My Interests & Technology

Since a young age music has always been something I’ve been passionate about. Whether it be finding and listening to new music, or attempting to learn a new instrument, music has always kept me fascinated unlike any other hobby I’ve been invested in. From a young age I started listening to rock and alternative; however, over time my tastes evolved as electronic dance music and hip-hop are what I mostly listen to now. Music has given me some of my most significant memories in the past 5 years. From music festivals to local concerts, the general atmosphere of the venues, accompanied by my favorite artists, has given me experiences I will never forget. Like my tastes, music has also evolved throughout the past several decades to adapt to new technology, especially in genres like electronica and dancehall. While these types of music use new forms of technology consistently, such as synthesizers, compressors, etc, the industry as a whole has seen a major shift in the way it uses technology in the past couple years. This is due to one main advancement for listening to music, streaming.

Streaming has revolutionized the music industry in a way that I never saw imaginable as a child. It has given the consumer the ability to purchase a subscription paid monthly to a certain service, such as Apple Music and Spotify. This gives the listeners the ability to access any music on the platform, rather than having to pay for each song individually. And while the average listeners benefit is exponentially better than in prior years, this service does not take away from the industry’s revenue. In an article from Forbes, it states that streaming has given labels the
opportunity for “more promotional outlets and revenue streams” (Forbes, Welson-Rossman).

What lacked in the past between music and its listeners was a connection to the artist; however, this new technology has given artists the ability to interact with their fans through the services. The industry as a whole is looking to keep moving towards “universal appeal and democratization” (Forbes, Welson-Rossman). Along with this, electronic music artist Lost Frequency commented on this switch, and how it directly impacted his genre of production.

Through advancements in technology, having to go to a studio in order to use different analog synthesizers and equalizers, artists now have a virtual studio within their laptops.

Through technologies progression in the past couple years, these advancements have made my music listening experience much more enjoyable. Not only am I able to listen to more music for cheaper, I’m given the chance to find new artists through extended services within my preferred platform. It has made finding music catered to my tastes so much easier than in the past. Along with this, streaming allows me to download music onto my phone, so I don’t have to use cellular data. Overall, streaming has only improved my experience as a music fanatic. In the future, I can see streaming services catering more towards certain genres, especially ones with larger audiences, like pop music or rock. This would organize music in a more accessible way, rather than having enormous catalogs that need to be searched. In conclusion, I only see technology improving in the future, since analytics and developers will be able to detect trends and patterns from streamers.
In the Media

Stranger Things, Season 1 Episode 4, “The Body”

*Stranger Things* is a Netflix original TV series based in the early 1980s. The plot covers a young group of four friends who live in the small town of Hawkins, Indiana. After several strange events occur in the first 3 episodes, Will Byers, one of the four, goes missing and is found dead in a quarry. However, his mom doesn’t believe that he is dead because he has been contacting her through paranormal activity, as well as his best friend Mike, who has also had similar encounters. Eleven, a character with superhero like powers, is able to reach Will through a radio frequencies. In this episode, cellphones are a vital piece of technology for the cops and others involved in the case of Will Byers. Different calls are made in order to send information on the case to other members of the investigation. Today, cell phones are one of the most advanced and used pieces of technology in a person’s day to day life. “The vast majority of Americans – 95% – now own a cellphone” according to the Pew Research Center. Whether someone has a smartphone or a simple flip phone, they’re generally accessible depending on what type of phone one gets.

While phones have made it much easier to connect with others in so many way, there are also several problems that have come along with the invention itself. On a positive note, cell phones have developed software in which you may use the internet at a moment’s notice. This has given people the ability to connect through instant message, email, social media, and several other outlets. Since this technology was not available during the time period of Stranger Things, their ability to communicate quickly was limited to due phone availability. Along with this, cell phones have also turned been turned into mini computers essentially. With the ability to hold hundreds of gigabytes of data, as well as being able to run several applications that a computer
would, cell phones have evolved to be an essential device in the modern world. And while cell phones have granted us tons of new freedoms, they come at a cost. Privacy is a major downside of technological advancements in this regard. Cell phones can hold ample amounts of personal information, depending on the user. For example, this can lead to problems when it comes to political figures and the public’s right to important information. Whether digital privacy is truly private is an ethical dilemma because granting the authority to search a person’s phone can lead to the recovery of essential information.

In my opinion, cell phones are an ethical form of technology as of now; however, users tend to abuse how phones can be used. Instagram, Twitter, and other social media outlets on phones grant people the ability to express themselves; however, these platforms can also be used to spread negative agenda’s. So even though phones themselves are not ethically wrong, they can be used with malintent. Within the next 5-10 years, I see cell phones being developed to focus less on privacy, since this is being debated right now. Different phone developers have been data mining information from their users, and as a result, clientele has been demanding an explanation for these actions. If phone companies do continue to invade the privacy of their users, the morality of the developers. While there may be debates over this issue, cell phones will never diminish. The way they look and are designed may alter greatly, but the ability to communicate with anyone in a moment’s notice is too essential in today’s world.
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