A Perspective on Strat Planning in the Age of Covid-19 Question:

From a business planning perspective (or personal one), how do I plan around Covid-19 impact?

AKA: When will things return to normal? (or the new normal)

Example:

Lets examine how major companies are doing it.

Note: they probably are not disclosing this, as it has real business and street implications. BUT – they are probably using it to determine things like Investment, Cash Flow, Capitalization, Hiring/Reductions, etc.

> AKA: how bad is this storm going to be, and how long is it going to last.

Step 1:

Get smart on the issue. Probably from those that are experts in the field. You need to be able to frame things.

Leverage History, as things DO tend to repeat themselves, and Humans tend to under-appreciate this fact.

Step 2:

Using a very simple model, define the: Best Case Worst Case Likely Mid Case

Step 3:

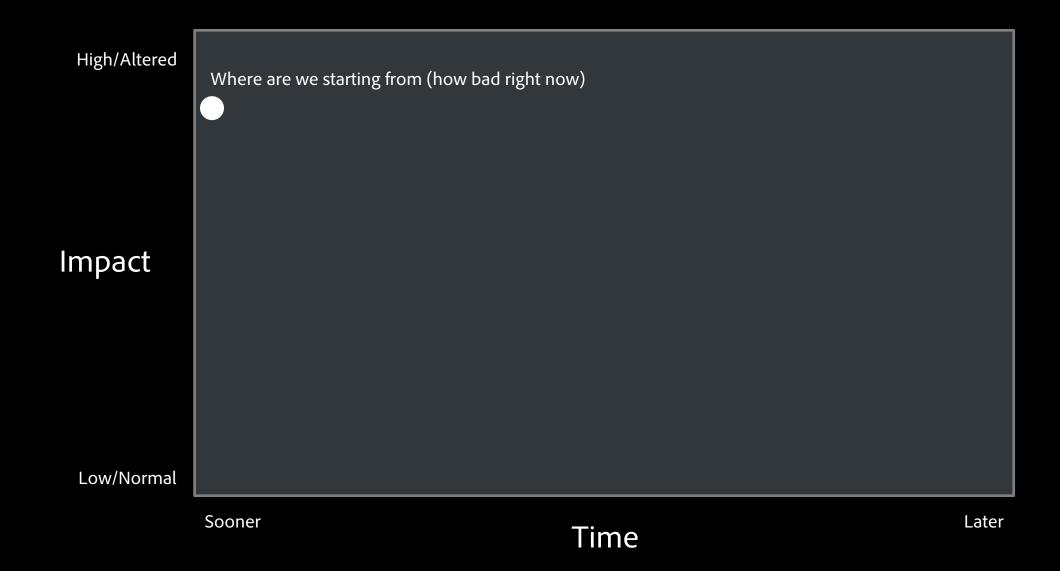
Base each of these on PLAUSIBILITY Not Liklihood (easier for us to define and agree) Magnitudes, not Specifics

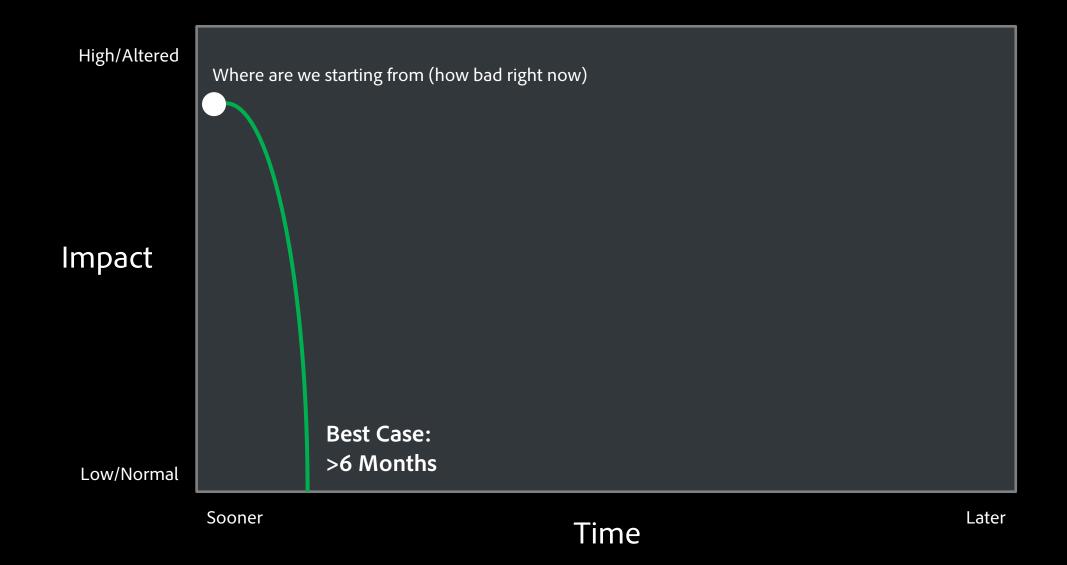
Step 4:

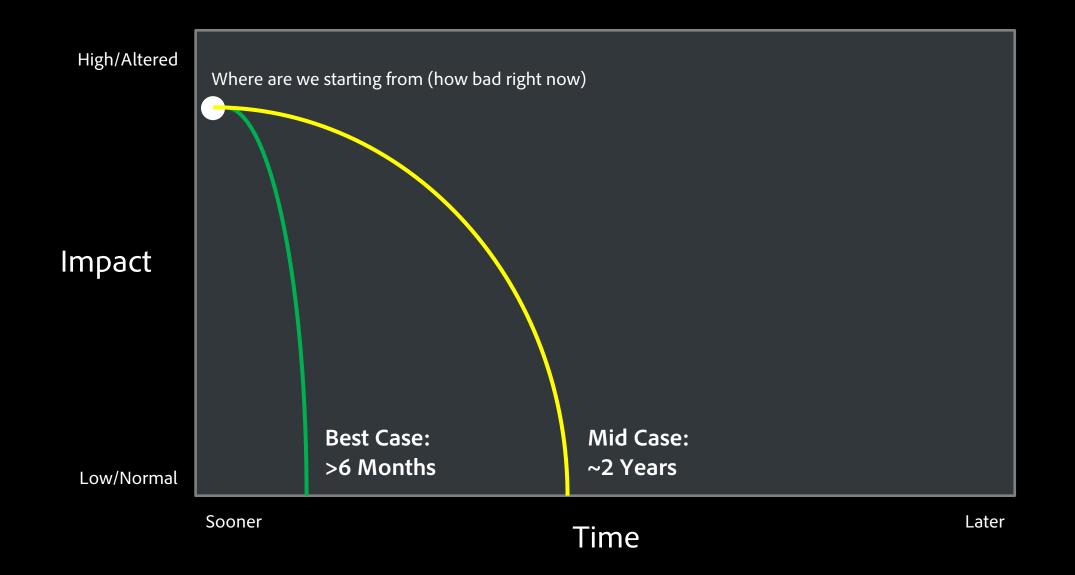
Shape of the Curve Fast with Long Tail or Slow with Rapid End

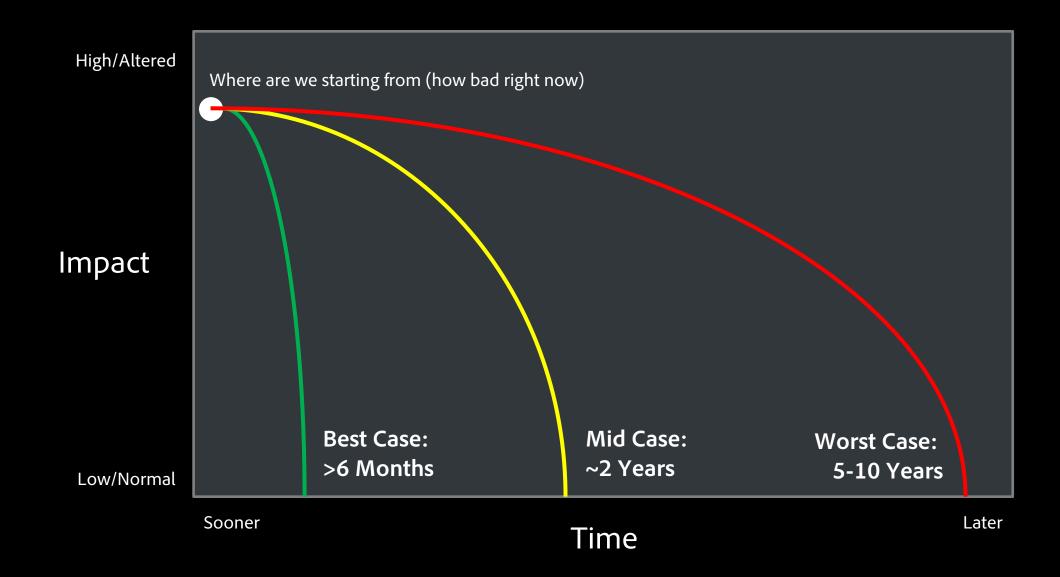
Remember, not what you WANT to happen, but what history and the experts are saying likely to happen











What Does This Mean?

Best Case = >6 Months Expect Little to Change Immediately

Mid Case: ~2 Years Decisions that preserve the core business Likely gets worse before gets better

> Worst Case: 5-10 Years Consider anything Expect it to get much worse

A Perspective

You might not like these outcomes (who would?), but that is not the point.

The question is whether they are PLAUSIBLE based on all we know, and what we DO in response.

As business people, we have a role into how our companies respond, and we need to be sensitive to the macro issues at play here. It is not business as usual.