

## [Soundtrap Privacy Policy](#)

## [Bandlab Privacy Policy](#)

The first thing I noticed was the layout of how the policy is presented. Bandlab seems to follow a more standard legal contract type of format which gives a sense of "this is what we are required to do by law. It is up to you to decipher this." Soundtrap uses tables to organize how the information is presented which makes it feel more accessible and it feels more like they are making an effort to make their policy understandable to the user.

Soundtrap is owned by Spotify which is based in Sweden, so they also include a section about a European Union law, called the General Data Protection Regulation or "GDPR" which gives certain rights to individuals in relation to their personal data. They also outline these specific rights in the policy to make the user aware of what actions they can take in regards to their data and privacy. Bandlab indicates that they are located in both the United States and Singapore, but give no indication as to what type of privacy rights users are entitled to as a result of being located in those countries aside from mentioning the Singapore Personal Data Protection Act 2012, but they do not give any sort of outline or details as to what rights that Act provides for the user.

### Data collected:

#### Bandlab

- Name, Password, email, Social Network ID
- Profile information (username, profile pic, DOB, location, gender, any other stuff you provide in your profile) - all voluntary
- Content which you upload that can identify you (photos, audio, text, comments, status updates)
- Correspondence data (emails, or any type of communication)

#### Soundtrap

- Essential data (email, location, age, password)
- Premium account data (name, age, country, address and payment verification information)
- Profile data (name, user name, city, profile pic, description of music type and preferences, details of other social media accounts) - all voluntary
- Correspondance data
- Survey data (voluntary, option to remain anonymous)
- Content that you upload

Based on what each policy said, it seems that most of the reasons for using your data have to do with operating and maintaining your account on the platform. Both websites indicate they share information with Third Party service providers, analytical services (Bandlab indicates that one of their analytical service providers is Google Analytics and provides a link to their privacy policy), Law enforcement and potential purchasers of the business. Both sites also do indicate

that they have certain expectations of how these Third Party conduct themselves when using this data which I assume is meant to be a reassuring gesture that they have a certain level of standards that these Third Party service providers abide by.

Band Lab: “implement adequate levels of protection”

Soundtrap: “implement appropriate organizational and technical security measures”

However, there is no guarantee as to whether the Third Party service provider will actually meet these “adequate” and “appropriate” levels of protection. Both services allow you to log in via other Social Media platforms like Facebook and Google. Soundtrap goes into clearer detail about what data is collected from these platforms and indicates that this data collection is subject to the terms for each respective Third Party’s privacy policy. Bandlab indicates they will collect your “Social Network ID” if you sign up through Google or Facebook but do not specify what type of access they have to your data through these platforms or what type of access these platforms have to our data on the site (aside from your profile picture). Perhaps this means they do not take more than this, but I find that hard to believe.

Bandlab also indicates that it uses your data to “provide personalized content” including “personalised online advertisements or other forms of marketing like emails about products, services and other information you might be interested in” They also share information with Third Party advertisers while Soundtrap does not. I assume this is the result of Soundtrap being more of a subscription based platform while Bandlab is free. I suppose this is often a trade off when considering whether to use a free platform or a subscription one. Free platforms need some way to generate revenue and data is certainly a viable commodity these days. I would assume there are many people who are willing to provide these companies access to their data if they provide a service that they want to use.

Overall, Soundtrap seems to have a more genuine interest in letting their users know how your data is collected and used. I don’t necessarily feel that Bandlab has any nefarious practices in terms of data collection, but their policy was definitely more vague at certain points which I feel was intentional as to offer them leeway in what data they collect, how they do it and who is provided access to it.