



PODCAST WEEKLY

-Featured Article: "Radio & I" One man's story on how started listening to podcasts. Pages 1-2

-Top Podcasts of the Month: We picked three best podcasts of this month. It's a mix of regular contenders and new up-and-coming shows

-New Podcast Spotlight: "The Brilliant Idiots." It broke into the Top 15 after just four episodes. What is the oxymoron title all about?



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Radio & I

Chapter 1: The Separation

The radio was crucial to me while growing up. Before the internet became the major for music, the radio was the only way to consistently discover new songs. I remember sitting by the radio, switching between stations, and wishing that one of them would play my favorite song at the time.

Although my parents frequently listened to the radio also (obviously not as much as me), they only used it to check up on the weather, traffic, and world news while eating breakfast. Lacking my obsession, they believed that laying on my bed and just waiting for “my song” to play was a huge waste of time.

So when I was in fourth grade, my parents got me this cassette player/recorder that also worked as a radio. But the greatest feature of this gadget was that it could

record whatever what play on the radio. Now I could just record my favorite songs and listen to them as much as I liked. Eventually I was making the world’s worst mixtapes.

But now that I could listen to the recordings of the songs I liked, I was using the radio less and less. So when I began to use the internet to listen to and download music, I stopped using the radio all together. I mean, why would I listen to what the DJ thinks I want to hear? Now I could listen to whatever I want, whenever I want.

Sure it was nice listening to new songs play on the radio, but it took less effort to discover them on the internet. And the talk shows were sometimes interesting. Some radio personalities were genuinely interesting. But I never found anything good enough on the radio that I would suffer through lis-

tening to all the commercials. And once I started burning CDs with the mp3 files I downloaded to listen to in the car or with my portable CD player, radio was no longer part of my life.



When was the last time you've seen these?

Chapter 2: The Reunion

Fast forward almost a decade. It's 2014, and I am enrolled in a course called Introduction to Multimedia Composition. During one of the classes, we were introduced to podcasts. Now, at that point I had limited knowledge on podcasts. Most people have probably at least heard about it.

Well I first heard about them during the rise of EDM (electronic dance music) to popularity. DJs would compile their selections of songs into a "set," which they released as a podcast. Soon my Facebook newsfeed was filled with links to these sets with captions like "ohemgeeee you gotta check out this set right me-

ow!!" But I never bothered to listen to any of these sets. Yes, they didn't have commercials, but it was still someone telling me what songs to listen to. I didn't like that. I like my freedom of musical selection.

But the podcast I heard in that particular class was different from what I had expected. It was a talk show called *This American Life*, and first five minutes of it was enough to capture my attention. It was like the highlight reel of casual conversations between interesting people. This blew my mind. I was so used to live radio talk shows that bored me quickly. No matter

how interesting a person is, there is no way that a live interview can be entertaining throughout its entirety. But a podcast can! It's edited for your ideal listening pleasure.

I never knew that listening to other people talking could be so entertaining. But of course they should be, since that's their job. However, it's surprising how many radio and podcast hosts are absolutely terrible at keeping their show engaging. But have no fear! Podcasts are ranked weekly by their popularity, so you always know which ones are good. I seriously can't get enough podcasts anymore.

Chapter 3: From Here On

I must say, only because I like podcasts does not mean I like the radio. I like radio *shows* that are presented in the form of podcasts, but I still don't like the traditional radio in general. Podcasts and radio will never be separated from one another, but I still treat them as separate identities. To me, podcasts are just a better version of the radio; more refined and efficient. Does this seem like the general coconscious? I feel like that the only reason the radio has enough influence is because it is live on air. It can update us with information as quickly things occur. But the internet alerts us just as quickly, if not quicker. I guess the radio is useful for the news if you're driving and you can't look at your phone, but I think that's not enough for the traditional radio to remain relevant. But who knows, trends come in cycles; radio might make a comeback one day, and I'll fall in love with it once again.

Top Podcasts of The Month



This American Life is consistently voted as the number one podcast in America. Each podcast is comprised of radio short stories (usually non-fiction, but fictional stories are also occasionally presented), essays, and sound footage that share a same theme. The host Ira Glass has a voice that you would not get sick of through its hour-long runtime, but even without it, the stories are captivating enough to leave you longing for more.



The B.S. Report is hosted by Bill Simmons of Grantland. Bill Simmons is a famous basketball analyst, but he also delves into topics of other sports. More times than not, he also discusses current events that have nothing to do with sports. He brings guest ranging from sports legends like Larry Bird to contemporary writers like Chuck Klosterman.



The Tim Ferriss Show is hosted by....you guessed it, Tim Ferriss. For those of you that don't know who he is, Ferriss is a self-proclaimed "Human Guinea Pig." This guy just travels the world and tries as many different things as possible. While doing so he meets several people that excel at their crafts. He usually brings such people as guests, and discuss his experiences.

New Podcast Spotlight



The Brilliant Idiots is hosted by Charlemagne Tha God and Andrew Schulz of MTV's Guy Code and Girl Code. The title says it all. They are just regular guys talking about random topics. Most of the things they say are indeed stupid, but they do say some brilliant things once in a while. It's a great formula because:

- 1) When they act stupid, you feel better about yourself. You'd think 'if these idiots can make a top 10 podcast, I must be capable of greater things'
- 2) When they say something that's actually brilliant, it's pretty insightful. You might learn a thing or two