Chris Schutte 0:01
Thank you again for letting me record and just for continuity sake, can you state one more time that you're okay with me recording this interview.

B. 0:07
Yes, I am okay with you recording this interview,

Chris Schutte 0:14
a little closer and then, there we go. Okay,

B. 0:17
Do I need to say it again?

Chris Schutte 0:20
No, I got it. Awesome. Okay. And lastly, before we begin, I just want you to know that in addition to your data being made anonymous. You can choose to skip any question that you want, anytime during the interview. You can retract your consent to record and I'm required to delete the recording and prove that it's deleted. With all that being said, Are you ready to continue.

B. 0:39
Yes.

Chris Schutte 0:41
Alright. Music platforms is the first kind of category, we're going to go over. So starting off how long, on average, would you say you listen to music, a day?

B. 0:55
On average. Maybe max: an hour to two hours.

1-2 Hours (schedule dependent)

Chris Schutte 1:03
Okay

B. 1:03
I'll typically listen to it on my bus ride to school and then kind of while I'm working but I'm, you know, kind of depends what my schedule looks like. For how much music I actually end up listening to per day.

Listen on Bus/Working

Chris Schutte 1:20
And what is your main method of listening to music?

B. 1:25
Um, usually I listened to it on my phone using the Spotify app. That's kind of like exclusively exclusively where I listened to music.

Spotify on Phone
Spotify

Chris Schutte 1:35
On a scale of very dissatisfied to very satisfied, how would you rate Spotify?

B. 1:41
Um, I would say satisfied, there's still some music that I wish was on there. And I know that there's like issues with them, paying their artists. Fairly for their music, so that that kind of bothers me a little bit but as far as it as a music streaming service, I'm pretty satisfied with it they have a pretty good variety and great audio quality. Their playlist features are really easy. And, you know.

Satisfied w/Spotify
-Issues w/ Paying Artists
Spotify
-Good Variety
-Good Quality
-Playlists Features
UI/UX
Affordability

Chris Schutte 2:05
Can you think of any reasons that you use that service over others besides the stuff you've already talked about.

B. 2:12
I think the affordability is really nice with their student plans and their family plans, it makes it really really affordable, and it's kind of just the most centralized music platform right now, because there's Tidal which has some really great recordings, but just not not all artists have their songs up on title, Apple Music. I just kind of

was on Spotify first so I was like why switch over. But um, yeah i think that's just kind of the most central place for me to find the most music.

Chris Schutte 2:45
When did you start using Spotify?

B. 2:48
I started using Spotify, in my sophomore year of high school, I had initially been using Grooveshark the online web playlist maker, which is now completely gone. So, yeah, that's a throwback but um, yeah, that's when I switched to Spotify and, you know, they're just their app is really easy to use, I can use it on my computer to which is nice and it has a watch app so it's kind of nice to have it you know integrated across all my, my screens.

Chris Schutte 3:17
 Right. So, you said you came from grooveshark were you using any other methods before that?

B. 3:27
I used iTunes for a little bit. I found that in, the UI to be really really difficult to use, especially I'm porting over CDs, which is kind of, you know, going kind of back to the late 2000s transition from, you know, CDs into, you know, digitally stored music. In, you know, the sounds of like mp3 ease and things like that. It was kind of difficult to use, I didn't like that I had to pay a lot for songs. So I kind of didn't really use it that much beyond like the original iPod and then once I got my phone I, you know, kind of just switched to Spotify exclusively because it's much, much cheaper.

Chris Schutte 4:18
All right, next category is going to be music tastes. So, what genre or genres of music do you primarily listen to?

B. 4:32
Primarily I listen to jazz and indie music. I'd like to switch it up with, you know, some like classic rock or oldies adventure into some rap. Every now and again, kind of depends on my mood, but I think generally I stick within the realm of jazz and indeed for, you know, my main music genres.

Chris Schutte 4:53
Do you have any favorite artists

B. 4:55
Favorite artists. I really like Alan Stone. I like how he's kind of blending funk and kind of some new electronica type stuff, but I like to sound like Leon bridges a lot. Cat Stevens is one of my favorite older artists. I think he's really great. And also like Yeba but she's kind of new but she's a really interesting sound so yeah I found her through Spotify so that's kind of, you know, a pretty cool thing it helps me discover new artists. So...

Chris Schutte 5:29
in the last portion. I mean, last question of this portion. Are there any genres that you don't like?

B. 5:36
I don't like country music. Should I go into why I don't like it.

Chris Schutte 5:43
Only if you want to

B. 5:44
Um, yeah I like to go into it. So, I think, older country, you know like pre 70s and 80s country was really great songwriters were very, you know, original very creative, and then kind of the stadium country. The new country it's just really. It all sounds quite the same and it's not really speaking to any deeper issues

Tidal: Not enough songs
Not Enough Variety
Apple Music: On Spotify First
Tried to Switch (but couldn't)
Spotify
Spotify: Sophomore Year HS
UI/UX
Easy to Use

Tried to Switch (but couldn't)
Ease of Use
UI/UX
Ubiquity

Jazz and Indie

Alan Stone
Cat Stevens
Yeba

Don't Like: Country

beyond like quote unquote country life, which not many people can relate to, or at least they want to feel like they can relate to. So they feel validated and you know whatever identity they have going on. That's kind of a whole other issue. But that's kind of why I don't like country because it's kind of building up this false persona of, you know, rural life, that doesn't really speak to what it's truly like.

Chris Schutte 6:37
Gotcha. No, no it's it's it's fine I, I don't mind that at all. More information right? Um, last sir last category Yes, our last category is going to be on the algorithms that work within Spotify as a whole, not any technical questions or anything like that. But first, how many new songs do you find a week?

B. 7:09
A week, probably, 30 to 40 new songs. So I try to what my like discover weekly playlist comes out on whatever day that is I try to listen to the whole thing and that's kind of a great way for me to find new songs. And then I have started to kind of get bored of music very quickly so oh actively seek out new songs and you're picking artists from that initial discover weekly playlist that I really liked and look at more of their discography so yeah I'd say on average probably like 30 to 40 songs.

Chris Schutte 7:43
I know we've talked about it. But how do you typically find new music?

B. 7:49
Typically, it's just on Spotify or be on that word of mouth, my roommates have some of my roommates ever think it tastes and music. So, we like to talk about it there and some of my friends and my classes will talk about music. So, those are kind of the primary two within Spotify, and then by word of mouth.

Chris Schutte 8:11
So do you feel that these curated playlists are effective in finding new music for you?

B. 8:17
I think they're, they're fairly effective. Sometimes I can get into kind of like a feedback loop of listening to the curated playlist and then the curated playlists things are the algorithm thinks that I like those songs so just keeps me more of them even though I kind of want to branch out more and like actually discover more music. So, I think sometimes it can get a little bit too locked in to what they feel like they've pegged your music taste at that might just be because I like a lot of variation in my music, because obviously as we talked about before like a lot of different genres. So, I don't know if that's just, you know, a personal preference thing where I like to listen to more varied playlist but um, that would kind of be my only gripe with the curated playlists.

Chris Schutte 9:03
So I just want to rephrase what you said just a little bit. I'm kind of asked for clarification on it So are you saying something along the lines of, it's recommending a certain type of music to you. And that's kind of causing a feedback loop of that type of music, because it's not branching out enough.

B. 9:24
Yes.

Chris Schutte 9:25
 Is that kind of what you're getting at?

B. 9:26
yeah yeah that's that's more concise way of saying what I was

Chris Schutte 9:31
So you want more, more variety, so it's it's almost too accurate, in a way?

30-40 New Songs
Discover Weekly
Bored of Music Quickly
Not Enough Variety

Found Music: Spotify and Word of Mouth

Curated Playlists Fairly Effective

Too Locked into Feedback Loops

Not Enough Variety

B. 9:37
It's accurate to, you know, my music tastes at a certain point in time, but my, what I want to listen to changes so frequently that it's no longer accurate at that point, but that's just because my tastes have changed. Just a little bit. So, it is correctly predicting what I wanted previously. And, you know, maybe two weeks ago, the things I was recommending now would have been exactly what I wanted, but I am so often looking for new things that it's just not quite keeping up as fast as I want it to.

Chris Schutte 10:09
Would you say that's a sentiment held by people around you?

B. 10:14
I'm really not sure I haven't talked to a lot of people about it. Overall, I've heard people really happy with their curated playlists. I know a lot of my friends have found some of their like new favorite songs from the curated playlists so I think they're fairly effective.

Chris Schutte 10:32
And if there's anything that you would change besides those pilot playlists besides what we've already talked about with feedback loops, what would it be?

B. 10:41
um, I think, if there was like an option to see maybe that's just because I'm interested in it but um, you know, what predictors are actually being used to make the playlist like you know beats per minute or, you know, metadata or something like that from the songs themselves that are being fed into the algorithm to give you new ones so I'd be really interested to see like the data that they're gathering on me about my music tastes and how that is informing the new playlist that they give me. So, yeah, maybe a little bit more transparency about that. Not that it's like a huge like secure data security issue, but I'm, you know I've for my own interests, I think you're cool to see. Yeah.

Chris Schutte 11:27
Alright, that's gonna be all the questions I have for you is there anything you'd like to add to the recording before I turn it off.

B. 11:34
Epstein didn't kill himself.

Chris Schutte 11:36
Thanks for that.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai

Tastes Change Quickly, Algorithms, don't Pickup on this Quickly Enough
Not Enough Variety

Generally People Seem Happy with Curated Playlists

Would Want Greater Algorithmic Transparency