# **Innovation for Entrepreneur**

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DIN147 (888147) 3(3-0-6)

# **Innovation Case Study**

888147 - Innovation Entrepreneur



- Spotify is the world's biggest music streaming platform by number of subscribers, with over 527 million monthly active users, including <u>210 million</u> paying subscribers, as of March 2023
- Spotify offers digital copyright restricted recorded audio content, including more than 100 million songs and five million podcasts, from record labels, independent artists, and media companies

- Users can search for music based on artist, album, or genre, and can create, edit, and share playlists
- <u>'Freemium' service</u> (free and paid premium):
  - Basic features are free with advertisements and limited control
  - Additional features, such as offline listening and commercial-free listening, are offered via paid subscriptions

### Spotify is available in most countries



- Spotify is available in most of Europe, as well as Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania, with a total availability in 184 markets.
- Its users and subscribers are based largely in the US and Europe, jointly accounting for around 53% of users and 67% of revenue
- It has no presence in mainland China where the market is dominated by QQ Music

 The service is available on most devices, including Windows, macOS, and Linux computers, iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, smart home devices, and digital media players

- Unlike physical or download sales, which pay artists a fixed price per song or album sold, <u>Spotify pays</u> royalties based on the number of artist streams as a proportion of total songs streamed
- It distributes approximately 70% of its total revenue to rights holders (often record labels), who then pay artists based on individual agreements
- Spotify now accounts for more than 20% of global recorded music revenue (up from less than 15% in 2017)

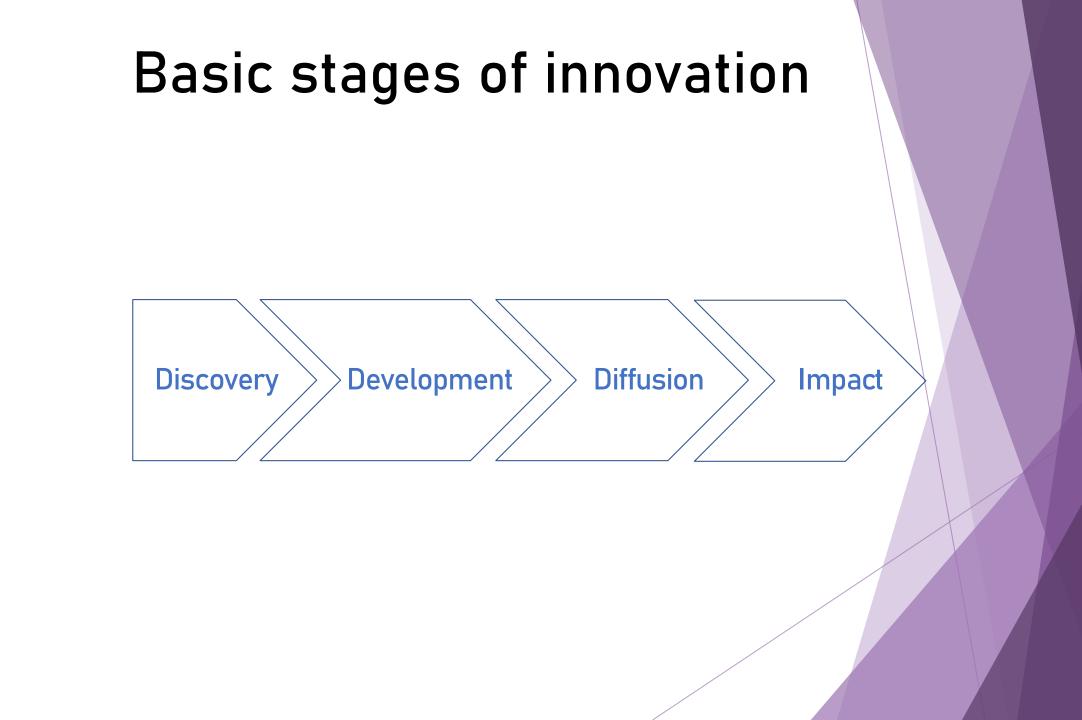
### Most streamed artist

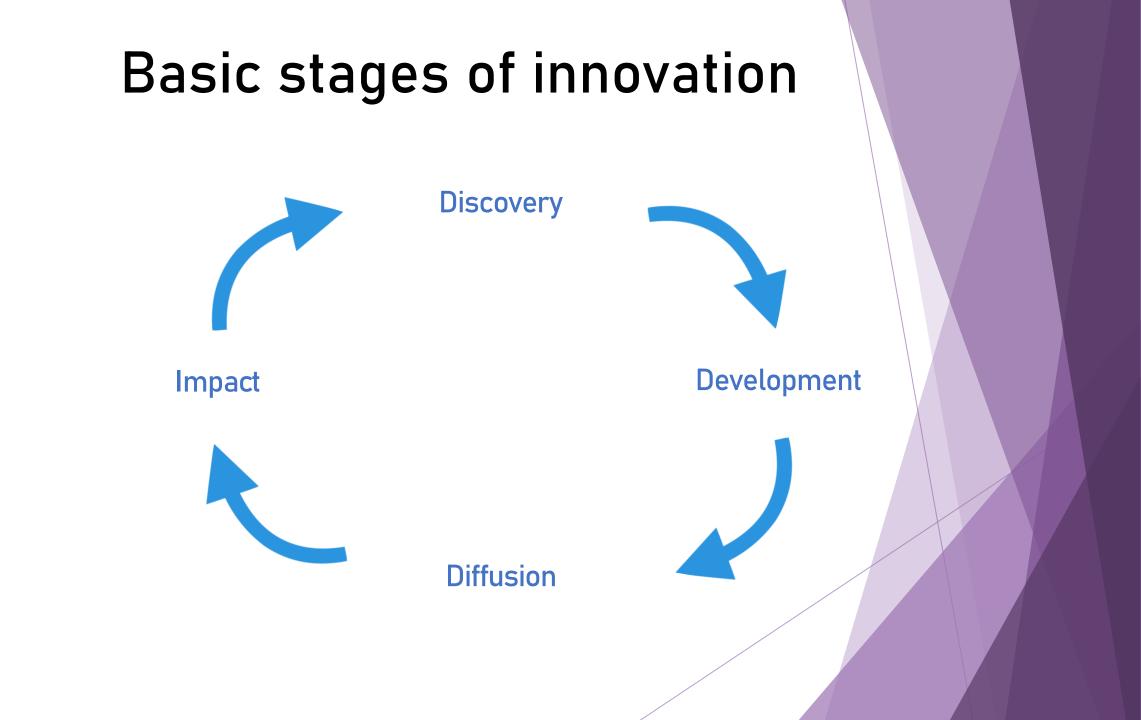
#		Artist 🔺	Lead Streams 🔻	Tracks 🔺	1b 🔺	100m 🔺	10m 🔺	1m 🔺	Feat Streams 🔺
1		Drake 6 day(s) old data	58,965,341,533	283	7	156	276	280	21,353,247,058
2		Bad Bunny 2 day(s) old data	55,040,681,945	163	10	127	159	162	8,409,552,136
3		Taylor Swift Up to date data	48,394,963,744	362	3	145	291	351	513,642,482
4		The Weeknd Up to date data	43,689,602,214	222	10	82	153	219	6,654,174,451
5		Ed Sheeran 8 day(s) old data	42,736,796,879	271	11	69	191	247	3,225,707,314
6		Justin Bieber 14 day(s) old data	36,417,121,764	227	9	63	176	197	11,588,042,184
7		Eminem 6 day(s) old data	35,328,685,091	300	7	69	229	267	4,855,392,407
8	3	Ariana Grande 6 day(s) old data	35,062,355,452	174	8	72	127	171	3,695,879,939
9		BTS 4 day(s) old data	33,358,204,402	263	4	106	216	263	659,396,548
10	8	Post Malone	33,269,851,400	101	10	61	83	85	2,997,564,513

### Most streamed song

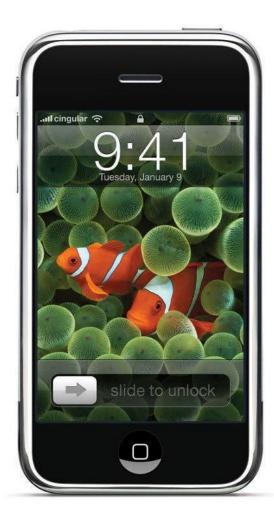
#		Song 🔺	Streams 🔻	Daily 🔺	Year 🔺
1	Di / IDZ	<b>Shape of You</b> Ed Sheeran	4,005,327,490	2,493,953	2017
2		Blinding Lights The Weeknd	3,706,546,920	3,604,413	2019
3	Drv 152	<b>Perfect</b> Ed Sheeran	3,586,607,185	3,255,710	2017
4	V A	<b>Despacito</b> Luis Fonsi	3,275,661,612	1,654,966	2017
5	E.	<b>Someone You Loved</b> Lewis Capaldi	2,931,657,357	2,872,630	2018
6		Dance Monkey Tones And I	2,876,825,174	1,327,917	2019
7		Sunflower - Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse Post Malone	2,760,410,316	5,002,990	2018
8		<b>Heat Waves</b> Glass Animals	2,749,477,360	3,698,585	2020
9		<b>rockstar (feat. 21 Savage)</b> Post Malone	2,737,826,209	1,531,439	2017
10	6	Save Your Tears The Weeknd	2,719,723,970	4,354,621	2020

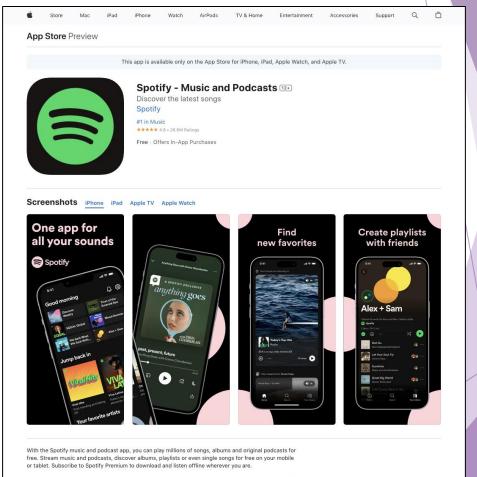
### Stages of innovation





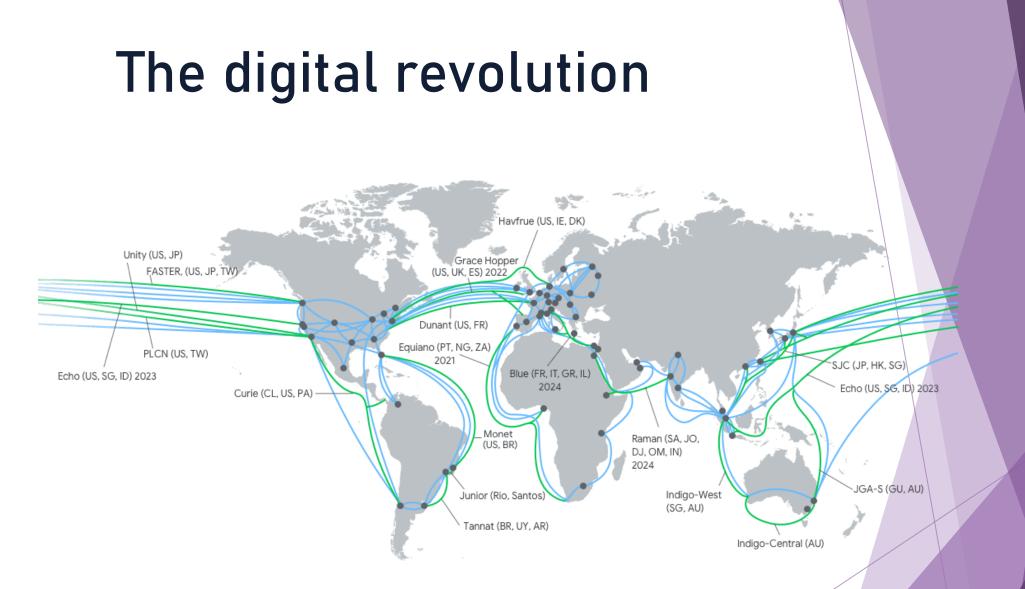
## The digital revolution





WHY SPOTIFY FOR MUSIC AND PODCASTS?

more



 Originally a peer-to-peer (P2P) system, Spotify now uses the Google Cloud Platform. The map shows 'Edge Points of Presence' – massive computer servers that deliver data quickly to users

## Basic stages of innovation

 <u>Discovery</u> – new ideas are created/discovered for potential use in a product, service, or process. Includes invention, selection (e.g. a technology to use)

## Discovery

- Spotify was founded in 2006 in Stockholm, Sweden, by Daniel Ek and Martin Lorentzon
- They wanted to create a <u>legal digital music platform</u> to respond to growing challenge of online music piracy in the early 2000s
- After a few months of work the application was completed in 2006, however, its launch was postponed due to negotiations with the record companies and the licensing, so it took two years to launch the application



like Napster, LimeWire, and The Pirate Bay were used by millions of people to (illegally) download music



 Music publishers (and bands such as Metallica) made themselves very unpopular by trying to shut down these sites and sue the people who ran them

## 'User-led innovation'

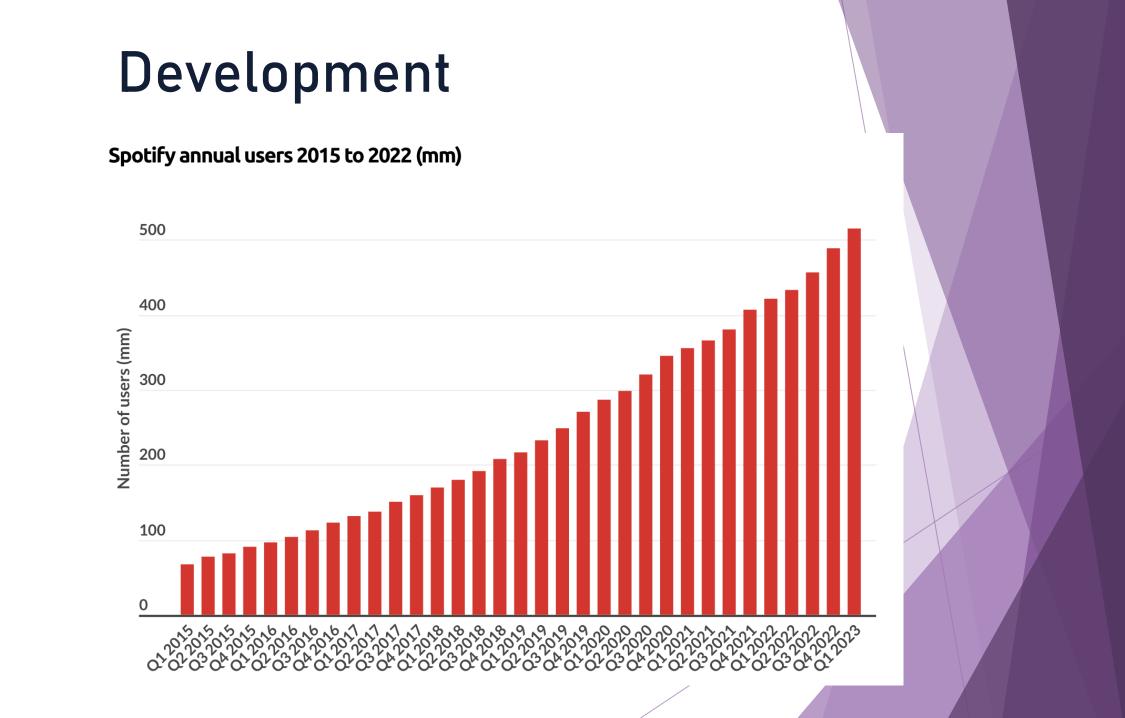
- But this also suggested a <u>huge unmet demand for</u> <u>easily accessible music</u>
- "I realised that you can never legislate away from piracy. The only way to solve the problem was to create a service that was better than piracy and at the same time compensates the music industry" – Daniel Ek

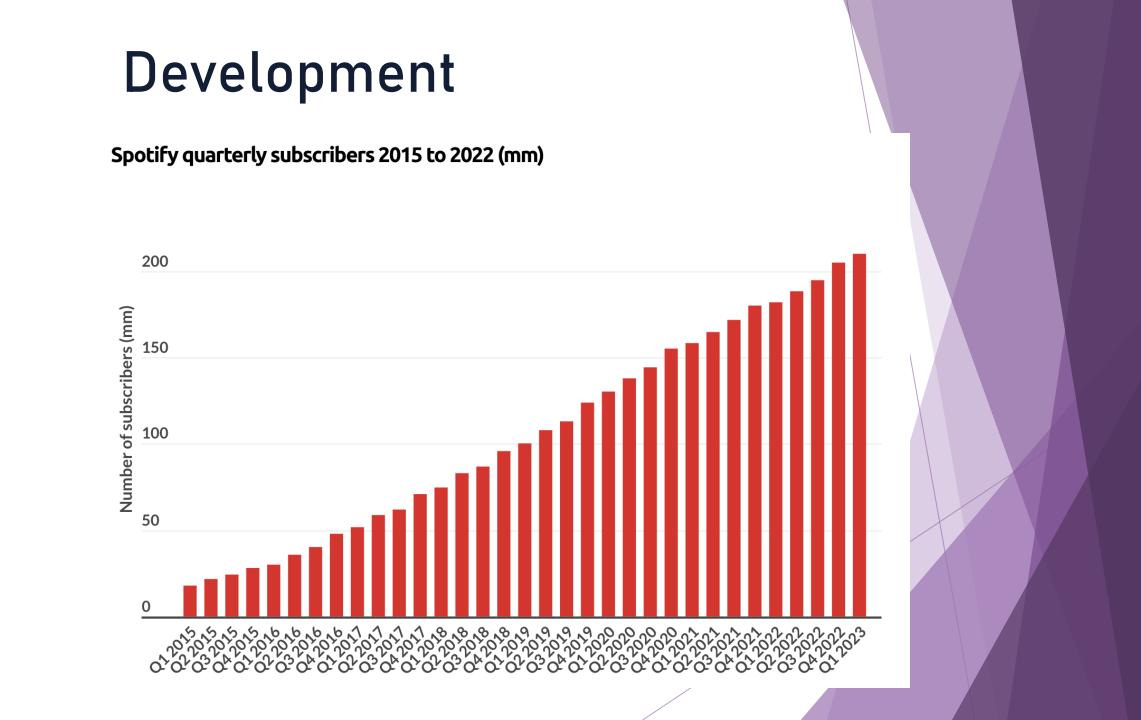
## Basic stages of innovation

 <u>Development</u> – a new idea or technology is developed into a usable innovation. Could include packaging a new technology with services, or configuring (choosing) which features of a core technology to use

## Development

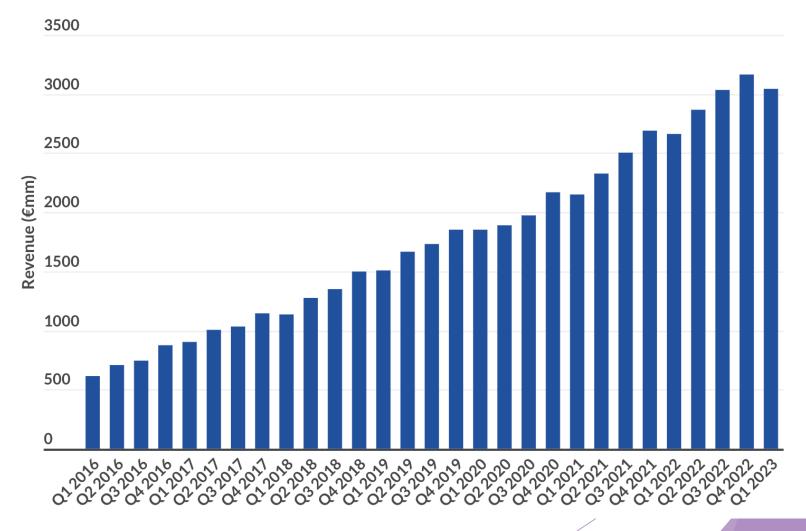
- Eventually convincing record labels to agree to share content in return for an aggregate 20 percent stake, <u>Spotify was launched in 2008</u>
- It was an instant success, with a Facebook partnership helping it rise rapidly to prominence
- Surviving the transition to mobile, Spotify went public in April 2018, with a market cap of \$26.5 billion after the first day of trading

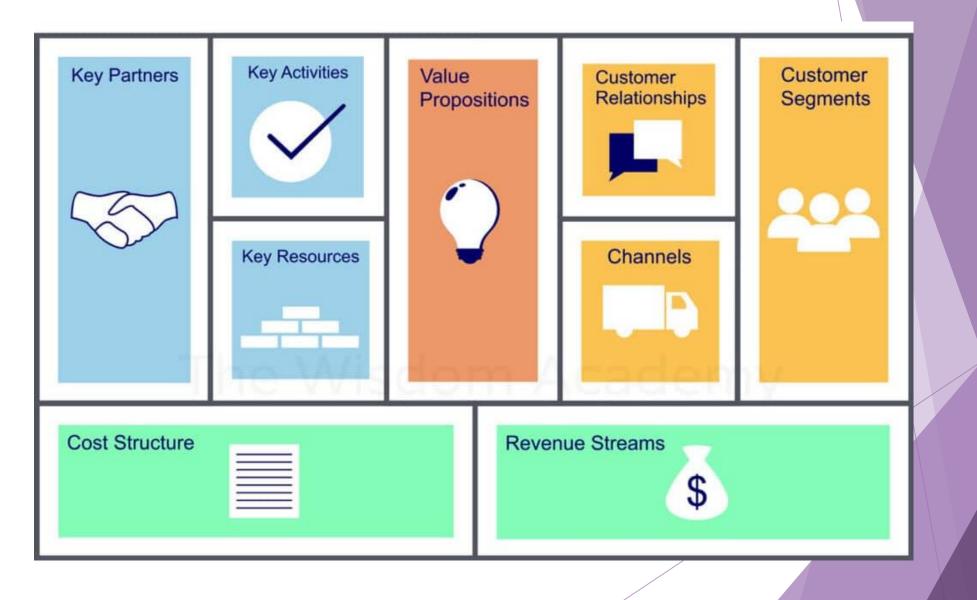


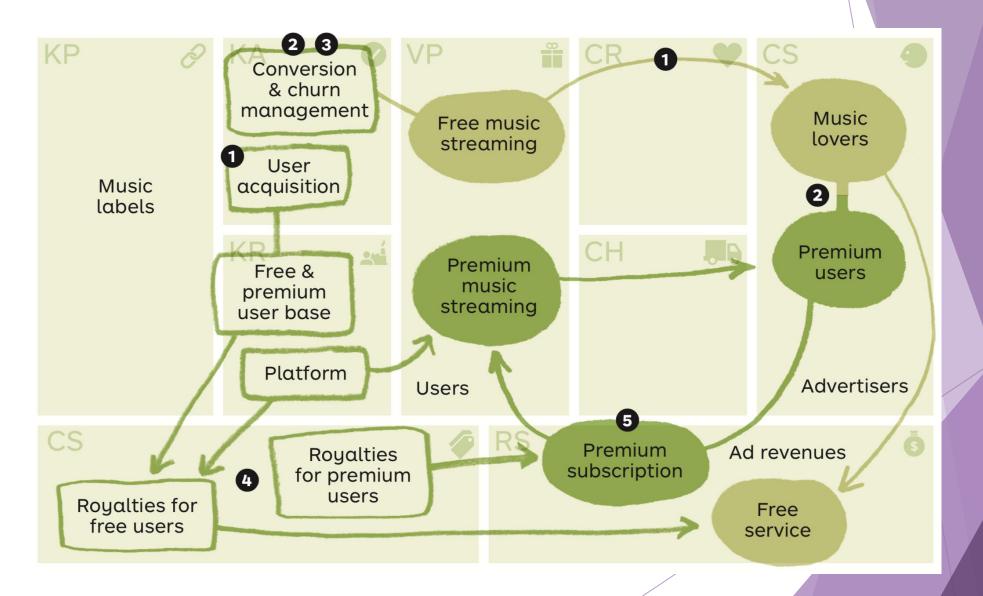


### Development

#### Spotify quarterly revenue 2016 to 2022 (\$mm)

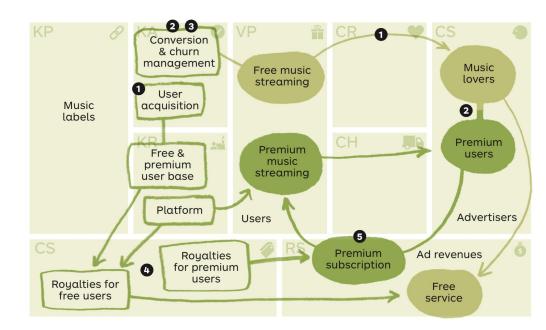








- Spotify is a subscription-based service for its Premium service
- <u>Recurring revenue subscriptions have become a major business model in digital services and beyond</u>



### 1. Attract a large base of users with a free service

Spotify's free music streaming service gives users access to a catalog of millions of songs. The free service has basic functionality and users have to listen to messages from advertisers that partially subsidize the free service. Originally it was available only for a limited time period.

### Users

### Spotify age demographics 2021 (%)

Age	Percentage of users
18-24	26
25-34	29
35-44	16
45-54	11
55+	19

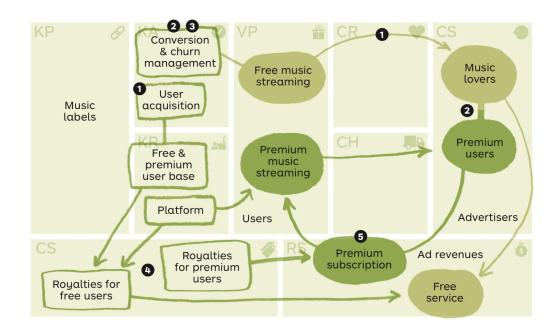
Note: Covers US age demographics. Source: Verto Analytics

### Users

### Spotify annual subscribers by region 2018 to 2021 (mm)

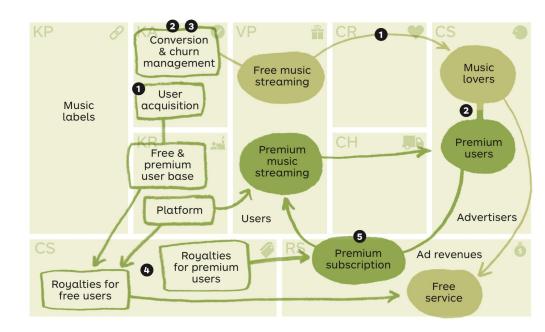
Year	Europe	North America	Latin America	Rest of World
2018	38	29	19	10
2019	50	37	25	12
2020	62	45	33	17
2021	72	52	36	20
2022	80	57	43	25

Source: Company data



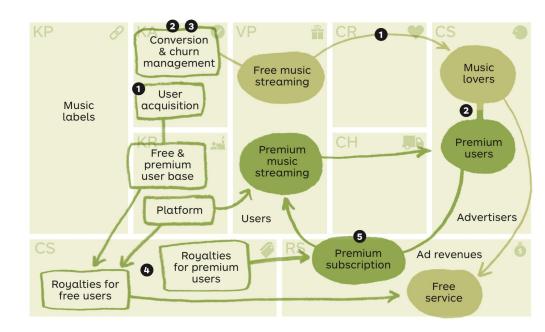
### 2. Convert free users to a premium value proposition

Spotify has been extremely successful at converting free users to paid users. Its premium service has additional features (e.g. downloads) and it removes advertising. In 2018, <u>46% of Spotify's users are premium</u> users, who generate 90% of its total revenues



### 3. Manage retention and 'churn'

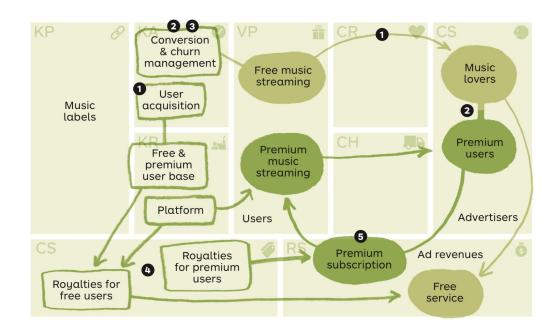
Like in any subscription model a user's lifetime value (LTV) – how much Spotify can earn from a user over time – increases the longer the company can retain users. This is called managing customer churn. In the first half year of 2019, <u>Spotify's premium subscriber churn rate fell</u> to a record low of 4.6%.



### 4. Balance cost of free and premium

Spotify pays record labels close to 52% of the revenue generated by each stream. Over 85% of music streamed from Spotify belongs to four record labels: Sony, Universal, Warner, and Merlin. In 2018, Spotify pays €3.5 billion in royalties for premium users and €0.5 billion for free users, which equates to 74% of overall costs.

# **Business Model Canvas**



### 5. Finance it all with your revenue stream from premium

The particularity of the freemium model is that you need to be able to cover the costs of free and paying users. Spotify's user base grows to over 248 million users in 2019 for which it needs to pay royalties. Of those users, 54% consume music for free.

# Inconsistent profitability

### **Financial Summary**

USER, FINANCIAL & LIQUIDITY SUMMARY	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Y/\
USERS (M)						
Total Monthly Active Users ("MAUs")	422	433	456	489	515	229
Premium Subscribers	182	188	195	205	210	15
Ad-Supported MAUs	252	256	273	295	317	26
FINANCIALS (€M)						
Premium	2,379	2,504	2,651	2,717	2,713	14
Ad-Supported	<u>282</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>385</u>	449	<u>329</u>	17
Total Revenue	2,661	2,864	3,036	3,166	3,042	14
Gross Profit	671	704	750	801	766	14
Gross Margin	25.2%	24.6%	24.7%	25.3%	25.2%	-
Operating (Loss)/Income	(6)	(194)	(228)	(231)	(156)	-
Operating Margin	(0.2%)	(6.8%)	(7.5%)	(7.3%)	(5.1%)	
FREE CASH FLOW & LIQUIDITY (€M, unless otherwise denoted)						
Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	37	39	40	(70)	59	
Free Cash Flow <sup>1</sup>	22	37	35	(73)	57	
Cash & Cash Equivalents, Restricted Cash & Short Term Investments (€B)	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.5	

Spotify

1 Free Cash Flow is a non-IFRS measure. See "Use of Non-IFRS Measures" and "Reconciliation of IFRS to Non-IFRS Results" for additional information.

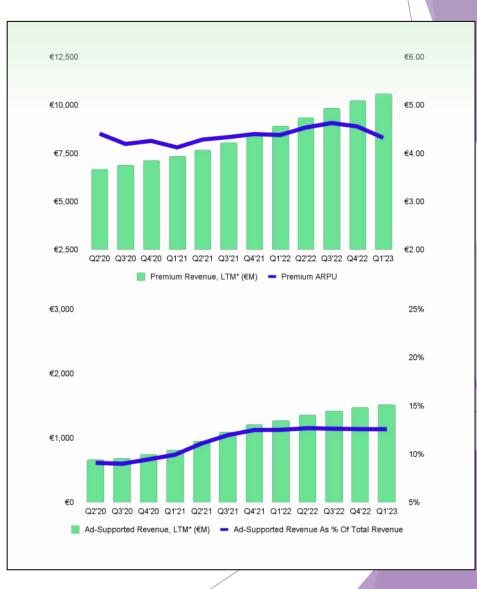
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- Spotify generated €11.72 billion revenue in 2022, a 21% increase year-onyear
- Spotify made its first operating profit in 2019, but <u>it has never made a net</u> profit. In 2022, it posted a €236 million loss

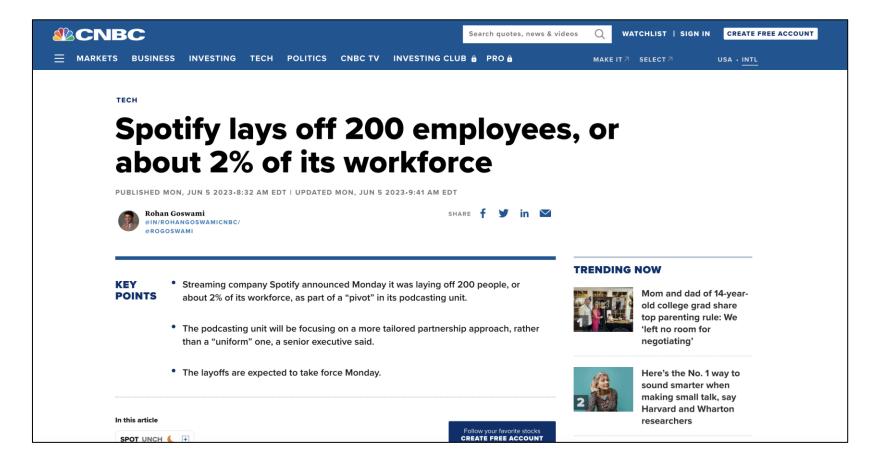
# Inconsistent profitability

• Average revenue per user (ARPU) is flat or declining

 Advertising revenue is basically flat



# Future growth?



Spotify has spent heavily to expand its podcast unit in the last three years. Since 2020, Spotify spent \$526 million on four different acquisitions in the podcast space, and contracted many podcasters and celebrities

# Intellectual property and assets

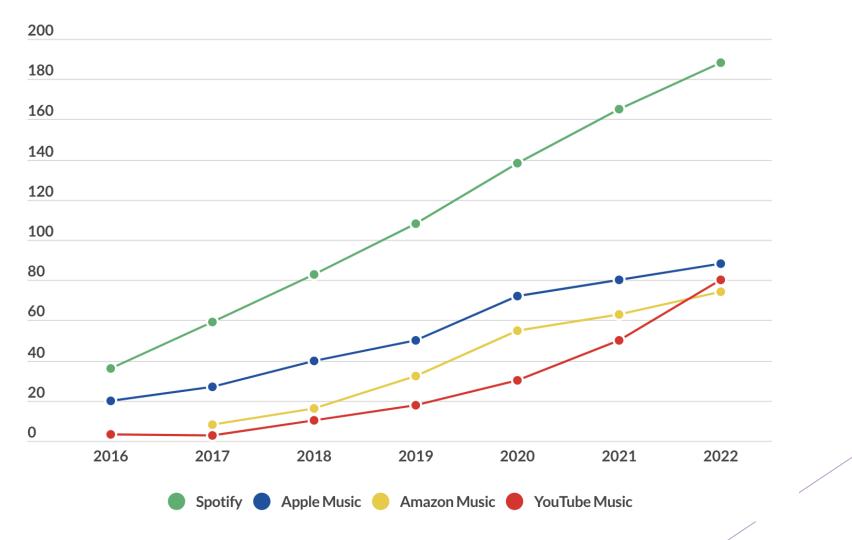
- Brand
- Technology platform
- Customer data and analytics (44% of users listen to Spotify on a daily basis)
- (Has more recently developed its own podcasts)

# Basic stages of innovation

 <u>Diffusion</u> – an innovation spreads across a population of potential users. Includes how an innovation is deployed, and how it is assimilated by users

# Competitors

### Spotify vs Apple Music: users



# **Competitive advantages**

- Vast and constantly growing music library (60,000 songs added every day!)
- Available in very large number of countries
- Usability and user interface
- Reliability
- User data (Discover and Daily Mix recommendations)
- Saved playlists
- Continued innovation (new features etc)...

### **Continued innovation**

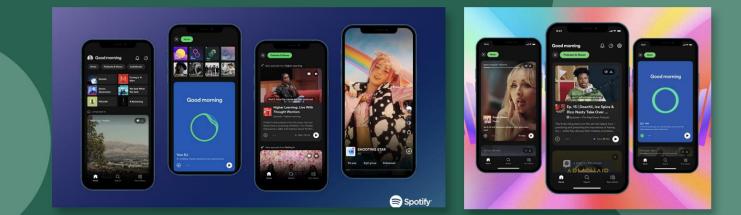
### **AI DJ Launch**



During the quarter, we launched a beta version of AI DJ to users in North America to allow for deeper discovery and personalization. AI DJ combines the power of our personalization technology with cutting-edge generative AI and a realistic AI voice enabled by technology from our previous acquisition of Sonantic. The DJ currently attracts millions of active users each week, representing more than 25% of user consumption on days when they listen to the DJ.

### **Continued innovation**

### **Redesigned Spotify User Experience**



At Stream On, we announced one of the biggest changes to our user experience. With this new design, we're giving fans an even more active role in the audio discovery process and giving creators even more space to share their work. Powered by advanced recommendations, new visual canvases and a completely new and interactive design, we're making discovering new audio easier than ever before, helping introduce users to their next favorite artist, podcast or book.

Spotify

### **Continued innovation**

### Podcasting



Announced a multiyear exclusive video partnership with **Markiplier** for Distractible and Go! My Favorite Sports Team.



Brought British journalist Louis Theroux to the platform with the announcement of his new Spotify original podcast, the *Louis Theroux Podcast.* 

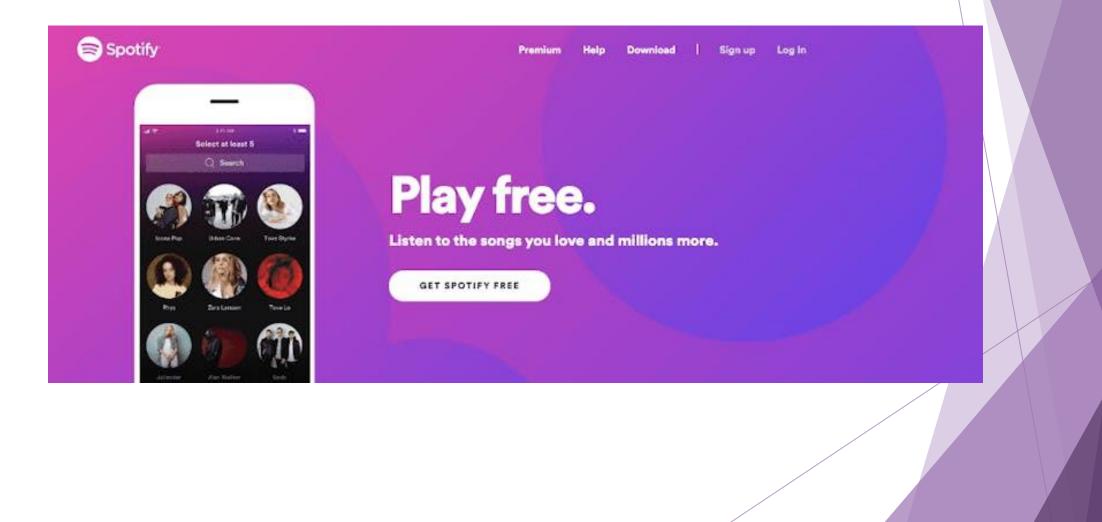
### n p r Immediate Media<sup>co</sup>

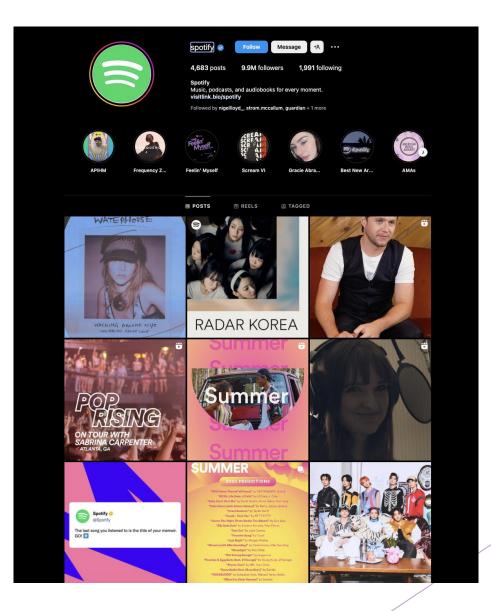
Two new publishers join the Spotify Audience Network: **NPR** & **Immediate Media.** 



Revealed that **Forbidden Fruits** with Julia Fox and Niki Takesh will return for a Season 2 and the new episodes will be released as an all-video podcast.

Spotify

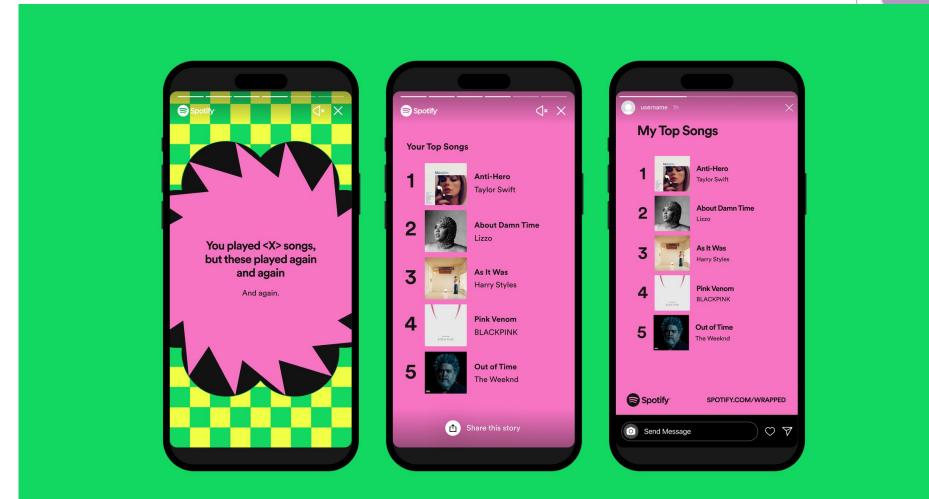




Important <u>social experience</u> elements:

- Can follow other users
- Create, edit, and share playlists







**The Early Adopter** Exploration Newness Variety Commonality



The Nomad Exploration Newness Loyalty Uniqueness



The Specialist Familiarity

Newness Variety Uniqueness



The Enthusiast

Familiarity Newness Loyalty Commonality



(+ FTVU+)

(+FNVC+)

(+ ETLC +)

The Connoisseur Familiarity Timelessness Loyalty Commonality

#### The Deep Diver Familiarity Timelessness Variety Uniqueness

#### The Fanclubber Familiarity Newness Variety Commonality

**The Top Charter** Exploration Timelessness Loyalty Commonality



+ FTVC+

+ ENLC+

(+ FNLU+)

The Replayer Familiarity Timelessness Loyalty Uniqueness



Timelessness Commonality



The Devotee Familiarity Newness Loyalty Uniqueness



Exploration Timelessness Loyalty Uniqueness

#### The Time Traveler Exploration

Variety



#### The Musicologist

Exploration Timelessness Variety Commonality

#### The Adventurer



+ ETVC+

+ ETLU +

+ ETVU+











# **Basic stages of innovation**

 <u>Impact</u> – the effects of individuals, businesses, organizations, or society, which could even be transformational

## **Creative destruction**

- <u>Music industry resisted the digital revolution for too</u> <u>long</u> – this allowed other platforms (Napster etc, then Apple iTunes, then Spotify etc), to 'own' digital music distribution
- Example of the <u>'Innovator's Dilemma'</u>: there might be logical reasons why a business or industry resists innovation, even though it leads to their creative destruction (or loss of revenue and influence)



# Creative destruction

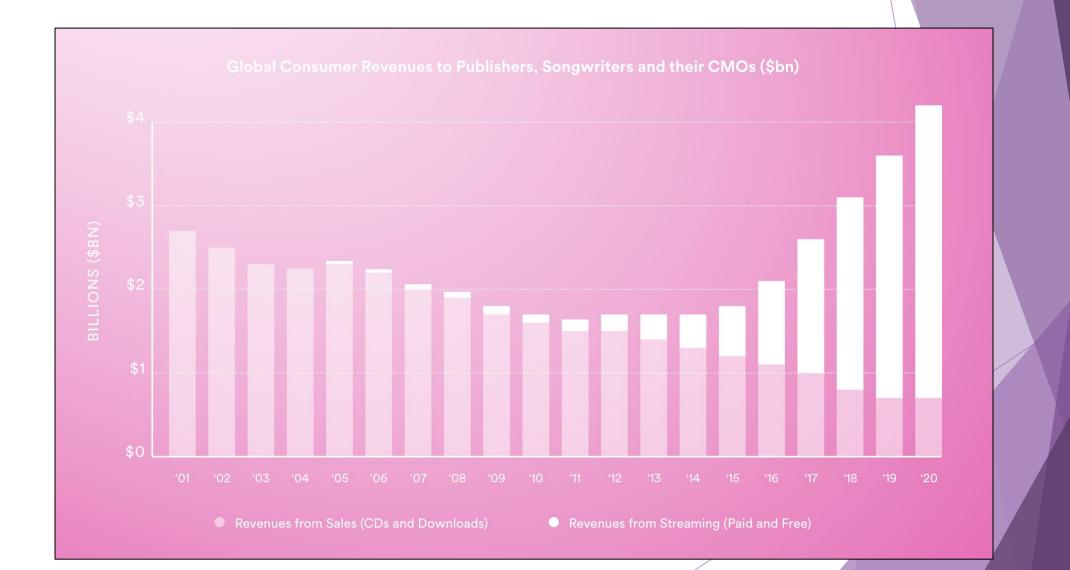








### **Creative destruction**



# **Creative accumulation**

- Streaming services like Spotify now have a <u>very</u> powerful position in the music industry
- Could anyone else now launch a successful streaming music service? (there have been some unsuccessful attempts)
- Example of the <u>power of platforms</u> ('platform capitalism') brought about by digital technologies

# Socially useful innovation?

- Spotify has paid nearly \$40 billion to artists etc since it started
- Massively widened access to music
- Increased discoverability of new artists and music
- Probably significantly reduced music piracy

- Spotify pays approximately \$0.04 per 10 streams
- So, 1,000 streams would be around \$4, and 100,000 streams would be \$400
- This result may be lower based on certain factors such as if only half of a song was listened to
- So, even 300,000 streams per month = \$1,200 a month (\$14,400 a year) – which is only just above the U.S. minimum wage (\$1,160 a month) – before tax etc

And it <u>could be even less than this</u>:

- These royalty payments are directly paid to the artist who created the song
- In some cases, the songwriter gets the payment, but a portion of the payment does go to the publisher if the songwriter hired someone to publish their song
- (The payment is actually based not on number of streams, but on the artist's share of all of the streams on Spotify in a year)











Spotify royalties are powering artists' careers at all stages. In 2022, 57,000 artists generated \$10,000+ (up from 23,400 in 2017). And 1,060 artists generated \$1 million+ (up from 460 in 2017).

These figures represent revenue generated from Spotify alone. When taking into account earnings from other services and recorded revenue streams, these artists likely generated 4x this revenue from recorded music sources overall, plus additional revenue from concert tickets and merch.

The number of artists generating \$1M+, as well as those generating \$10,000+, has more than doubled over the past five years

 There are 200,000 'professional or professionally aspiring artists' on Spotify – so <u>only a quarter of them earn even \$10,000 or more a year</u>

Nearly 35% of the artists who generated more than \$10,000 on Spotify live in countries outside the top ten music markets

35%

Streaming has fundamentally changed the music ecosystem lowering barriers to entry and democratizing access to music for listeners everywhere. Artists no longer need big budgets to create, distribute, and amplify their music around the world.

Spotify is now available in 184 markets, helping these artists reach new fans. Of the 57,000 artists who generated more than \$10,000 on Spotify in 2022, nearly 20,000 live in countries outside the IFPI's top ten music markets (Australia, Canada, China, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, the U.K., and the U.S.).

 ...and a quarter of artists who generated over \$10,000/year self-distribute (i.e. distribute their music without a typical industry publisher or label)







 Artists now rely much more on touring (concerts), selling merchandise, and sponsorship deals



 Technology has always shaped music – the short, snappy songs in the rock'n'roll era were designed for radio stations to keep audiences listening.



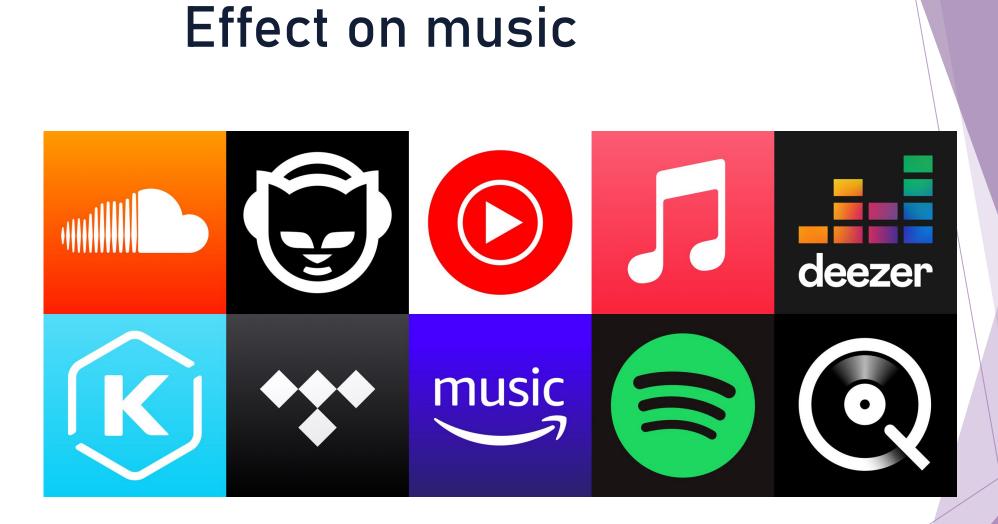
 'Long play' vinyl records allowed musicians to experiment with (sometimes much) longer 'concept' albums – or even double albums.



 MTV (Music Television), a cable channel, was launched in 1981. It showed music videos 24 hours a day – meaning it needed a lot of content!



 CDs (compact discs) allowed for higher quality audio listening – and production.



 Now, the virtually unlimited choice on streaming services means that artists tend to include the 'hook' (chorus) very early on, and produce shorter songs, because they get paid for the first 30 seconds of the song. Thank you! any questions?