Streaming Music

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What is streaming music?

- Streaming music services allow you to listen to music **in real time** by delivering a continuous "stream" of data to your device

- Unlike regular downloads (where you have to download the entire file before you can use it), **streaming services let you start listening to a song before it's completely downloaded**

- When you stream a song or album, the data for that song **does not stay on your device** once you've finished using it

- There are LOTS of streaming music services to choose from!

Streaming Music Requirements

In general, to use streaming music services you will need:

- A **computer and/or mobile device** (smartphone or tablet) that you can install the streaming music app on

- Internet access/mobile data → should be fast enough to stream music without having to buffer or pause a lot (**recommended speed is 1.5 megabits per second or higher**)

- If you want to use a **premium** version of a streaming service, you will need to pay for a premium membership
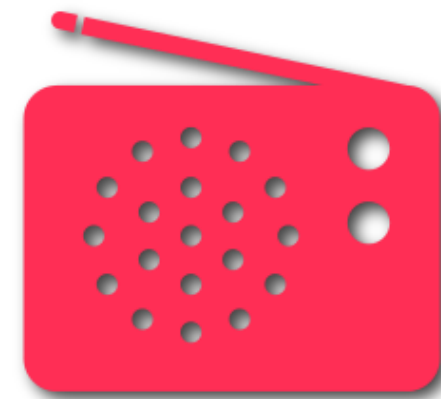
Streaming Music Services: Pandora

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Music Library Size	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?	Premium Version Cost & Features
• Pandora is a streaming radio service→you can't choose specific songs you want to listen to, but instead can find songs and/or artists that are similar to your favorites • Good way to discover new music that matches your tastes	• 1,000,000 + songs	• Can skip songs you do not like, but are limited to 6 skips a station and 30 skips in a 24 hour period • Music cannot be downloaded • Free version has ads	• Free version can be used on mobile devices and web app (Xbox, Roku, etc) • Desktop app can be used with a Pandora One subcription	• "Pandora One" is premium, ad-free version • Comes with desktop app • Allows for more daily skips • Cost: $4.99/month

Streaming Music Services: Spotify

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Music Library Size	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?	Premium Version Cost & Features
• You can choose the songs you want to play, when you want to play them! • Can also listen to pre-made playlists or add music to personal playlists with unlimited skips • Good for streaming music you already know and love	• About 30 million songs	• Free version includes ads, and limits how much you can listen to individual songs and playlists	• Mobile, web, and desktop apps are available to all users	• Spotify Premium lets you download songs and listen to them offline • Is also ad-free • **Cost: $1.00 for first 3 months and then $9.99/month with a 50% family discount**

Streaming Music Services: Apple Music (iTunes)

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Music Library Size	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?	Premium Version Cost & Features
• Similar to Spotify→ lets you listen to full albums and individual songs, sometimes on the same day that the album is released • Some artists sometimes release "exclusive" content through Apple (extra songs, early music releases)	• About 30 million songs	• Free version only lets you listen to a few stations and to music you already have purchased or ripped to your device	• Currently can only install on iOS or on a Mac or PC	• Unlimited access to the full iTunes catalog • Can save music to your device for offline listening • Cost: First 3 months are free, then $9.99/month ($14.99/month with family sharing)

Streaming Music Services: Slacker Radio

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Music Library Size	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?	Premium Version Cost & Features
• Similar to Pandora→ Lets you listen to stations based on genre or artist • Can create customized stations that match your music tastes and share them with other users	• 10 million songs	• Free version has ads and limits how much you can skip songs • Music is not downloadable (in free version)	• Mobile devices and desktop computers	• Unlimited skips, can also download music to your device for offline listening • Allows you to listen to specific, individual songs (rather than just stations generated around that song) • Cost: $3.99/month

Installing a Streaming Music Service

Once you've decided what service you want to use, follow these steps to install it!

ON A MOBILE DEVICE:

1. Go to the **App Store** (for iOS devices) or the **Google Play** store (for Android)

2. Search for the music app you want to install, then click the **Install** or **Download** buttons

3. Open the app when it's finished installing

4. Sign-up for an account (if you haven't done so already)

5. Start listening to your music!

ON A DESKTOP COMPUTER:

1. Go to the website for the service you want to use
   spotify.com
   pandora.com
   slacker.com
   apple.com/music

2. Sign-up for an account (if you haven't done so already)

3. If the service has a web app, you should be able to start listening immediately

4. Some services (like Apple Music) do NOT offer web apps, so you will need to download and install the desktop app to your computer (iTunes)

Setting Up a Premium Membership

- Most streaming music services allow you to do a trial run of their premium version before actually subscribing

- To set up your trial, you can go to the service website and follow the steps for setting up a premium membership (there will usually be a button that sets "Get Premium" or "Start Premium Trial")

- Some services also let you set up premium membership from inside the app itself

- **Be sure to read the terms and conditions before you start a premium trial so that you know how to cancel it if you don't want to continue when the trial ends**

Questions?

Happy listening!