

Northwestern | SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

PERSONALIZED MUSIC RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

Project and Testing Plan

MSDSP 498 - Capstone

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Project Plan

Project Overview

The Personalized Music Recommendation System aims to enhance user experience by offering tailored music suggestions using Spotify data. Combining collaborative filtering, content-based filtering, matrix factorization, and neural network techniques, the system delivers personalized recommendations and addresses cold-start issues for new users. Key features include playlist generation, sentiment-based filtering, and AI-driven conversational recommendations.

Project Objectives

1. **Personalized Song Recommendations:** Provide tailored song suggestions based on users' last 50 listened songs.
2. **Cold-Start Recommendations:** Recommend songs for new users without historical interaction data by leveraging genre and artist preferences.
3. **Playlist Generation:** Generate playlists of 50 songs based on user's preferred genres or artists.
4. **Single Song Recommendations:** Suggest the top 5 similar songs based on a single song input.
5. **Sentiment Filter:** Incorporate sentiment analysis to refine recommendations.
6. **User Engagement Features:** Add functionalities like like/dislike and add-to-playlist options.
7. **Trending Now Feature:** Leverage Spotify's trending music data for recommendations.
8. **AI Search/ChatBot:** Implement interactive search or chatbot features for enhanced user interaction.
9. **Geography-based Recommendations:** Tailor recommendations based on locale, language, geography, and time (optional).

Phases of Implementation

Phase 1: Research and Planning

- **Tasks:**
 - Collect user interaction data using Spotify REST API.

- Source and preprocess the Spotify 1 Million Songs dataset from Kaggle.
- Conduct feasibility analysis for selected ML/DL algorithms.
- **Deliverables:**
 - Dataset ready for training and testing.
 - Requirements document and technical feasibility report.

Phase 2: Development

- **Tasks:**
 - Implement and evaluate models: KNN, Matrix Factorization, Neural Collaborative Filtering, and LightFM.
 - Develop the recommendation engine backend.
 - Build the frontend web application interface.
- **Deliverables:**
 - Functional backend with tested recommendation algorithms.
 - User interface with core features.

Phase 3: Deployment

- **Tasks:**
 - Deploy the application on a cloud platform (e.g., AWS or Azure).
 - Set up APIs for integration with the Spotify service.
- **Deliverables:**
 - Fully operational web application.
 - Scalable and reliable cloud infrastructure.

Phase 4: Evaluation and Refinement

- **Tasks:**
 - Conduct user acceptance testing (UAT) and gather feedback.
 - Optimize models and application performance based on test results.
- **Deliverables:**
 - Optimized and validated recommendation system.
 - Final project report with evaluation metrics.

Testing Plan

Testing Approach

The testing process will validate the system's accuracy, scalability, and user experience. Tests are divided into the following categories:

1. Unit Testing

- **Objective:** Validate individual components for correctness.
- **Scope:**
 - Test data ingestion modules to ensure they correctly process Spotify data.
 - Validate the implementation of algorithms (e.g., KNN, LightFM) with test datasets.
 - Confirm model output consistency under various input conditions.
- **Tools:** Pytest, Unittest (Python).
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** A sample dataset with 10 songs and known interactions.
 - **Expected Output:** Correct user-item similarity scores.

2. Functional Testing

- **Objective:** Validate individual components and features for correctness.
- **Scope:**
 - Test the accuracy of recommendations for various user profiles.
 - Validate the cold-start solution for new users.
 - Confirm the behavior of the sentiment filter and AI chatbot.
 - Test features like "Trending Now" and engagement functionalities (likes, dislikes, add-to-playlist).
- **Tools:** Pytest, Unittest.
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** User with 50 song interaction records.
 - **Expected Output:** Personalized recommendations based on the last 50 songs.
 - **Test Input:** New user selects a preferred genre (e.g., "Pop").

- **Expected Output:** Recommendations for songs within the selected genre.
- **Test Input:** User selects a “happy” sentiment filter.
- **Expected Output:** Recommended songs with high valence scores.
- **Test Input:** User interacts with the “Trending Now” feature.
- **Expected Output:** Display of trending songs dynamically updated based on Spotify data.

3. Integration Testing

- **Objective:** Ensure seamless interaction between components.
- **Scope:**
 - Verify that the backend communicates correctly with the frontend.
 - Test the integration of Spotify API data into the system.
- **Tools:** Postman, Selenium.
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** User searches for a song.
 - **Expected Output:** Backend returns accurate recommendations to the frontend.

4. Usability Testing

- **Objective:** Ensure the system is user-friendly and intuitive.
- **Scope:**
 - Gather user feedback on the interface and features.
 - Test the chatbot’s conversational flow for natural and engaging interactions.
 - Validate the ease of navigation for generating playlists or accessing recommendations.
- **Tools:** UsabilityHub, Surveys.
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** Users are asked to generate a playlist by selecting their favorite genre and interact with the chatbot to discover songs.
 - **Expected Output:** Users successfully create playlists without confusion, find the interface easy to navigate, and rate the chatbot experience as intuitive.

5. System Testing

- **Objective:** Validate the complete system against requirements.
- **Scope:**
 - Assess performance, scalability, and functionality.
 - Validate workflows like playlist generation and single-song recommendations.
- **Tools:** JMeter, Locust (for load testing).
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** 1,000 concurrent users accessing the application.
 - **Expected Output:** Stable performance with response times under 2 seconds.

6. Performance Testing

- **Objective:** Assess the system's ability to handle load and scale efficiently.
- **Scope:**
 - Load Testing: Simulate high user traffic to test system performance.
 - Stress Testing: Push the system to its limits to identify breaking points.
 - Latency Testing: Measure response times for recommendation generation.
- **Tools:** JMeter, Locust.
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** Simulate 5,000 concurrent users generating playlists and accessing recommendations.
 - **Expected Output:** Response times remain under 2 seconds, and the system handles the load without crashing or significant delays.

7. Security Testing

- **Objective:** Identify and resolve security vulnerabilities.
- **Scope:**
 - Validate secure handling of user data and API calls.
 - Test for vulnerabilities like SQL injection and unauthorized access.
- **Tools:** OWASP ZAP, Browser Console.
- **Example Test Case:**

- **Test Input:** Attempt to access user data by simulating SQL injection attacks on the login page.
- **Expected Output:** The system rejects malicious queries, protects user data, and logs the attempt for security analysis.

8. User Acceptance Testing (UAT)

- **Objective:** Ensure the system meets user needs and expectations.
- **Scope:**
 - Deploy the system to a small group of beta testers for real-world evaluation.
 - Collect feedback on recommendation accuracy, usability, and satisfaction.
- **Tools:** Surveys, Usability testing tools.
- **Example Test Case:**
 - **Test Input:** Users interact with the chatbot to discover music.
 - **Expected Output:** Positive feedback on usability and relevance of recommendations.

Test Scenarios and Cases

Scenario	Description	Test Case	Input	Expected Output
Personalized Song Recommendations	Validate recommendations based on the last 50 songs listened to.	Recommendations tailored to user's recent listening history.	User with 50 interaction records.	Songs matching user preferences.
Search Song/Artist	Validate song and artist search is working.	Find song/artist based on user input.	Input contains Song/Artist name.	Find Song/Artist track details.
Cold-Start Recommendations	Provide recommendations for new users.	Genre-based recommendations for new users.	New user with no interaction data.	Recommendations based on preferred genres.
Find Similar Song	Provide similar recommendation to user based on single song selection.	Top 5 Similar song recommendation.	Song Name.	Top 5 Similar Songs using KNN.

Sentiment-Based Filtering	Filter recommendations based on mood.	Tracks filtered by selected mood (e.g., “happy”).	User selects “happy” mood.	Songs with positive sentiment.
Scalability	Assess performance under high load.	Application’s stability under concurrent users.	5,000 concurrent users.	Stable performance without crashes.
Trending Now Feature	Display trending songs dynamically.	Generate and display trending song lists.	Real-time Spotify data.	Updated trending songs list.
AI Chat Bot	Songs results based on the user query	Search the database and recommend songs/generate playlists.	User query in text format	Relevant search results.

Evaluation and Metrics

Accuracy Metrics

- **Precision:** Measures the proportion of recommended songs that are relevant.
- **Recall:** Assesses the proportion of relevant songs successfully recommended.
- **F1-Score:** Balances precision and recall to provide an overall accuracy measure.

Performance Metrics

- **Latency:** Measure response times under different loads.
- **Throughput:** Tracks the number of recommendations generated per second.

User Experience Metrics

- **User Satisfaction:** Collected via surveys and feedback forms.
- **Engagement Rate:** Tracks user interactions with recommendations (e.g., clicks, likes, playlist additions).

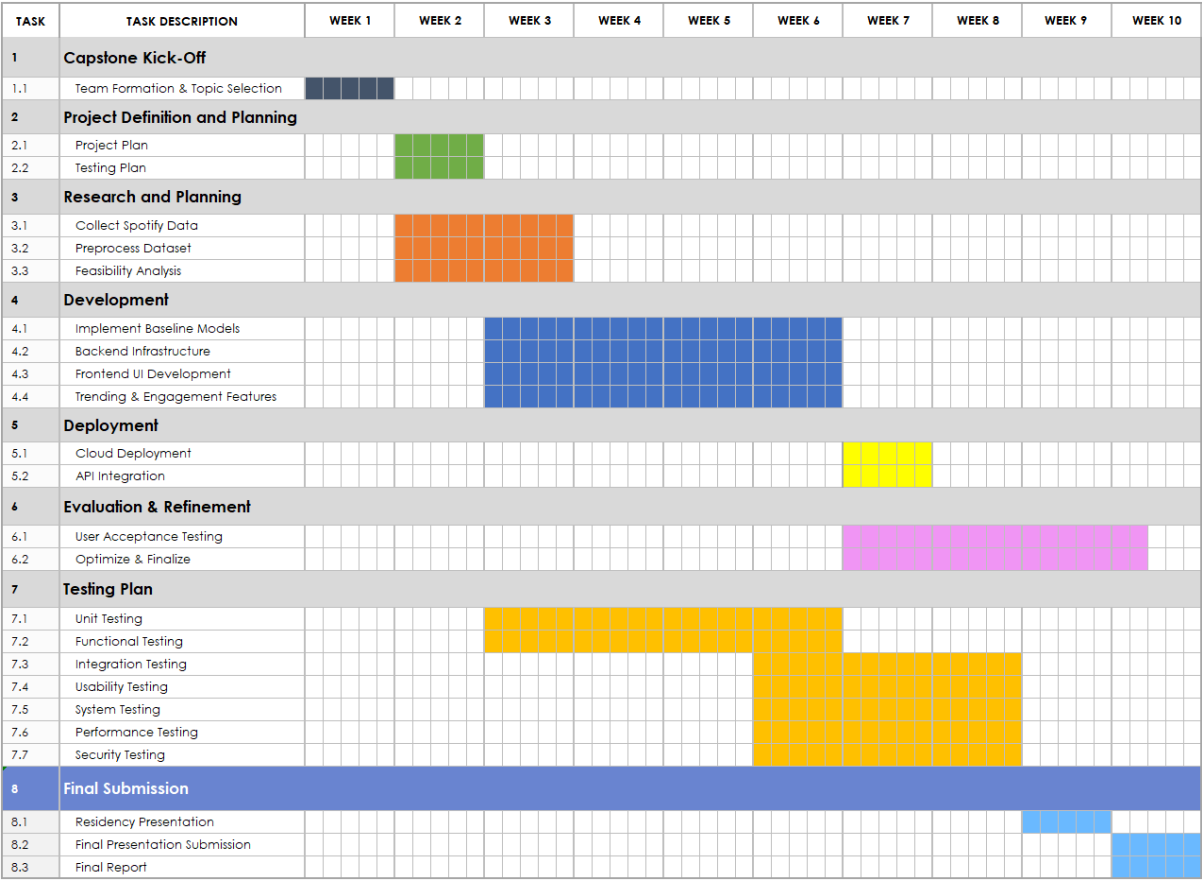
Scalability Metrics

- **Load Handling:** Assesses system performance with increasing concurrent users.
- **Resource Utilization:** Monitors CPU, memory, and network usage.

Test Reports

- Daily status reports during testing phases.
- Test execution summary with inputs, outputs, and issue logs.

Project and Testing Timelines



Sample Data Schema

User Interaction Data

Column	Type	Description
UserID	String	Unique identifier for the user.
SongID	String	Unique identifier for the song.
Timestamp	Timestamp	Time of interaction.
Song Audio Features	String	Audio Features.

Song Metadata

Column	Type	Description
SongID	String	Unique identifier for the song.
Title	String	Title of the song.
Artist	String	Artist of the song.
Genre	String	Genre of the song.

Sentiment	String	Sentiment label (happy, sad, etc.).
Popularity	Integer	Track popularity (0 to 100).
Year	Integer	Year released (2000 to 2023).
Danceability	Float	Track suitability for dancing (0.0 to 1.0).
Energy	Float	Intensity and activity (0.0 to 1.0).
Key	Integer	Musical key (-1 to -11).
Loudness	Float	Loudness in decibels (-60 to 0 dB).
Mode	Integer	Major ('1') or Minor ('0').
Speechiness	Float	Presence of spoken words (0.0 to 1.0).
Acousticness	Float	Acoustic confidence (0.0 to 1.0).
Instrumentalness	Float	Instrumental content (0.0 to 1.0).
Liveness	Float	Audience presence (0.0 to 1.0).
Valence	Float	Musical positiveness (0.0 to 1.0).
Tempo	Float	Tempo in beats per minute (BPM).
Time_signature	Integer	Estimated time signature (3 to 7).
Duration_ms	Integer	Duration of track in milliseconds.

Tools and Frameworks

Development Tools

- **Python Libraries:** Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, LightFM.
- **Web Framework:** Flask/Django for backend, React/Angular for frontend.

Testing Tools

- **Unit Testing:** Pytest, unittest.
- **Integration Testing:** Postman, Selenium.
- **Performance Testing:** JMeter, Locust.
- **Usability Testing:** UsabilityHub, Surveys.
- **Security Testing:** OWASP ZAP, Burp Suite.

By following this detailed project and testing plan, we aim to deliver a reliable, scalable, and user-friendly recommendation system that redefines music discovery.