



**Moving Viadeo to AWS** 

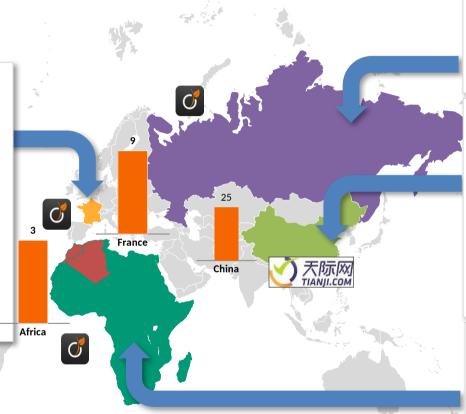
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## Viadeo

#### **France**

- Founded in 2005
- Market leader, with 9m members
- Very strong ties with local recruiters
- Strong corporate offering, with 21% of top 1,000 companies recruiting on Viadeo



#### Russia

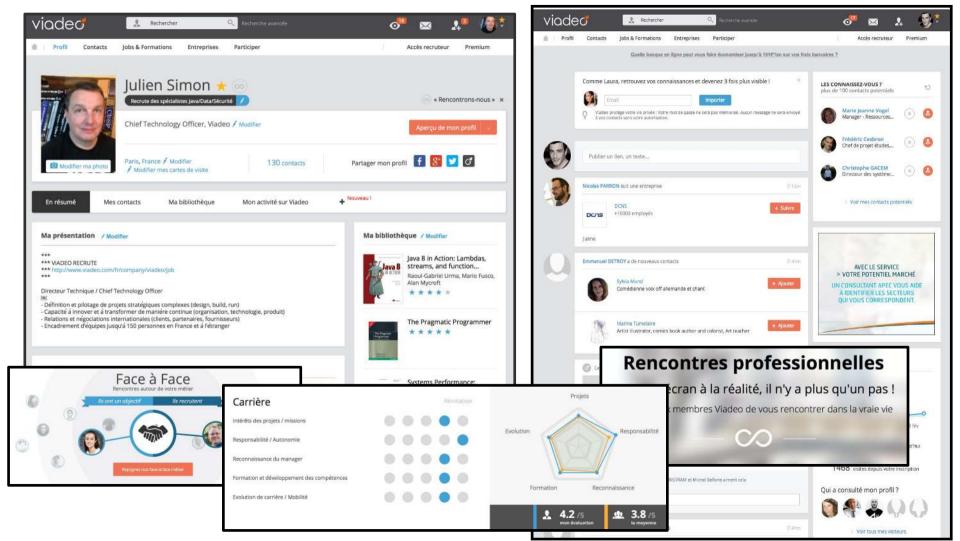
- JV 50/50 with local partner,
- 1m members
- Position in high quality professional profiles

#### China

- Acquired in 2008
- #1 with 25m members
- Trusted source of professional data in China
- Bringing trust into the professional world
- Strong local management team

### French-speaking countries in Africa

- Ideally positioned organically with strong momentum
- #1 with 3m members



## Our current platform

Infrastructure: 250 Linux servers hosted in San Francisco, CA

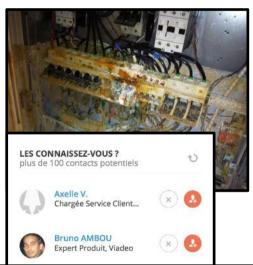


Mobile applications: iOS and Android



# AWS @ Viadeo: the story so far

- 2011 : file storage (S3)
- 2012 : Viadeo office flooded! Internal servers destroyed
  → All services rebuilt in AWS in 48h (VPC, EC2)
- 2013 : data processing (Hadoop, EMR)
- 2014 : more data !
  - New analytics infrastructure :
    Snowplow → S3 → Redshift
    (≈ 20 million events / day for starters)
  - Content personalization : EMR, Spark





AWS @ Viadeo: the story so far Infrastructure live in 3 regions (us-east-1, us-west-2, eu-west-1)

- 4 VP (age Gateway

- ≈ 100 EC2 instances (half production, half development)
- ≈ 15 TB in S3

2 Redshift clusters (5 instances each)

AWS services currently in production

Core infra: VPC, Route 53, IAM, S3, CloudFront, Spaces

Instances: Elastic Load Balancing, Elastic Beanstalk,

CloudFormation, EC2 Kinesis

Data storage & processing RDS, EMR, Redshift



## Enter physical infrastructure challenges...

- Improving our agility
  - How can we deploy infrastructure as often as we deploy code (i.e. every day)?
  - How can we experiment quickly and at (almost) zero cost?
- Optimizing our spend
  - How can we avoid CAPEX peaks caused by hardware refresh?
  - How do we best adapt spend to traffic and business conditions?
- Implementing a stronger Disaster Recovery plan
  - ...without building a 2<sup>nd</sup> DC which we don't need anyway
- Scaling storage & CPU for data processing
  - Do we really need big servers, lots of rack space and lots of power?
  - How do we efficiently handle unpredictable workloads?



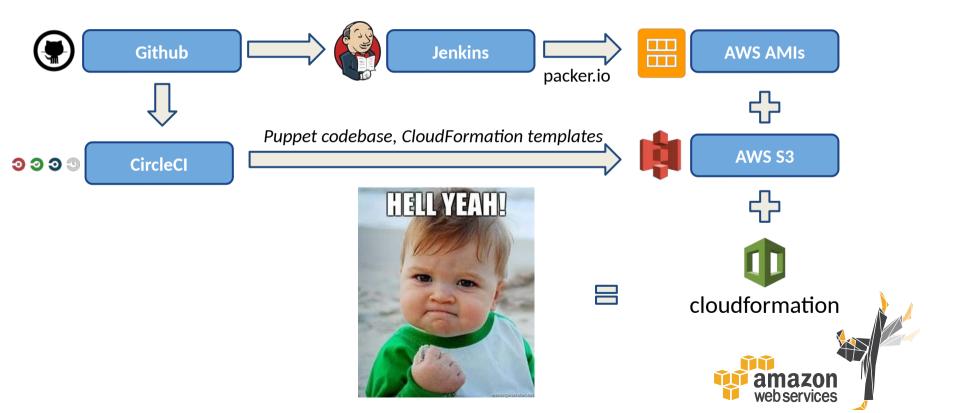
# Why we decided to move everything to AWS

- We want to focus on our real job : building a great service
  - No more issues with hardware vendors, no more licensing hell. Ever!
  - Experimenting, (re)deploying & scaling are just a few clicks away
  - Great ecosystem of SaaS partners running in AWS
- We've been using it for a while now and it just works
  - AWS CloudFormation is infrastructure as code
  - « Time to server » is in minutes, not days
- We're ready and eager for it : Agile and DevOps are strong Viadeo values
- We want to measure ROI and optimize cost

#### **Our AWS manifesto**

- Key objectives : automation, scalability, safety
- Continuous integration & delivery on all layers (infrastructure, instances, applications)
- Infrastructure: deep integration with AWS services for maximum leverage
- Applications: use our current stack for now, unless the benefit/cost ratio of adopting an equivalent AWS service is too good to pass (Redshift)
- Move everything, but no big bang : the move will be gradual
  → plan & build with parallel run in mind (DC + AWS)

### Infrastructure as code: done!



## New challenges;)

- Some performance & cost trade-off in the short term
- Technical debt (aka « guess what's under the rug? »)
  - Layer 7 load balancing rules (\*evil\*), legacy filers, etc.
  - Servers running really old versions of whatever: keep or reinstall?
  - Any cruft ignored over the years. Time to clean up!
- Parallel run requires good connectivity →AWS DirectConnect
- CloudFront performance not great across regions → need a 2<sup>nd</sup> CDN
- Negotiating early termination of the legacy hosting contract!

### Conclusion

- 5 years ago : «Cloud computing? Why?»
- Now: «NO cloud computing? Why?»
- Some good reasons, but mostly really bad ones
- Cloud computing a fashion? I don't think so.
- Cloud = infrastructure in digital form (like photos, music, movies, money, etc.)
- Using AWS helps Viadeo change every day,
  by speeding up innovation and delivery
- See you there!

