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| House Party - CI601 The Computing Project Report |

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# Introduction

## Motivation

This idea emerged from the fact that there are multiple music streaming services, each with its own method of allowing people to share and control each other’s music, but these platforms do not support each other. At a party, there is no way to invite someone who uses a different platform, hence the concept of creating a website that allows people to add songs to the queue while eliminating the need for a platform-specific account or app.

## Project aims and objectives

* The website should have a simple and easy to use design
* The website should store any sensitive data securely
* Host can invite guests to their hosted parties through multiple methods
* Guests can join parties easily
* Guests can search for songs
* Guests can add songs to the host’s queue
* Host can restrict what songs are added such as not allowing explicit content or blocking duplicate songs

## Minimal viable product

### Sign in to Spotify account

Allow the user who wants to host a party to login into their Spotify account easily.

### Create and manage a party

Allow someone who is logged into their Spotify account to create a party which meets the needs they want for the party and manage the settings of the party.

### Join a party

Allow guests to join a session hosted by a user that they have been invited to participate in.

### Add songs to the host’s queue

Allow guests using the party to add songs to the hosts queue through the website

# Methodology

## 2.1 Project management techniques

## 2.2 Testing techniques

While developing the website there were multiple different ways of performing tests to help find and fix bugs and improve the UI for the user’s experience the testing types that were used are white box, black box and unit testing each having their own benefits.

### White box testing:

White box testing was performed as development happened and was used to testing elements of the system as they were being implemented to make sure they were being implemented properly and worked as expected before the changes were pushed to the GitHub.

### Black box testing

Black box testing was performed by taking a small group of users and having them use the website this testing was done to furth identify bugs and issues that could arise while using the website. This testing also allowed for changes to the UI and new features to be discussed further helping to improve the website and its usability.

### Unit testing:

In addition to all the tests that are being performed using human input I also put into place automatic testing of the pages that performs checks to make sure the page acts as it should depending on different variables, I built these tests using a package called playwright. An example of a test created can be seen in **Appendix 2** and the results page that shows how the results of the tests on different platforms and browsers can be found in **Appendix 3** this data is then further broken down so you can find where failures occur in the code which can be seen in **Appendix 4**.

Some tests have been disabled due to security put into place in the API preventing any external users from accessing the API this means the tests can’t be run locally and must be run on the server.

I have also linked the automatic testing to the GitHub making it so that when a pull request is made to merge the changes from the dev branch into the stable branch the tests are run to make sure that there are no changes that have broken any functionality of the website.

## 2.3 Development tools and software

### Visual Studio Code (VS Code):

For the coding and development of the project I have decided to use the programming Integrated development environment (IDE) VS Code. I chose to use this IDE as I have experience using it and it also allows for a lot of customization to your preferences allowing me to make it easier for me to use and understand.

### GitHub:

To store a backup of my code and also allows for version control this allows me to create a repository and upload all my code and files to it storing it securely and also allowing me to create interaction of the code when it comes to adding features or changing features that could cause major issues giving me the opportunity to undo the changes I have done.

By using GitHub, it allows me to control changes through branches allowing me to separate new changes from a working and functional build by having a stable branch and a dev branch once testing is done and I know all the changes pushed to the dev branch are functional I can then merge these changes into the stable branch.

### GitHub Projects:

To keep track of the project GitHub projects was used as it allows for both the code and progress tracker to be kept together as both are stored on GitHub while also offering the same features as other project progress trackers.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

### Brighton Domains:

To host the website, the decision was made to use Brighton domains this was done as it is already free to use and accessible allowing for the website to be hosted on it straightway with no delay and also allows for the backend to also be hosted straight away as it supports all the required tools these include automatic PHP files, database events, databases and also the ability to host HTML, JS and CSS meaning everything can be kept together on one server.

### Draw.io:

To make wireframes for the website draw.io was used as it offers a wide range of features while also being free, easy to use and accessible online meaning no software must be installed making it easy to switch between devices.

### OneDrive:

To make it easy to work across multiple devices and also to provide an extra backup of the work OneDrive was used as it provide active backups meaning any changes being made to the project and automatically backed up to the cloud without needing any input providing an extra level of security to the files. OneDrive also has benefits of you being able to sync multiple devices to one OneDrive meaning any files changes on one device are then updated on the second device allowing you to switch between the two easily.

## 2.4 Project risk analysis

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk Description** | **Likelihood of risk** | **Impact of risk** | **Action taken** |
| Spotify API outage | LOW | HIGH | No action has been taken for this as there is nothing that can be done for this risk |
| Brighton domains outage | LOW | HIGH | No action has been taken for this as there is nothing that can be done for this risk |
| Externally hosted packages becoming unavailable | LOW | HIGH | To prevent any issues from external packages becoming unavailable instead of using third party hosting services the packages are hosted locally with the website |
| Exceeding Spotify API request rate limit | MEDIUM | LOW | Theres no way to prevent this issue from occurring but instead there have been process put in place to manage exceeding the rate limit, so the user experience is not affected |
| Loss of the project files from file corruption etc | LOW | HIGH | To prevent this from affect development there were multiple backups put in place these include GitHub, OneDrive and a copy hosted on Brighton domains allowing for the code to be recovered |
| A bug being pushed to the stable branch and hosted on the servers | LOW | MEDIUM | To prevent this issue from occurring all the code goes though multiple tests and checks before leaving the dev branch of the GitHub this stop any code containing bugs from being hosted on the servers |

# Research

## 3.1 Literary review

### Spotify API terms of service:

This website breaks down the terms of service for the available APIs provide by Spotify showing what’s allowed to be made using the APIs and what isn’t. This website was easy to navigate and easy to understand making it extremely easy to check what’s being made meets the requirements of the terms of service.

### Spotify Web API documentation:

This website breaks down the functionality of the Spotify web API showing how to use it and how to gain access to it. The documentation in some areas was complicated and took a lot of time to understand fully but in some areas of the website it allows for you to try out API requests showing you what attributes you can send followed by showing you what the returned data looks like.

### Spotify Design & Branding Guidelines:

This website broke down the requirements of the website regarding how it should look and what needs to be displayed on the website for it to be approved and taken out of development mode by Spotify. This website was clear and easy to understand giving examples and screenshots of what is expected to be shown on the website while also providing downloads and access to required content such as different Spotify logos for different scenarios.

### Apple Music API documentation:

This website explained the capabilities of the Apple Music API and how to gain access to the API functions. The website was quite comprehensive but that made it complicated at first to understand how to navigate and understand the website but after exploring the website it becomes easier to navigate and understand.

### Soundcloud API documentation:

This website broke down and explained the capabilities and functionality of the Soundcloud API. The website is quite simple and provides as much information as possible while making it clear with snippets of code and screenshots making to extremely easy to read and understand.

### YouTube documentation:

This website explained the functionality and capabilities of the YouTube API. This website can be simple in some areas but in other it can become quite complex and hard to understand but it does provide screenshots of example returned data which helps to understand the expected outcome of using the API functions.

## 3.2 Proof-of-concept

To learn and figure out how to use the Spotify API a proof-of-concept Node.JS was made to help learn how to use the API to perform the actions required for the website this also helped to make sure it was possible to make what was envisioned.

## 3.3 User feature testing

To help make sure that the features that the website would have would meet the requirements of users a list of the beginning features was put together and then shared with a small group to see how they felt about the feature and what features could improve the website, this proved very useful to putting together a list of required features.

# 4. Product description

## 4.1 Planning

To plan the development of the website the MSCW method was used to help prioritize the features and functionality to be added to the project. This method categorizes the importance of each feature into four different categories: must have, should have, could have, and won’t have.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

After the MSCW was made it was then taken and used to create a progress tracker which included the main functionality and design of the website but also listed the features that were to be added to the website separate from the main functionality.

## 4.2 Designing

Following the planning phase work on design of the website was started the first step was to create a simple sketch of the layout and where things would go on the page these sketches were just black and white an example can be seen in **Appendix 5**.

The basic sketches were then taken and made into wireframes using draw.io adding more details and flushing out what the user interface would look like including features this can be seen in **Appendix 6**.

## 4.3 Prototyping

During the development process of the website there were 2 prototypes the first prototype was used to evaluate the development of the backend of the website during this process a simple UI which allowed for easy testing. The second prototype was to develop the UI to finalise the design for users these 2 prototypes were separated as it allowed for focus to be on a specific section of the website allowing for focus to be on one thing at a time improving performance and allowing for testing to be done on a specific part at a time allowing for more accurate testing.

## 4.4 Final product

# Critical review

# References

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# Appendices

## Appendix 1:

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| --- | --- |
| Date | Meeting notes |
| 26/09/2024 | * Spoke about project idea * Talked about the legal side of the project * Spoke about what research needs to be done into the terms of service |
| 03/10/2024 | * Updated on legal research * Updated on project progress |
| 10/10/2024 | * Progress update on designing the project * Did ethical form * Updated on project progress |
| 24/10/2024 | * Updated on project progress * Spoke about submitting the Spotify API forms to have the project recognised by them |
| 13/11/2024 | * Spoke about the interim report focusing on what I have in It already and what I could add to it * Updated on project progress |
| 18/02/2025 | * Updated on development of the project * Shown a demonstration of a prototype working * Updated on the status of Spotify Application * Discussed features that could be added or discussed in report * Discussed the report of the dissertation |

## Appendix 2:

A computer screen shot of a program code

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## Appendix 3:

A screenshot of a computer

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## Appendix 4:

A screenshot of a computer program

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## Appendix 5:

A screenshot of a computer

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## Appendix 6:

A screenshot of a computer

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## Appendix 7:

A green and black sign

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