



#### GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Directorate for Development Cooperation

## **Regional IXP: Commercial Environment Best Practices**

**IXP Regional Marketing Strategies** 



## How to extend your IXP to a regional IXP? Sales and Marketing perspective

- Let's assume that you are an IXP with :
  - Connected members on running POP(s)
  - ► Have POP(s) in one city
  - ➤ You want to have national and international members connecting directly to your IXP (\*)
- And that you are willing to extend and become the regional IXP in your part of Africa.
- What should you do on a sales and marketing perspective ?
  - (\*): We could imagine another model of Regional IXP where you don't try to obtain new members but other IXPs and to interconnect with them. We'll see it later.

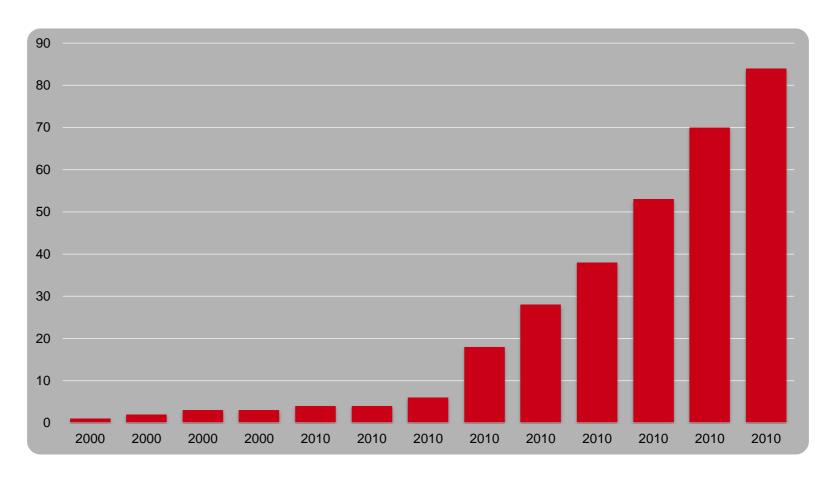
#### In this slide we will use...

- LyonIX as an example
- LyonIX is not (yet) a regional IXP but it's trying to grow outside its original city (Lyon, France).
  - Lyonix has POPs in Grenoble, St Etienne, Valence.
  - It has direct members in Paris (18) and in France outside of Lyon
  - It is interconnected to many IXP in France (6) and abroad (Italy, Topix; Switzerland, Geneva... and others in progress)

#### Are you sure you want to do it?

- Growing into a regional IXP is kind of a re-start
- It takes time and money
- The management should keep in mind that there will be no easy/quick results
- You need to know who you are, who are your members, your services, your statistics.
- You should have the following information available (next 3 slides)

#### Members: after many years...



- Number of ports used = 103
- Average number of ports/member : 1,4

## **Topology of members**

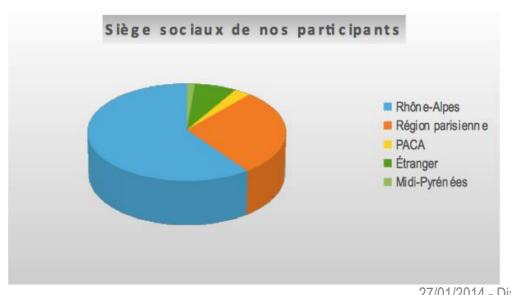


#### Which kind of member?

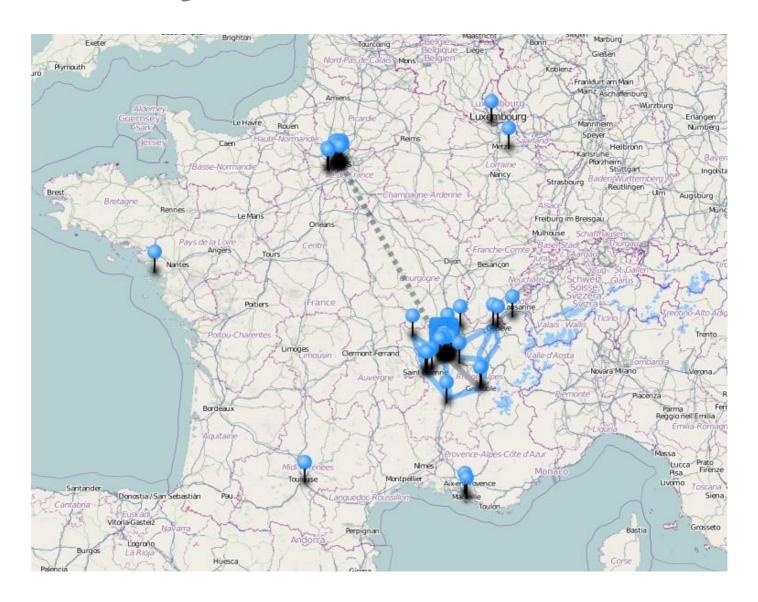
- ✓ Operator
- ✓ Hosting Companies
- ✓ Others

#### Where are they from?

- ✓ Rhone Alpes Region
- ✓ Paris
- ✓ Others...
- ✓ Non-French



## Where are my members from ?



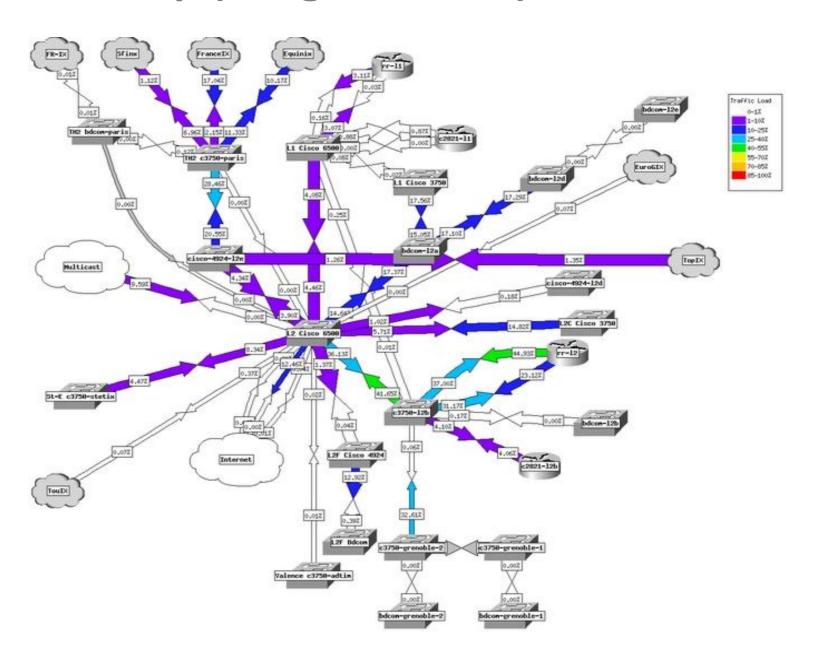
# Before being the Regional IXP The technical side has to be perfect

- Are you sure you can sleep at night?
- Do you have a :
  - NOC?
  - Supervision system ?
  - Good procedure/documentation ?
  - ► CMDB?
  - Customer Portal (within your CRM)
- Do you have at least all these (following) tools?
- Lets review the tools in the next few slides

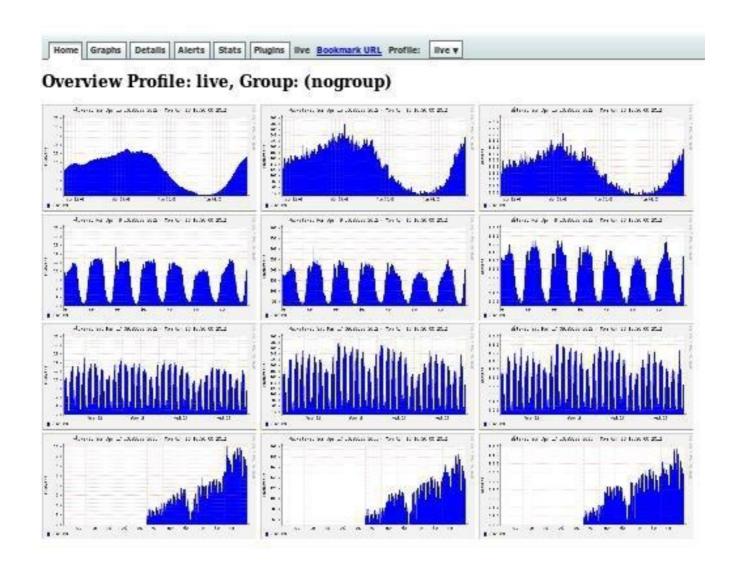
## **Technical issues**



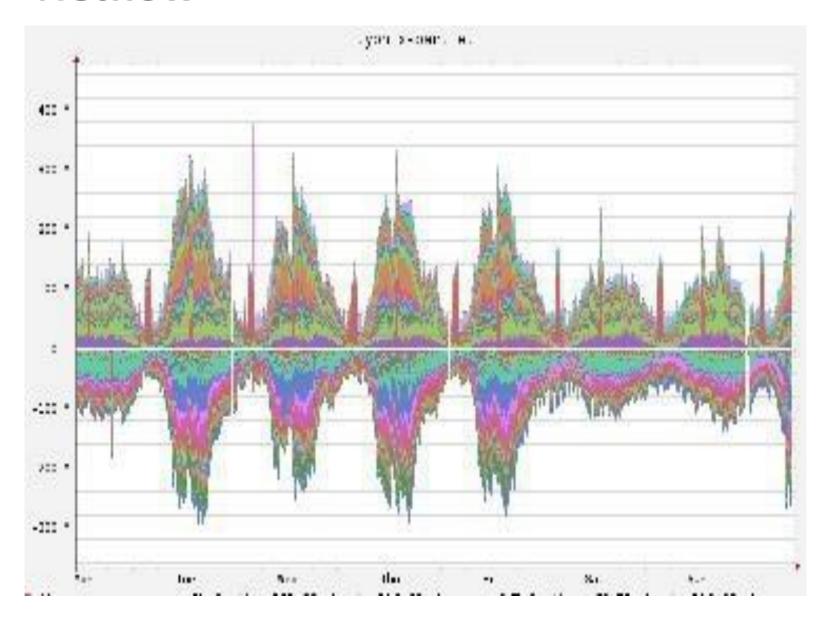
## Weather map (image + movie)



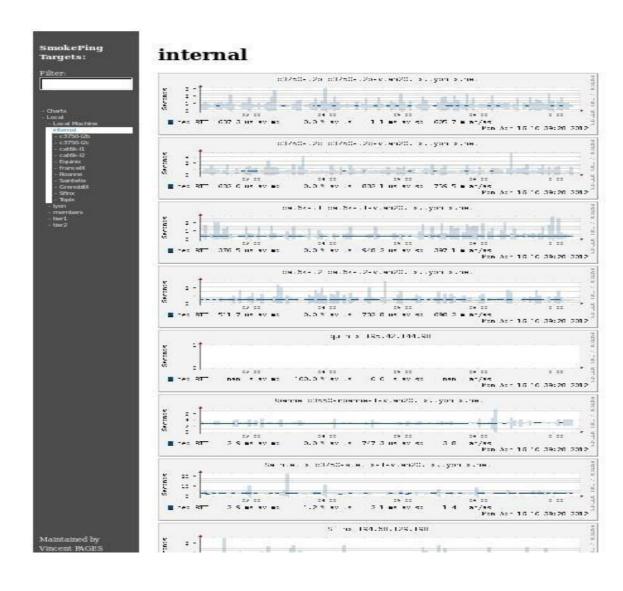
## **Stats (Netflow or others)**



#### **Netflow**

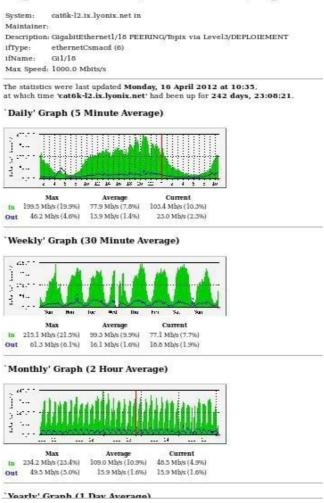


### Smokeping (internal & external)

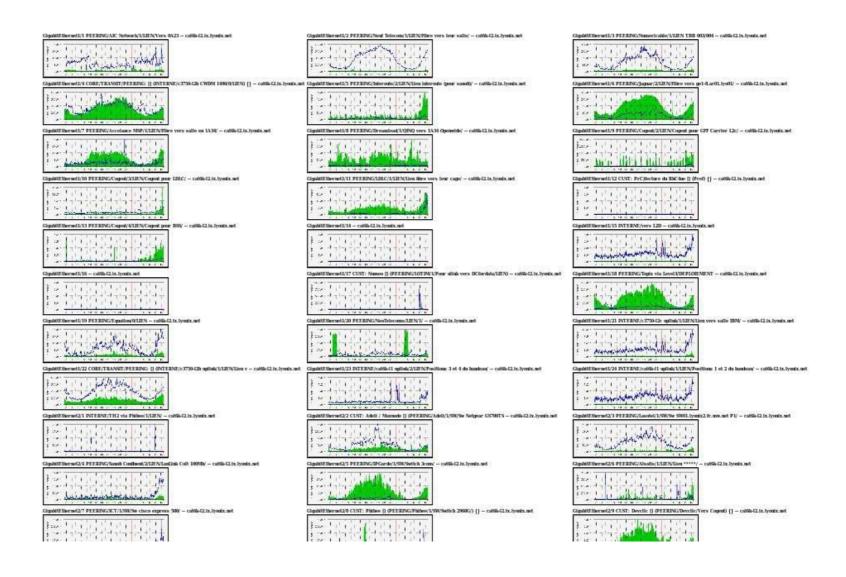


### Port Statistics for members (Day, Week, Month ....)

#### GigabitEthernet1/18 PEERING/Topix via



#### MRTG for internal use



## Are your services available? Nagios

9	20 Mai 11942
Host	% Time Up
bdcom-grenoble-1	100.000% (100.000%)
bdcom-grenoble-2	99.999% (99.999%)
bdcom-I2	100.000% (100.000%)
bdcom-paris-1	99.613% (99.613%)
blade-q8264-I1	100.000% (100.000%)
blade-q8264-l2	100.000% (100.000%)
c3550-adtim-1	100.000% (100.000%)
c3550-roanne-1	99.809% (99.809%)
c3750-adtim	0.000% (0.000%)
c3750-euroqix-1	99.884% (99.884%)
c3750-grenoble-1	100.000% (100.000%)
c3750-grenoble-2	100.000% (100.000%)
c3750-l1	100.000% (100.000%)
c3750-l2b	100.000% (100.000%)
c3750-l2b-2	100.000% (100.000%)
c3750-l2c-1	100.000% (100.000%)
c3750-paris-1	99.614% (99.614%)
c3750-stetix-1	100.000% (100.000%)
cat6k-l1	100.000% (100.000%)
cat6k-l2	100.000% (100.000%)
cisco-4924-l2d	0.000% (0.000%)
serialhub-I1	100.000% (100.000%)
serialhub-l2-1	100.000% (100.000%)
Average	91.257% (91.257%)

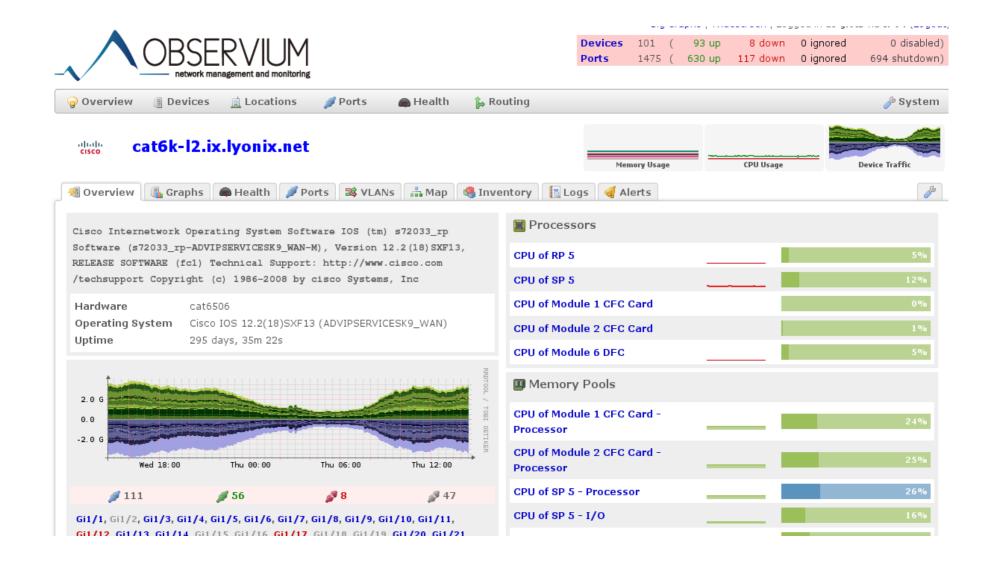
## Are your services available? Ex: 2013 ...

Host	% Time Up
<u>TopIX</u>	100.000% (100.000%)
TopIX RS 1	99.876% (99.876%)
TopIX RS 2	99.923% (99.923%)
<u>ToulX</u>	99.928% (99.928%)
asr1002f-1	100.000% (100.000%)
bdcom-grenoble-1	99.982% (99.982%)
bdcom-grenoble-2	99.966% (99.966%)
bdcom-l2a	100.000% (100.000%)
bdcom-l2b	100.000% (100.000%)
bdcom-l2d	99.982% (99.982%)
bdcom-l2e	99.982% (99.982%)
<u>bdcom-l2f</u>	69.594% (99.979%)
bdcom-paris-1	99.947% (99.947%)
<u>bureau</u>	98.192% (98.192%)
<u>bureau-voip</u>	99.218% (99.218%)
<u>bureautique</u>	99.808% (99.808%)
c2821-I1	92.748% (100.000%)
c2821-l2b	100.000% (100.000%)
<u>c3550-roanne-1</u>	99.783% (99.783%)
<u>c3750-adtim</u>	99.944% (99.944%)
c3750-grenoble-1	99.982% (99.982%)
c3750-grenoble-2	99.966% (99.966%)
<u>c3750-I1</u>	100.000% (100.000%)
<u>c3750-l2b</u>	100.000% (100.000%)
<u>c3750-l2c-1</u>	100.000% (100.000%)
<u>c3750-paris-1</u>	99.997% (99.997%)
<u>c3750-stetix-1</u>	99.983% (99.983%)
<u>c4924-l2f</u>	69.609% (100.000%)
cat6k-I1	100.000% (100.000%)
cat6k-l2	100.000% (100.000%)
cisco-4924-I2d	99.982% (99.982%)
<u>cisco-4924-l2e</u>	100.000% (100.000%)
<u>crm-dev</u>	100.000% (100.000%)

## Servers availability ...2013

Host	% Time Up
dell-l1	100.000% (100.000%)
hp-I1	100.000% (100.000%)
hp-l2b	100.000% (100.000%)
<u>rr-12</u>	100.000% (100.000%)
srv-grenoble	<u>-1</u> 100.000% (100.000%)
srv-grenoble	<u>-2</u> 100.000% (100.000%)
srv-l1b	100.000% (100.000%)
srv-l1c	100.000% (100.000%)
srv-l1d	100.000% (100.000%)
srv-l1e	100.000% (100.000%)
srv-l1f	100.000% (100.000%)
srv-l2b	100.000% (100.000%)
Average	100.000% (100.000%)

#### Observium



## Can you describe your technical offer in a VERY simple way?

- IXP/NAP ports
  - ▶10/100/1000 M Copper
  - ▶ 1/10 G Fibre

- Network services
  - ▶ Back to back cables
  - **VLANs**
  - Waves
  - ►Intra-pop dark fibre

- Hosting
  - ▶1 to n U (no servers)
  - With or without power
  - Or no space

- Goodies
  - Remote power reboot
  - Remote Serial control port

YES? OK, let's see what to do: marketing and SALES!

#### Have a look at other Regional IXPs

- In Europe : what do AMS-IX, DE-CIX, LINX, NetNod have in common ?
  - ▶ They were national IXPs ; strong ; good team...
  - ▶ Located in capital cities (not true for DE-CIX and AMS-IX)
  - They now have a lot of foreign members
  - They have an intensive marketing plan and are very active in their sales department
- Why did they succeed ?
- Have a look on the map: Amsterdam London Frankfurt and Stockholm are not so far from the others! Could there be many Regional IXP in the same region?

#### Marketing strategy for Regional IXPs

- Have a marketing department or team!
  - ▶ Techy guys are not really able to market things...
  - Coming on an IXP is not only a technical matter
  - Re think the way you speak about your IXP!
  - Rewrite all your content (web, documentation, slides...)
- You can have a large national IXP and not be successful in developing a regional one
  - There are plenty of technical and legal issues (licences etc.). But the way your IXP is seen is at least as important!
- It means : have a marketing budget!

#### Your IXP's first international members

- They might come on their own because they really need you. (Lucky you!)
- Take care of them. Look at any difficulties they have. Try to solve them as future international members may have similar issues.
- Constantly communicate with them to try and understand and learn from them
- What seems logical to you is in fact VERY strange for someone who does not know your IXP.

#### Make your communication simple

- Try to meet international standards and best technical practices.
- Your prices in at least 2 currencies; yours +\$/€.
- Make all your documentation in English (+French... you are in Africa). Including your contract information (It takes time...)
- Have two languages for your web site (and for your news)

#### Events: Be visible, be present

- You've been to some local events to get your IXP known on a national scale.
- Now it's another story :
  - You should attend :
    - Other IXPs events
    - Regional Peering Forums
    - AfriNIC and other regulators events
    - Some European events (Euro-IX, European Peering Forum)
  - ▶ This is a lot of time & money

#### **Events: what about yours...**

- You should have your own set of events
  - For your already connected members
  - For the new commers
  - For the 4 different types of public you'll have to reach at your members / future members
    - Technical (peering manager if any)
    - Marketing and communication
    - Finance
    - **GMs**
  - Events are difficult to create, make them regular and have participants attending!
  - Event managing is a FULL TIME job!

#### Typical slide for Social events; with pics

- IT and telecom local industry events
  - Teldej
  - Aperezo
  - ► RUGs
  - RezoGirls
- Trainings :
  - ▶BGP Workshops
  - Legal: buying dark fibre



#### The big secret? CRM!

- ols it a secret? Without a Customer Relationship Management tool, you can not be successful in marketing and sales. No, Don't try it with Excel!
- With your CRM, you'll manage in a single DB:
  - Accounts, people, proposals, and maybe billing
  - Mailing lists,
  - Events (who am I inviting to this event?), subscription lists, etc.
- Tip : A good (and free) CRM : Vtiger, open source and Web based
- Don't let each department create its own database!

#### **Documentation sales tools**

- You rewrote it!
- The three main tools (it is obvious but...)
  - ▶The web
  - **▶** Slides
  - PDF or printed documentation

#### **Your website Information**

- It needs to be mobile device and tablet friendly
- So it has to be a CMS for ease of updating content;
  - ► Go for open source CMS platforms such as Joomla, WordPress and Drupal, etc.
- The current website (if any) may suffice. However, there is a lot to be done to update the site ...

#### Your online content

- It is maintained and updated in at least 2 languages
- It has some news
  - Make a plan of your news
  - Have all your departments sending you the content
- An updated member list, some technical statistics...
- Links to your FB, LinkedIN, etc.
- Will you need a Community Manager ?

## Lyonix Website (bi-lingual feature)



BAD : Last news was not translated !:(

#### Grenoblix web site

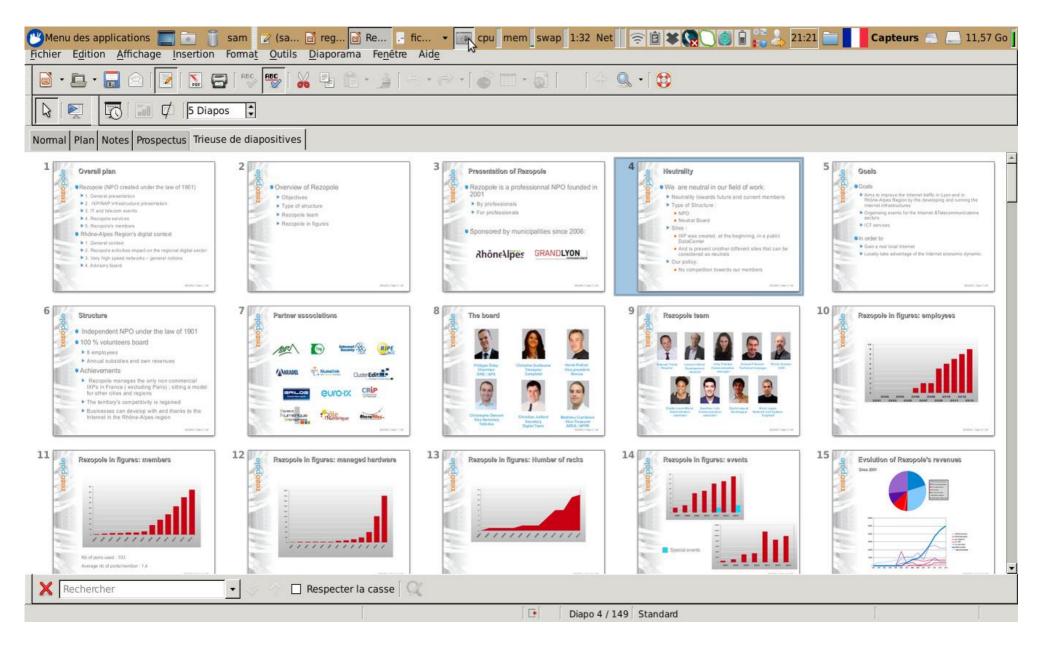


Done with a CMS. FR version. Same database, other look

#### **Your IXP Sales and Marketing Slides**

- Created only to be presented live by your team
- A lot of images, charts, pictures, logos of your members (sorted by categories)...
- There can be a lot of pages but you don't have to show them all
- Tip: Try to maintain a single set of slides

## Sample Slide templates (Lyon-IX)



### Your printed/PDF documentation

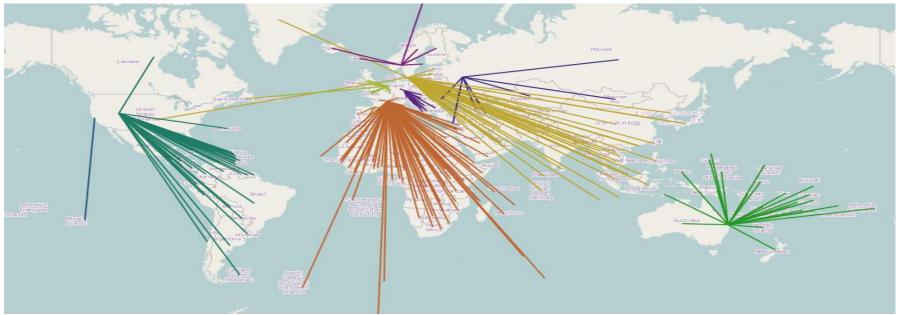
- Print materials in 2 languages
- Very detailed presentation
  - ▶ Your organisation, founders, management
  - Your IXP : standard services, POPs, additional services
  - Price list
  - Members list (with logos)
  - ▶ Technical description (very technical)
  - Your events
  - Your contract and an order form to fill out

#### To do list for Marketing Department

- Day :
  - ► Google alerts?
- Week :
  - Post something on your SN (FB, Linked-IN...)
- Month:
  - Newsletter
  - Press release, press review
  - **Events**
- Year:
  - Annual report

#### You always have something to say

- Ask your technical team to create some news (and rewrite them:))
- Broadcast any information, especially if it's not produce by you.
  - ■Ex: LyonIX advertised a lot this map produce by Open Street Map. It represents the map of the OSM servers delivering content to all the country in the world.



#### Find your targets

- Peering managers/coordinators but not only
  - ▶ Of course, finding the peering manager/coordinator of a potential member is the best way, but some other key people have to be convinced i.e.;
    - ▶ Financial leader
    - >GM
    - Communication/marketing
- For each kind of target, you'll have to have different arguments.
- •Remember;
  - those people don't know you,
  - they don't think like you!,
  - > They don't have the same culture, language...

#### Sales department

- Same story as for marketing!
- You'll need a dedicated team for sales
- Technical teams are not able to sell!
- You'll need a CRM
- You'll need to meet the potential customer in events, etc.
- Work closely with the marketing team...
- Tip: sales guys should know what they talk about! They should have read (and understand) the « Peering play book »! Now also available in French!

## If you want to compete with other countries

- Selling ports in your country was easy.
  - You were (probably) the only IXP
  - Everybody knew you
- What about selling...
  - On an Regional/International scale
  - ▶ To people that don't know you?
- The first extra national members will be hard to convince! Then it might get easier if you already have 10 of them...

#### OK! You are willing to do it!

- You are sure about your technical services
- You now know about marketing and sales departments...
- What else should be done?

Create some new services/features...

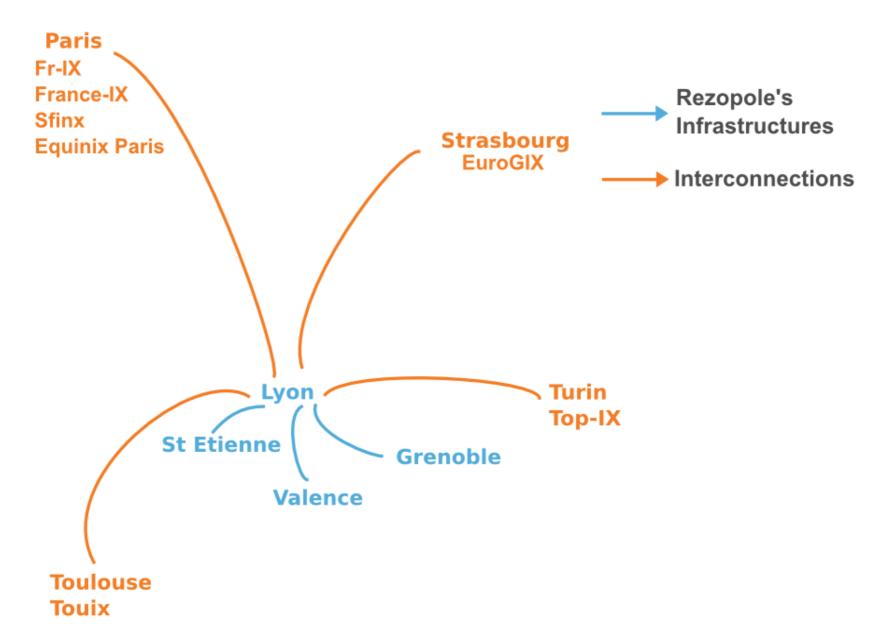
#### New services to be created.

- In order to become a Regional IXP you might have to create some new services :
  - ► Multi site IXP
  - Remote peering
  - Reseller program

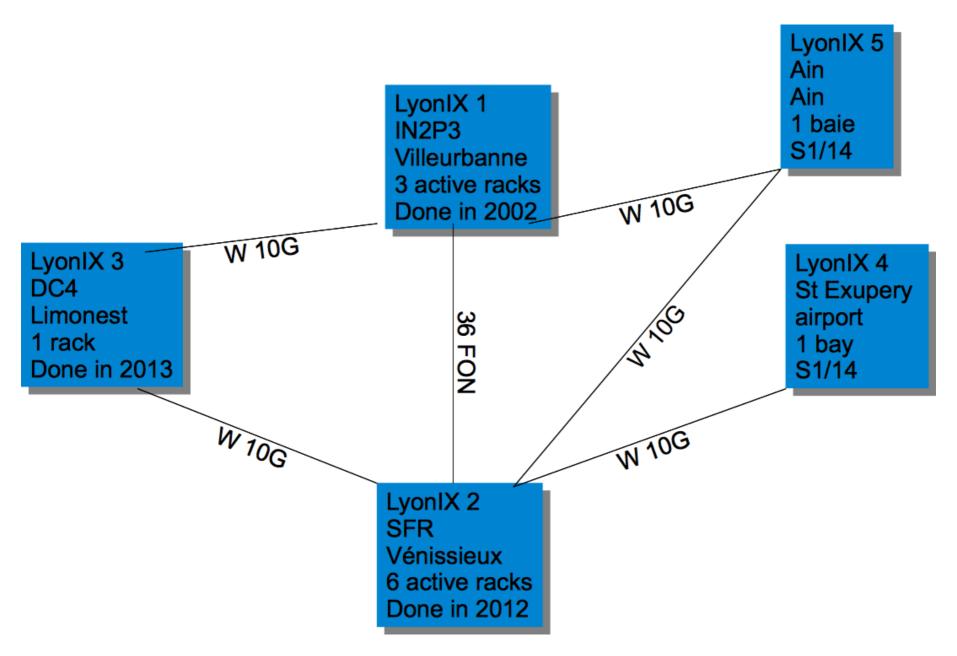
#### Multi site IXP

- A serious IXP should have 3 POPs
- All the major IXPs in the world have many POPs
- With only one POP many potential peer will simply not consider you
- Try to have at least 2 locations and 3 if possible
- This is also available within the original city (capital)
- Try to expand to other cities within the country!

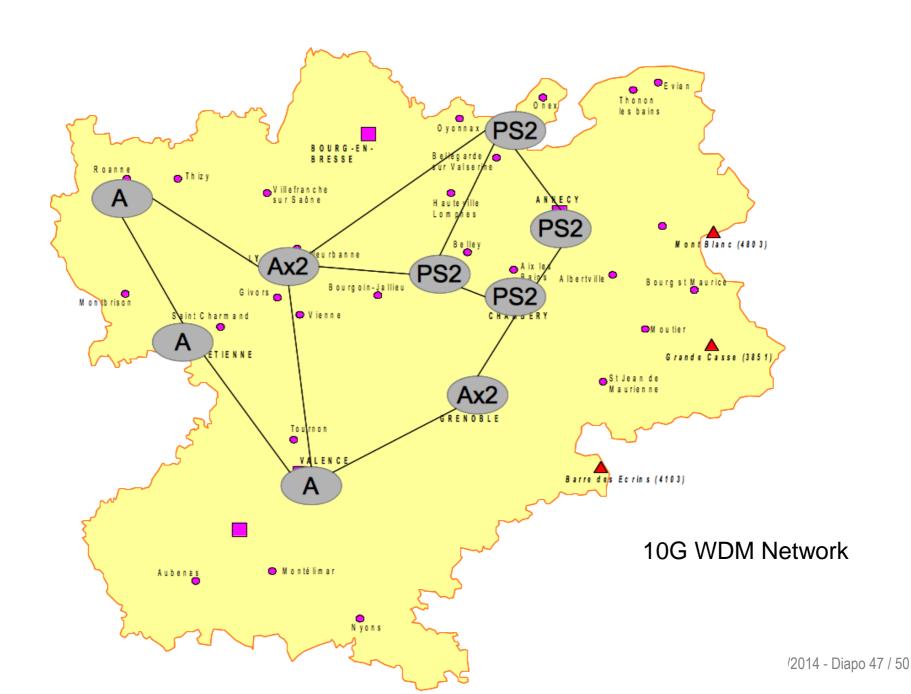
# Infrastructures & interconnections Internet connection.



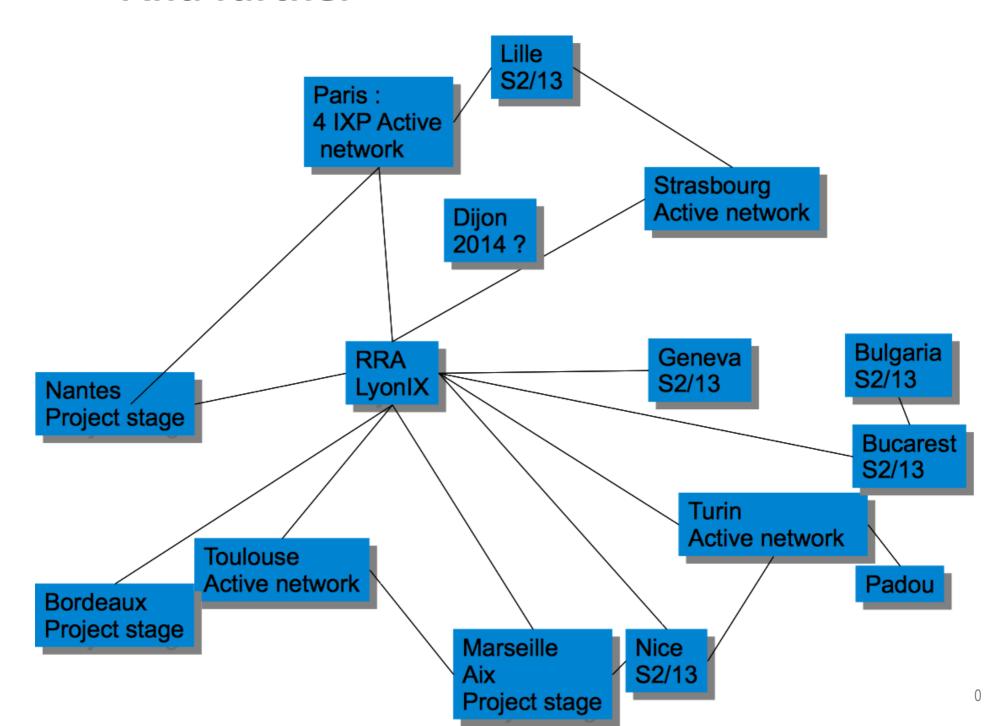
#### **Lyon-IX Extended Infrastructure**



### **Lyon-IX Regional Network Perspective**



#### And further



#### Remote peering

- You could have agreements with other IXPs
- Benefits:
  - Sharing your members
  - Only one link to pay
  - ► No competition between IXPs
  - Can be done in Layer 2 or 3 (using Route servers)
  - ► Good example : LyonIX Top-IX.
- Downside :
  - You don't get to charge the other IXs members

#### Reseller program

- Some members (carriers, who do not sell IP transit on their own) could bring you members from abroad
- You give one port to the reseller and you allow him to bring many ASNs delivered on a single port.
- You charge the final ASN (or not)
- Each Reseller program is different
- And each reseller will probably ask for special features (VLANs, MPLS, better prices)
- You lose revenue but you have more members

#### **Acknowledgement and Attribution**

This presentation contains content and information originally developed and maintained by the following organisation(s)/individual(s) and provided for the African Union AXIS Project

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#### **END**

