



About me

- Data scientist and data engineer, all data matters!
- Paris → San Francisco → Berlin
- Led data products team at LinkedIn
- Co-founder of Gephi open-source software
- Head of Data at GetYourGuide









About this mission

- GetYourGuide is the leading global marketplace for tours and activities
 - □ Scale-up of 350+ employees, based in Berlin
- Types of datasets
 - User behavior (e.g. events)
 - Transactional data (e.g. bookings, payments)
 - Performance marketing (e.g. keywords, impressions)
 - Images, reviews, geolocations etc.
- Started at GetYourGuide in Feb 2016
 - Data mostly organized around single Data Warehouse
 - Your mission: Build a new data platform
 - Mission accepted! Can I use Spark?





A unified data platform

The end of the continental divide



Two fundamental goals



Data \Rightarrow decisions

- Metrics, reports and dashboards
- Deep-dive insights (exploratory)
- Data visualization



Building data products

- Algorithms and Machine Learning
- Many different sources and formats
- Fully automated and reliable



Also those goals...

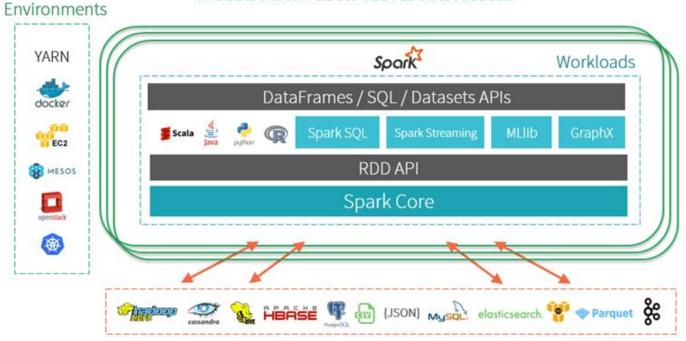
- Keep architecture future-proof
- Scale gracefully to large datasets and more complex use-cases
- Fast to setup (we're a startup!)
- Build infrastructure incrementally, while still delivering





We're aligned!

Goal: unified engine across data sources, workloads and environments





Pick the right tool for the job

Spark

What do others say?



	Apache Hive	Apache Impala (incubating)	Apache Spark SQL
Audience	ETL Developers	Business Analysts	Data Engineers & Data Scientists
Strengths	Built for very long-running ETL, data preparation, or batch processing Supports custom file formats Handles massive ETL sorts with joins	Scales to high-concurrency Supports high-performance interactive SQL Compatible with BI tools & skills Hadoop integration & usability	 Easily embed SQL into Java, Scala, or Python applications Simple language for common operations Seamlessly mix SQL and Spark code within a single application
New Features	Hive in the cloud (S3) Hive-on-Spark beta Governance & Lineage	Nested data types Column-level security Integration with Kudu (beta)	Support for Spark SQL & DataFrames Hive integration Automatic performance optimizations





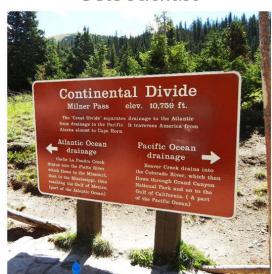
Pick the right tool for the job



Data Scientist



Data Analyst





Data Engineer

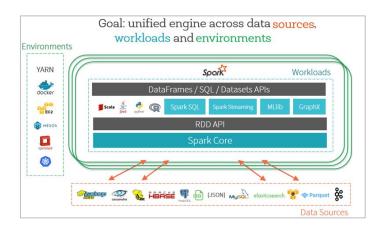




The 3 reasons why it works

- Interactive querying
 - SQL (Ansi SQL)
 - ☐ Small task ~= Small runtime
 - Progress vs Spinner
- Standardized, rich API
 - From prototype to production
 - Standard machine learning library (distributed)

- Easy integration
 - ☐ Interoperability with other tools
 - Data sources and connectors
 - Streaming capabilities

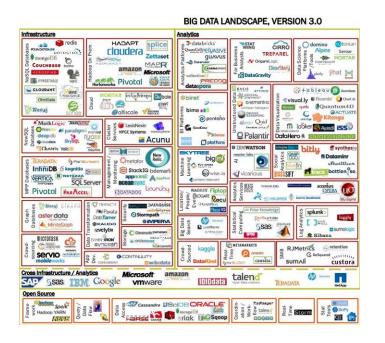


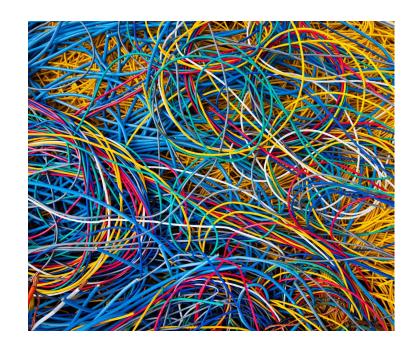
A nimble data platform

Simplicity and flexibility



When I think about big data platforms...







What I really want







New data platform

- MVP mindset
 - Easy and quick to setup
 - Iterative improvements

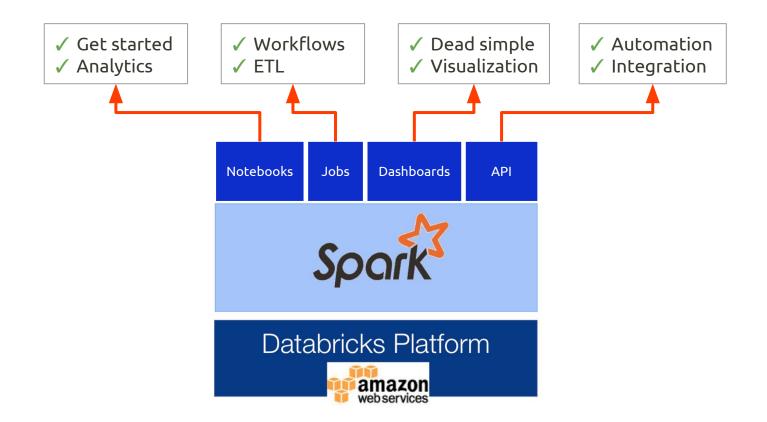
- Databricks in the cloud
 - Cloud provider for Apache Spark
 - Founded by creators of Spark
 - Sits on top of AWS
 - Multiple clusters management

databricks



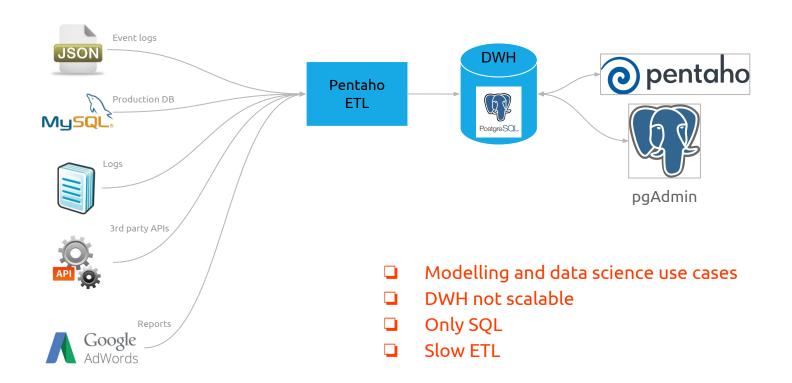


Databricks



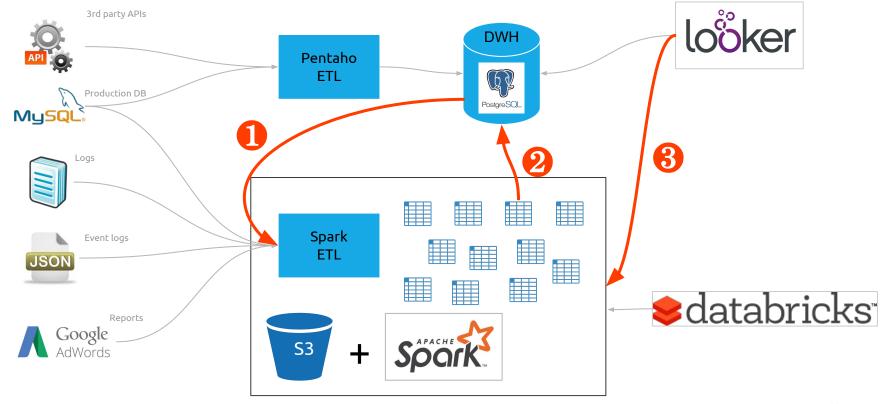


A while ago...





From good to great!

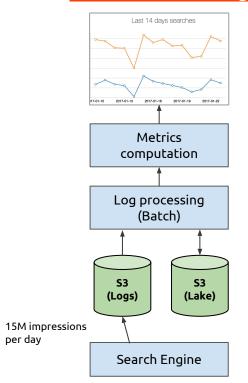




Search Dashboarding Performance Management Offloading Aggregations



Search Dashboarding





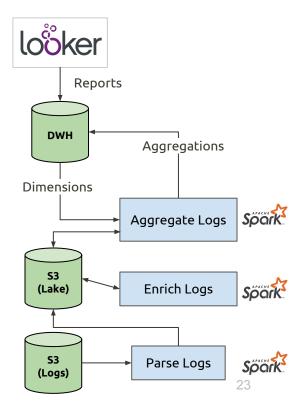
Performance Management

	Legacy	Now
Setup	On-premise server	Spark 2.1
Frequency	Once a week	Twice a day
Data size	1x	100x
Storage	PostgreSQL	Parquet





Offloading Aggregations





The storage question

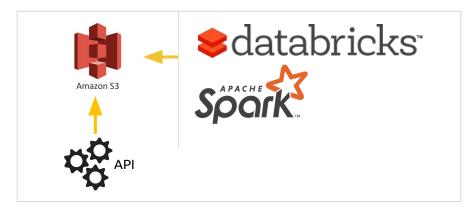
- Anticipated growth pains with storage
 - Cost out of control
 - Lack of structure in formats and schemas (e.g. CSVs)
 - Redundant data for each use-case
 - Impact on Spark performance





Data Lake!

- Data Lake philosophy
 - Save raw data now to analyze later
 - Centralisation brings efficiency
 - Access for everyone
- Spark Data Lake
 - Parquet format
 - Performance + Long-term storage
 - ☐ Interoperability (future proof)
 - ☐ Tables === Files







Avoid data clutter

- Schemas!
- Data classification
- Discovery and search



VS

Catalog & Metadata Flexible Access Security & compliance

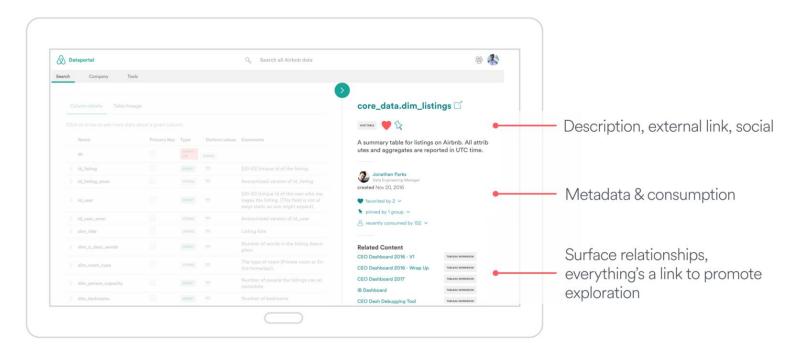


Storage





Data discovery



AirBnB's dataportal



Future proof platform

Fremature optimization is the root of all evil 59 - Donald Knuth



- Solutions
 - Rely on a unique open-source, standard technology
 - Spark API, interoperable formats

Onboarding strategy

Let's talk about people!



What are our goals again?

Goals

- People are **empowered** to make data-driven decisions
- People can find **clean data** to work with
- People can **innovate** rapidly in building data products

Challenges

- Friction in accessing and analyzing data
- ☐ Eliminate the crutch, be truly self-service
- ☐ The vast majority or data users unfamiliar with Spark
- Anticipate data science needs





Lessons learnt



- Bring data
 - Data Warehouse tables early
 - Make it super easy and fast to add new tables (and avoid tickets)
- Early conventions
 - Parquet
 - Path structure
- Training and examples
 - Educational Scala notebooks



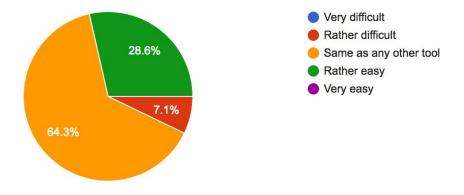
- Data source changes
 - Events restructure
 - Long-term history needed for analysis and insights
- Data quality
 - Trust is hard
 - Numbers won't match
- Mixing Python and Scala
 - Code duplication and libraries



Learning

Compared to other data tools you have worked with before, how difficult is it to learn Spark?

14 responses



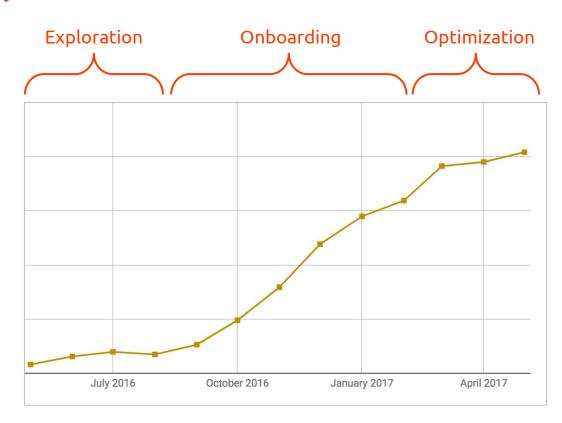


The hard work

Post onboarding



Post onboarding



Monthly Spark Usage



The main challenges we faced

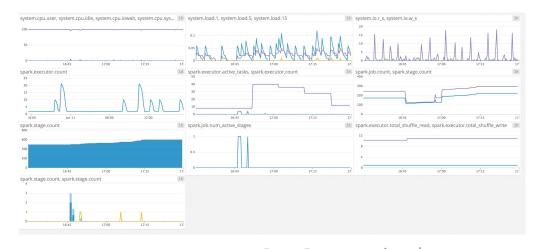
- Getting real with cluster administration
- Deeper understanding of performance factors
- Understanding root causes
- Organizing data dependencies
- Ensuring data quality and standardization





Cluster administration

- Common issues
 - Driver crashing
 - Lost executors
- Built connector to DataDog
 - Hard to estimate capacity
 - Navigate into confusing metrics
- Cluster start/stop
 - Autoscaling

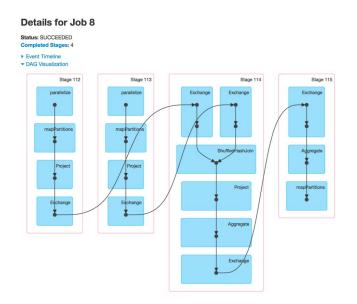


DataDog metrics cluster monitoring



Debugging inquiries

- Logs are hard to read/process
- SparkUI is useless for the most part
- Can't easily detect problems (e.g. memory problems)

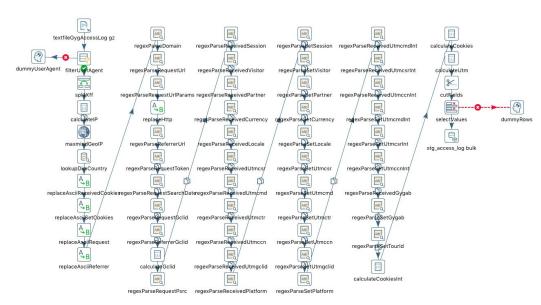






Log processing on Spark

- Legacy solution based on Pentaho Data Integration
 - Configuration vs Code
 - Scalability challenges
- Migrate to Spark
 - Data quality challenges



Log parsing workflow in Pentaho



Log processing on Spark

- Scala library
 - Unit and integration testing
 - Easier to benchmark

client_ip	String	length<=50 255.255.255.255 (15 characters) ip6 2001:0db8:85a3:0000:0000:8a2e:0370:7334 (39 characters)	N	*	ERR	<field> is null or out of range</field>
country_iso_code	String	lentgh=2	Y	*	WAR *	<field> is null or out of range</field>
currency	String	lentgh=3	Y	v	WAR	<field> is null or out of range</field>
date_time	Timestamp	YYYY-MM-DDTHH24:MI:SS	N	v	ERR *	<field> is null or out of range</field>
partner_id	String	length<=32	Y	¥	ERR *	<field> is out of range</field>
partner_src	Integer	IN (1,2,3,4,5,6)	Y	Y	ERR *	<field> is out of range</field>
partner_cmp	String	length<=100	Y	v	ERR *	<field> is out of range</field>
platform	String	IN ('mobile','desktop') OR NULL	Y	×	ERR *	<field> is out of range</field>
request_url	String		N	v	ERR *	<field> is null</field>
referrer url	String		Y	Ψ	NONE *	

- Validation, testing and errors
 - Incremental severity (warning, errors)
 - Edge cases
 - Track errors

error

[{"column_name":"country_iso_code","error_type":"warning","error_message":"is_null"},{"column_name":"currency","error_type":"warning","error_message":"is_null"}]

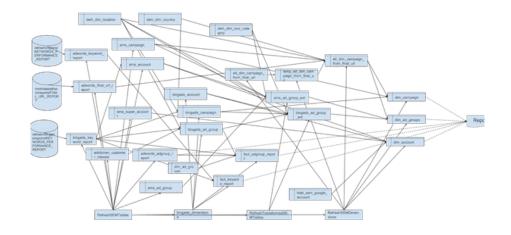
[{"column_name":"country_iso_code","error_type":"warning","error_message":"is_null"},{"column_name":"currency","error_type":"warning","error_message":"is_null"},{"column_name":"visitor_id","error_type":"error_message":"is_null"},{"column_name":"visitor_id","error_type":"error_message":"is_null"},

{"column_name":"locale_code","error_type":"warning","error_message":"is_null"}]



Workflow orchestration

- Data lineage
 - Recovery and SLAs
 - Data dependencies
- From 10 to 100 jobs
 - Self-service, undeclared consumers
 - Documentation and onboarding
 - Cluster utilization



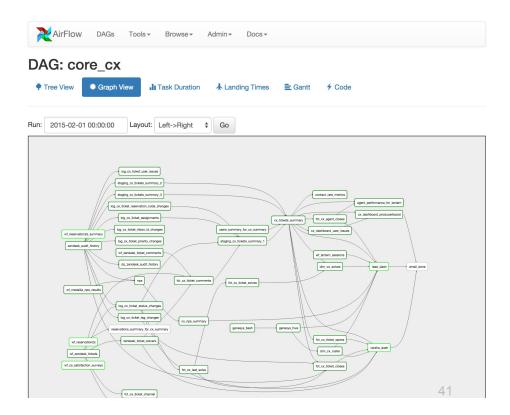




Workflow orchestration



- Apache Airflow
 - Map out data dependencies
 - Flexible configuration
 - Backfilling and data management
 - Operators
 - Databricks
 - PostreSQL

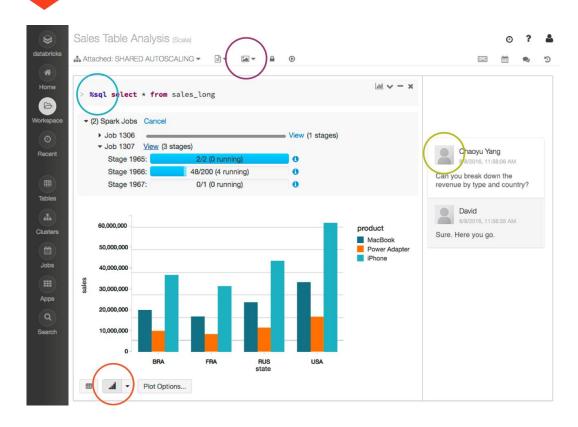


Notebooks





Notebooks



Contained collection of queries or code snippets









 Data presentation and visualization



Tables



Visualization



The obvious advantages

Iterative development

Chances you'll get your code or query right at the first try is close from zero

Exploratory data analysis

Use simple visualizations (e.g. histogram, line chart) to ask questions to the data

Visible and collaborative

Code and analysis aren't buried into Git repositories but easy to discover and review

Easy to get started and learn

Online, safe environment to get started with Spark concepts and syntax

Also open-source

Apache Zeppelin also easy to get started with





But you can also do...

Run a notebook with parameters as part of a workflow

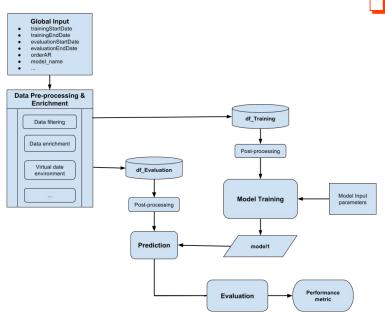
```
> var returnvalue = dbutils.notebook.run("./notebook2", 60, Map("data" -> "records"));
Notebook job #6120
```

- Run notebooks as part of other notebooks
- Develop utilities and libraries in notebooks
- Synchronize your notebook on Git repositories
- Use Databricks' notebook API
- Send execution logs to Sentry and by Email
- Use multithreading to run notebooks in parallel





Production workflows the right way



- Notebooks are too limited to scale production workflows
 - ☐ Ability to design unit and integration tests
 - Proper revision history and code review
 - Global configuration
 - Separate development from production environment
 - Multi-module projects with dependencies
 - Complete control on error handling and logging



Looking back...

Never been this easy to build large-scale production workflows!

- Compared to Hadoop
 - Large overhead and complexities in testing locally
 - □ No proper investment in unit-testing (MRUnit)
 - ☐ Mix multiple languages (not only Java)



- Built around simplistic data structures (Text vs Avro)
- Cumbersome mocking and testing





Wrapping-up

Thank you for your attention!





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