

1991

The German research organisation The Fraunhofer Institute invents the MP3 file compression format



1998

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) is passed in the USA providing harsher punishments for people file-sharing

2000

File-sharing services KaZaA and Gnutella launch

2001

The first wave of legal subscription services is unveiled including Rhapsody, Pressplay and MusicNet

Apple launches the iPod – the first model is capable of storing 5GB of music (about 1,000 songs)



Mobile music recognition service Shazam launches

2004

First Official UK Download chart announced - Westlife are the first digital number 1 with *Flying Without Wings*



Average of 250,000 downloads sold each week in UK; digital single sales surpass physical format sales



Download store MyCokeMusic comes to the UK and kicks off the legal download market with other pioneering services such as Wipit, Streets Online, O2 and 7Digital

Social networking site MySpace debuts and music is quickly established as a core feature



iTunes Music Store comes to UK with an offer of around 1m songs to download

Napster comes to UK offering music on-demand streaming as well as a-la-carte downloads

2006

Microsoft launches portable media player Zune in US



eMusic announces global sales of 100 million tracks

Metallica's catalogue goes on sale at iTunes

The one billionth track is sold (globally) on iTunes

Gnarls Barkley's *Crazy* becomes the first single to top the UK Singles Chart on download sales alone.

The Official Charts Company begin to track digital album sales in the UK in April; more than 2.8m are sold by the year end

More than 52.5m single tracks are sold in the UK, twice the 2005 total



Weekly digital album sales pass the 100,000 threshold for the first time in the last week of the year

Digital makes up 78% of all single tracks sold in the UK



2008

MySpace Music launches in USA



Launch of iPhone 3G and App Store; 1 million iPhones sold in opening weekend



Amazon MP3 download store launches in UK

7Digital becomes first store in Europe to get content from all four majors stripped of DRM

Majors license DRM-free music to a variety of digital services

Apple announces 6 billion tracks sales through iTunes and 300 million apps



20% of all radios sold in UK are now DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting)

Apple announces 174 million iPods sold to date; it has 65 million iTunes customer accounts

Music streaming service Spotify launches in beta



Radiohead's catalogue goes on sale at iTunes

Weekly sales of single track downloads average more than 2 million in UK across the year

The UK singles market is now almost all digital – accounting for 95% of sales

For albums, digital share moves up to 8%. Record company income from streaming services tops £10m for the year



2010

In July, total track sales pass 500 million. By September the 50 million sales threshold was reached for digital albums

According to research from Harris Interactive, 76% of all music tracks obtained online during 2010 were downloaded legally (1.2bn)

Digital propels the singles market to a second successive record sales total (162m in 2010). Digital's share of industry revenues increases to 27.4%

The first track to pass 1m downloads is Black Eyed Peas' *I Gotta Feeling*

Kings Of Leon's *Only By The Night* is first album to sell over 250,000 copies digitally

5 million digital tracks sold for the first time in one week in the

2012

Singles sales reach a record total (189m) for a fifth year in a row



More than 30m albums sold digitally

3.7bn tracks streamed in 2012 according to the Official Charts Company – equivalent to more than 140 streams per household

Digital accounts for more than half of industry income for the first time in Q1; by the end of the year it accounts for 45.5% of industry turnover

Streaming from subscription and ad-supported services now accounts for 17% of digital income

Downloads account for almost one in three albums sold in 2012



Digital album all-time sales break the 100m barrier in the UK in August



Psy's *Gangnam Style* becomes the most-viewed video in YouTube's history, hitting 1 billion watches

20% of digital revenues around the world estimated to come from streaming

27.7% of Brits now purchase downloads or stream content legally

One fifth (19.6%) of music consumers in UK now only buy digitally, according to research from Kantar



The first 'Mastered for iTunes' albums go on sale, giving the consumer high definition audio quality

We7 is bought by Tesco for a reported £10.8m

Metallica licensing their catalogue to Spotify

First Official Streaming Chart launched in May – the inaugural number one is Carly Rae Jepsen's *Call Me Maybe*



Amazon and Google launch their own cloud services

Music streaming service Rdio launches in UK

Digital album all-time sales break the 100m barrier in the UK in August

2014

The Official Charts Company reveal that Robin Thicke's *Blurred Lines* is the top selling download of all time, with over 1.5m copies sold

Neil Young's Pono music player project raises over \$6m on Kickstarter, the third highest figure ever raised on the site

In May, Spotify announces it has 10m paying subscribers globally and 40m monthly active users

Apple announces that it is to buy Beats Music for the price of \$3bn

June marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of iTunes in the UK; Apple announces that it is to buy Beats Music for the price of \$3bn

The Official Charts Company announces the inclusion of streams in the weekly Official Singles Chart from the beginning of July – Ariana Grande's *Problem* tops the first chart to incorporate the data

Over 228m audio streams served in the UK every week. Arctic Monkeys announced as the most-streamed artist of all time; Bastille's *Pompeii* is the most-streamed track

Over 80 singles receive a new BPI award certification owing to the inclusion of streaming

In July, the music streaming service Rhapsody announces that it has 2m paying subscribers globally.

Meghan Trainor's *All About That Bass* becomes the first track to enter the Official Singles top 40 on streams alone.

On its release, Ed Sheeran's *X* becomes the most-played album in the UK ever on Spotify in a single week (over 6.2m streams)

In September, U2 give away their new album *Songs Of Innocence* to iTunes users globally. In the same month Apple discontinue production of their iconic iPod Classic

YouTube announces in October that over half videos on the platform are now coming from mobile devices

BPI announces that UK artists represent one in five (19%) of all tracks streamed globally on Spotify

Taylor Swift makes headlines in November by removing her catalogue from Spotify. In the same month the company announces that it now has more than 50m active users, with 12.5m of those subscribing

In the second week of November, YouTube's music streaming service Music Key launches in Beta

In December Mark Ronson's *Uptown Funk* becomes the first track to be streamed 2m times in one week

Streams on the paid and free tiers of audio services almost double in 2014, to 14.8b

Digital now accounts for over half of all music consumed in the UK

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1990

1997

Music sharing service MP3.com launches

First portable MP3 player launched by Saehan Information Systems.

1999

The first peer-to-peer file-sharing service Napster launches

2002

UK Streaming service Last.fm opens

UK Dance label Warp launches its Bleep download store

2003

iTunes Music Store opens for business in US with repertoire from all of the major record companies

Napster 2.0 debuts in the USA, legally offering a streaming service alongside an a la carte download offering

2005

Apple sells 500 million tracks through iTunes and 30 million iPods globally

HMV and Virgin Megastores both launch their own download services

Apple launches the iPod Shuffle, a smaller model and the first to use flash memory

iTunes sells three million video downloads

Weekly sales of single track downloads pass one million for the first time in the final week of the year

55% of singles sold in the UK are now on download

2007

iPhone launches; 270,000 are sold in first two days



Orange (in partnership with Musicwave) launch a full-track download service

iTunes offers Digital Rights Management (DRM)-free option allowing users to transfer music more easily across devices

Worldwide Napster subscribers stand at 830,000

Arrival of ad-funded streaming service We7

Shazam announce that they have 11 million unique users globally



In November Led Zeppelin's catalogue goes on sale at iTunes.



Chart rules changed to remove the need for a physical format to be released in order to be chart-eligible

40% of mobile phones in UK are music-enabled

Radiohead release their album *In Rainbows* as a pay-what-you-like download

5% of UK album sales now digital, for singles the share is 90%; digital makes up 8% of UK labels' income

500 million music phones and 200 million MP3 players shipped globally in 2007

2009

iTunes announces full transition to DRM-free and variable pricing

Apple launches new store features such as iTunes Pass and iTunes LP

Spotify officially launches in the UK; 7m users globally by the end of the year



UK launches include MySpace Music (audio streaming) and Muzu (video streaming)

The Beatles - Rock Band launches in September, with downloadable tracks for use in the game to follow

Several acquisitions take place, including iLike and Imeem (by MySpace), Lala (by Apple) and 7Digital (50% stake by HMV)

Digital accounts for 98% of singles sales in 2009 and 12.5% in the albums market

Digital claims over a fifth (20.3%) of industry revenues – one in eight albums sold is bought as a download



There are now 72 licensed digital music services in the UK, more than any other country



Apple announces that the 10 billionth song on iTunes has been downloaded



The Digital Economy Act is passed, which will help to protect copyright in the online environment

The entire Beatles catalogue arrives on iTunes in November

Spotify announces that it has 6.7m active users in Europe, with 1 million of them premium subscribers



Locker services launch from 7Digital and Carphone Warehouse

Shazam reaches 100m user mark – over 3m songs a day are tagged globally



2011

Digital's share of industry revenue exceeds a third (35.6%) for the first time



Subscription makes up 8.3% of digital income

Another record-breaking year for singles sold (177.9m) – digital accounted for 99.3% of total

A fifth of the population (20.0%) downloaded digital music legally in 2011

Retail spend on digital music in the UK passes £1bn since 2004



1m digital albums sold in one week for the first time, in the final week of the year.

Spotify announce they now have 10m users across 12 markets – over 3m are premium subscribers



Landmark 'app-albums' released by Bjork and Swedish House Mafia



Apple launches iTunes Match service

Deezer launches in the UK; partners with Orange offering bundled access



Vevo launches in UK in April (launched in US in 2009)

2013

In the first week of the year, digital accounts for 44% of album sales, the first time share has exceeded 40%



Spotify announce that they expect to pay \$500m to music rights holders in 2013

YouTube – 1 billion monthly viewers globally

The O2 Tracks service debuts in February, providing mobile users with access to the weekly top 40 singles for a fixed cost

In the same month, Daft Punk's *Get Lucky* becomes the first track to be streamed over 1m times in one week

Amazon announces the launch of its Autorip service in June, whereby customers purchasing a CD are instantly able to stream a digital version

In August, Google launches its Google Music Play All Access subscription streaming service in the UK

BBC's *Playlister* launches in October, allowing users to create playlists of tracks they hear on BBC radio stations

BPI releases new figures showing that digital accounts for almost half (49.4%) of all soundtrack album sales in the first nine months of the year, the highest percentage of any albums sector

In December, Led Zeppelin make their catalogue available on streaming services

For a fourth consecutive year over a million singles are downloaded on Christmas Day

Year-end figures show digital constituted half of industry revenue in 2013

Streaming breaks £100m barrier, accounting for 10% of the value of recorded music sales in the UK



7.4bn tracks streamed across audio services in 2013, up 100% on the 2012 total

Global revenues from subscription services up by 51% in 2013 according to IFPI

2015

Average weekly music streams reach 50 million in the UK in January

Deezer buys Muve, the bundled mobile service developed by Cricket in the US

Google Play is announced as the official download and music streaming partner for the 2015 BRIT Awards enabling viewers to download and stream the show's live performances.

In February Deezer rolls out its high definition Deezer Elite streaming service in 150 countries, initially only available through Sonos connected music hi-fi.

At the end of February streaming is included in the UK's Official Albums Chart for the first time with their first chart being published on March 1st

Spotify acquires 'music intelligence company' The Echo Nest to improve its recommendations

In March Scandinavian streaming service Tidal is taken over by a company owned by Jay-Z. The New York press conference received widespread media coverage as artists such as Madonna, Daft Punk, Deadmau5, Rihanna and Jack White appeared

In April IFPI announce that on a global basis revenues from digital music services (US\$6.9 billion) now match those from physical format sales for the first time

Spotify announce that Ed Sheeran tracks have been streamed more than 2 billion times on the service, only the second artist (after Eminem) to pass the milestone

In May, Groovespark announces it is to close. A homepage message apologises for failing to secure licenses from rights holders and urges users to use licensed services that compensate artists

Details of Apple Music are announced which will include subscription streaming, special radio stations and social features that allow artists to connect to fans. An Android app will be available later in the year.

June - Spotify announce that they now have 20 million paying subscribers and they have added around 1m new subscribers each month since December 2014

New Music Fridays launches on 10th July. Music fans will be able to download and stream new releases on the same day around the world

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