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Case Study: Alibaba Group (BABA) NYSE

Presented by James Xinye Zhang | October 21st, 2014

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

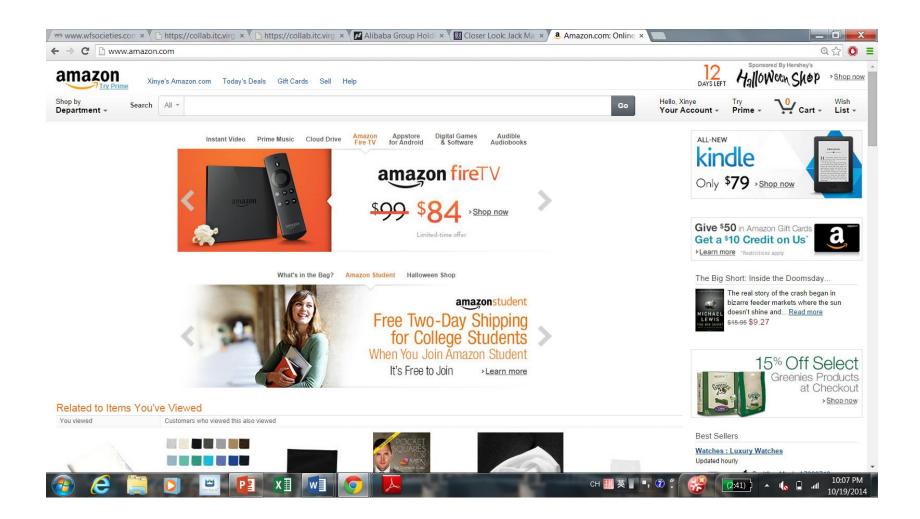
Company Overview

• Alibaba's Ecosystems

• Valuation 3

Potential Risks

ALIBABA?



ALIBABA?



Introduction

- Alibaba Group started out as a small online retailer.
- Various mergers and strategic deals enabled the company to dominate ecommerce in China
- Evolution into unique company
 - ecosystem rather than service

PRIOR GROWTH

- Rise of e-commerce in China helped spur the company's growth
- Chinese middle class begins spending more money, more consumption
- 79% of Chinese e-commerce market

PRIMARY BUSINESS COMPONENTS

- Taobao
- Tmall
- Alipay
- Alibaba Cloud Computing
- Cainiao
- AliExpress





Unique Business Model

- Alibaba doesn't directly compete with merchants; works with them and provides a platform for dual profits. Leads to profitability and strong cash flows
- Seeks to innovate and thrive
- No specialty in one area; create online ecosystem rather than focus on niche

ALIBABA VS AMAZON

- Revenue growth- still outpaces Amazon's. The U.S. online retailer reported a 23% jump in third-quarter revenue to \$19.34 billion, just about half of Alibaba's pace of expansion.
- Size- In 2012, the combined transaction volume of Taobao and Tmall topped one trillion yuan (\$163 billion)
 - more than Amazon and eBay combined."
- Profitability- Alibaba profit totaled \$2.8 billion for the nine months ended Dec. 31 on revenue of \$6.5 billion.
 - A penny for every dollar in revenue vs 43 cents.



VAST NETWORK

- Unlike Amazon, which buys goods from suppliers and sells them to customers, Alibaba has always acted as a middleman, connecting buyers and sellers and facilitating transactions between them.
- Merchants don't pay to sell products on Taobao. Instead, they pay Alibaba for advertising and other services to allow them to stand out from the crowd.

VAST NETWORK

- Collective entrepreneurship- Alibaba provides platform, merchants provides products.
- Revenue sharing simplifies business; makes it easier for additional merchants to join network.
- Larger network- greater benefits and thus attracts more customers

CHINESE CONSUMER GROWTH

- China is changing from manufacturingoriented to consumption-driven economy
- Huge increase in white collared middle class
- "Our business benefits from the rising spending power of Chinese consumers"
 - Alibaba SEC Prospectus

E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

- Smartphone access grants online accessibility to everyone, of all ages and demographics
- Leapfrogging
- E-commerce in China does not just occur in urban regions.
 - Citizens in rural and interior regions now have access to online services

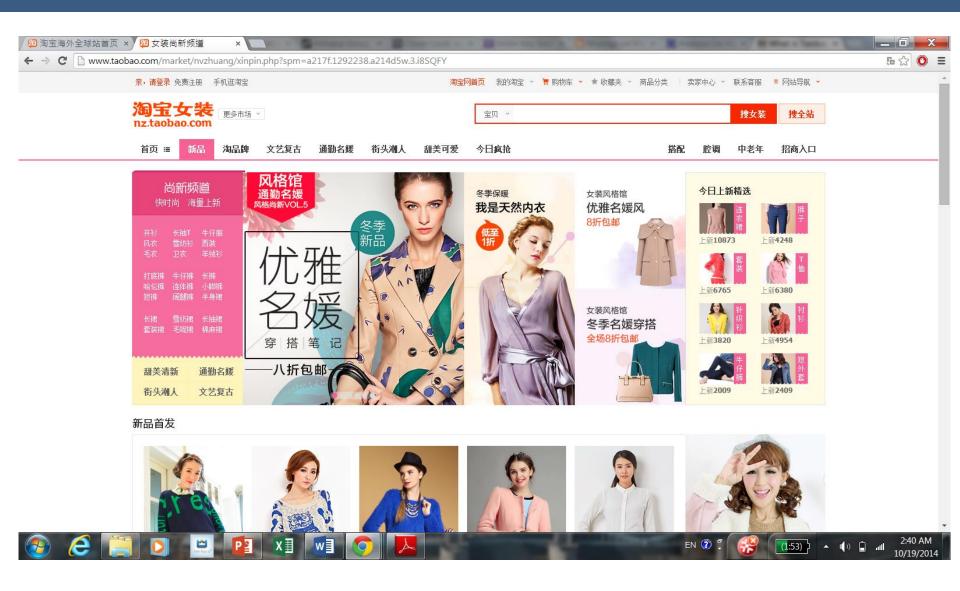
TAOBAO

- Comparable to eBay
- China's largest e-commerce website
- Features thousands of non-brand name products sold by smaller-unknown merchants

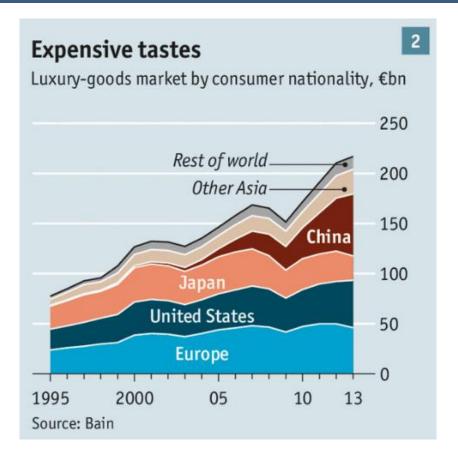




TAOBAO ONLINE MARKETPLACE



TMALL



- **Assumption Driver**; increase in consumption of high end consumer goods
- Tmall's "LuxCity" provides platform for world renowned luxury brands to cater legitimate products to Chinese





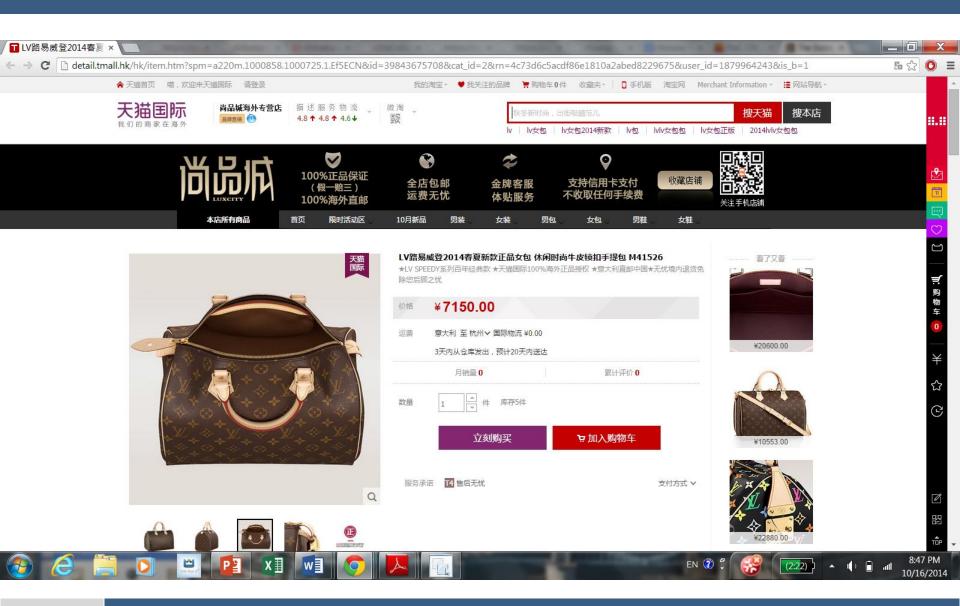






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LUXCITY



ALIBABA'S ECOSYSTEMS

- Entertainment
- Alipay
- Guangzhou Evergrande FC
- Investment in small US companies.
 - Vendio Services Inc. and Auctiva
 - ShopRunner
 - Quixey
 - TangoMe Inc.



Where does Alibaba's Revenue come from?

Alibaba 2014 revenue breakdown

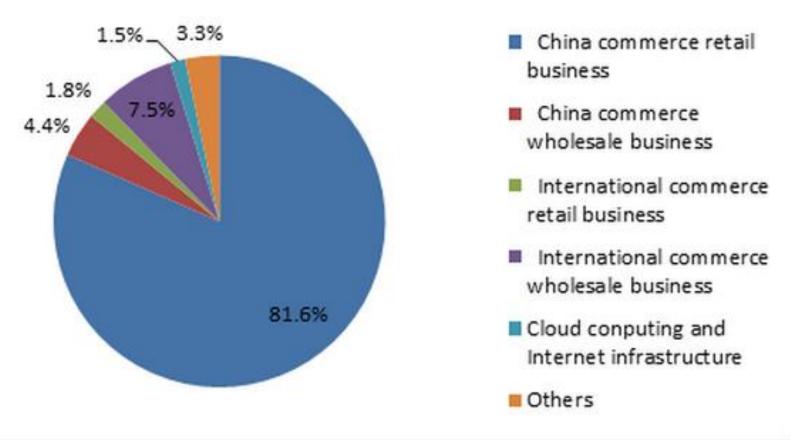


Chart from Seeking Alpha



ECOSYSTEMS (ENTERTAINMENT)

Betting on Entertainment

Alibaba wants to take part in China's fast-growing film industry.



- Alibaba has made around \$4 billion in entertainment investments
 - The company will benefit greatly from Chinese cinema market
- China's box office projected to increase from \$3.13bn in 2013 to \$5.9bn by 2018
- Chinese demand for films, both domestic and Western (Hollywood) will spur revenues in entertainment

LIONS GATE ENTERTAINMENT CORP.

- Lionsgate Entertainment World to stream Hollywood movies and television in China
 - Offer "Twilight," "The Hunger Games" series, "Divergent," "Mad Men"
- "We are committed to expanding our ecosystem where our users can meet, work and live,"
 - Patrick Liu, president of Alibaba Group's digital entertainment business

CHINAVISION MEDIA GROUP LTD.



- \$804 million investment, 60 percent controlling stake in the company
- Main distributor in Journey to the West: Conquering the Demon, 1.25 billion yuan revenue.

CHINAVISION MEDIA'S MULTIPLE SEGMENTS

- 1. Producing and distributing film rights, television programs and dramas
- 2. ChinaVision distributes the most popular morning newspaper in Beijing, the Beijing Times
- 3. Mobile handset devices, and develops and distributes Mobile TV

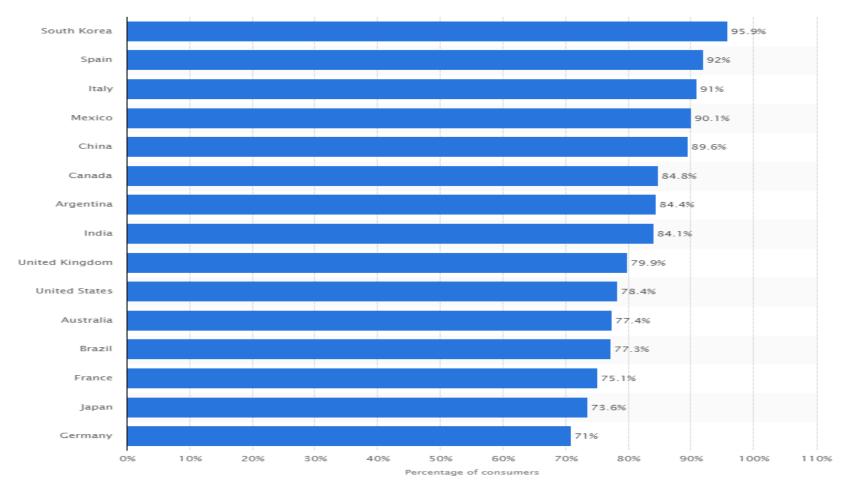
Alibaba is not only buying mobile tech company, but exposure to news media, television, and the continued rise of Chinese film market

WASU DIGITAL TV MEDIA GROUP

- Alibaba Group acquired a 20% stake in Wasu Media, \$1.05 billion, collaborate in online content and Internet TV.
- Support in original content development, video communication, games, music, education, cloud computing, big data
- The companies collaborated last year in co-launching television set-top box
 - Set up box connecting businesses

ONLINE VIDEO MARKET IN CHINA

Percentage of internet users who watch online video content on any device in 2014, by country



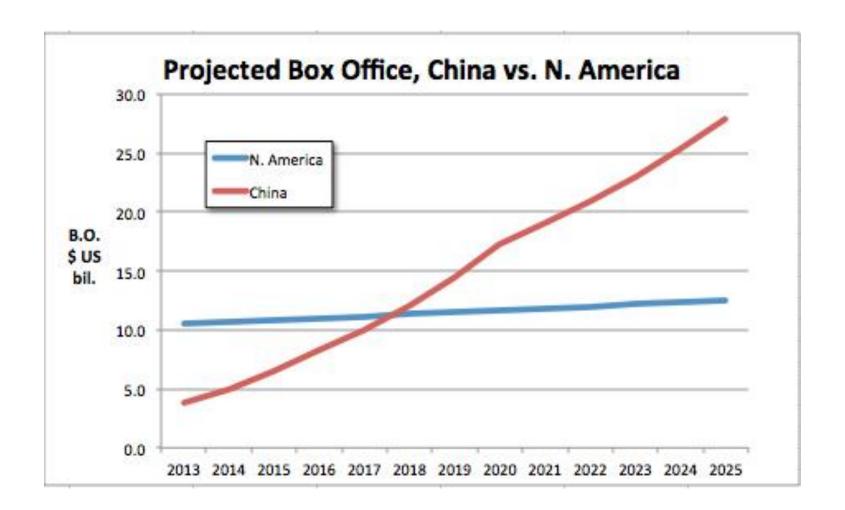
Statista.com



VAR 1- ROBERT CAIN, CHINA FILM BIZ

- Producer, entertainment industry consultant
- China's film industry is expanding at around 4x its GDP growth
- "The Chinese population has embraced movies, both foreign and increasingly domestically made Chinese movies, with exuberance."

VAR 1 GRAPH

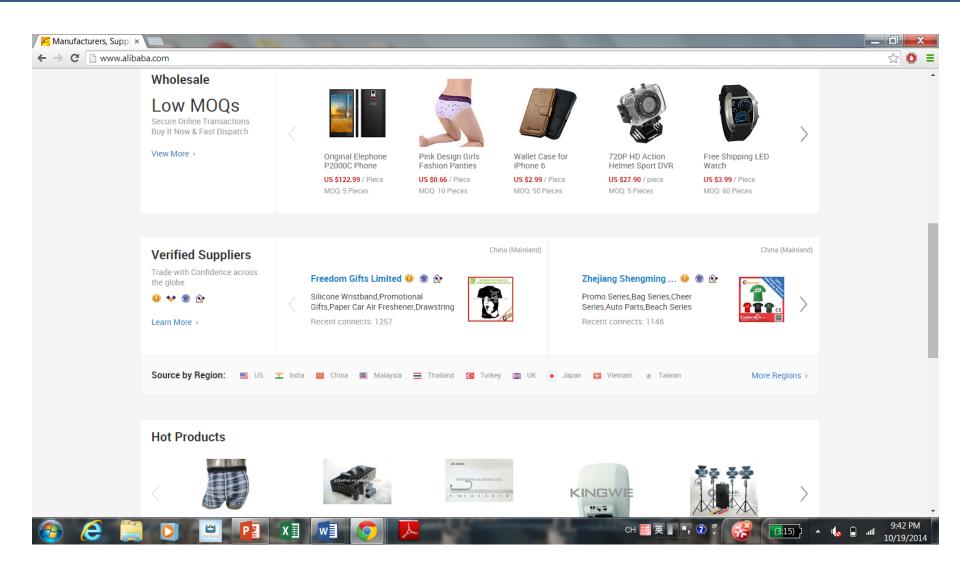




ALIBABA.COM

- B2B
- Connects Chinese manufacturers with foreign buyers
- Negotiate order; no shopping cart
- "Made to order" rather than advertise ready-made products
- High MOQ

ALIBABA.COM

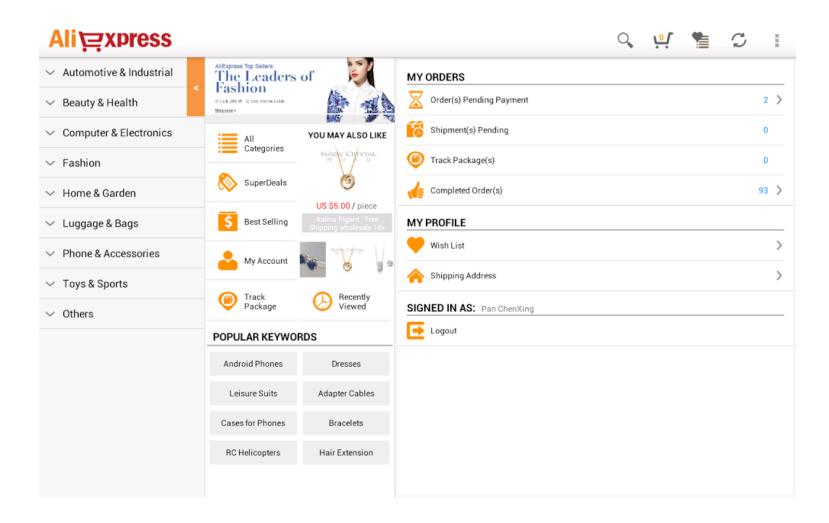




ALIEXPRESS

- B2B and B2C
- Portal to link Chinese trading companies with foreign buyers
- Smaller "ready-made" items, aimed at smaller companies
- MOQ is usually 10+ items

ALIEXPRESS



sensortower.com

ECOSYSTEMS- ALIPAY AND ONLINE BANKING

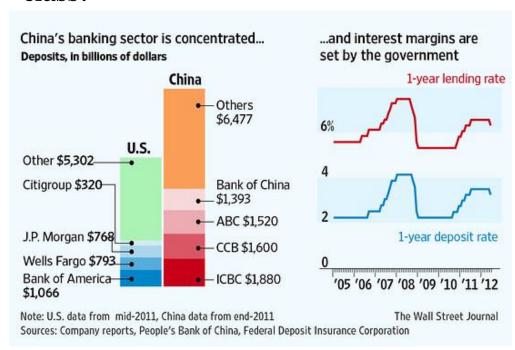
- Zhejiang Ant Financial Services Group- vital in Alibaba's push to further financial operations for small consumers and merchants online.
- Alipay- Subsidiary of Zhejiang Ant, is online 3rd party payment platform. Most of Alibaba e-commerce transactions go through Alipay.
- Started in 2004, now has 190 million active users, online transactions worth \$660 billion.
- Alipay Wallet- mobile electronic pay system

ALIPAY RESTRUCTURING

 Restructured Alibaba's loan business to Small and Micro Financial Services CompanyGives Alibaba smaller exposure to financial services while gaining potential to profit from such microfinancing businesses

BANKING IN CHINA

- China still has a huge financial system that rather limites middle class opportunities in investments
- Traditional financial system is rigid and concentrated in state institutions, but changing rapidly
- Can Alibaba use technology to give more exposure to the middle class?



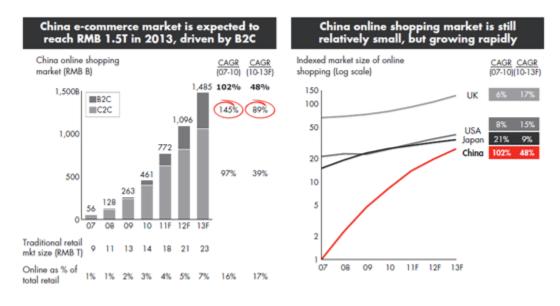
ONLINE BANKING OPERATIONS

- Alibaba wants to provide full range of online transactions w/o physical banking.
- will soon apply to create a micro-loans and micro-savings private bank.
- This "will fully leverage technology as well as big data analysis to better serve grassroot individual consumers and small and medium enterprises"
 - Yu Shengfa, VP of Zhejiang Ant

TRANSFORMING ONLINE BANKING

- The new private bank will cater more to consumers and small businesses
- Use transaction data online to examine customer credit
- State-owned banks and institutions underserve such customers

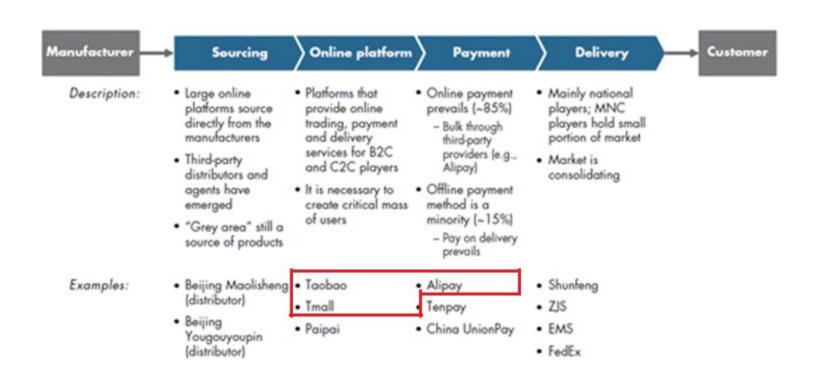
Figure 1: China e-commerce is expected to grow fast, fueled by a surge in the B2C segment



Source: Bain analysis

E-COMMERCE SYNERGY

Figure 2: E-commerce ecosystem in China is becoming more sophisticated with full set of "enablers"



Source: Bain analysis

Alibaba will achieve synergy through its own industry platforms

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VAR 2- BCG CONSULTANT

• "Digital penetration is happening faster than people would imagine in China. More and more elderly people are getting used to digital channels—even my mother-inlaw [uses] online banking and WeChat."

- Zhang Yue, project leader at Boston Consulting Group, Shanghai. "

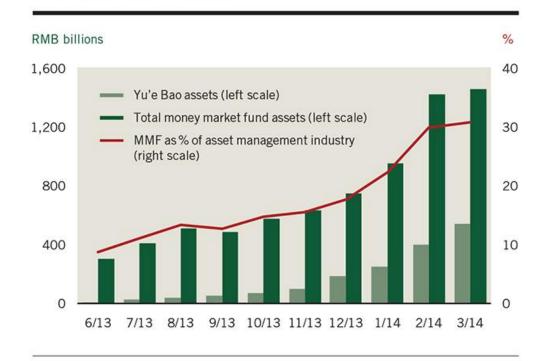
Yu'e Bao Fund

- Yu'e Bao (余额宝) is an investment product offered by Alipay.com.
 - -managed by Tianhong Asset Management
- Alipay users deposit money into Yu'e bao, invests in funds (4.2% versus 3.3% -one year deposit)
- Growing trend of depositors transferring money away from banks and into internet money market funds.

MONEY MARKET FUNDS IN CHINA

ARising Tide

Money market funds are enjoying a surge of popularity among Chinese investors.



• Assumption Driveras money market

funds become more popular, Yu'e Bao will grow with tremendous potential in the near future.

Sources: Amac, HTI



YU'E BAO HIGH YIELD SUSTAINABILITY

- 90% of the funds' deposits invested in interbank deposits
- Investment is relatively safe, as long as the state-owned banks do not default on loans they exercised from Tianhong, which should not occur.
- Yield could be sustainable, but the 6% is "not the norm"

YU'E BAO

支付宅 余额宝





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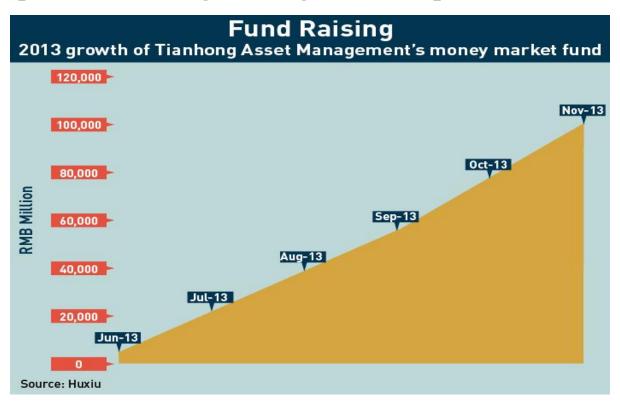


VAR 3- TIANHONG FUND MANAGER

- "We allocate investments and match maturities based on data analysis. At different stages a bank's ability to take deposits varies. On one hand, there are banks that can only take, say, 10 billion yuan, but we have 11 billion yuan that needs to be taken care of. That is when we hit the limit of their deposit-taking ability. We can deal with other banks or lower the interest rates we charge. On the other hand, a larger size brings greater negotiating power. We can ask for higher interest rates."
 - Wang Dengfeng (oversees money market fund connected with Yu'e Bao)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- The Chinese government is receptive to the idea of internet banking
- In "state of the union" address, Premier Li Keqiang promised to deliver and "promote the healthy development of internet banking."
- BUT, expect some changes in regulators' supervision



ALIYUN- ALIBABA CLOUD COMPUTING (阿里云)

- Primarily serves Alibaba's e-commerce and internal businesses such as AliPay
- Provides technology and supports online services for businesses
- 2013; Processed 14.5 billion order exchanges from 70,000 merchants and 279 million online consumers

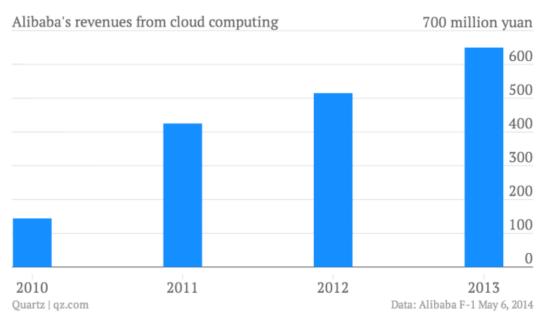
ALIYUN- OUTSIDE CLIENTELE

 "The services of AliYun are similar to the services of public electric power networks.
 Without these public utilities, you may have to spend lots of money on buying a generator for making electricity. Our cloud services enable our clients to only pay for their present demand and save on initial investments, just like we use electricity today,"

-Alibaba Cloud Computing

CLOUD COMPUTING

- Alibaba planning to start operating its cloud business globally, AliYun
- AliYun collects revenue from companies and clients that use its data centers and computing resources



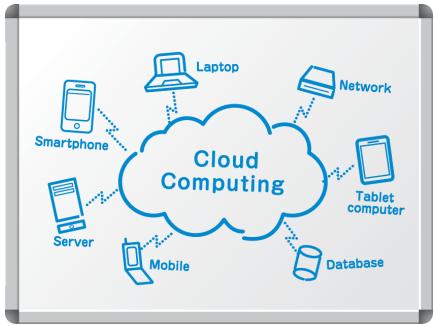
IMPORTANCE OF CLOUD COMPUTING

• "We will continue to implement our data strategy through the application of data intelligence and deep learning technologies to several fields, including marketplace design, user interface, search, targeted marketing, logistics, locationbased services and financial services, among others."

-SEC Prospectus

USING CLOUD TO SUPPORT ALIBABA ECOSYSTEMS

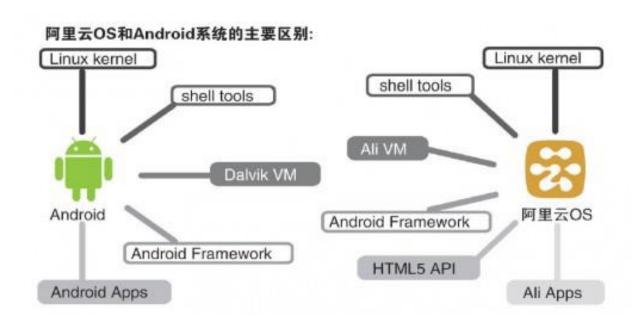
- Distributed computing infrastructure
- Serves its own platform, Alipay, and subsidiaries
- Provides cloud computing services to sellers



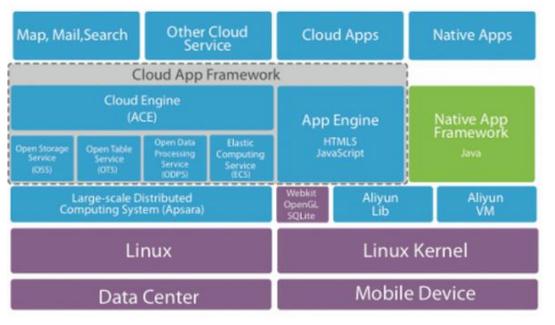
*Cloud Computing Cafe

ALIYUN OPERATING SYSTEM

- Engineered by Alibaba Cloud Computing
- Linux based operating system



OS FEATURES



- Fully functioning with cloud
 - ➤ 100 GB in storage space (free)
 - ➤ Ability to stream apps from web instead of storing in phone memory.
 - Mostly designed to run cloud applications in own ecosystems

AliYun OS is open-source based OS

INVESTMENTS

- Alibaba has made forays into the U.S. market
 - Vendio Services Inc. and Auctiva
 - ShopRunner
 - Quixey
 - TangoMe Inc.

VENDIO SERVICES INC.

- Alibaba can match 80,000 small businesses in the U.S with supplier sourcing via Alibaba's platforms.
- More effective sourcing- allows AliExpress to utilize Vendio platform for selling across multiple marketplaces

AUCTIVA

 "Acquisition will help provide tools and resources for U.S. small businesses looking to leverage e-commerce."



SHOPRUNNER

- Retail website investment allows Alibaba to enter U.S. marker
- "Trojan Horse" to Amazon

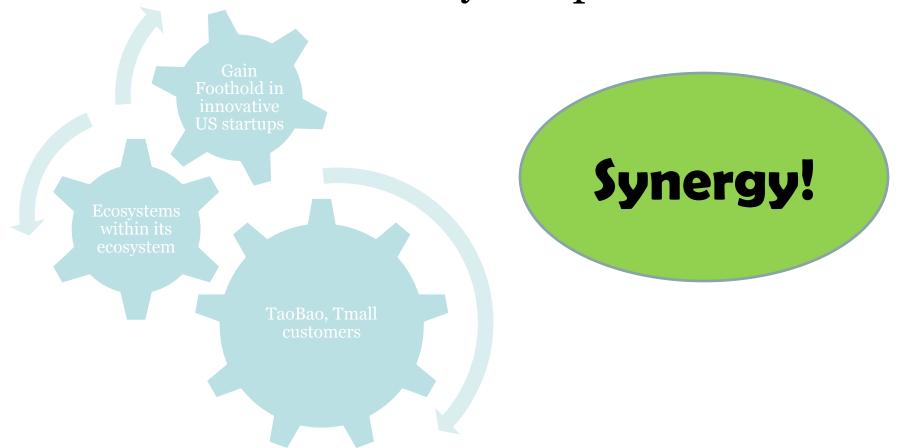


TANGOME

- Extremely popular messaging app
 - > Free video calls
 - ➤ Miniature ecosystem
 - ➤ Become increasingly broad- creating platform for TangoMe users to engage in activities such as texting, gaming, photo-sharing
- Alibaba can expand into U.S. mobile phone platform

EFFECTS OF INVESTMENTS

• Why does Alibaba seem to sprawl its investments in so many companies?



STOCK METRICS

- High growth stock
 - > Earnings is extremely important
- Alibaba could grow 40% in 2015, 30% in 2016
- 58.5% EBIDTA margin in 2014
- High P/E Ratio

GROWTH COMPANY VALUATION

- Classic Growth Company- Creates new product, establishes demand due to technology/innovation
- Market Share Growth Company- Mature industry, rapid growth due to increasing market share via product quality, brand name, or service
- **Consolidator** Fragmented industry, grows inorganically through multiple acquisitions and taking advantage of synergies.

COMPARABLE MULTIPLES

Metric	BABA	AMZN	EBAY	BIDU
EV/EBITDA	44.68	33.7	11.44	28.11
EV/Revenue	23.13	1.66	3.24	10.79
EPS	2.17	0.39	-0.10	5.54
P/E Ratio	37.73	158.97	14.57	4.13
Price/Sales	23.33	1.71	3.40	11.37
Price/Book	22.24	13.2	3.00	10.21

• Does earnings reflect long term trend or is it a temporary occurence?

FUTURE STOCK GROWTH

- Strong brand, enormous scale, rapidly increasing impact of ecosystem
- Growth and margins should justify high valuation
- How will high revenue growth translate into stock performance

AMERICAN DEPOSITORY SHARES

- "US dollar-denominated equity share of foreign company for purchase on American stock exchange"
- Investors do not own common shares, but claims to foreign shares.
- Not buying a piece of the company
- Shareholders have almost no say in how the company will be run

WHAT ARE INVESTORS BUYING?

- Investors purchasing shares of Alibaba in offshore, Cayman Islands entity
 - ➤ Alibaba Group Holding Limited

Plot twist!

.....The entity doesn't actually own Alibaba.....

VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES

- Alibaba conducts business via complex investment vehicles.
- Allows the company to have offshore entities, used to accept foreign investors' money
- Complications may arise

PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

- Convoluted ownership structure
- A labyrinth of partnerships, subsidiaries, offshore vehicles.
- Controlling partnership of Alibaba have most power
 - >27 partners effectively control the Alibaba's board
 - small group make decisions regarding the entire company without much outside input.

EXPOSURE TO RISKS IN CHINA

- Alibaba can be impacted by economic slowdown
- May be subject to future anti-monopoly laws
 - Enforcement action against abusive market dominance and heavy fines
- Potential consequences of government perception against Alibaba

FUTURE PLANS

- Increase active buyers and wallet share
- Expand categories and offerings
- Extend mobile leadership
- Enhance success of sellers
- Enhance data and cloud computing
- Develop cross-border commerce opportunities

Conclusion

- Alibaba; Silk Road 2.0?
- Misperception that Alibaba is "just like Amazon"
- Ecosystem in various industries; is selfsustaining, various operations of Alibaba support internal systems
- Ideal investment opportunity?

QUESTIONS?

