

Jammming Feature Request: 30 Second Clips

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OBJECTIVE

To provide the user with a small sample of the searched tracks to more easily find the requested track.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Jammming's search functionality is limited to only displaying the text of the search results. Spotify boasts a massive song library, and many songs are duplicates or covers, some songs do not work. Giving the Jammming application the ability to use the Spotify player function to play the 30 second sample tracks would allow the user to find the track they are looking for, hear how the track would sound in the current playlist, and allow the user to explore similar tracks without having to open the official Spotify application.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

To play the sample tracks, Jammming will need to have the Spotify player. The player needs functions to start/stop a track and to also pause. These are all accomplished with components integrated with the Spotify player API. Next, a play button needs to be added to the search results section of Jammming. This could be accomplished in a way similar to the "add/remove track" button. A play button style symbol could be an image property on a link on the individual search results' sample track. Using interpolation, the function needed to play the sample track could use a **get** method to get the **trackURI** in order to play the individual track. Currently, Spotify only allows user created applications to play 30 second sample tracks. The play button will also need an **onClick** attribute so that the track is loaded and played when the user selects it.

CAVEATS

Implementing this feature would require the addition of a **player** component that can access the Spotify track URIs and a play button graphic to be created. If a graphic will not be used, a simple “Play sample” string can be used, though a small icon may be more visually appealing. Also, adding extra components can also create extra issues and bugs if not implemented in an organized and easy-to-understand way. The webpage may also take longer to load on the client side if the returned search results load every sample track simultaneously instead of loading the requested track once the user clicks the “play” button.

