8x	3.1x	12.3x	637,959	708,747	782,501	11%	196,369	25%
rse	GOOGL	244	2,955,618	2,899,136	9.8x	7.7x	14.8x	295,118	335,359	377,501	13%	196,120	52%
Universe	META	716	1,797,940	1,800,429	10.9x	7.9x	14.6x	164,501	196,150	227,799	18%	122,979	54%
Coverage	SNAP	8	13,603	14,902	2.8x	2.3x	19.7x	5,361	5,887	6,516	10%	756	12%
Co	PINS	32	21,941	19,419	5.3x	4.0x	12.7x	3,646	4,237	4,865	16%	1,532	31%
	RDDT	204	38,120	36,085	27.8x	12.9x	32.6x	1,300	2,077	2,798	47%	1,107	40%

#### An Internet 'rule of 40' valuation approach



2024-2026 Revenue CAGR + 2026 EBITDA Margin (Consensus)

#### Agenda for today

- A mature Internet? The Internet eras, revenue pools, and growth vs. profits
- Monetizing the attention economy... more options, less loyalty
- The next disruption and/or opportunity... Gen Al in the context of consumer Internet
- A regulatory elephant ... 25 of inaction does this actually matter now?

### A Mature Internet?

## Historically the top 10 tech companies (by market cap) have changed by decade

Today			2010		2000	1990		
Company	Market cap (\$B)	Company	Market cap (\$B)	Company	Market cap (\$B)	Company	Market cap (\$B)	
Nvidia	4,576	Microsoft	275	Microsoft	586	Ibm	57	
Microsoft	3,821	Alphabet	198	Cisco	337	At&T	50	
Apple	3,675	Apple	193	Intel	279	Bellsouth Llc	26	
Alphabet	2,956	Ibm	172	Nokia	228	Gte	23	
Amazon	2,347	At&T	168	Ibm	211	Verizon	22	
Meta	1,798	Cisco	141	Time Warner	166	Pac Telesis	21	
Broadcom	1,684	Нр	125	At&T	163	At&T	18	
Oracle	878	Oracle	124	Oracle	145	Nynex	18	
Netflix	518	Intel	115	Worldcom	145	Walt Disney	16	
Palantir	420	Verizon	95	Dell	127	Нр	11	

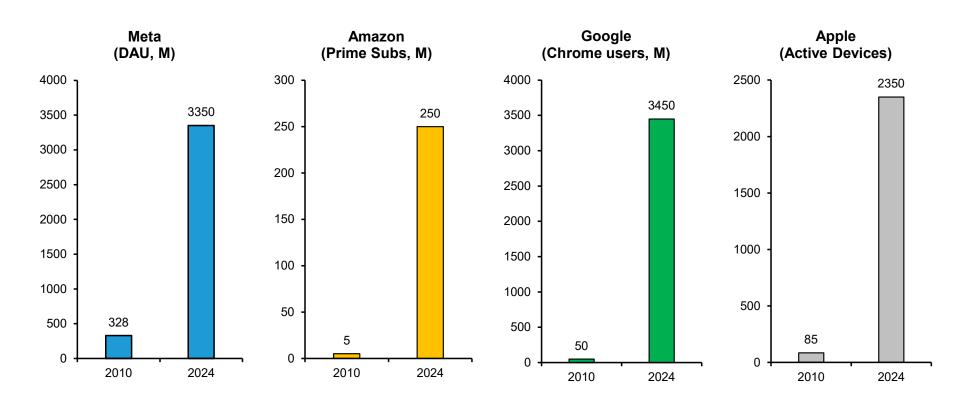
Top Technology and Communication companies by market cap within the S&P500

Today is 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025

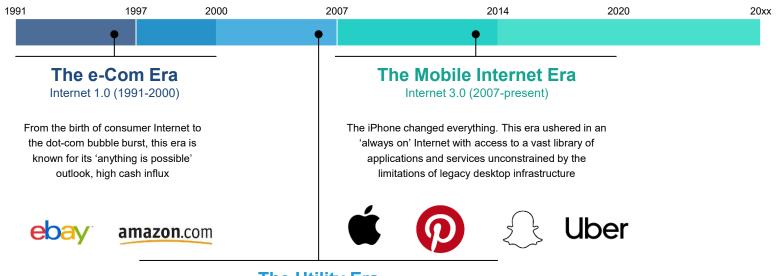
Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Broadcom, Oracle, Netflix, AMD, IBM, AT&T, Cisco, Hp, Oracle, Intel, Verizon, Nokia, Time Warner, Worldcom, Dell, Bellsouth LLc, Gte, Pac Telesis, Nynex, Walt Disney

#### The largest tech companies have reached unprecedented scale

#### Everywhere, all at once – US tech has dramatically increased its reach over the past 10-15 years



#### We are comfortably in the harvest period of Internet 3.0



#### The Utility Era Internet 2.0 (1997-2014)

From the emergence of Google through mobile displacing desktop, this era is best known for platforms/aggregators achieving a new level of scale by offering something for nothing

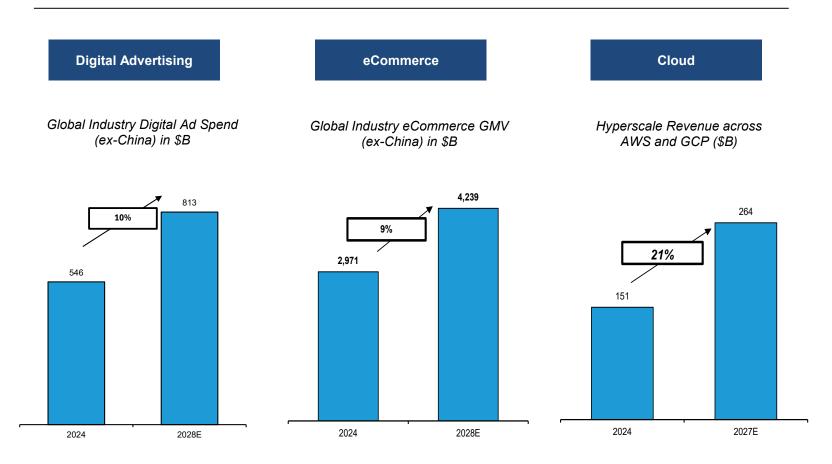




# Strong secular tailwinds across the board, with the digital revenue landgrab still underway

#### Global market sizes and growth of select industries

Expected growth rates across the core sub-sectors of Internet



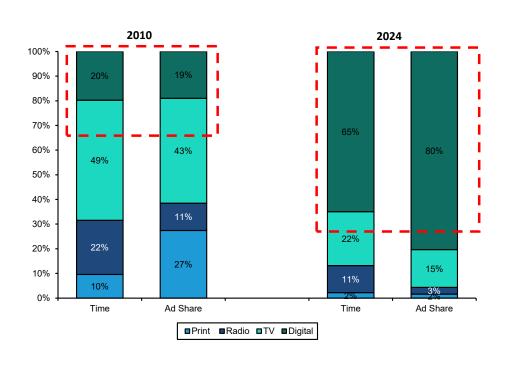
#### Digital advertising: The opportunity grows with time spent online

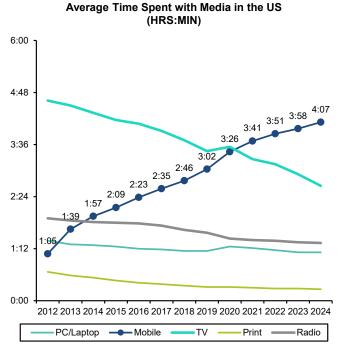
#### Spend currently ties to channel...

Share of ad spend vs. time spent by platform

#### ... and time spent online keeps growing

Avg. time spent per person by device

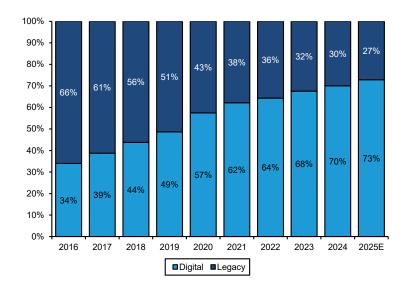




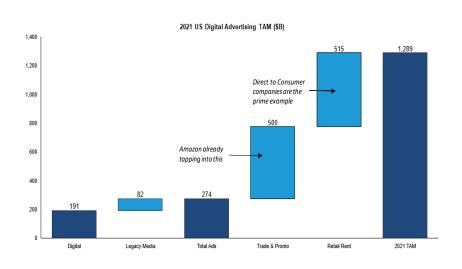
#### Digital advertising share gains to continue

- Higher ad load → Continued increase in time spent online
- Linear TV → The \$60B market, still up for disruption. Dollars have been shifting slowly
- eCommerce → Digital ads is an attach rate on eCommerce, which we expect to grow 9-10% per year
- TAM expansion → Digital pulls in dollars beyond traditional 'marketing' such as digitization of services

#### We think digital advertising penetration rates can climb north of 70%...

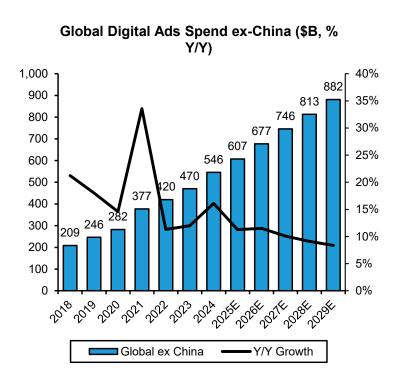


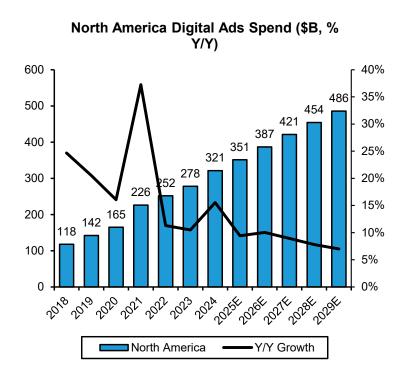
#### ...and the TAM can be much larger than the traditional math would suggest – 'digital rent'



#### We expect digital ad spend to remain healthy in the coming years

<u>Digital advertising is expected to compound at ~10%, with international markets outpacing the US modestly (lower penetration rates abroad)</u>

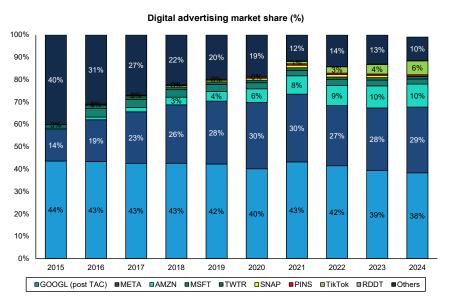


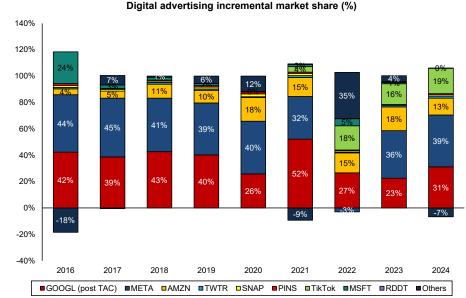


#### Digital Ads is now a three-horse race (GOOGL, META, and AMZN)

GOOGL and META capture almost 70% of global digital advertising (ex-China)...

...but Amazon has gained and TikTok is now growing, looking at share of incremental dollars





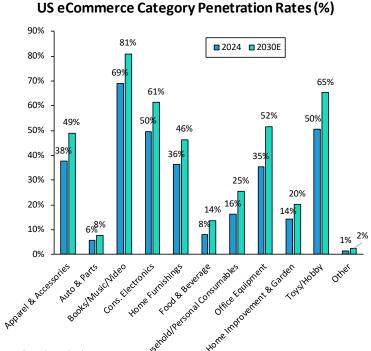
#### eCommerce: Online migration still early-to-mid cycle

- + eCommerce 2.0 categories → Looking to apparel, personal care, grocery, and home goods
- + New regions → International under-penetrated vs. the US, particularly emerging markets
- + Fewer barriers → Improving technical infrastructure (e.g., search, AR), faster delivery, and fewer financial barriers (e.g., BNPL)
- + Al accelerant → Agentic Al and improved search on-platform can drive conversion rates higher

#### US penetration could approach 22% by 2030

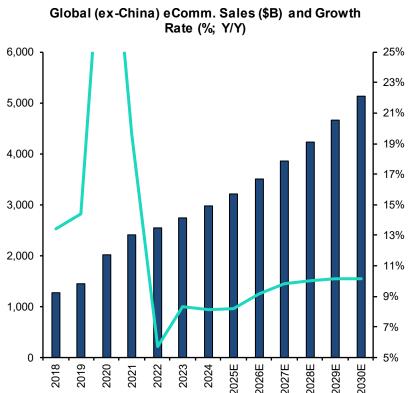
# Est. eCommerce Penetration Rates by Region 21.9% 20% 16.1% 17.0% 10.6% 10.6% 10.7% 10.7% 10.7% 10.7% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.9% 10.8% 10.9% 10.9% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.8% 10.9% 10

#### **Discretionary verticals becoming key drivers**

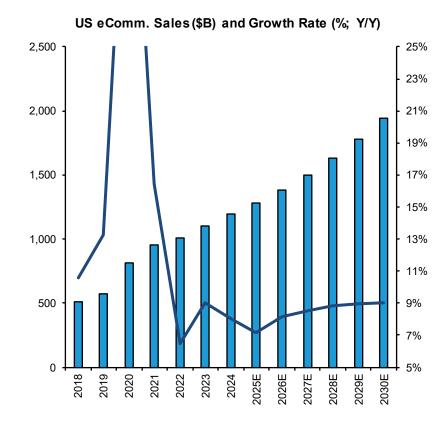


#### We forecast global eCommerce growth of 9-10% per year through to 2030, with the global (ex-China) market exceeding \$5T

We forecast global (ex-China) eCommerce to grow at a 9-10% CAGR to \$5.1T by 2030...



...with the US growing at an 8-9% CAGR, crossing \$1.9T by 2030



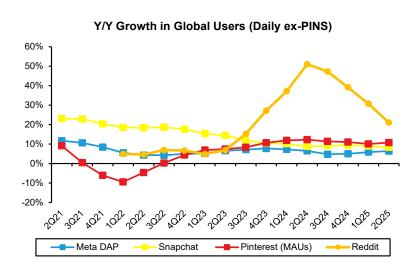
#### eCommerce: A fragmented market outside of Amazon

Share of US eCommerce	2Q24	2Q25	Change
Amazon	39.9%	42.4%	2.5%
Shopify	11.8%	13.2%	1.4%
Walmart	6.6%	7.9%	1.2%
еВау	3.2%	3.2%	0.1%
Home Depot	2.2%	2.3%	0.1%
Target	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%
Costco	1.7%	1.8%	0.1%
Best Buy	1.0%	0.9%	0.0%
Carvana	1.2%	1.7%	0.4%
Wayfair	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Lowe's	0.9%	1.0%	0.0%
Chewy	1.0%	1.1%	0.0%
Macy's	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
Etsy	0.8%	0.7%	-0.1%
Top 14 Aggregate	73.6%	79.3%	5.7%
Others	26.4%	20.7%	-5.7%

# The Distracted Attention Economy

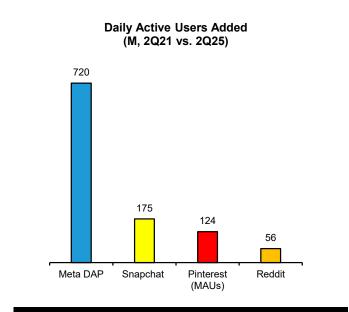
#### Social user growth is still healthy – Yes. We still use Facebook

#### Y/Y active user growth



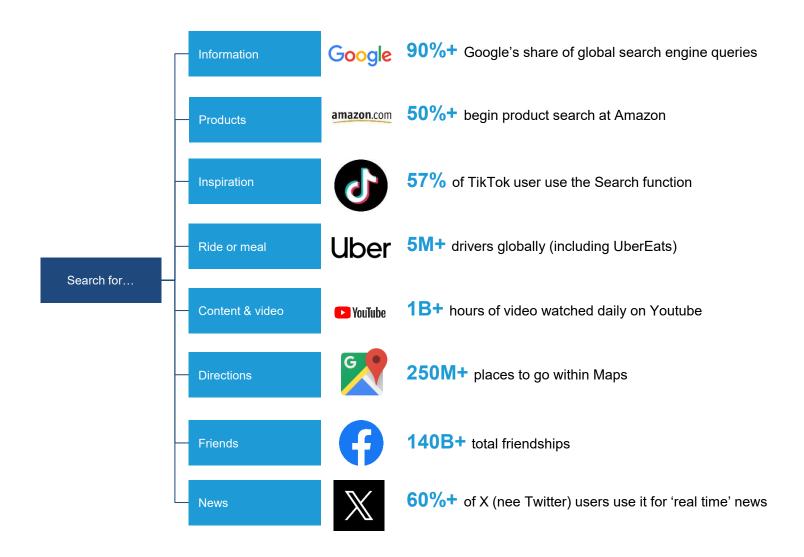
Engagement growth remains healthy across the social names

#### Daily users added to the platform from 2021-25

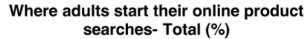


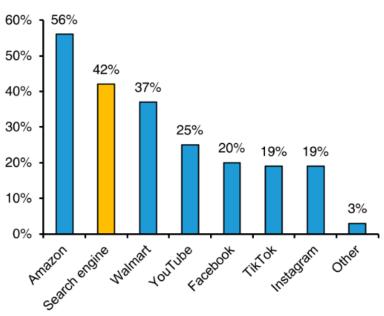
Look past growth rate – Meta is far ahead of the pack on absolute user adoption

#### Trend #1: The hollowing out of Search

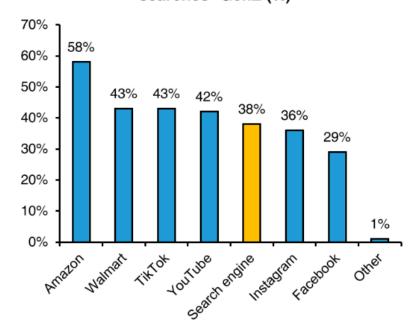


## Trend #1: The hollowing out of Search; Amazon is the Go-To for Product Search

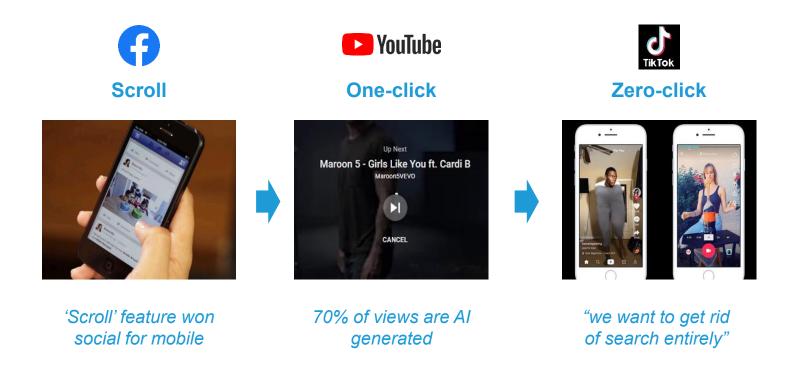




#### Where adults start their online Product searches- GenZ (%)

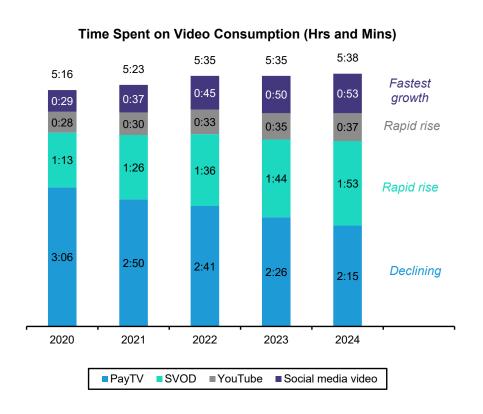


#### Trend #2: From 'pull' search to 'push' discovery



The avg. household takes 8 min. to select content on Netflix with 22% abandoning the search... In 8 min. the average TikTok user has consumed ~30 videos and 2-3 ads

#### Trend #3: UGC taking share from SVOD, from Linear TV



#### Social and Short Form Video= Fasted Growing

Popularized by TikTok, SFV time spent has gained share from longer form content



#### User generated content (UGC) gaining share from scripted content

Younger users in particular prefer user generated content over scripted content



#### SVOD gradually take share from Linear TV

Netflix, Hulu and others have gradually gained time spent



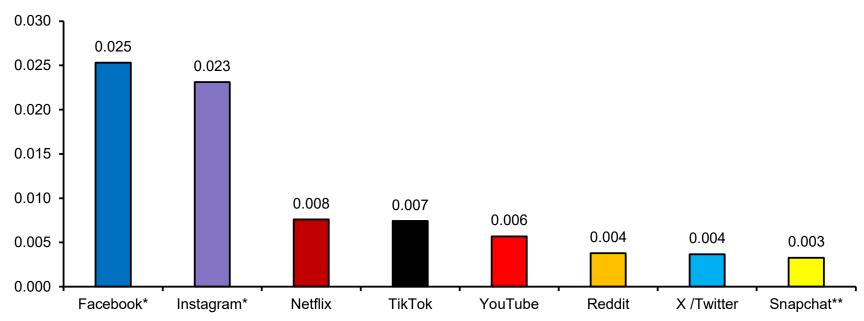
#### Linear TV continues to donate share

Dollars following eyeballs and migrating online



#### Meta continues to monetize better than peers





# The Next Disruption

#### Sizing markets is an exercise in futility – the art of the possible requires belief in access and optionality

"Sizing the market for a disruptor based on an incumbent's market is like sizing a car industry off how many horses there were in 1910" -**Aaron Levie** 

#### **Outsiders**



Rice farmers dismissed potato share capture in China ... growing a potato requires 30% less water than rice



McKinsey sized U.S. mobile phone market at 900K users ... 257M smartphone users in the US

#### **Insiders**

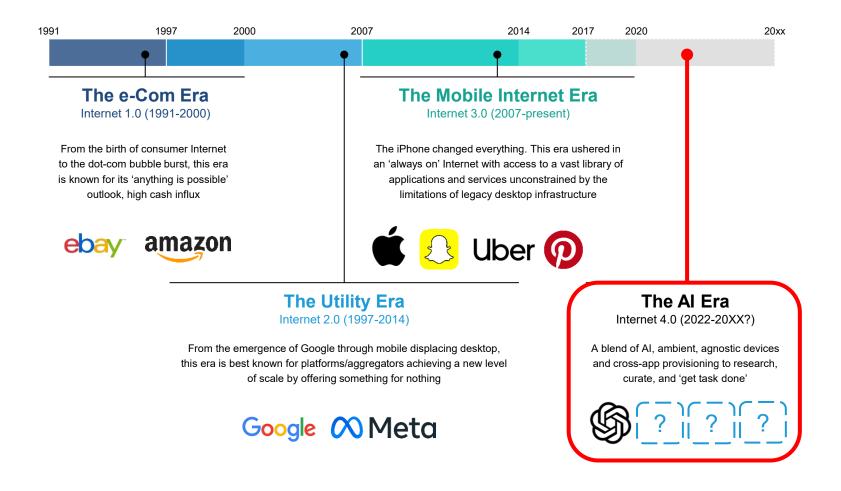


Defined a \$4.2B market for U.S. taxi & limo<sup>1</sup> ... smartphone proliferation created a \$3T gig economy

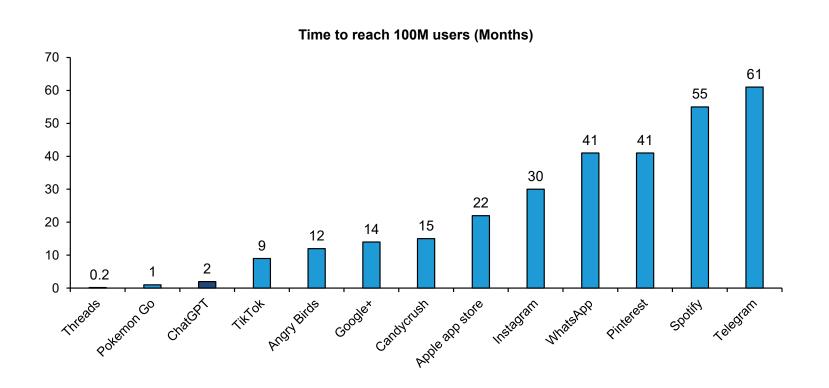


U.S. book market is ~\$20-25B ... 3P fulfillment capabilities open \$3.5T of unconstrained US retail spend

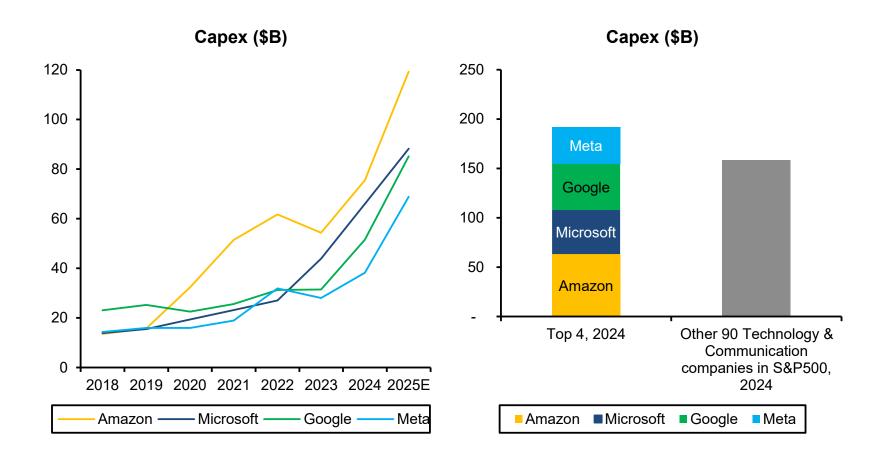
#### **Entering the early days of Internet 4.0**



#### Is Al the next big thing? And is OpenAl the new kid on the block?



#### ... the cost required to compete is also unprecedented... capital as a moat?



#### To survive and thrive: Growth strategies for Internet companies





**Grow core revenue** 

Increase engagement

Google



Al Overview: Deepen Search behavior



Al recommendation algo:



increase time spent

across platform

Product suggestions: Pinning → push messages → usage



Performance Max



Advantage+



Performance+





**New products leveraging** assets



Reality Labs: new products to existing users



Buy With Prime: Use owned infrastructure for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party delivery



**Enable talent to explore** moonshots

#### amazon.com

AWS: Leverage owned infrastructure for client product



Meta Smart Glasses: embedding Meta AI to unlock the next computational platform

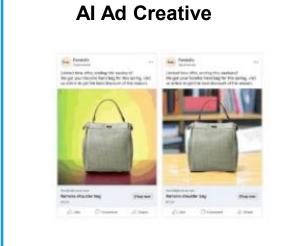
#### To survive and thrive: Meta's AI strategies

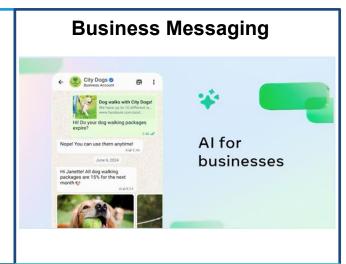
Core

**Emerging** 

**Existing offerings** 

New offerings





Al Personal Agents





Meta INTRODUCING LLAMA - 3

**Enterprise Al** 

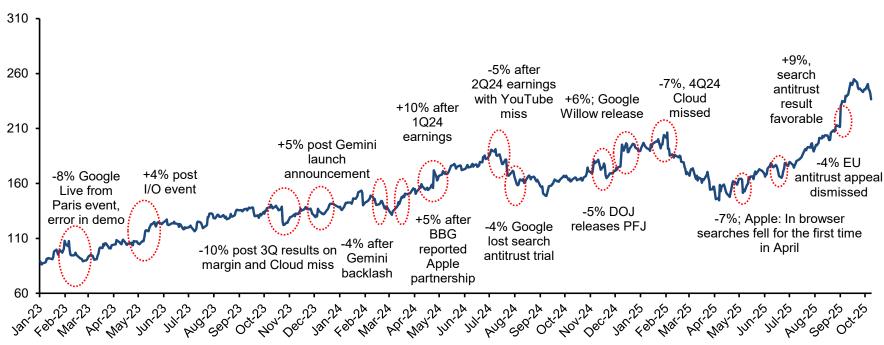
# The Regulatory Elephant

#### Regulators at the gate

		Google	amazon.com	$\infty$
Antitrust	US	Target of 3 major antitrust lawsuits: 1 targeting Search, second targeting ad tech business and third targeting Pay Store policy & take rate	Focus on Marketplace – product placement power, private label, and pricing relative to 3P sellers	FTC lawsuit: Focus on prior M&A, (e.g. Instagram, WhatsApp) Collusion with Google in ad tech market (part of Google lawsuit)
An	Abroad  EU - ~\$13B in fines since 2017 related to Shopping, AdSense, Android, online ads, etc.		EU investigating Marketplace; some seller terms changed after German antitrust probe	
acy	US	California Cons. Privacy Act (CCPA), Prop 24 passed YouTube Children's content	California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)	CCPA \$5B FTC fine and changes to user data policies
Privacy	Abroad	EU - Global Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Processing of location data	EU - Global Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	Multiple EU investigations for potential GDPR violations
er	US	Section 230 \$8.8B copyright lawsuit with Oracle	Seller liability on 3P products IRS tax case Sales tax on 3P sales	Content moderation Cambridge Analytica lawsuit IRS tax case
Other	Abroad	Digital Services Act (DSA), Digital Markets Act (DMA) Australia media bargaining code	India regulation against private label, exclusive seller agreements, and steep discounting	Schrems II – validity of EU-US data protection shield

#### And narratives still matter in Internet... metaverse, crypto, now Al





# Summary

# **Bringing it all together for investors**

A mature Internet?

- 2 Distracted economy
- 3 Betting on change
- 4 Regulatory elephant

- + There's no such thing as an Internet company, instead follow the revenue trail
- + User growth no longer a given, but decreasing importance instead, **pay attention** to attention
- High quality management teams can balance core monetization + investing in disruptive growth
- + Moonshots are not free call options:
  - + Requires a delicate balance of risk tolerance and fiscal discipline
  - + Investments should focus on next friction like 'on demand'
- + Regulatory risk is a new constant
  - + You can worry, but that won't make it go away
  - + Near-term risk on the 'Nationalization of Internet'
  - + Long-term risk still underappreciated, pay close attention to adjacent moves

# Bernstein ticker table

	13 Oct 2025				TTM	Adjusted EPS			Reported P/E (x)			
			Closing	Price	Rel.							
Ticker	Rating	Cur	Price	Target	Perf.	Cur	2024A	2025E	2026E	2024A	2025E	2026E
GOOGL	М	USD	244.15	210.00	33.6%	USD	8.00	9.94	10.86	30.5	24.6	22.5
META	0	USD	715.70	900.00	6.8%	USD	23.92	28.66	30.79	29.9	25.0	23.2
PINS	0	USD	32.27	45.00	(19.5)%	USD	3.87	1.73	2.00	8.3	18.6	16.1
SNAP	М	USD	8.05	9.00	(41.6)%	USD	0.29	0.38	0.65	27.5	21.4	12.4
RDDT	М	USD	203.68	185.00	157.6%	USD	(3.09)	1.70	2.56	(65.8)	119.9	79.6
AMZN	0	USD	220.07	250.00	2.9%	USD	5.52	6.76	7.84	39.9	32.6	28.1
SPX			6,654.72									

# BERNSTEIN SOCIETE GENERALE GROUP

#### I. REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

References to "Bernstein" or the "Firm" in these disclosures relate to the following entities: Bernstein Institutional Services LLC (April 1, 2024 onwards), Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., LLC (pre April 1, 2024), Bernstein Autonomous LLP, BSG France S.A. (April 1, 2024 onwards), Sanford C. Bernstein (Hong Kong) Limited 盛博香港有限公司, Sanford C. Bernstein (Canada) Limited, Sanford C. Bernstein (India) Private Limited (SEBI registration no. INH000006378), Sanford C. Bernstein (Singapore) Private Limited and Sanford C. Bernstein Japan KK (サンフォード・C・バーンスタイン株式会社).

On April 1, 2024, Société Générale (SG) and AllianceBernstein, L.P. (AB) completed a transaction that created a new joint venture in which their respective cash equities and research businesses operate in a new business combination. Although their respective ownership percentages in the joint venture differ between North America and the rest of the world, the creation, production and publication of research is handled collaboratively on a global basis across the two research brands, "Bernstein" and "Autonomous". Unless specifically noted otherwise, for purposes of these disclosures, references to Bernstein's "affiliates" relate to both SG and AB and their respective affiliates.

#### **VALUATION METHODOLOGY**

# Alphabet Inc

We value Alphabet on a Price Target of \$210, using a 50/50 combination of 2026e EV/ EBIT multiple of 19x and a DCF using a WACC of 9% and a terminal growth of 2.5%. We consider Alphabet primarily a digital advertising business and benchmark valuation to comparable peers in this industry set.

# Amazon.Com Inc

We value Amazon on a Price Target of \$250 using a 50/50 combination of SOTP method which values Amazon's largest segment (Retail) at a 2026E EV/Sales multiple of 2.5x, and a DCF using a WACC of 9% and a terminal growth rate of 3.5%.

#### Meta Platforms Inc.

We value Meta on a Price Target of \$900 using a 50/50 combination of 2026e EV/Sales multiple of 10.5x, and a DCF using a WACC of 9% and a terminal growth of 3.5%. We consider Meta primarily a digital advertising business and benchmark valuation to comparable peers in this industry set.

#### Reddit Inc

We value Reddit on a Price Target of \$185 using a 50/50 combination of 2026e EV/Sales multiple of 12x, and a DCF using a WACC of 10% and a terminal growth of 3.5%. We consider Reddit primarily a digital advertising business and benchmark valuation to comparable peers in this industry set.

#### Pinterest Inc

We value Pinterest on a price target of \$45 using a 50/50 combination of 2026e EV/Sales multiple of 6.5x, and a DCF using a WACC of 10% and a terminal growth of 3.0%. We consider Pinterest primarily a digital advertising business and benchmark valuation to comparable peers in this industry set.

# Snap Inc

We value Snapchat on a Price Target of \$9 using a 50/50 combination of 2026e EV/Sales multiple of 2.4x, and a DCF using a WACC of 10% and a terminal growth of 3.0%. We consider Snapchat primarily a digital advertising business and benchmark valuation to comparable peers in this industry set.

#### **RISKS**

# Alphabet Inc

Upside risk to our price target:

- Faster than expected revenue growth tied to digital advertising recovery and idiosyncratic efforts or better than expected margins tied to recent effort to slow down hiring and small scale lay-offs.
- Favorable regulatory outcomes further entrenching Google's incumbency positions across both Search and Network.

Downside risk to our price target:

- Terminal risk narratives tied to Search disintermediation, either from negative headlines or share loss (users and/or revenue) in search. If search were to suffer topline changes it could have a trickle effect across the business and have a material impact on GOOGL's ad revenues and we would expect further de-rating in the stock.
- Alphabet is currently under investigation in multiple regulatory proceedings across both anti-trust and privacy, domestically and abroad. In particular, the DOJ case against Google on Search will likely reach a verdict later this year.

# Amazon.Com Inc

Downside risks to our price target:

- Amazon is currently under investigation in multiple regulatory proceedings across both anti-trust and privacy, domestically and abroad. Any regulations or actions by either the FTC, DOJ, or EU agencies could negatively impact the company's financials and valuation.
- New investments such as Groceries, Healthcare, AI, and Other Bets could result in a new investment cycle resulting in elevated capital intensity, compressing operating margins, and lower FCF.
- Share loss across core businesses from new eCommerce entrants and main AWS competitors could derate the multiples associated with both core businesses

#### Meta Platforms Inc.

Downside risk to our target price:

- Meta is currently under investigation in multiple regulatory proceedings now mostly focused on anti-trust domestically and abroad.
- Signs that we're reaching maturity in digital ads, increased competition as alternatives emerge with compelling ad ROIs, or further privacy related changes (e.g., Cookie depreciation) could all put press on Meta's revenue outlook resulting in compressing revenue growth and de-rating.
- Meta's metaverse aspirations could lead to margin headwinds and potentially minimal ROIC, which could negatively affect both estimates and multiples.

#### Reddit Inc

Upside risk to our price target:

- Faster than expected revenue growth helped by more data licensing deals.
- Higher than expected revenue growth if Reddit figures out the new ad platform and monetization accelerate ahead of our timetable.
- Faster than expected margin expansion tied to revenue growth acceleration and moderate expense growth.

Downside risk to our price target:

- · Continued volatility in user growth number, particularly in the domestic market
- Data licensing revenue could start to slow and decline down the line
- More than expected revenue impact from macro slow down

#### Pinterest Inc

Downside risks to our price target:

- With any negative macro events that could put ad budgets under pressure, Pinterest could be at risk of ad dollars moving off the platform and being re-allocated to larger peers with more established direct response products.
- Pinterest trades at a higher multiple to peers with a compelling investor narrative, but if the company is unable to execute successfully on the vision of shifting user behavior towards shopping, recent investor optimism may cool.
- Slower roll out in any of their new products could lead to slower than anticipated revenue growth

# Snap Inc

Upside risk to the price target:

- Snap trades heavily around revenue beats and misses, if core advertisers come back and/or the company is able to attract new ad buyers to the improved ad platform, monetization may accelerate ahead of our timetable.
- Snap's current investor narrative is unclear at the moment with limited investor confidence in management's forward looking commentary, efforts to improve investor messaging alongside proof of progress (potentially new partnership announcements) could win back investors and re-rate the stock.

Downside risk to the price target:

• With any negative macro events that could put ad budgets under pressure, Snapchat could be at risk of ad dollars moving off the platform and being re-allocated to larger peers with more established direct response products. If Snapchat is also unable to overcome ad measuring and tracking issues successfully, they could lose advertisers.

• Snapchat's primary users are Gen Z and younger millennials – a notoriously finicky group. Newer entrants like TikTok, Roblox, and several in-development apps are also going after this same age demo which could result in SNAP losing their status as the social home of this demo, which would severely dampen the financials and valuation of the company.

#### RATINGS DEFINITIONS, BENCHMARKS AND DISTRIBUTION

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The Bernstein brand rates stocks based on forecasts of relative performance for the next 12 months versus the S&P 500 for stocks listed on the U.S. and Canadian exchanges, versus the Bloomberg Europe Developed Markets Large and Mid Cap Price Return Index (EDM) for stocks listed on the European exchanges and emerging markets exchanges outside of the Asia Pacific region, versus the Bloomberg Japan Large and Mid Cap Price Return Index USD (JP) for stocks listed on the Japanese exchanges, and versus the Bloomberg Asia ex-Japan Large and Mid Cap Price Return Index (ASIAX) for stocks listed on the Asian (ex-Japan) exchanges -unless otherwise specified.

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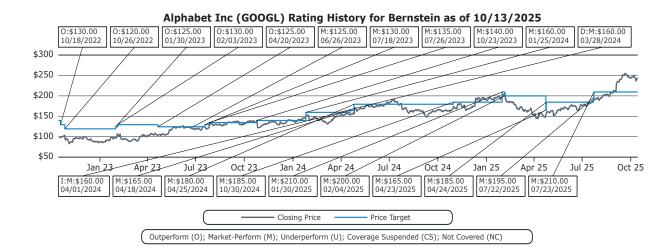
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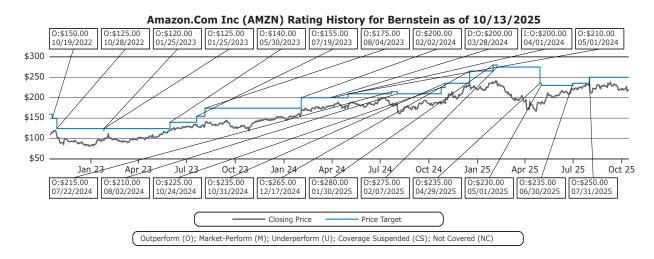
Rating	Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) and FINRA Rule 2241 classification	Count	Percent	Count*	Percent*
Outperform	BUY	620	51.07%	112	18.06%
Market-Perform (Bernstein Brand)  Neutral (Autonomous Brand)	HOLD	420	34.60%	81	19.29%
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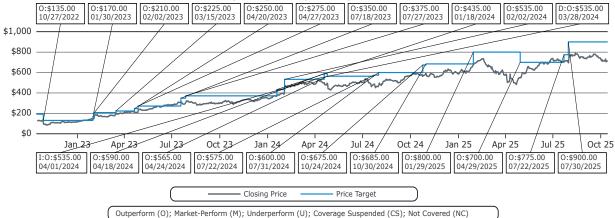
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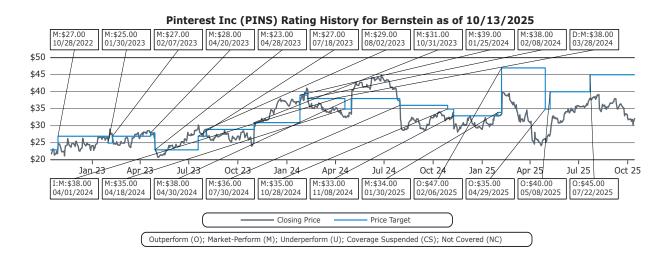


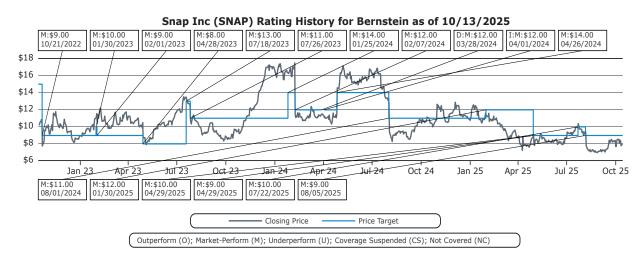
# Meta Platforms Inc. (META) Rating History for Bernstein as of 10/13/2025



# Reddit Inc (RDDT) Rating History for Bernstein as of 10/13/2025







All price target and closing price data in the chart(s) above are denominated in the currency noted in the Ticker Table of this report.

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