

Experience and Lessons from Building and Teaching a Serverless Solution

*Second International Workshop on Serverless Computing (WoSC) 2017,
ACM/IFIP/USENIX Middleware 2017*

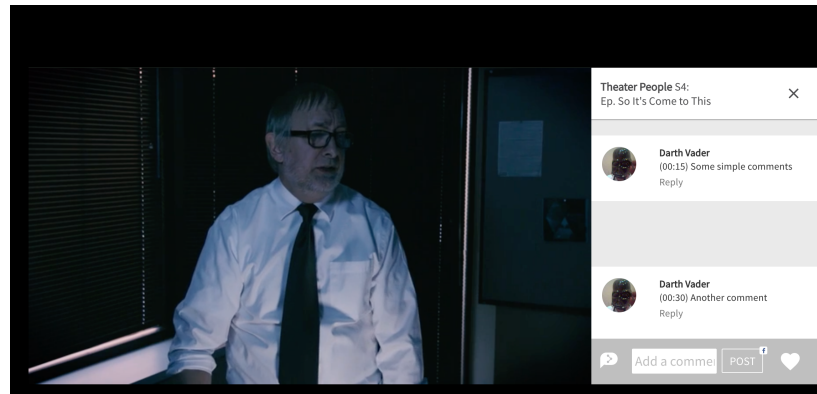
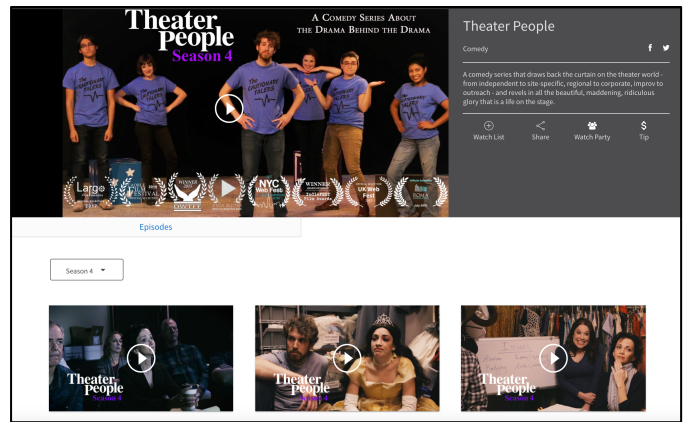
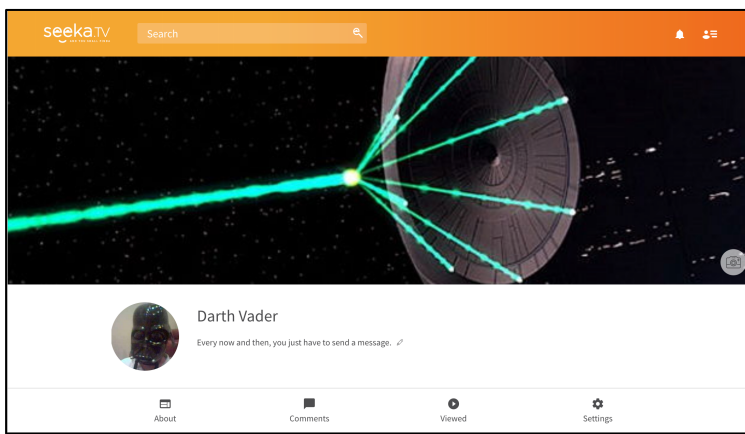
Donald F. Ferguson

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Co-founder and CTO, Sparq TV

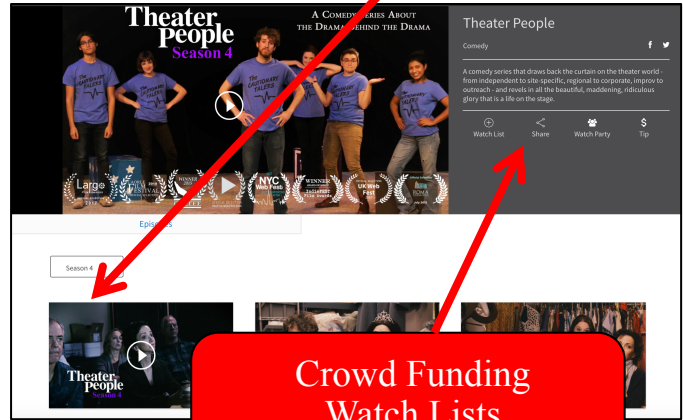
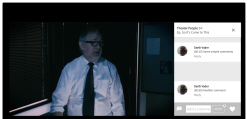
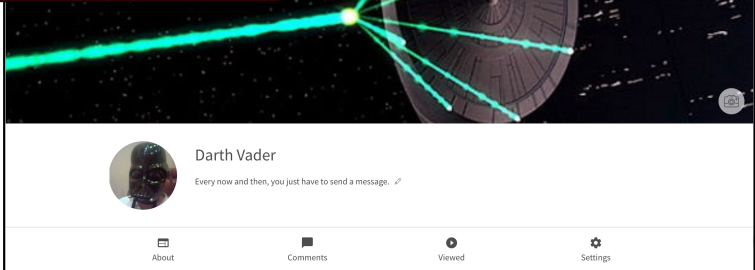
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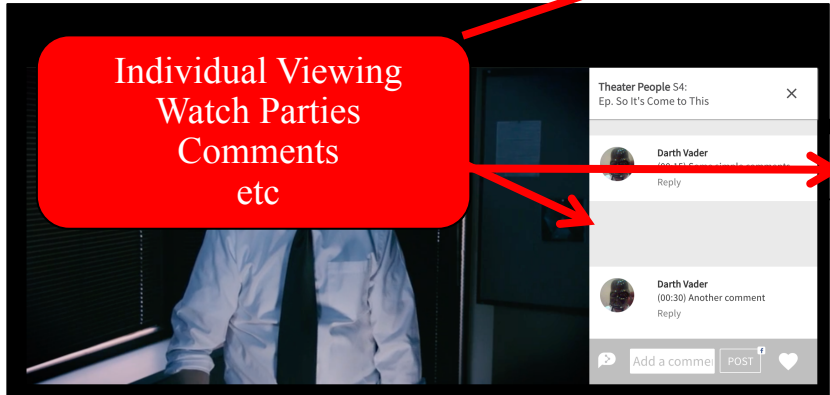




Profile
Viewing History
Comments
etc.



Individual Viewing
Watch Parties
Comments
etc



Catalog Management

Placement

Home page configuration

Comments

Analytics

Marketing on Seeka

FAQ

Support

Catalog Management - Franc

Female Friendly Productions > Female Friendly

Type *

Franchise for series

Title *

Female Friendly

ID

11e66622-a2fd-2cfa-b5e2-0adb670d53f

Active

Yes

Short Description

51/200

A comedy about two women taking command of their careers.

Long Description

371/380

After wild child Alex gets broken up with and good girl Catherine gets fired, these polar opposite best friends decide to start a female-friendly porn production company. Laugh out loud as you watch these lovable characters navigate the ins and

Links

<http://www.femalefriendlyproductions.com/>

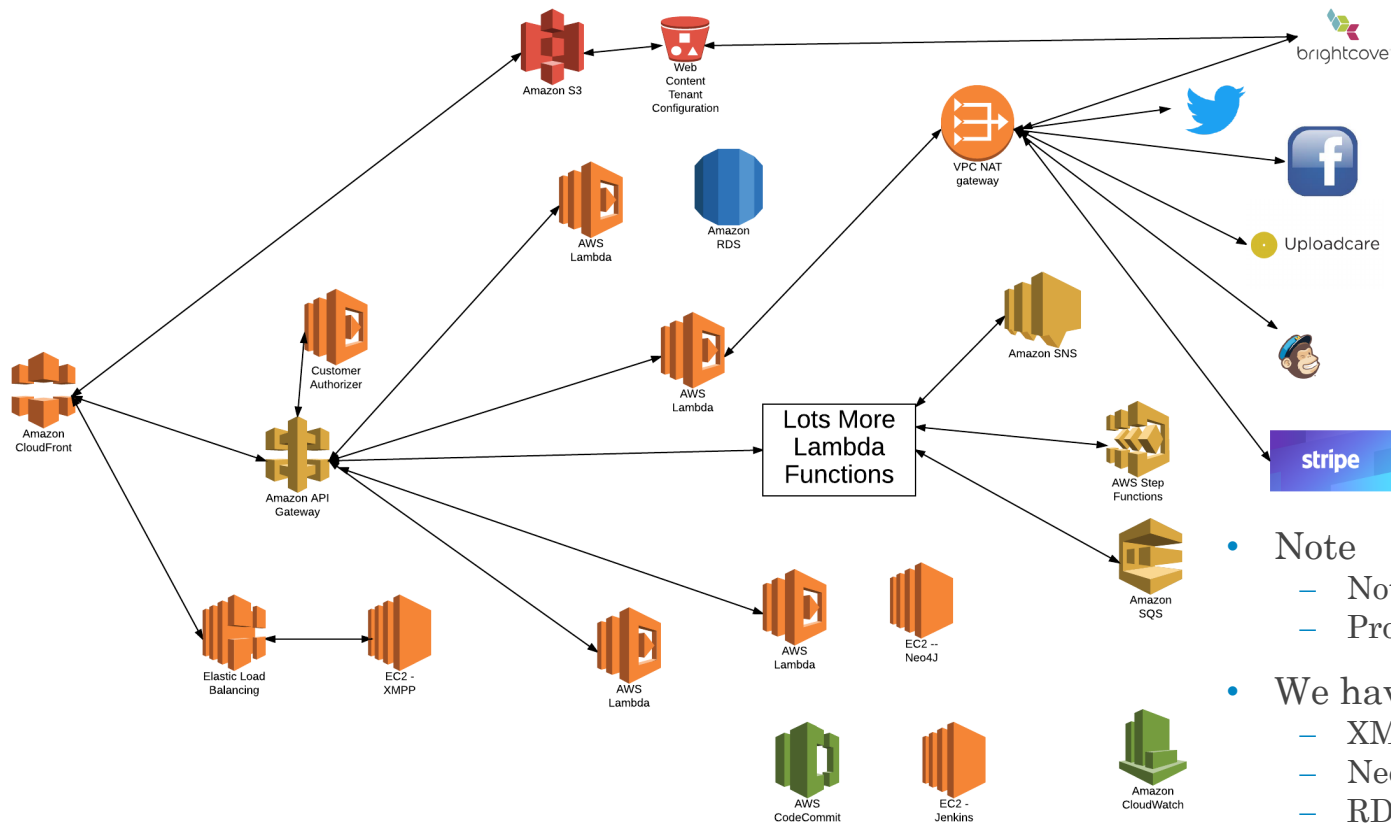
Create and manage content
View comments/shares on content
Analyze views, comments, SM, ...
Generate pluggable player placements
etc.



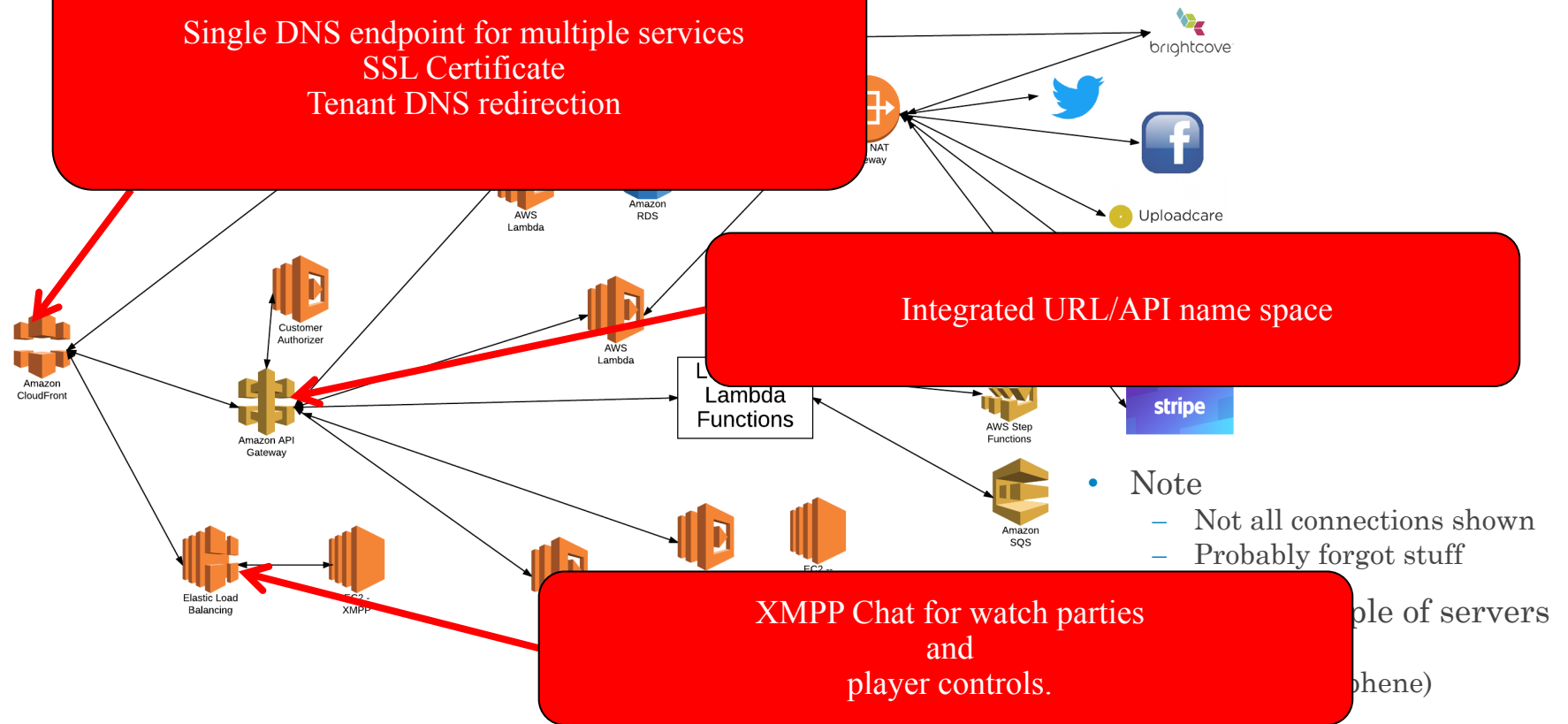
Edits made to 5 pages

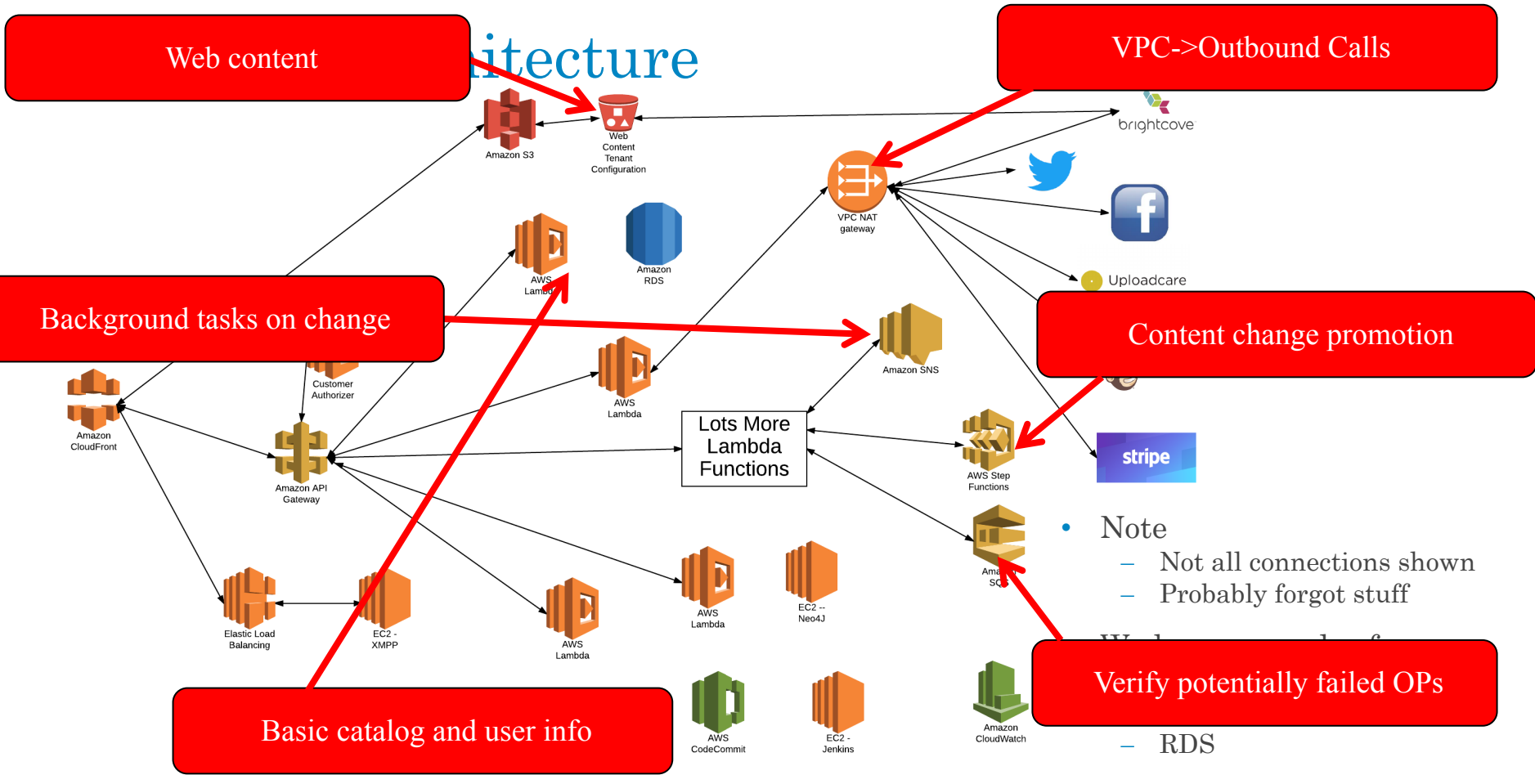
Push to Production

Seeka TV Architecture



- Note
 - Not all connections shown
 - Probably forgot stuff
- We have a couple of servers
 - XMPP
 - Neo4J (Graphene)
 - RDS





Seeka TV Architecture

Lambda implementing microservices for

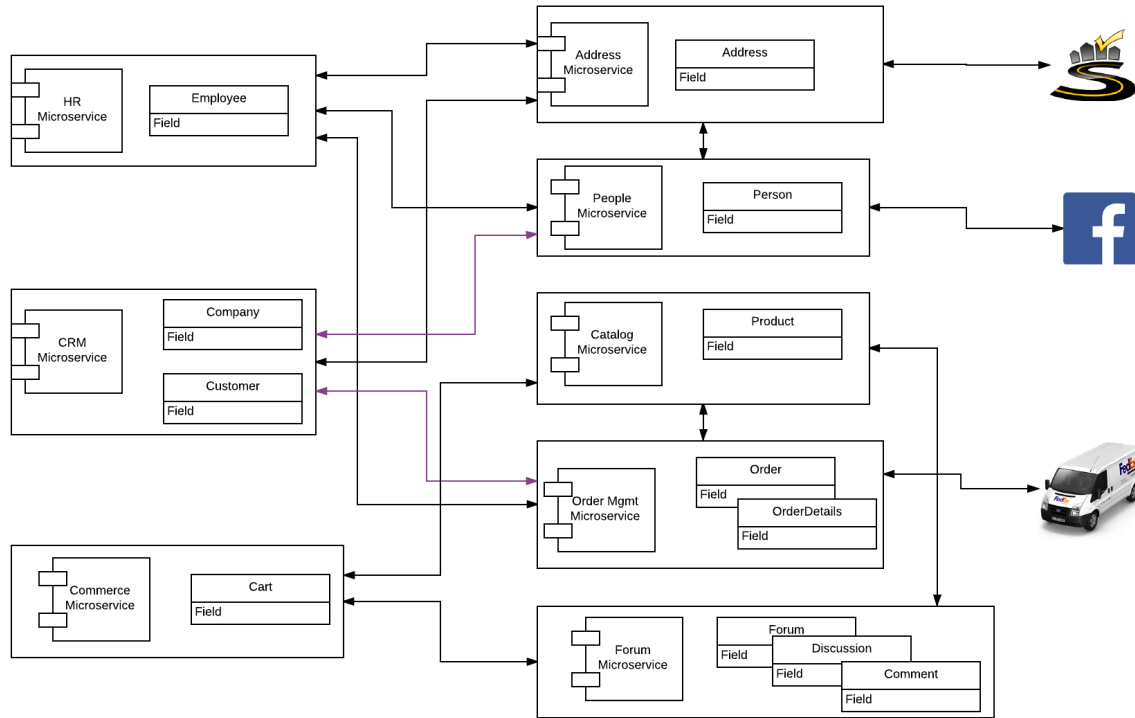
- Registration, authentication
- User and profile management
- Catalog and digital asset management
- Watch parties
- Commenting, tagging, ...
- Social media integration
- Placement (business videos)
- Tipping, crowd funding
- Multi-tenant management
- Other stuff I forgot



ections shown
got stuff
ple of servers
(aphene)

E6998 – Microservice and Cloud Applications

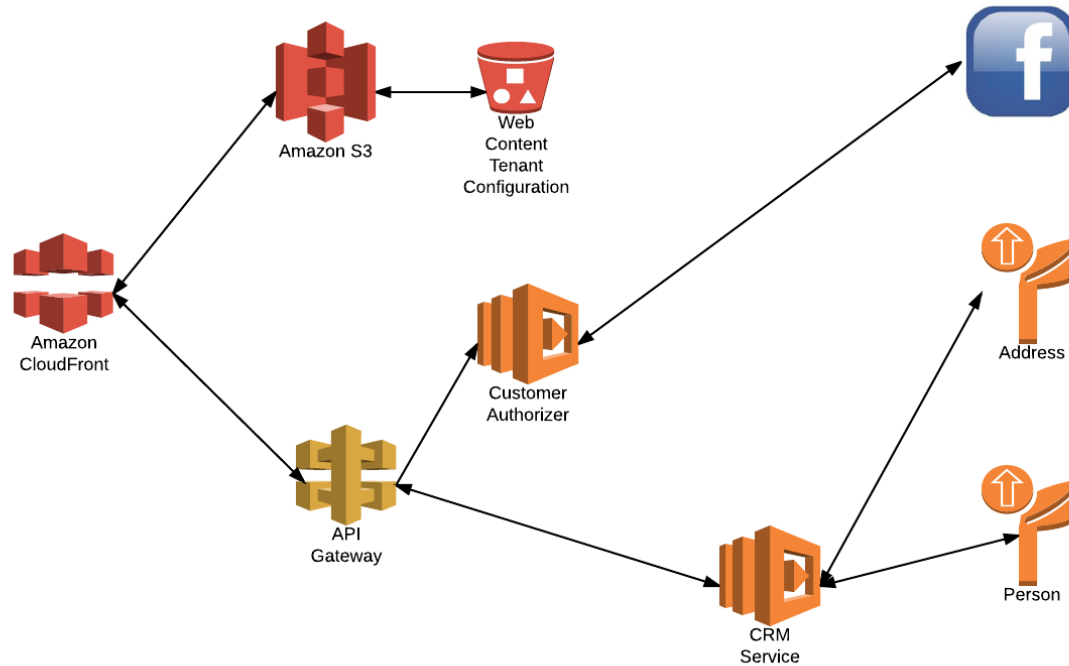
Microservices Model



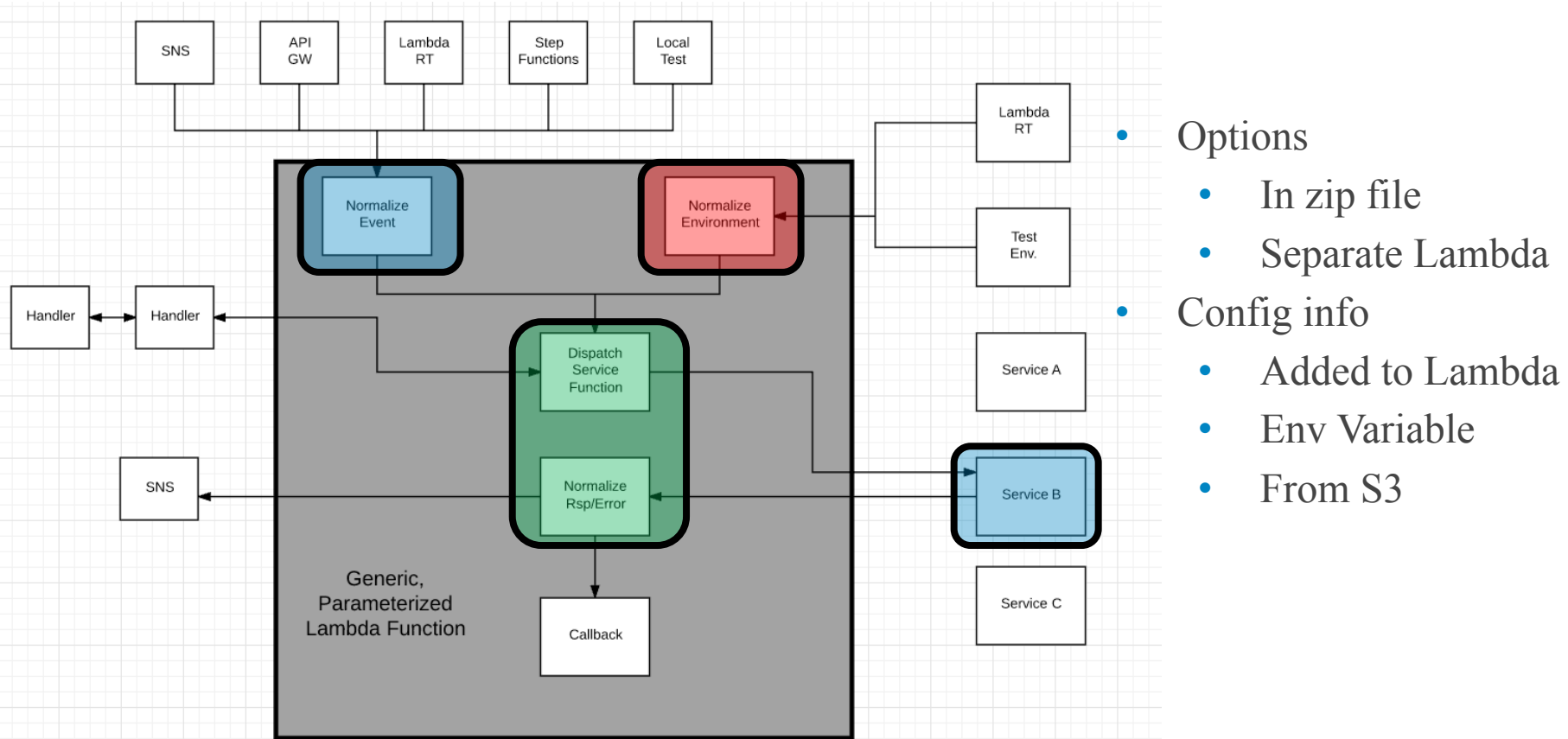
- We only accomplished a fraction
 - Address
 - Person
 - OAuth2
 - Some composite microservice functions

E6998 – Microservice and Cloud Applications

Component Model



Design Pattern – Generic Lambda Function



Lessons Learned

- Serverless is much more than Lambda functions/function.
 - Think of the environment the way I drew it. A bunch of icons.
 - If you can configure and program with a web browser, and you do not manage hardware, SW, upgrade, etc. → It is serverless.
 - The environment is like a massive programmable wiki of /URLs
- Productivity
 - There is significant productivity, especially initially, by eliminating all HW and SW server configuration and management.
 - The stateless model becomes incredibly productive but requires evolving from a more traditional microservice/service/application model to a event-function-event model.
 - There are a lot of subtle configuration settings and interactions between elements, and this is within a single environment. Azure-IBM-Google-AWS-... terrifies me.

Research Opportunities

- Service composition, even with SWF and Step Functions, is too tedious. There are three, inherently graphical approaches to composition
 - Structure
 - Data/event flow
 - Control flow

These are scattered all over the place in code, service configs, ...
- Serverless/functional systems are evolving to a pattern
 - (“URI”, “Verb”, data) → function. The function can be
 - Lambda function
 - CloudFront “executing” based on configuration information
 - API Gateway running integrations
 - etc.
 - But, there is no way to think about the environment this way.
 - Bunch of point editors.
 - Limited support for dynamic binding based on properties
 - End-to-end correlation of request flows.
 - Performance/availability root causes