COS 216: Netcentric Computer Systems

Practical Assignment 3 – API documentation

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- **Info type**

The parameters for request with the info type follow the following format:

type=info&title=<page title>&return[]=*

where:

<page title> is the title of the page to return all of the song data for. The title can take on one of the following values: trending, newReleases, topRated, featured, calendar. The trending and calendar pages use the same songs. The trending page shows all of the song information whereas the calendar page just shows the song's artist and title on the release date in the calendar. As a result of this – using title=trending or title=calendar both return the same data when used in a request.

return[]=* is used to state that all of the songs' data for that page should be returned.

The relevant external API is used to source the song data and return it to the page to be used. Spotify is used for the Trending and Calendar pages while Deezer is used for the New Releases and Featured pages. When extracting the song data from the external API, if the song is not in the database table already, then the relevant data is extracted for that song and inserted into the table.

Utilising the data that is already in the database optimises the retrieval of the data needed for a page and reduces the time it takes for a response to be returned. As a result of this – load times on the client side are lower, making for a better user experience.