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## **DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATION**

A digital audio workstation (DAW) is an electronic device or application software used for recording, editing and producing audio files.

DAWs are used for the production and recording of music, songs, speech, radio, television, soundtracks, podcasts and sound effects.

In 1978, Soundstream built first digital audio workstation using some of the most current computer hardware of the time.

In 1989, Sonic Solutions released the first professional (48 kHz at 24 bit) disk-based nonlinear audio editing system that featured complete CD premastering.

Many major recording studios finally "went digital" after Digidesign introduced its Pro Tools software, modeled after the traditional method and signal flow in most analog recording devices.

An integrated DAW consists of a mixing console, control surface, audio converter, and data storage in one device. They were popular before personal computers became commonly available.

A computer-based DAW has four basic components: a computer, either a sound card or audio interface, digital audio editor software, and at least one input device for adding or modifying data.

DAWs are based on a multitrack tape recorder metaphor. The most significant feature available from a DAW that is not available in analog recording is the ability to 'undo' a previous action.

There are countless software plugins for DAW software, including digital effects units which can modify a signal with distortion, resonators, equalizers, synthesizers, compressors, a chorus, a virtual amp, a limiter, a phaser and flangers.