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How to Share Music (in private)

Sharing music on the computer has become the mainstream way to listen to music. Unlike playing CDs or attending concerts, this new technology no longer requires listeners to be present in the same temporal and spatial plane. Released in June 2009, Opera Unite (OU) allows people to share the music in their computers by allowing other people to use their own computers as remote controls. Different from OU, users of Napster cannot designate the target of sharing. The same Internet technology functions differently in this case---what determines this difference lies in not the technology but the style of sharing network. The corresponding sides of sharing holds more importance than the tool for sharing. This presentation shows that sharing changes the meaning of music while the meaning of sharing also changes as music transforms in time, by investigating how and why sharing music is more difficult in public.