# Booking.com

# Getting it Booking right – Using Data to make Decisions

**Iaroslav Khramov | GOTO conference 2014** 

## Are you sure?

- Are you sure that new design is good?
- Are you sure this change will not break the app?
- Are you sure customers will like our new feature?
- Are you sure .... ?

Real data can help!

## Decision-making using data

- When should you should run an experiment (use A/B testing)?
  - Need to decide which option is better

- What are the alternatives?
  - Expert opinion / intuition
  - Historical data

## Why is experimentation better?

- 1. Our intuition is not very good (people are complex)
- 2. Historical data is second-best (becomes outdated fast)

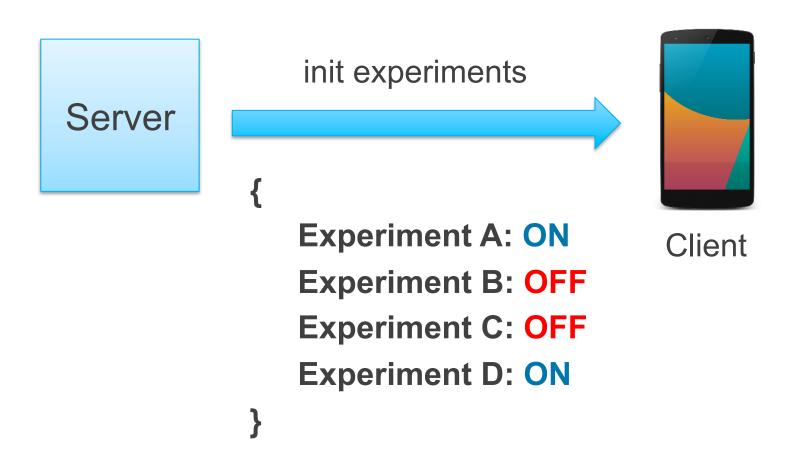
## What do we get?

- Reduced design discussions
- Less dependent on expert opinions
- Makes sure all changes are actually (commercial) improvements
- Additional safety net for new changes in the app

## How complex is it?

```
If(newFeatureEnabled == true) {
    // new feature code
} else {
    // old reliable solution
}
```

# For more control - turn experiments on and off from server



# It's easy! Can I start experimenting now?

#### Yes, but first:

- Pick a metric
- Find users to include in an experiment
- Come up with a new idea

#### **Metrics**

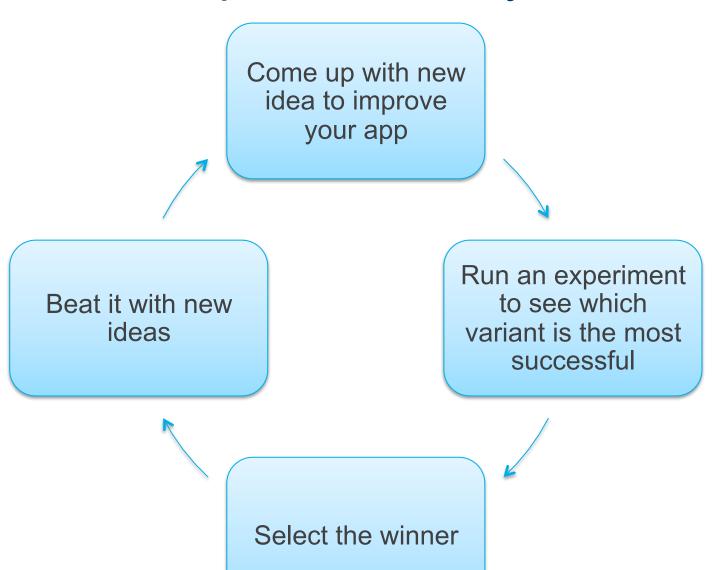
# Metrics are the main determinant of success!

- 1. Pick your own metric!
- 2. Diversify metrics!

## What is my metric?

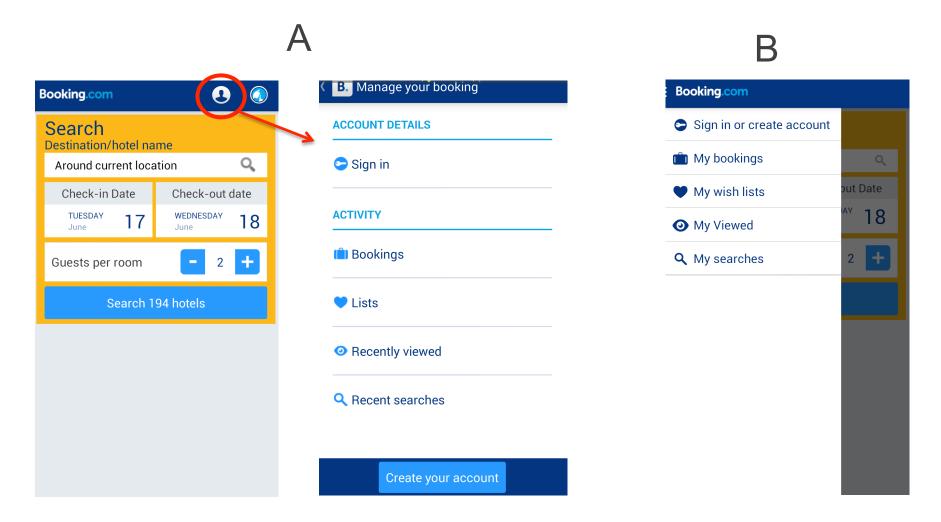
Type of business	Possible key metrics
Ecommerce: Booking.com, Amazon	items sold, conversion, loyalty
Content: Euronews, CNN	visitors, engagement, ad clicks
Social Networking: Facebook, Twitter	visitors, engagement, ad clicks
Gaming: Angry birds	purchases, subscriptions

## Experiment lifecycle



**Booking.com** 

## Example of an experiment



# Are there any A/B exp tools for mobile that will allow you to start experimenting today?

#### Yes, just Google it!

For example:

- Airlock (Facebook)
- Arise.io
- Apptimize
- Leanplum
- ...

#### Thanks!

Any Burning questions?

#### Quotes

...the ability to experiment easily is a critical factor for Web-based applications. The online world is never static. There is a constant flow of new users, new products and new technologies. Being able to figure out quickly what works and what doesn't can mean the difference between survival and extinction.

Hal Varian, chief economist for Google, 2007



# Please evaluate this talk via the mobile app!





### THENEWMSTISN®

## a network of

## Started 2009





# 2010





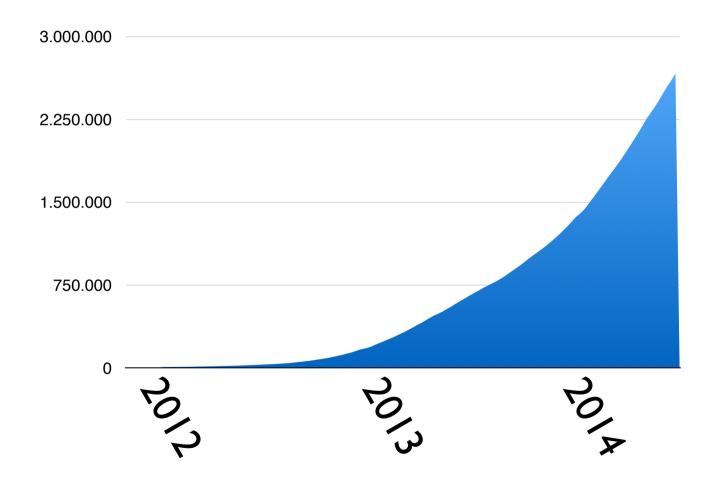
# 2014





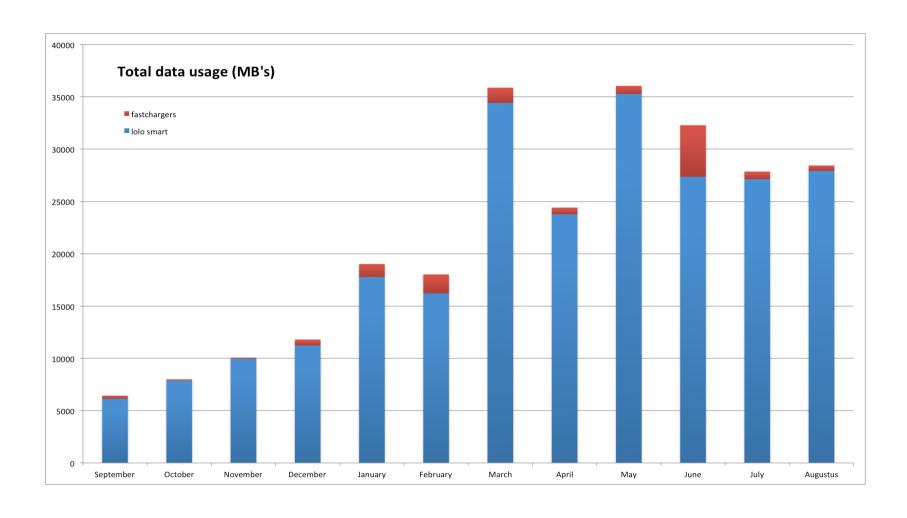
# Times a car charged





# Connectivity





## Communication

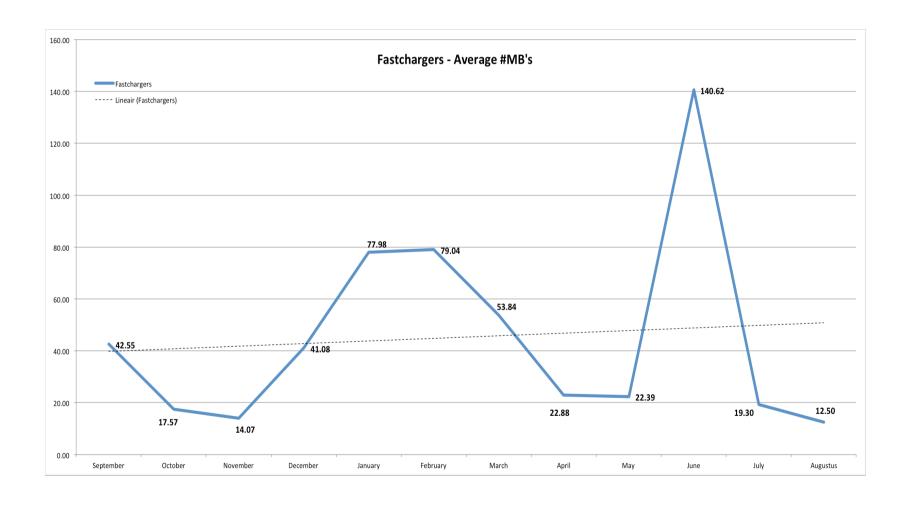


- 2010: SOAP / XML (e-laad foundation OCPP)
- 2011: Custom Protobuf/HTTP Keep-Alive protocol
- 2013: JSON + WebSockets (OCPP 2 beta)

OCPP = Open ChargePoint Protocol <a href="http://openchargealliance.org">http://openchargealliance.org</a>

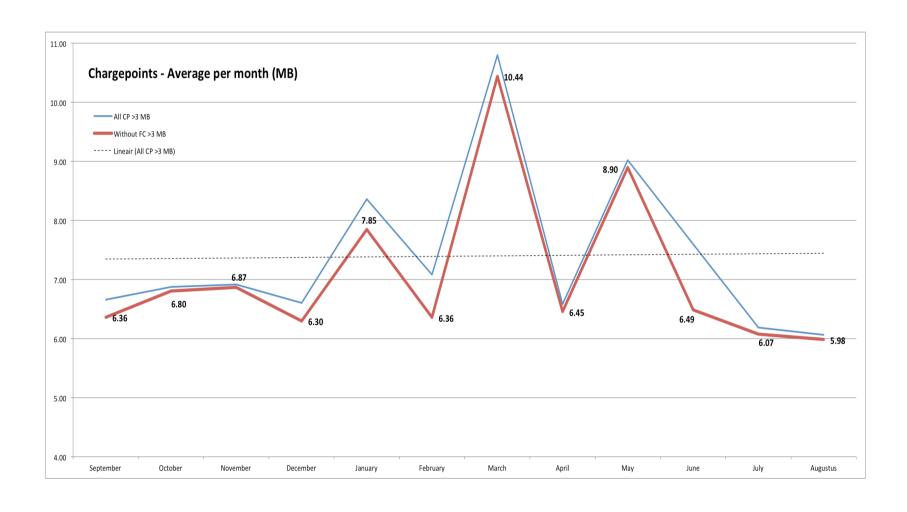
# **SOAP**





# Protobuf + Keep-





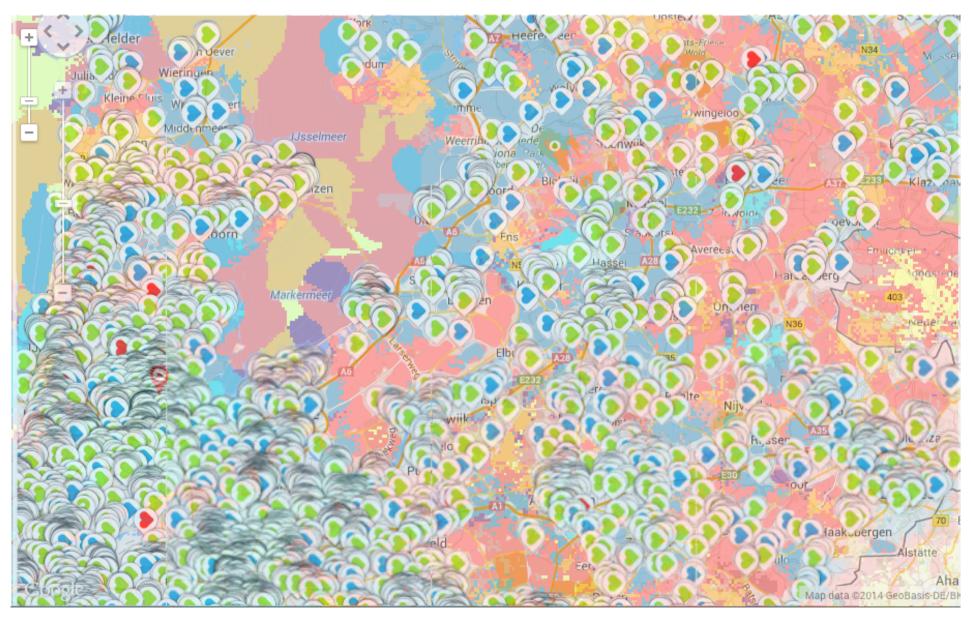
# ISON + Web Sockets



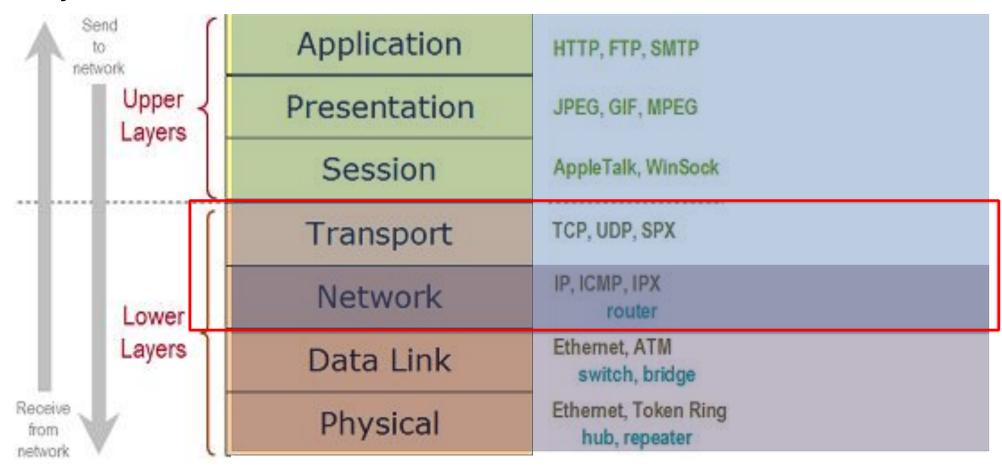
- Compressed connection
- Estimated data usage 2.7 MB
- Theoretical optimum (perfect network) 0,14 MB

# Network coverage





#### **OSI layers - network**



## Lessons learned



- > Type of protocol saves data
- Optimise functional usage saves more data
- Lengthy stable connections save data
- Cater for offline use
- Mobile networks are costly

## Websockets & Akka



- Atmosphere (java websockets framework)
- Atmosphere to Akka Actor framework
- JSON4S

# Atmosphere



## Atmosphere & Akka



@Singleton @WebSocketHandlerService class WebSocketEntryPoint extends...



contains a routing actor

## Atmosphere & Akka



```
private def sendWebSocketEvent(webSocket: WebSocket, event:
WebSocketEvent) =
   withWebSocketsActor { webSocketsActor =>
     webSocketsActor ! Routed(webSocket.resource.uuid, event)
 private def withWebSocketsActor[T](f: ActorRef => T): T = {
   webSocketsActor match {
      case Some(wsa) => f(wsa)
                    => sys.error("Trying to process websocket
      case None
traffic before WebSocketEntryPoint is configured")
```

## The actor



- It's wise to have an actor that Routes the request to a processing actor
- This frees the actor of its' job and allow it to take (and route) a new message

# JSON4S

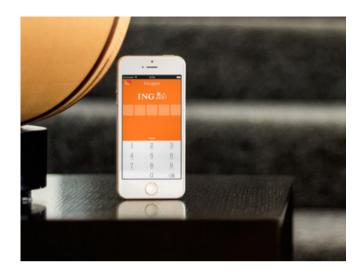


```
object OcppWsMessageHandling extends Logging {
  implicit val formats: Formats =
                DefaultFormats ++ TransportMessageJsonSerializers()
class RequestMessageJsonFormat extends CustomSerializer[RequestMessage]
(format => (
      case JArray(JInt(callType) :: JString(callId) ::
                  JString(action) :: payload :: Nil) =>
        RequestMessage(callId, action, payload)
    },
      case x: RequestMessage =>
        JArray(JInt(BigInt(2)) :: JString(x.callId) ::
               JString(x.procedureName) :: x.payload :: Nil)
    }))
```

### THENEWM>TI>N°

# Please evaluate this talk via the mobile app!





There's An App For That Innovating @ ING mobile.

GOTO Amsterdam





Nandini Chauhan iOS Developer from Capgemini working at ING



Pim Stolk iOS Developer at ING since January 2011









## Our first App



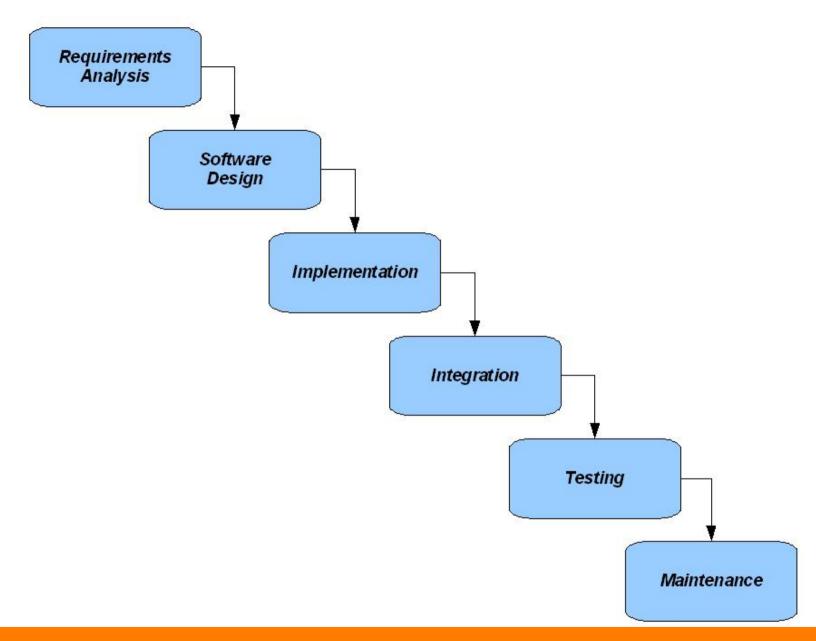
We launched in 2010 ...



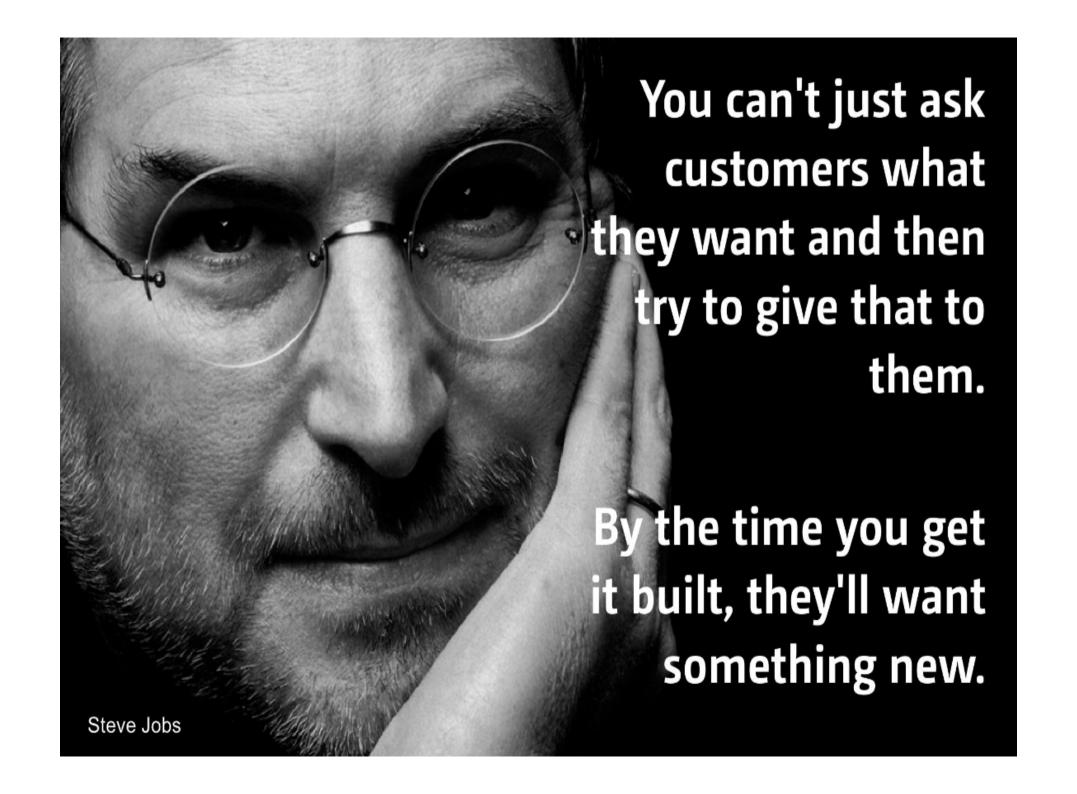


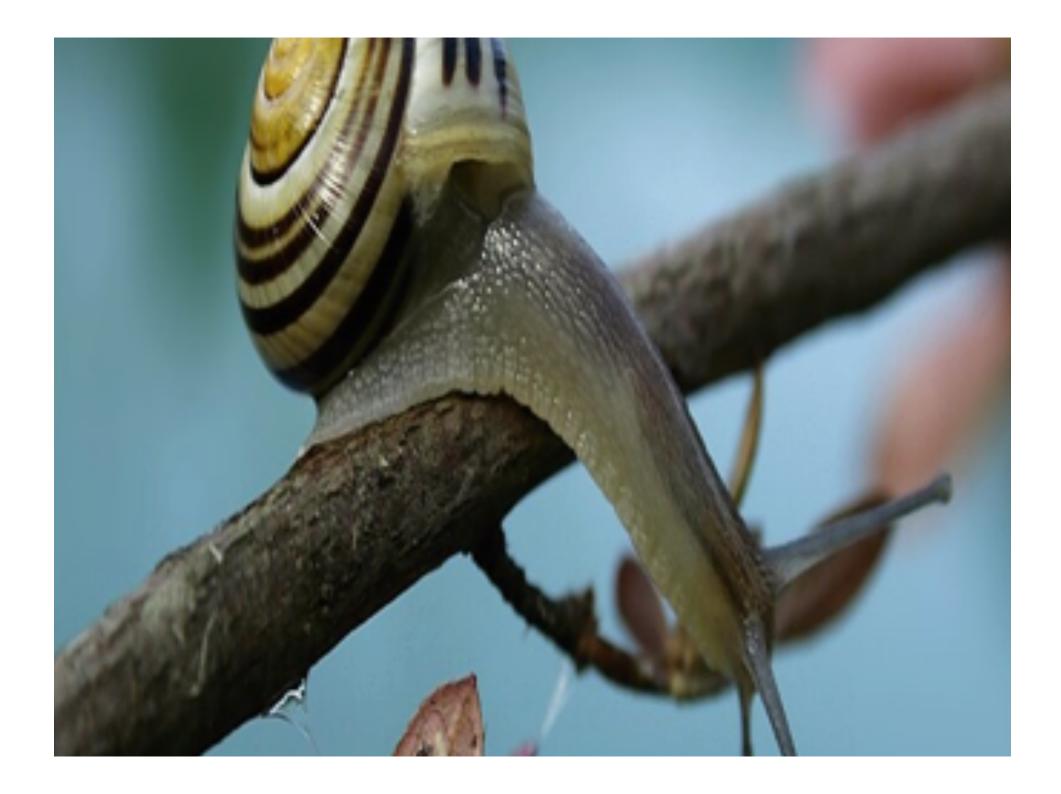
One Star!





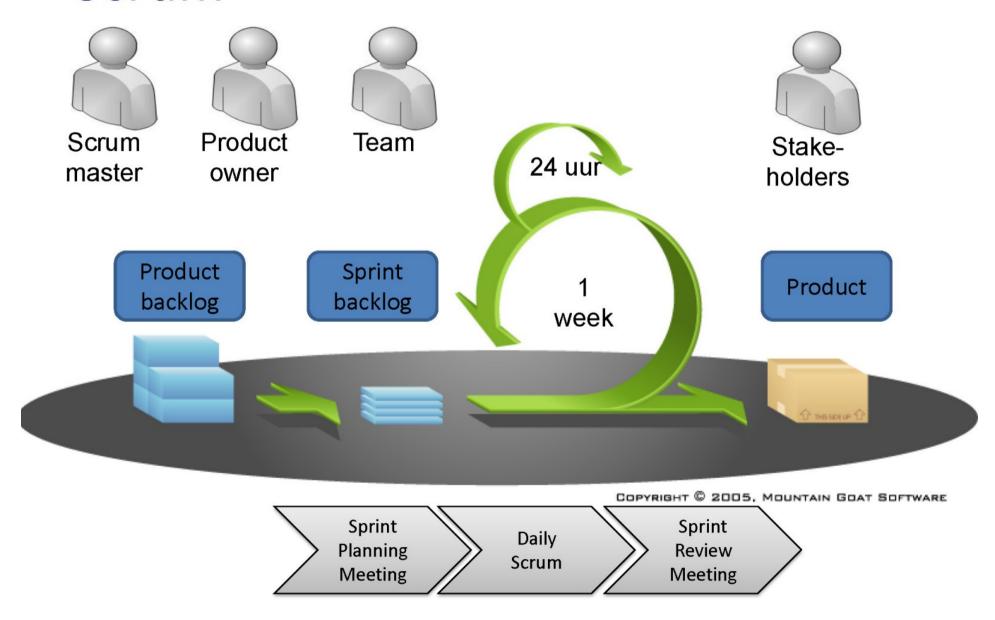
#### Waterfall







#### Scrum





We <u>CAN</u> do IT!



## a completely new App emerged



Reminder!



@ 8th of November 2011



And here we go again ...

# 100.000 activations

after just three days

One year, four months later...

# 2 million downloads

# 1.6 million active apps

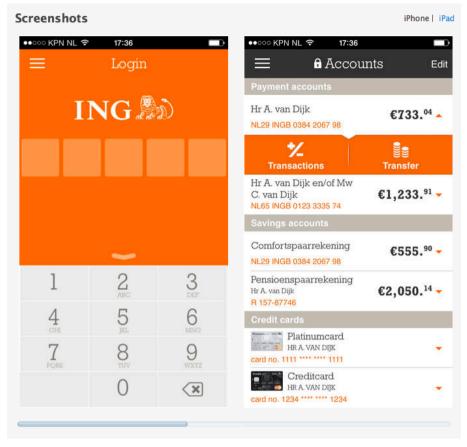
1.2 million customers

a million logins a day





'Listen'



#### **Customer Reviews**

Eindelijk beleggen!!! ★★★★ by Grim Reaper62

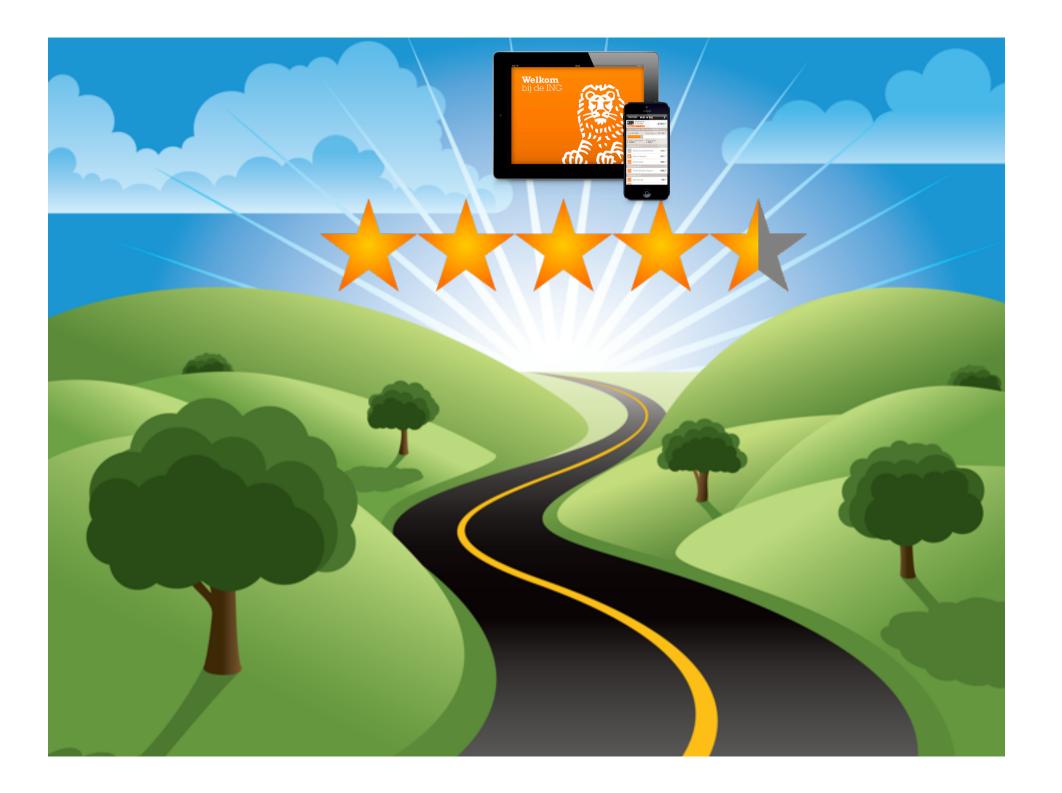
Top gedaan, nu alleen nog de mogelijkheid bieden om vanuit de App orders in te kunnen leggen.

easy banking ★★★★
by uunbound

well-designed app for mobile banking specially if you have investment account at ING. simple yet powerful!

Fantastisch ★★★★ by Peter H.M. Jacobs

Geweldig tempo van upgrades. Erg mooi allemaal





#### **GeoBlocking:**

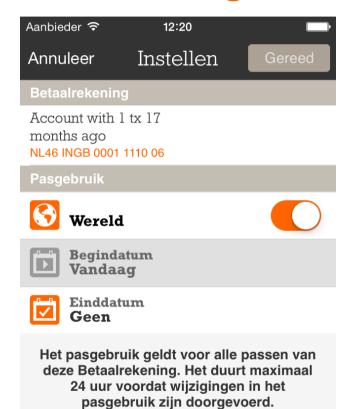


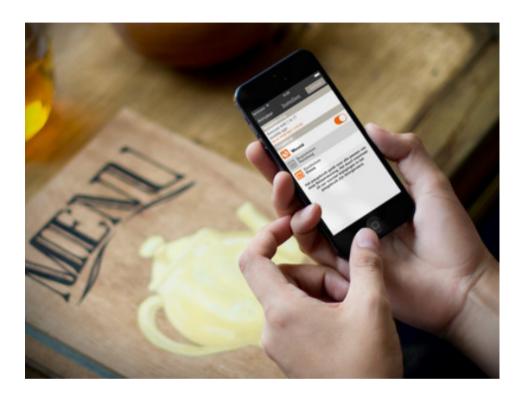


#### **GeoBlocking:**



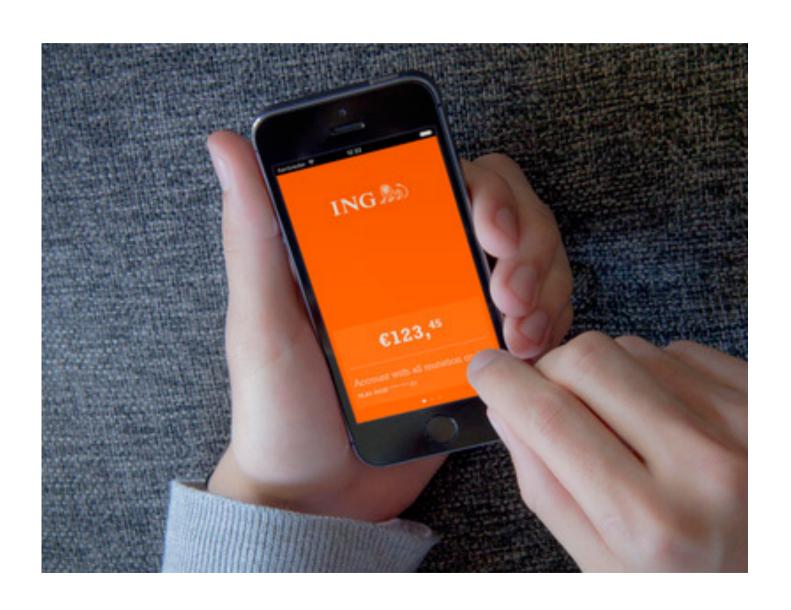
#### **GeoBlocking:**







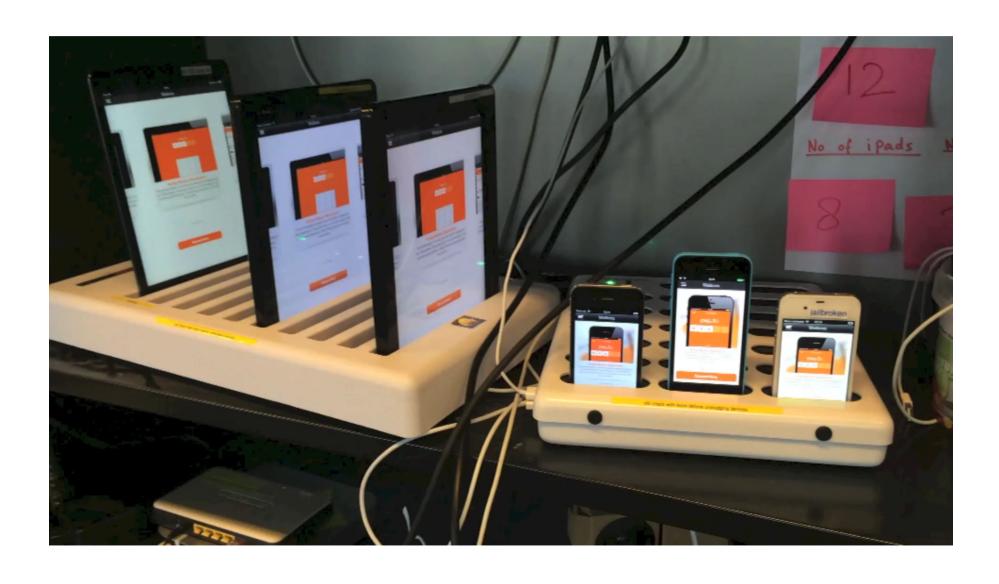
#### **Balance before login:**



#### **iDEAL Payment:**



### Yvonne for testing



#### **Future**



Thank you