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Technology and AI: The Future of Business Brokering

George Wellmer Founder of Tupelo Agenda!

I will be talking about this.

Chapter 1 Market Research

Chapter 2 Changes to the Industry

Chapter 3 Technology and AI

Hello! I'm...

George Wellmer Founder of Tupelo

Software, Valuations, Sun Glass Roll Up, SBA, M&A Banking, & Y Combinator Alumni





















tupelo

Chapter 1 Market Research

Chapter 2 Changes to the Industry

Chapter 3 Technology and AI

Tupelo has interviewed roughly 1,000 business brokers and M&A advisors across the United States and Canada.

Chapter 1 Market Research

What has the SMB M&A market historically looked like?

Broker Profile

- 1. Sold a business
- 2. Lifer
- Adjacent Industry
 A. Real Estate
 - B. Lawyer
 - C. CPA

Seller Leads

- 1. COIs
- 2. Mailers
- 3. Cold Calling
- 4. Drop Cards

Firm Structure

- 1. Independent
- 2. Inquiry Routing
 - a. Relationship
 - b. Listing

Ambitions of your historic broker

Ambitions

Growth I want to sell as many businesses as I can



I want to sell ~3 listings a year.



Stable

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1. Specialize in specific verticals

2. Sell more listings

3. Sell bigger deals

Advisors have successfully deployed two strategies to find buyers



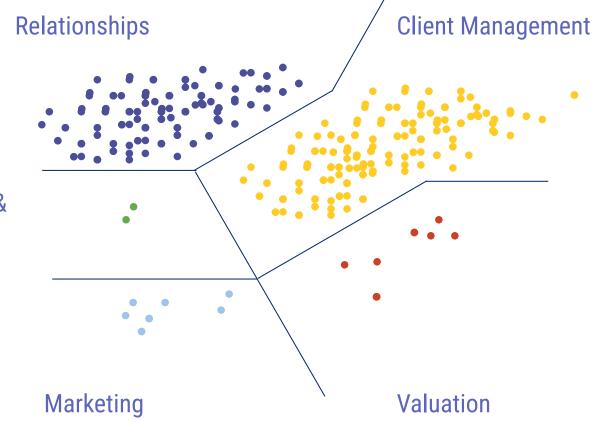
Brokers skills are concentrated

Identical: In the business broker industry, a clustering of similar skills can blur the lines between practitioners. It's often challenging for customers to distinguish one broker from another.

Unknown: The business broker sector remains a relatively undiscovered realm, mainly due to its homogeneous composition. Even potential customers may not be familiar with the field.

Moat: There is a moat to become a business broker, sufficient cash reserves as pay cycles are bumpy, particularly when starting off.

Technology & Engineering



Chapter 1 Market Research

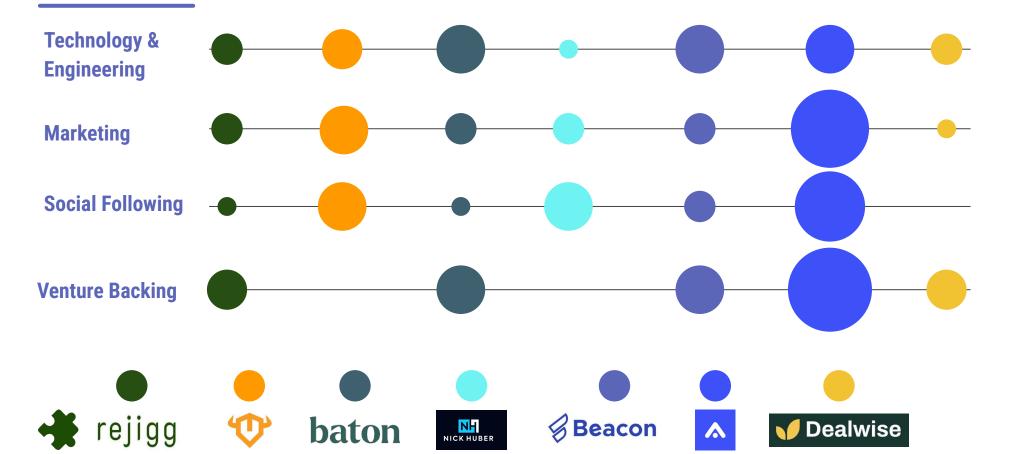
Chapter 2 Changes to the Industry

Chapter 3 Technology and Al

The Future of Business Brokering

Our industry is undergoing a transformation, and the traditional methods of selling businesses, which were effective in the past, may not always align with the evolving landscape.

New brokerage firms are emerging with a different set of skills



Clint Fiore Bison Business Brokers - "New Aged Business Broker" Presentation TABB

Llina	1		\mathbf{v}	
Hire			Lt	M

- Hire 2 Executive Assistant
- Hire 3 Administrative Assistant
- Hire 4+ Analysts

- Review and Flag Emails
- Schedule Meetings
- Create Deal Teasers
- Screen Buyers
- Valuations
- Screen Sellers
- Broker Smaller Deals
- Find New Leads



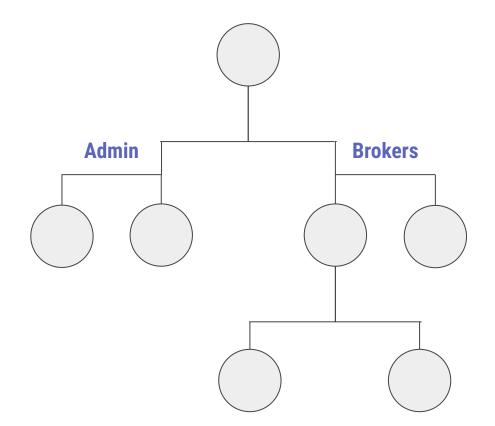
Brokerage firms are drawing inspiration from investment banking models

Team: The world of brokering is shifting towards a more collaborative approach.

Admin: Administrative support staff plays a crucial role in allowing brokers to dedicate their efforts to identifying new sellers and engaging with genuinely interested buyers.

Organization Visibility: Every broker has access to all contacts, and leads are collaboratively managed by multiple brokers, fostering a shared perspective across the organization.

Shift from 1099 to W2



Marketing BizNexus & OutFlow - CVBBA & TABB

Specialization

- 1. Target prospective sellers
- 2. Creating messaging that is cohesive
- 3. Knowledge of the industry

Multi Channel Marketing

- 1. Lead Scoring
 - a. Automations
- 2. Email, Mail, LinkedIn, Call, etc.
- 3. Creating a digital profile

Their services function just as much for brokers as buyers

Buyers are paying for and deploying the same systems as brokers

Company	Price	Description
X5deals	\$299 per month	Outsource deal sourcing agent that aggregates high-quality deals.
PRIVSOURCE	\$200 per month	Private, deal-sourcing network for experienced lower and middle-market M&A professionals.
BIZNEXUS	Scales with reach	Outsources M&A deal origination.
Deal Flow Scout	Free	Facilitates the free, open, transparent sharing of quality deal flow.
C OUTFLOW	\$1,000s per month	Deal origination platform that generates leads via email marketing and LinkedIn messaging.



Real estate titans expanding into business brokerage

LIAMS



Armed with:

- Thousands of agents
- Massive internal referral network
- Budget and appetite for technology
- Sophisticated training programs
- Practiced negotiators
- Skilled client managers



Buy Side Representation

A growing number of brokers are offering buy-side representation services on a monthly recurring revenue model.



Carolinas-Virginia Business Brokers Association Serving North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia



3.

Thought leaders in the SMB acquisition space are not brokers

...

...



Jon Matzner 🤣 @MatznerJon

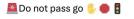
Every time you see a biz on bizbuysell, remember who already decided not to buy it:

1. The broker

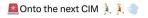
- 2. The professional service providers
- 3. The employees
- 4. Competitors already in the sector, with access to financing

If you can't figure out why those people said no, you're the sucker.









Clint Fiore 💸 🏟 DM for Biz Deals 🤣 @ClintFiore · Jan 11, 2022 Most business brokers suck.

But the good ones are worth their weight in gold and have more work than they can keep up with. That's why I got into this gig... Not much competition. Hard to break into (so good moat). Easy to shine.

Sorry, but you are a broker's worst nightmare ... and how to fix it



Andrew Pierno 🤣 @AndrewPierno · Feb 13 small businesses and brick & mortars are not on Linkedin or Twitter, they're on Google maps 🤯

i wrote a script to scrape listings from google maps and download them as csv

- Phone number
- Website URL
- Address
- Rating

Popular Blogs & Newsletters

- 1. <u>Owned and Operated</u>
- 2. <u>SMBAcquisitionAttorney's Substack</u>
- 3. Acquisition Odyssey
- 4. Contrarian Thinking
- 5. <u>Chrisxmunn</u>
- 6. <u>DueDilio</u>
- 7. <u>Anon Investor</u>
- 8. <u>The Business Academy</u>
- 9. <u>BigDeal Small Business</u>
- 10. <u>D&H</u>

1.

Will BizBuySell remain the best listing site?



1.

2.

3.

Brokers 90% of brokers will post all of their businesses to BizBuySell



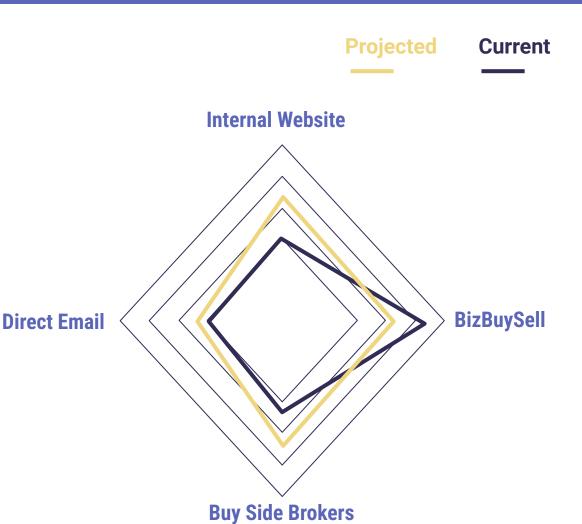
Updates 2+ updates are made on an avg. listing



of Listing Sites Broker post listings to 1-4 sites



Secondary + Listings Cross selling listings is very common



List of 500+ websites for buying and selling businesses

Chapter 1 Market Research.

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Chapter 3 Technology and Al

M&A intermediaries have never had access to more powerful technology than they do now, and this is just the beginning.

What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence ("AI"):

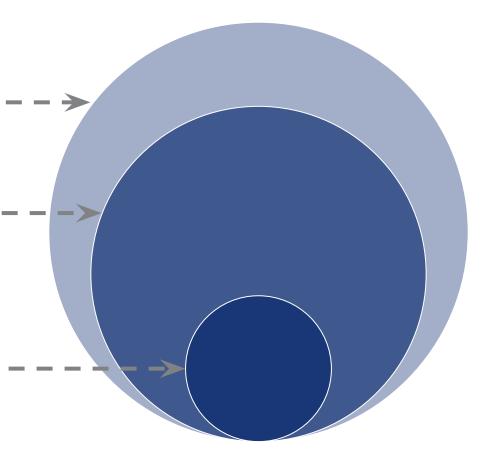
is a broad field of computer science focused on creating machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

Machine Learning ("ML"):

is a subset of AI that involves the development of algorithms that allow computers to learn and make predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed for each task.

Natural Language Processing ("NLP") Models:

specific types of ML models designed to understand, interpret, and respond to human language in a useful way.



How does an AI learn?



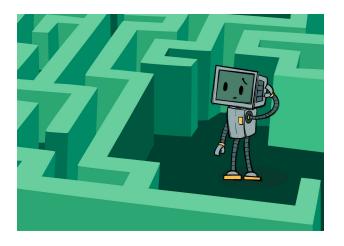
Supervised Learning

a type of ML where the algorithm is trained on a labeled dataset. This means the data is already tagged with the correct answer or outcome.



Unsupervised Learning

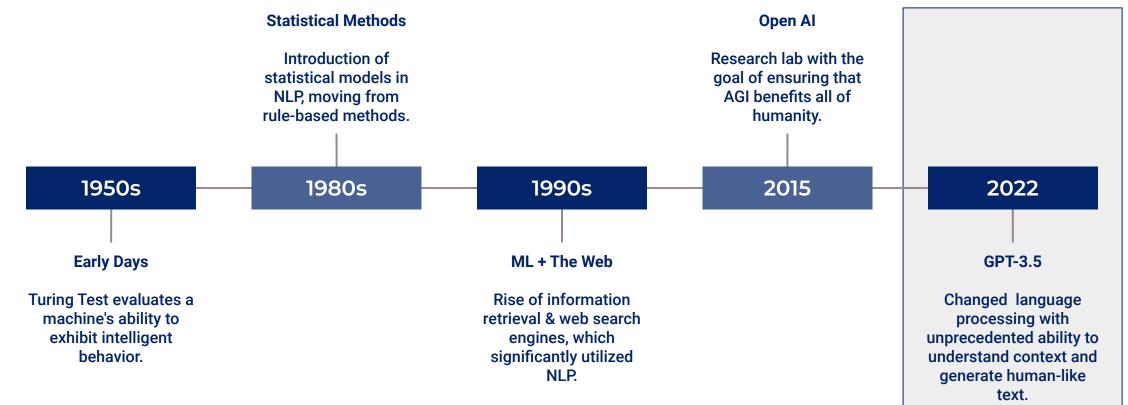
involves training the algorithm on data that is not labeled. The system tries to learn the patterns and structure from the data without guidance.



Reinforcement Learning

trains the algorithm from an environment through interactions and feedback (rewards or penalties).

Why is it so popular now?

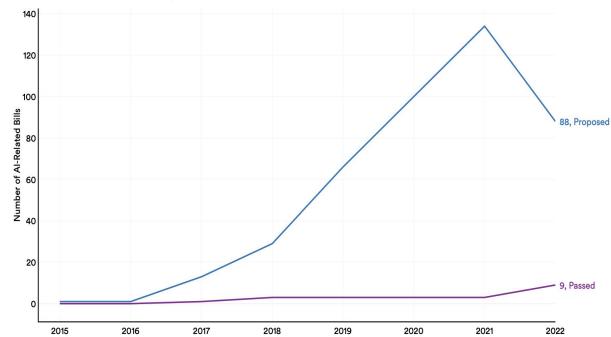


Historically, AI was only accessible to technical people.

The rise of AI is like nothing history has seen

Annual global corporate investment in artificial intelligence, by type Our World in Data This data is expressed in US dollars, adjusted for inflation.

Merger/Acquisition Public Offering Private Investment \$250 billion Minority Stake \$200 billion \$150 billion \$100 billion \$50 billion \$0 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 Data source: NetBase Quid via Al Index Report (2023) OurWorldInData.org/artificial-intelligence | CC BY Note: Data is expressed in constant 2021 US\$. Inflation adjustment is based on the US Consumer Price Index (CPI)





Is AI doing anything?



Сору

The emergence of ChatGPT and Google Bard has empowered individuals to enhance their writing efficiency.



Financial

Al has the capability to spread financials and generate projections.



Chatbot

Companies such as Booking.com, Tripadvisor, Salesforce, and others are leveraging AI chatbots for customer support, scheduling, and personalized recommendations.

Healthcare

Al algorithms analyze medical data to assist in diagnostics, treatment planning, and developing personalized medicine strategies.



Producing graphics and enhancing photos has never been easier.



Marketing

Al analyzes customer data to personalize marketing efforts, target advertisements, and optimize customer experiences.

3.

What can't AI do?

Handling Ambiguity and Uncertainty:

Physical World Interaction:

Data Bias and Fairness:

Generalization and Transfer Learning:

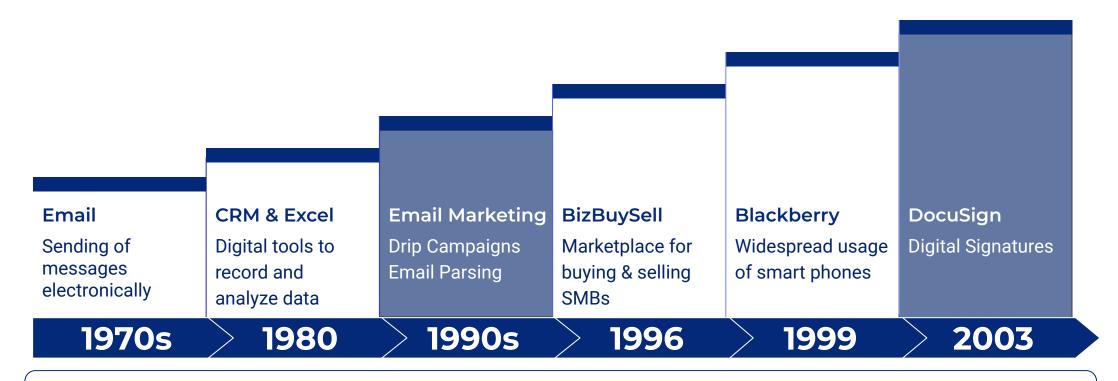
Al systems prefer clear, structured data and can **struggle with ambiguous scenarios** or data that is not well-defined or is incomplete.

While there are advancements in robotics, AI still faces **challenges in seamlessly interacting with the physical world**, especially in uncontrolled environments. Tasks that require fine motor skills or adaptability to a wide range of physical scenarios can be difficult.

Al systems can perpetuate and even amplify biases present in their training data. Ensuring fairness and avoiding bias in AI models, particularly in sensitive areas like facial recognition or predictive policing, is a significant challenge.

Al models are generally trained on specific tasks and can **struggle to generalize knowledge** to new, unseen scenarios or tasks that are significantly different from their training data.

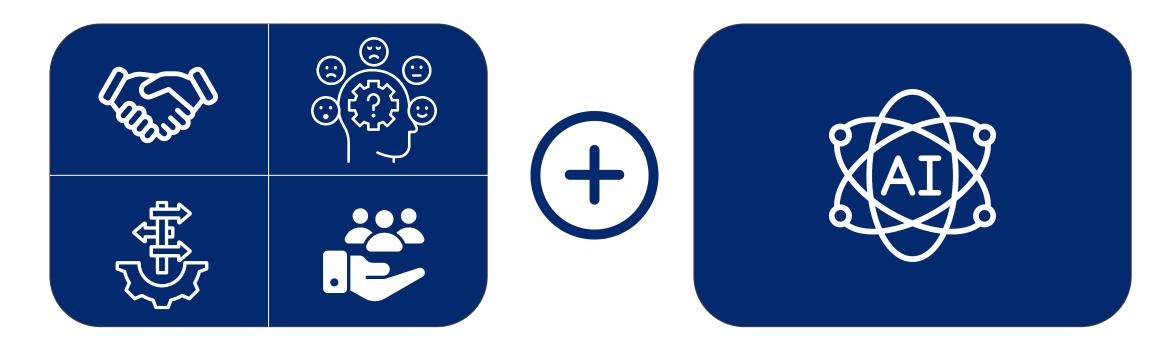
Historically what technology has impacted the brokering of SMBs



Why - (1) ~ 80% of the industry does not want to grow, (2) lack of technology adoption and understanding, (3) you don't need to be GREAT to make money, (4) brokers have thin budgets, (5) cashflow is lumpy creating a hesitancy to make investments

2.

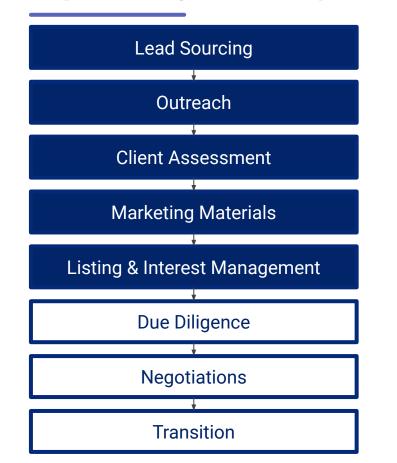
How will AI impact business brokering?



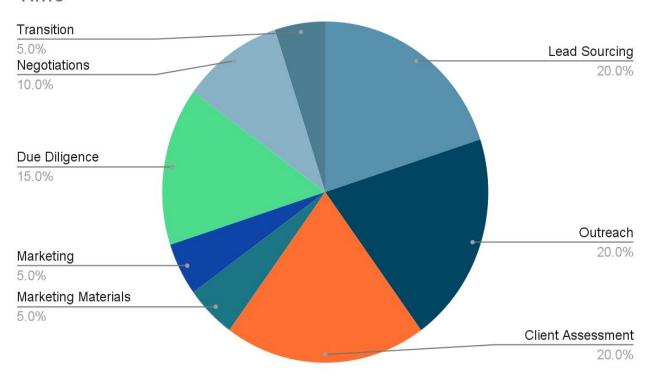
Technology will not replace good business brokers and M&A advisors, it will enable them to provide a higher level of service to a larger number of business owners.

1.

Implementing AI into the process



Time



3.

Lead Sourcing - traditional methods + AI-augmented approaches

Referral Network	 Accountants & CPAs Insurance Banks 	Technology + Al Toolkit	
	 Insurance Wealth Managers Real Estate Agents 	1. Kalendar.ai	
Contact Lists	 Zoom Info Dun & Bradstreet 	2. Inven.ai	
		3. Openlead.ai	
	Attending and or participating in: • Associations		
In person ເຕັ	Industry conferencesTraining seminars	5. Leadscourcing.co	
Outsource	 Lead origination is done by a third party Outflow BizNexus 	6. Apollo	

3.

Lead Sourcing - Kalendar.ai

Company	Price	Description
Kalendar.ai	<pre>\$850 per month + \$2 per verified human chat visitor + \$10 per conversation + \$50 per meeting booked</pre>	KalendarAI generates meetings on autopilot by engaging your potential customers from a verified database of 300+ million contacts with personalized email ads.

3.

Lead Sourcing - Apollo.io

Company	Price	Description	
Apollo.io	Free - \$119 per month Estimated spend: \$79 a month	Apollo.io is "the world's most up-to-date lead database." Apollo powers your end-to-end sales process with 275M leads and automates the perfect next step to engage clients and win more deals.	

Tip: Combine Apollo.io with LinkedIn Sales Navigator to target leads more efficiently.

3.

Outreach - add AI & tech to traditional engagement approaches

Q 2 Q Snail mail **Technology + AI Toolkit** Drop cards Email **Multi Channel** LinkedIn Messaging Cold calls Luna.ai Apollo & Kalendar.ai 2. Creating content and speaking at industry events to **Domain Experts** establish themselves as an expert in specific vertical(s). Email Marketing Software -3. eg. Mailchimp This is arguably the most common form of business development, waiting for referral partners to forward along Waiting 4. Reachout.ai opportunities. 5. SaleeAl Lead generation and outreach is done by a third party Outsource Outflow Clay 6. **BizNexus**

Outreach - luna.ai

Company	Price	Description
Una.ai	Free - \$2,500 per month Estimated spend: \$360 a month	Luna.ai is an AI powered lead sourcing and outreach platform with over 275M contacts. Luna.ai markets itself on highly polished emails to focus on quality over quantity in cold outreach.

3.

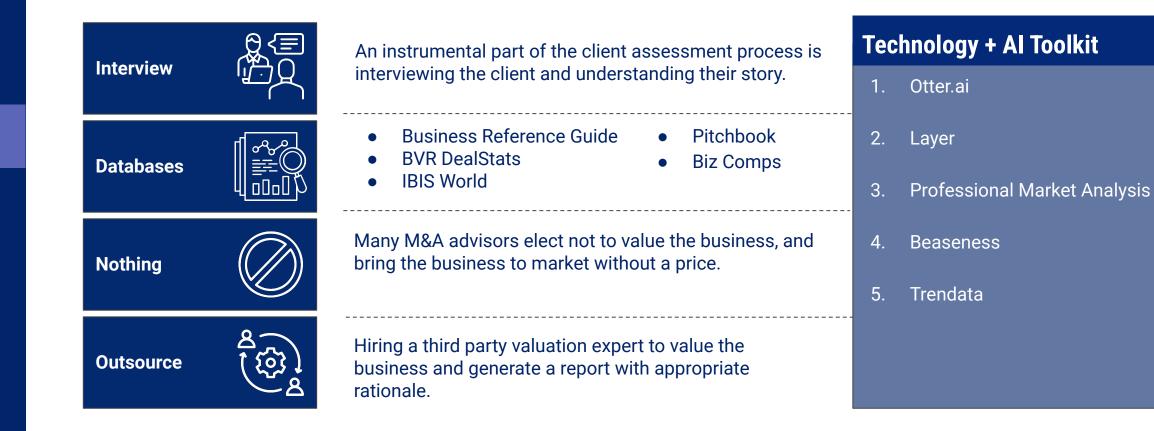
Outreach - Reachout.ai

Company	Price	Description
reachout.ai	\$249 - \$699 1x payment	Reachout.ai creates AI powered personalized 1:1 videos that are
	Estimated spend: \$249	sent to prospective clients via email.

Tip: (1) Combine Reachout.ai to your existing email drip campaigns.(2) Highlight sold, and active listings so prospects know you have experience selling companies similar to theirs.

3.

Client Assessment - incorporating AI to aligning, analyzing, and appraising



Client Assessment - Otter.ai

Company	Price
	Free - \$20 1x per month
Otter.ai	Estimated spend: Free

othOtter.ai is an AI meeting assistant
that records audio, writes notes,
captures action items, and
generates summaries.

Description

3.

Client Assessment - Professional Market Analysis

3.

Company	Price	Description
Professional Market Analysis	\$20 per month	Professional Market Analysis is layered on top of ChatGPT4 and is an AI powered research analyst. Simply enter in your market research questions and the AI will comb the internet to find relevant information.

Marketing Materials - use AI to enhance flow and design



Technology + AI Toolkit

- 1. Google Slides
- 2. Powerpoint GPT
- 3. Canva
- 4. Beautiful.ai
- 5. Slide.ai

3.

Marketing Materials - PowerPoint GPT

Company	Price	Description
PowerPoint GPT	\$20 per month	PowerPoint GPT uses AI to create high quality presentation outlines ensuring your flow is understandable and highly effective.

Marketing Materials - Instant

Company	Price	Description	
K instant	75 cents per slide	Instant is an AI presentation tool to create fully-editable slides directly in Google Slides.	

Listing & Interest Management - integrating technology into established processes



Mainstreet businesses are sold on BizBuySell, putting the listings up and making them attractive is a well established process, which experienced buyer and google knows.

An infrequent practice, but highly effective is leveraging your database to showcase opportunities.

Sending and cataloguing of NDAs is the norm and automating this step is increasingly more common.

The majority of advisors vet buy buyers in two folds, collecting a buyer profile, often at the point of interest, and interviewing the prospective.

Technology + AI Toolkit

- 1. Wonderchat.io
- 2. ChatGPT
- 3. Kalendar.ai & Apollo.io
- 4. Email Marketing Software eg. Mailchimp
- 5. Professional Market Analysis
- 6. Twilio

Listing & Interest Management - ChatGPT

Company	Price	Description	
👓 wonderchat	\$49.99 - \$499.99 per month	Wonderchat enables anyone to instantly build AI chatbots from your knowledge base.	
	Estimated spend: \$49.99 per month		

Listing & Interest Management - Wonderchat.io

Company	Price	Description
ChatGPT	Free - \$20.00 per month Estimated spend: Free	ChatGPT is an AI language model developed by OpenAI, capable of understanding and generating human-like text based on the input it receives.

Due Diligence - technology can enable a smoother streamlined process

Email **Data Room** BANK Banking Relationship(s) \$ **Buyer-Led**

Many intermediaries and their clients often overlook the use of specialized software for acquiring and sending documents, instead relying primarily on email.

A data room, particularly a virtual data room (VDR), is a secure online repository for storing, requesting, and sharing sensitive documents.

Many advisors primarily rely on a select group of bankers for financing. However, recent changes in the SBA's SOP are causing shifts in the lenders historical strike zone.

Many buyers prefer to use their own tools during the due diligence process.

Technology + AI Toolkit

- 1. Stripe + Block
- 2. Quickbooks API

What should I watch out for when using AI?

2.

1.



Tip: Check your work.

Build a process that puts you in front of high intent sellers and buyers

2.

Tupelo data project

FOIA

Filed a FOIA and aggregated company data

- 1. Company
- 2. Owner
- 3. Contact
- 4. *#* of Employees
- 5. Location
- 6. NAICS

Data

Consolidated NAICS, US Census Bureau

- 1. Median Income
- 2. Population
- 3. Population Growth
- 4. Financial Margins
- 5. Industry Multiples

Machine Learning

Trained our data set to predict a company's valuation based the aforementioned inputs.

Value

We want to value every business in the United States and enable that data to our users

Tupelo 2024 - automated spreading & valuation

tupelo 🚥	← Back				
2 Analytics	Absolutely Fresh	INITIAL MEETING	Company Valuation	3 High: \$646,700 L	.ow: \$942,500
✓ Dashboard	Company Profile Financial	Details Data Room	Listing Preview		
Companies	Financial Spreader ③				
Contacts					
≘. My Listings	Name Tax Returns	Tyj	returns	Year 2021	
🔄 Inquiries	Tax Returns		Returns	2022	
ම Unlock requests	Income Statement	Co	mpany Prepared	2023	
Engage clients	Balance Sheet Compa		mpany Prepared	any Prepared 2023	
	+ Add				
	Company Revenue 💿				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	+ Add
	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,350,000.00	\$1,900,000.00	
曰 Help & Support	+ Add				
User Management	Custom fields				
K Collapse Menu	Revenue concentration Top five customers comprise 90% of revenue				
Mark Warren mark@google.com	H Key customers Leslie Alexander 35%, W	ade Warren <mark>45%</mark> , Mike Petter:	s 20%		

Why this matters:

- 1. Financials are spread into a google sheet or excel doc.
- 2. Tupelo takes a pass at your initial valuation
- 3. You'll know multiple ranges for all Naics Codes

Tupelo 2024 - Quickbooks integration

√ Dashboard	Company Profile Financial Details Data Room Listing Preview	💿 ជ័យckbe
Companies	Documents list	節 Delete 🦪 Request document
🜿 Contacts	Create your documents and request them from the seller.	
= My Listings	DOCUMENT NAME REQUEST FROM	DATE OF REQUEST
의 Inquiries	Interim Financial Statements Mike Petters, Devon Lane	Request not sent.
ම Unlock requests	+ Add document request	
✤ Engage clients	Received files Preview the files uploaded by the seller or upload files yourself.	चि Delete ि Download ि Upload
	DOCUMENT NAME UPLOADED BY	UPLOAD DATE
	Tax_Return_2023.xls Mike Petters	March 29, 2023
	Asset_List_2023.xls Devon Lane	January 8, 2023
戸 Help & Support	Group file sharing Create groups, assign people and share documents in an organised manner.	+ Create group
贷 User Management	GROUP NAME SHARED WITH	CREATED AT
K Collapse Menu	GROUP NAME SHARED WITH	CREATED AT

Why this matters:

- 1. Pull financial statements
- 2. Always know how prospects and portfolio companies are doing
- 3. Cross sell services

Chatbot

🗈 Q 🤩 👰 tupelo Marketplace Deals **Company details HVAC & Plumbing** North Carolina, United States Address Founded in 1992, this Mid-USA commercial & residential HVAC & County Plumbing Company is seeking a strategic growth partner to expand on its reputable reputation for quality work in its market area. Customer type The company offers an experienced management team that is able to RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL successfully operate the day-to-day business. Read more NEW CONSTRUCTION Reason for selling **Financing options** Owners approaching retirement but wants to unload the back office SELLER FINANCING CASH SBA management. . **Financial history** See how the company performed in the past years. YEAR REVENUE (SDE 🛞 SDE MARGIN SDE MULTIPLE 2021 \$958.3k \$304.2k 29% \$315.2k \$315.2k 2020 \$958.3k \$304.2k 40% Vetted + Verified Listing 🔘 ~ Chat with seller

This listing has been vetted by the Tupelo team.

0:22 🏨 🖯 🚺 💼



Thank you!

t

Do you have any questions?

george@tupelosmb.com 248-832-6919 tupelosmb.com

Chatbot

Tupelo CRM

Tupelo makes powerfully simple software to power the future of business brokering



Integrations



Storage

tupelo 📼	Listings					+ Add Listing
% Ustings						
& Contacts	Q Search by business name					
🛛 Inquiries	RUSPIESS NAME	ASKING PRICE	CREATED AT	INCORES	514725	ACTIONS
ය Unlock requests 🌖	Brear's Nail Salons Cash generating business for sale	\$2.95m	09/27/2022	24 Inquiries	O brait	
	Derryslie's Nail Salors Unmatched in the area	\$2.35m	11/06/2022	26 Inquiries	O braft	
	Elsinore's Coffee Shops & Cafes Cash generating business for sale	\$1,30m	07/21/2022	15 Inquiries	O Acties w	
	Etty's Dental Practices Cash generating business for sale	\$2.58m	10/20/2022	21 Inquiries	O Actine v	
	Issie's HWAC Businesses Unmatched in the area	\$2.91m	07/31/2022	29 Inquiries	O Active v	
® Settings	Madelaine's Plumbing Profitable - Looking to sell immediately	\$221k	11/24/2022	19 Inquiries	O Active v	
	Olympe's Coffee Shops & Cafes Award winning company	\$258k	08/18/2022	29 Inquiries	O Active w	
G George Wellmer george@tupelosmb.com	← Previous		1 2			Next >



Tracking





Valuation

Sourcing

0

Find out why brokers love Tupelo

Tupelosmb.com george@tupelosmb.com

Connected System





Sellers

- Source leads
- Connect with Quickbooks
- Pre-approved for SBA financing
- Valuation



Listing

- Generate teasers
- Optimize description
- Contact high quality prospects
 - prospects Directly need
- Directly post listings



Buyers

- Validate buyers
- Automate follow ups
- Filter prospects
- Store



Banks

Generate lending
 demand

Route pre-approved transactions directly to lenders

"System oriented sales organizations win every time"

Data **Tracking Automations** Management Sellers **Prospect Management** Industry Notifications of Sold 0 Size Listings Secure Retrieval & Organization CRM 0 **Document Follow-Ups** Location 0 Notes 0 **Buyers Buyer Management** Sending NDAs Industry 0 **Purchasing Capability** Sending Teasers Secure File Sharing 0 Follow-Ups Location 0 0 Notes

1.

Is AI doing anything?



Сору

The emergence of ChatGPT and Google Bard has empowered individuals to enhance their writing efficiency.



Financial

Al has the capability to spread financials and generate projections.



Chatbot

Companies such as Booking.com, Tripadvisor, Salesforce, and others are leveraging AI chatbots for customer support, scheduling, and personalized recommendations.

Ideation

Al can enhance the process of tackling complex problems or overcoming writer's block.



Producing graphics and enhancing photos has never been easier.



Dynamic

Whether it's generating pricing for fluctuating demand or forecasting inventory needs, AI is assisting operators.

A simplified journey to a sold listing

Prospecting	Qualification	Listing	Vetting	Sharing	Closing
Collecting sellers' contact information	Determine if this opportunity makes sense	Build marketing material and write the listing	Filter and qualify prospective buyers	Exchange of key data with prospect to enable their decision making	Send key data to respective parties to allow parties to obtain funds and close
On average 9 touches are made before a response	Complete preliminary valuation of the company & is that number agreeable	Contact and remind all relevant prospective buyers		Introduce respective parties	

Minimal technology has been developed for the industry to make brokers' responsibilities easier.

3.

Leveraging technology to craft the most efficient route to a sold listing

Apollo.io

Otter.ai

instantly

Ultimate

inven

Writesonic

Source and clean contacts

Al driven bespoke email campaigns

Chatbots to vet prospective buyers and

Quickbooks integrations to always have

Financial forecasting for valuation &

Multi channel marketing

Note taking

sellers

updated financials

SBA pregualification

1.

Prospecting

Qualification

Leveraging technology to craft the most efficient route to a sold listing

Listing

1.

2.

3.

- CIM generation
- Listing headline and company description
- Review company's legal documents, e.g. lease agreements
- Chatbots to respond to buyer inquiries
- Lead scoring to measure if a buyer is high intent or a "tire kicker."

Vetting

 Collecting data from buyers, like personal financials, bank statements, Driver's license, etc. beautiful.ai

NICE

Writesonic





Ultimate.

^netomi

AID

Leveraging technology to craft the most efficient route to a sold listing

Sharing

- Securely obtaining documents
- Securely sharing documents
- Automatically receiving documents
- Automated reminders



- Pre-approve all deals for financing
- Send underwriting ready packages lenders

Closing

• Real time feedback to the brokers for deal information and timing

