Feature Request: Search for multiple item types

**September 4th 20XX**

**OBJECTIVE**

Allow users to search for Spotify albums, artists, playlists, shows, episodes and audiobooks in addition to tracks.

**BACKGROUND**

Under the current build, Jammming allows users to search and query Spotify’s database for a wide range of tracks. But Spotify hosts a large variety of content in addition to tracks such as shows, episodes, podcasts and audiobooks. Hence, we should remember that not every Spotify user uses Spotify to listen to songs and allow the users to customize their search accordingly. In short, if Spotify hosts it, then Jammming should be able to display it. The goals of this feature include the following:

* Allow the user to query for all item types supported by the Spotify API
* Display the new item types in the search results component
* Display additional options for each item such as a button linking to the respective page on Spotify

**TECHNICAL DESIGN**

**Add Filters**

The Spotify API allows us to specify which types of items to search for in the *type* parameter of the <https://api.spotify.com/v1/search> endpoint. Up until now, this parameter only held the value “track” but because it is an array, it can hold multiple values. Thus, under the Spotify API, the user can search for multiple item types at once.

We can adjust the value of the *type* parameter through a set of checkboxes; for each checkbox filled, another value is appended to the *type* parameter. To account for the additional item types, new search filters will need to be added. For instance, *new* and *hipster* tags are used when searching for albums. These new filters will be in the form of either a text bar or a checkbox.

**Adjust Item Display**

Each item type will have different attributes to display so we will need to adjust how we display each item. We will need additional components to display each type such as an *Album* component which would display the *total tracks* and *release date* of albums instead of the *artist name* and *album name* for tracks. We will also need to display each item’s type. This can be done through displaying additional keywords or by colour coding each item.

It should also be noted that playlists are only meant for tracks and episodes. Hence, only track and episode items should have the button which adds the item to the playlist. We may want to replace this button on other items with different features.

**CAVEATS**

**Alternative To Displaying Items**

When displaying each item, it is also possible to create a more general component, *Item*, which renders its state and appearance based on what its type is. The Spotify API returns its search results in an already organized state with all items of the same type sorted into their respective objects and arrays. Hence, we’ve decided that giving each item type its own component is more appropriate. However, should we have to display a list of items unorganized by type, having a general *Item* component would provide a more flexible approach.

**Availability Restrictions**

Some items are will not appear to some users based on their current region. For instance, Spotify audiobooks are only available in the US, UK, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia markets. In the future, the availability of other Spotify items could be restricted by region as well. Jammming might need a means of detecting the user’s current region as a result in order to notify the user that certain items will not be available.