

Plunderphonics

Plunderphonics is a music genre that's entirely sample based in its production, taking segments from other songs and mashing and collaging them with different songs to create an entirely new piece of music. This style dates back to the 1980's and is a heavy inspiration for vaporwave's production style. The main difference between plunderphonics and vaporwave is that vaporwave slows down it's samples aiming to create a specific vibe while Plunderphonics is much faster pace

BLOODBATH64

Bloodbath64 is the alias side project of TVgirl

The album is referred to as the "last vaporwave album"

(editor's note: I'm cool with this being the final one)

Aesthetics

The visual aesthetics of vaporwave is arguably more recognizable than the music itself. The idea of the aesthetic is a melancholic and distorted look of the aesthetics of the 80's and 90's with surreal and distorted elements. incorporating old advertisements & web design from the early days of the internet. As well as anything with pastel colors, roman sculpture bust, roman architecture, japanese text, malls, random products and vhs filters

Themes of capitalism and consumer culture

Vaporwave's relationship with capitalism is somewhat complicated and ambiguous, so it will be explained very briefly. Vaporwave is both an ironic parody and celebration of consumer culture and capitalism. Almost all of vaporwave's visual aesthetics have to do with consumer culture in some way. From products, malls, statues, company mascots ect.. are all celebrated through a lens of admiration and nostalgia. Most vaporwave artists like Macintosh Plus, Saint Pepsi and Windows 95 are named after products that were popular in the 80's and 90's. Products that were once popular and luxury commodities are now relics of the past, which relates back to the choice of sampling older songs from that era. Consumerism and material objects promise temporary pleasures, yet are advertised to bring immense happiness and fulfillment before the excitement wears off and we buy something new.

Vaporwave exists as a parody of this consumer culture by hyper flashing products and advertisements in the music and visuals. Yet none of it is real, it is all merely recycled from the past. In the same way the music recycles songs that are just slowed and repackaged under a new name. It's all artificial.

However, every take on vaporwave is entirely up to interpretation and there is no concrete or commonly accepted answer. This explanation is just one of the many takes and I wouldn't take it as gospel.

Vektroid/ Macintosh Plus

Vektroid is seen as the mother of vaporwave

She is responsible for tons of different aliases like Laserdisc Visions, New Dreams Ltd, Virtual Information Desk and most famously Macintosh Plus. She played a prominent role in popularizing vaporwave with the release of her ninth studio album, *Floral Shoppe*, under the alias Macintosh Plus. Since then, she has continued to release music through Bandcamp and other online platforms but has since moved away from creating vaporwave.

BLANK BANSHEE

Blank Banshee is a vaporwave and trap artist, mostly known for pioneering the subgenre of vaportrap, which is pretty self explanatory of a mix of vaporwave and trap music. Before I get into who Blank Banshee is, let me tell you about who he was.

Shinjuku mad was an electronic post-punk band that was active in the late 2000's, they put out two studio albums. The self-titled ``Shinjuku Mad" and "Organic Thoughts From The Synthetic Mind", eventually breaking up in 2011. About a year after the breakup, two of the remaining members Patrick Driscoll and Curtis Ferguson began working on a new project "Blank Banshee".

Sampling vocals from previous Shinjuku Mad songs into the album. Eventunetly, Blank Banshee became a solo act after Curtis left, leaving Patrick Driscoll to continue the project on his own. "Blank banshee 0" was one of the first few albums to experiment with vaporwave's sampling style, giving the genre more exposure. As of now, Blank Banshee has released four full length studio albums, two EPs and has gone on world tour twice.

Floral Shoppe

Floral Shoppe is the ninth studio album by Vektroid but was released under the alias Macintosh Plus on December 9, 2011 on the Beer on the Rug label. Floral shoppe is basically ground zero for vaporwave, if you want to get into vaporwave but don't know where to start, you start with this album.

By now it's undoubtedly one of the most popular vaporwave albums and contains the most popular songs Lisa Frank 420 - Modern Computer, which most people just call Macintosh plus 420. Containing a slowed down sample of Diana Ross song- "it's your move" .

Despite this being Vektroids most popular album, she has a bit of a complicated relationship with it. She's removed the album from her bandcamp a few times in the past, has uploaded every album in her discography to her youtube except specifically Floral Shoppe. Even saying on twitter that she wants to [leave a legacy beyond Floral Shoppe](#)

The song 420 even became a pretty big meme for a while, which only made Vektroid dislike it even more as she felt people would only see her music as a meme

In 2019, eight years after the original release. Vektroid brought the macintosh plus alias back with a new song "Sick and panic" which intentionally sounded nothing like Floral Shoppe, which got a lot of mixed responses from the fanbase. She's teased more from the macintosh plus alias but since then nothing has yet come from it.

Saint Pepsi

Saint Pepsi is the alias of American musician Ryan DeRobertis, who now goes by Skyler Spence. Saint Pepsi was an early artist to participate in the genre and rose to online notoriety after releasing *Late Night Delight* on Feb 2, 2013 with Luxury Elite as a collaborator. Which is now considered a classic.

Pepsi would experiment with the vaporwave sound and become a trailblazer of the subgenre of Future Funk with his album *Hit Vibes* releasing on May 31, 2013. Hit Vibes is considered his magnum opus and is still one of the most popular and successful albums in Future Funk.

He would retire the alias "Saint Pepsi" due to legal threats from the Pepsi Company and change his name to Skyler Spence. He would return to the Saint Pepsi alias for one last time with the 2019 release of *Mannequin Challenge*, and would occasionally perform under the name when doing vaporwave shows.

Hauntology and Nostalgia

Hauntology is the idea that the present is haunted by the metaphorical "ghosts" of lost future or past. In other words, the idea of a time period that we all wanted to have but we never did. Vaporwave holds a similar philosophy as most concept albums explore

the idea of a romanticized or fictional utopia that will exist in the future or has already existed in the past.

A large part of this concept and its relation to vaporwave is its connection to nostalgia and escapism. Vaporwave looks at the era of the 80's and 90's through rose tinted glasses and highlights the best that time period had to offer. Most media from back then shows a carefree and prosperous world, so naturally most would look back at this depiction and want to return to the feeling of optimism for the future or wish the future turned out the way they had hoped it would as kids. As for a younger audience not alive during this time period, vaporwave's romanization of the past serves as a gateway to a period they never got to experience.

For example, the popular album "News at 11" by Cat System Corp is a concept album taking place in an alternate universe where the September 11th attacks on the world trade center never happened. The album is meant to be from the perspective of a broadcast, the beginning of the album uses actual audio from tv station reports before the attack, reporting on the mundane of a regular morning in New York. Yet the album never gets to a point where the attack is reported on because it's never supposed to happen.

Vaporwave hyperfocus on older media only continues to expand on this topic. As most artist use screencaps from older commercials and media as album covers, use completions of older commercials for music videos, sample older songs and media and why cassettes are the main physical format for releases

For most fans, vaporwave offers this comfortable feeling of nostalgia and scratches the itch of longing for a past or present that's unattainable

telepath テレパシー能力者

Telepath is an anonymous vaporwave producer, co-founder of the vaporwave label Dream Catalog and founder of Virtual Dream Plaza label. Telepath began posting music in 2013 and quickly gained an audience for his unique approach to vaporwave and ambient synth music. Stretching samples out for an extended period of time, overlapped with heavy reverb and loops, resulting in some of his songs lasting up to ten minutes to an hour.

Telepaths main draw is their aura of mystery, as nothing is known about the person behind the alias. Telepath made their first public appearance in 2019 using a silver hooded costume to hide their face, making them appear like an alien. Telepath continues to post music on their bandcamp, never advertising it or letting fans know beforehand, to keep the aura of mystery.

full width text

full width text is a typing style that's frequently used in vaporwave as part of the A E S T H E T I C. Which is mostly used ironically. Appearing most in comment sections

Future Funk

Future Funk is a subgenre of Vaporwave that takes samples of sped up disco or Japanese pop songs with added drum and kick effects

The sound originates from an online indie record label "keats collective" that was formed in 2012 by Dinasourous Rex.

Rex would invite other artists on the label to add their songs to a compilation tape. The first completion features some of the earliest examples of what would later become the future funk signature sound.

It wasn't until the third completion tape that the term "future funk" was coined as the completions bandcamp description stated "future funks finest"

Future Funk was still an incredibly niche genre until on May 31, 2013 when Saint Pepsi released his album "Hit Vibes" that mastered the future funk sound to a T and exposed future funk into a greatly wider audience. Making this to be one of the first and best future funk albums to date

Future Funk later grew into its own by developing its own signature sound and its own aesthetic of 90's Japanese anime, bright neon colors and Japanese text

Dream Catalogue

Dream Catalogue is a vaporwave label started by artists HKE and Telepath in 2014. Dream Catalogue was widely regarded as the best label in the genre for hosting some of the most popular and successful albums and artists of the 2010's.

The label held the philosophy that vaporwave albums should focus less on the overdone tropes of irony and capitalism, and more of telling a narrative and concept through music.

Most of the label's music was abruptly purged in 2016 over copyright concerns, which led fans to create a separate Bandcamp page titled Dream Graveyard, to preserve the lost releases.

In the late 2010's, the label would start to face controversy and backlash from the community after a long series of stunts. For example, the owner HKE would continually announce that the label would be shutting down/deleted only to change his mind at the last minute. HKE would frequently announce he's abandoning Dream Catalogue to create new labels like End of Dream, Dream Ultima and Dream Catalogue EVo, only to return to Dream Catalogue shortly after. The label is still active today, but taken less seriously.

/Music Plays

“/music plays” is an inside joke in the comment section in the Macintosh Plus - リサフランク420 / 現代のコンピュー... Someone would comment something philosophical or a showerthought and follow it up with the phrase. Implying the song makes them think or lends itself to introspection.

There are thousands of these types of comments on the video with more created everyday.

100% Electronica

100% Electronica is the debut album by [George Clanton](#), released on September 25, 2015 by his own label 100% Electronica which is a mix of vaporwave and chillwave. His 100% electronica label is known to be one of the most successful and popular vaporwave labels in the genre.

Around 2018 is when 100% electronica starting organizing shows and tours for other vaporwave artist, putting some artist on stage for the first time.

Sunsetcorp

In 2009, artist Daniel Lopiten, aka oneohtrix point never was experimenting around with a new sound of slowed, chopped and looped samples of older songs but wasn't confident to use this type of sound on one of his main projects. To do a bit of experimenting, Daniel created the separate channel Sunsetcorp.

Here he would upload his songs and videos that fit with this new sound of slowed and reverbed songs that would play over 80's and 90's commercials. He first uploaded "Angel" which was a chopped and looped version of *only you* by Fleetwood Mac, which set the tone for what kind of music he would be making next

The next upload was "Nobody here" , a slowed and looped version of "lady in red". This specific video is widely considered to be one of the very first vaporwave songs and where the vaporwave genre first started. Something about its haunting and nostalgic sound seemed to connect with people. In the following months, other users would reply to sunset corps videos with their own renditions of this sound. Sunsetcorp continued to upload until July 27, 2010 where he seemingly abandoned the channel. Sunsetcorps channel is widely considered to be the birthplace of vaporwave

Update: Sunsetcorp returned on Oct 24, 2023 and [uploaded MOM YOutube AUDIO 1](#)

Chuck Person's Eccojams Vol. 1

Eccojams Vol. 1 is an album by American [electronic musician Daniel Lopatin](#) under the alias Chuck Person. Right after experimenting with his slowed and chopped sounds from his sunsetcorp channel. He decided to expand this sound into an album.

Eccojams features songs that consist of looped samples of hits from the 80s with reverb and pitch effects. The album was released on Aug 8, 2010 with a run of 100 cassette tapes. This album is considered to be the first ever vaporwave album and the most influential in the genre.

Vapor Memory

Vapor Memory is a popular youtube channel that uploads full vaporwave albums and has been around since 2015, this channel serves as the main source for vaporwave music and a complete archive for all vaporwave related releases. He also has a second channel "Vapor memory 2" where he uploads the weirder and more experimental vapor releases. When vaporwave live events started to happen more often, vapor memory would go out of his way to travel to almost every show to capture full sets for his channel

If you ever attend a vaporwave live show, he'll most likely be there.

wolfenstein os x

Wolfenstein Os X was a popular figure in the scene, mainly known for pioneering the subgenre of hardvapour and creating the documentary *Vaporwave: A Brief History*, which is considered to be the definitive vaporwave documentary. However, Wolfestien's views on vaporwave have drastically changed, as he's deleted all vaporwave related content from his channel, making his other documentaries lost media. He provided an explanation for this with his video: "Floral Shoppe: The Most Demonic Album". Where he explains he had an awakening one night listening to Floral Shoppe after taking shrooms, which resulted in what he describes as one of the worst trips of his life and had to be saved by a guardian angel. This experience made him realize the music is very isolating, lacks any depth and is a completely escapist genre that creates a vice or even an addiction to escapism in people that can impede personal growth in the real world. Wolf still continues to put out music, just not vaporwave music.

Vapor95

Vapor95 is a vaporwave and y2k inspired clothing brand based in LA and New York. With most of their designs featuring classic vapor imagery like fiji water, Arizona and even do collabs with artist like Macintosh Plus and George Clanton

Agora Road/Macintosh Cafe

Agora Road is an online forum dedicated to discussing Vaporwave. The site uses the aesthetic of an early 90's web page design which labels itself as being the "best kept secret on the web". The site is most notable for its article on the "dead internet theory" which is the idea that most of the internet has been taken over by artificial intelligence and most of the content on the web is fake and not produced by real humans. Nowadays the site has moved away from vaporwave discussion and just become a regular forum.

Floral Shoppe Vinyl controversy

On August 6th, 2017, the label Old English Spelling Bee announced they would be pressing Floral Shoppe on vinyl. This announcement was a huge deal in the community since the last time the album got an official physical release was during the album's initial run in 2011 on cassette. Within a few hours, the vinyl was completely sold out and scheduled to ship in September, but by the time September came and went, nothing had happened.

In October, an email was sent by Todd, who was spokesperson of Old English Spelling Bee, stating that the orders would be delayed but didn't say for how long. This really angered the fanbase, which made people skeptical if this was even a legit vinyl pressing. Months went by with no updates, emails or packages. When people started

talking about it online, trashing Todd for the lack of any updates, Todd started responding with hostility and would constantly fight with people in the subreddit. Calling fans “vapor babies”, “spoiled idiots” and even went on an unhinged rant about vaporwave causing mental illness and deficiencies in the human brain. Fans speculated Todd may not be mentally well, as his online interactions with fans would switch from exploding rants to pleading with fans to be nicer to him.

To make matters worse, there was a chance that the vinyl was pressed without Vektroids permission. When she tweeted *“If it pertains to me and it hasn't been shared on this feed, it's not official”* and she had never posted about the vinyl at all. Eventually a few lucky people did get their orders a year later, but more people didn't and a suspiciously high number of brand new vinyls showed up on Ebay and in random record stores across LA. Since the controversy, Todd had stopped sending emails and has seemingly disappeared from the internet.

Floral Shoppe 2// The Darkest future

The Darkest Future is a parody album of Floral Shoppe that is intentionally meant to sound like an unlistenable shitshow mess of an album

When it first came out nobody could tell if it was an intentional joke or a stroke of genius. The label behind the album, Dream catalog, later posted an explanation revealing the album was made by vaporwave artist Dark Pyramid.

Dark Pyramid mentioned that most popular releases at the time were pure experimental low effort garbage. Which made him question if either people actually like this type of music or are pretending to because of the album's aesthetic. Which caused him to make the most unlistenable shit imaginable, but gain an audience because of its connection to Floral Shoppe. The album's title “Darkest Future ” is a reference to the artist's fear of fans putting up with low effort creations only due to its connection to a more popular product or if there's hype around it. Ironically, the album has gained a cult-like status, was remastered a few times and was even released on vinyl.

FrankJavCee

FrankJavCee is a youtuber/musician known for his satirical videos covering vaporwave and its many different subgenres. His most popular video “How To Make Vaporwave” garnered millions of views before it was deleted. Frank performs at different future funk/vaporwave shows around SoCal

Bubblegirl's "F すべて I N G" (falling)

Bubblegirl is considered one of the worst vaporwave albums of all time. It's lazily made by slowing down full songs and making no changes. Bubblegirl was presumably so embarrassed by its reception that they completely scrubbed their own existence from the internet by deleting every trace of the album anywhere, making it lost media. The only song to survive from the purge was track 5, *whenever you need*.

This one song spread around for being hilariously awful, but after most realizing the rest of the album was missing, they sought out to find it. After years of searching, eventually a download link to the full album was found by user catcatcatpaw and throwawaypokecard and was uploaded to youtube for everyone's displeasure.

PZA controversy

PZA was an upcoming vaporwave artist that was pretty well respected in the scene, until people found out he was completely stealing other people's music by slowing it down by just a little bit and saying it was his. Even worse, he was selling it. Even though most of vaporwave is slowing down music, this guy would steal full songs, change little about the sample

New Mount Everest

New Mount Everest is the name of Saint peps's secret youtube channel where he posts several songs with the exact same name "New Mount Everest" he's kept this other alias lowkey, only posting about its existence a few times.

Utopian virtual

Utopian Virtual is one of the first subgenres of vaporwave. Mainly inspired from Jame's Ferraro's 2011 album *Far Side Virtual*. Which intentionally creates the kind of artificial music you would hear from classic 3d computer games or the corporate commercials. Using Midi pianos and synthesizers to create this specific sound. Utopian Virtual aims to build the same atmosphere of a fake virtual but perfect world.

Telepath - Ecco n-word

Telepath has released some of his music under different aliases, one of which was ecco n-word on his bandcamp back in 2016. At the time of 2016, edgy humor was really big on the internet and everyone thought this was pretty funny at the time. A few years

later, the name really hasn't aged well. Telepath deleted the album but its very existence has scared telepaths reputation a bit.

Vaporwave 2.0/ Post-Vaporwave

Vaporwave 2.0 and post-vaporwave is the nickname given to vaporwave music made after 2015, where artists experimented with different styles of sound and used more originally composed music instead of relying on just samples.

Alinthius Records

Alinthius Records was one of the very first vaporwave music labels, founded in 2011 by NYKDLN. They were incredibly influential in the scene yet little is known about them. Alinthius records remains active today and has included other internet based music genres to their label like cyberpunk and synthwave

Linda

L I N D A is an inside joke from the 24/7 vapor funk stream that came up after the tvs on screen would freeze on a commercial and somehow overlapped each other creating this image, which people dubbed "Linda"



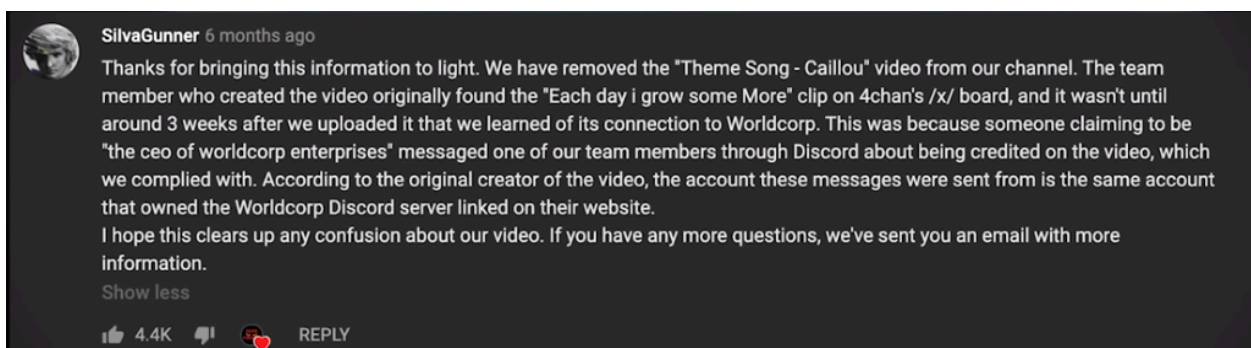
The inside joke grew from there and just built on it. two separate images that just went together perfectly and it became part of the lore. The stream tends to loop the same commercials, so if you tune in at the right time, you might be lucky enough to see her

Worldcorp Enterprises

(TW: sensitive topics of child abuse and Cp)

In 2015 a discussion was made on the 4chan x board, where a user claims he stumbled upon a youtube channel and website called "world corp enterprises" that posted creepy photos and videos with a vaporwave focused aesthetic. But what really caught everyone's attention was the two videos on their channel "Each day I grow some more" and "dreamer heaven", which was a distorted video of what sounded like a child in serious distress while being screamed at by two older men. With the complete lack of information available on them, this led people to believe these videos were original and a part of a larger cult that creates and distributes cp and abuse videos. However, users were quick to find that they're main website led to a soundcloud of the same name that produced cloud rap and vaporwave inspired rap music. This could either be an ARG to promote music or a real cult that distributed cp.

Speculation continued for years until 2019 where one of the members of worldcorp commented that another member actually found the fatherhood clip on 4chan and re-uploaded a distorted cryptic version to their channel to further promote their music. Since the controversy, they've deleted their entire online presence and haven't been heard from since.



nobody here story of vaporwave

Nobody here is a documentary about the evolution of the vaporwave genre and is meant to be the definitive documentary about the subject. Including interviews from various artists in the scene like Saint Pepsi, Telepath and Goerge Clanton. As of the recording of the video it hasn't come out yet but can expect a release in the next few years.

Anonymous Artist

Early on in vaporwave, almost every artist was anonymous. Either to keep a mysterious aura around their music, not really caring about the fame that came with the music or it might have to do with the fact that most people on the internet were anonymous anyway

That was until vaporwave started to grow in popularity and artists began doing interviews, live shows and revealing themselves to the public for more exposure. The vaporwave community to this day is split on whether or not artists should keep themselves anonymous or not.

Simpsonwave

Simpsonwave is a subgenre that takes *Simpsons* clips from the early seasons, usually season 1 to season 10 and layers it over with wavy and trippy effects on top of an obvious vhs filter while most importantly adding someone else's vaporwave as the background

On October 27, 2015 Vine user Vince Spicster posted a looped clip of Bart Simpson on the road while Resonance by Home plays in the background

This one clip went super viral on vine and was later reuploaded to youtube, where it would kickstart a brand new trend in vaporwave called simpsonwave

A few months later Youtuber Hothi updated the bart on the road video by giving it a new visual look, adding a bright neon sunet and keeping the same song but slowing it down a bit. This video was huge and reached 192,000 views in a few months.

On February 5th, 2016, YouTuber Lucien Hughes uploaded another video titled "HOME RSCAPE — 1992 美的", featuring a *Simpsons* clip along with the song ピコ by Macintosh Plus

In just a few months simpsonwave already found its audience so Hughes kept making more videos, and even created the playlist “simpson wave” officially giving these types of videos a name

Simpson wave grew more and more but was taken less seriously overtime, as people couldn't tell if this was a serious attempt at a new genre or nothing more than a joke

Since then, Simpsonwave has died out in popularity, but this specific style of video's still lives on

EEGPROGRAMS

EEGPROGRAMS was one of the more obscure channels that was uploading vaporwave like songs on youtube before the scene even existed at all, while everyone's looked at sunsetcorp for being a pioneer of vaporwave, there's a few channels like this one that sneak past peoples radar. The identity of the channel's creator is unknown and they stopped uploading in 2011. Another vaporwave artist Nmesh claimed he accidentally discovered the channel around 2012 and it inspired him to make vaporwave music.

Private Suite Magazine

Private Suite Magazine was a community made vaporwave magazine that included album reviews, new releases, artist interviews, art and overall discussion around the genre. The first issue was released on June 17, 2018. The magazine was relatively successful in the community until its last issue was released on September 21, 2020.

Private suite shutdown after releasing 14 issues, resulting in the website deleting and their instagram to be set to private. An archive of every issue still exists at the [Private Suite Magazine archive](#).

Beer on the Rug's disappearance

In the 2010's Beer on the rug was one of the earliest and most popular vaporwave labels in the scene. Notable artists in their catalog, Vektroid, midnight television and Eyeliner were signed and released some of the genre's most popular works. They had been putting out more vaporwave and electronic albums until one day in 2019, where out of nowhere everything vanished. The tumblr, bandcamp and website were wiped and had their entire discography and online history deleted with no explanation whatsoever. Which meant that most of their music was now lost in the media. Out of

the hundreds of albums and ep's they put out, only 72 were archived. Which you could check out on the Beer on the Rug archive website.

Boogie at the hypermall 20xx

In early 2014, Influencer Even Collins had set out to make history by organizing the very first vaporwave concert ever "boogie at hypermall 20xx". The plan was to set the festival in an abandoned mall in Scranton, Pennsylvania and gather as many artists as they could that were willing to perform.

A kicktraq page was made for the project, which is pretty much just an alternate kickstarter. With the goal of raising \$20,000 for the event. Creating a Facebook, Tumblr and Reddit page that would give development updates. Things were looking pretty good as the organizer said they not only found a mall for the event, but already had a ton of big names performing like Death's Dynamic Shroud, George Clanton, Infinity Frequencies and Blank Banshee

This event had a lot of supporters and fans excited to finally see their favorite artist play live but it also has its fair amount of haters

For starters, vaporwave at the time was mostly sample based. So for an artist to go up on a potential stage just to play a pre-recorded mp3 file sounded like it would be an awkward experience.

Also at the time, most vaporwave artists were still completely anonymous, so seeing these artists' faces after so many years of knowing nothing about them would ruin the mystic for some people. These two factors are what initially turned people off from supporting the event.

Once Evan set up the kicktraq, he had only 30 days to reach his goal of \$20,000 dollars, which he was only able to raise \$680. The project was canceled and everything that had to do with hypermall disappeared. The Tumblr and Reddit page were deleted, but the Facebook page remained up for years, posting random memes and other vaporwave events before the owner paused the page on Sept 5, 2022

The Telepath Crystal

During telepaths set at the first Electronicon , someone in the audience had brought a crystal with them and decided to hold it up for a few songs.

After the event, the photo of the crystal went viral in the vaporwave scene. So much so that electronicon organizer and vaporwave artist, George Clanton was so inspired by the photo that he set a \$1,000 bounty for whoever could find the identity of the person holding the crystal and more importantly, the crystal itself.

A few months had gone by without any updates on the search, until Goerge Clanton was doing a livestream where he was taking calls from fans. By miracle, the original owner of the crystal was watching and called in to tell Goerge who he was. He didn't want to give up the crystal but did agree to hold up the crystal during Telepath's next set. Which Goerge agreed and even flew him out and paid for his ticket to be there

Not only did he hold up the crystal during Telepaths set, but others brought their own crystals to hold up, creating a new tradition for telepath shows

Telepath hasn't done a live show since the second electronicon, but when he does, there's going to be a lot of crystals.

QINGDAO MARKET

QINGDAO MARKET is a "fake" bootleg vaporwave market that sells crappy knock-off cassettes as a joke. The cassettes will have alternate poorly edited covers and will actually sound like shit, just like a real bootleg.

PZA

PZA was an up and coming vaporwave artist that was pretty well respected until people quickly found out that he wasn't actually producing any of his songs, and was only slowing down other people's songs by a few seconds and calling them his own work. Even though most of vaporwave is slowing down other peoples music, it's encouraged to at least tweak or remix the song to sound like your own. PZA did none of that. He still releases music but remains a somewhat controversial figure in the scene

Who actually created Vaporwave?

Who originally created vaporwave is one of the oldest and most debated topics in the community. While it's widely agreed that Daniel Lopaten birthed the genre with his album "EccoJams vol 1". The production style of slowing down and chopping songs is much older than this first album. DJ screw was a pioneer of the "Chopped and Screwed" genre, which, similar to vaporwave, slows down, edits and adds reverb to sampled songs. Others claim jpegmafia pioneered the sound with his album *DREAMCAST SUMMER SONGS* that also uses slowed down, reverb and dreamlike sound. Another vaporwave artist, 18 carat affair was using the vaporwave sound and aesthetic much before EccoJams came out.

While it is likely we'll never find who actually invented the style of slowing down music, we can at least agree that vaporwave genre started with Daniel Lopaten

Deluxe Vaporwave Cassettes

Deluxe Vaporwave Cassettes or (DVC for short) is a very exclusive invite-only label that produces unofficial issues of vaporwave albums on cassette. Not only is it nearly impossible to gain access to this exclusive club, but it's impossible to find a DVC cassette copy. They come in this prestige foam suitcase packaging and have slight cover art redesigns to set apart a regular album copy and a DVC copy.

DVC also has the most batshit insane wiki page I've ever seen, most of it is trolling and schizo ramblings. Just had to mention that last part, go check it out for yourself

Floral shoppe clones

Floral Shoppe might be one of the most parodied and tributed albums ever made. While doing research for this topic, I was able to find 135 different parody and tribute albums.

Tribute albums rearrange and mix the original samples into alternate and new versions of the Floral Shoppes tracks. For example, using parts of the original song that Macintosh Plus didn't sample. Some use new samples from the same artist Macintosh previously sampled like Diana Ross or Sade, then produce them to sound like a Macintosh Plus song, while others create a brand new sound but release it using an alternate version of the cover.

The most common type of clone albums are the joke/meme albums that use the parts of the album cover like the Helios statue and the pink checkerboard and give them alternate designs, but using shitpost music that's made to intentionally sound bad

Seapunk

Seapunk is a subgenre of vaporwave that uses the aesthetic of the ocean and the early internet. Originating on Tumblr in 2011 as a meme, eventually gained its own small following that started to take the subculture more seriously. Music and fashion that matched the aesthetic were implemented into the subgenre, giving it a unique and specific look.

The actual term of "seapunk" came from DJ Jullian Foxworth, aka "Lil Internet" after he tweeted "Seapunk leather jacket with barnacles where the studs used to be". He claims the idea of seapunk came to him in a dream.

On June 1st 2011, only a month after the original tweet, the first seapunk label, Coral Records was made and albums already had their own seapunk-esk sound. The subgenre started off pretty niche until mainstream artists like Grimes, Lady Gaga and Azealia Banks started embarrassing seapunk and adapting the look and sound into their music. Which shot seapunk into the mainstream almost overnight.

The peak of seapunks popularity would come in November of 2012, when Rihanna performed her hit song "Diamonds" on Saturday Night Live and used seapunk visuals as a background. As cool as it was that something this niche reached the mainstream, most seapunk fans were upset that bigger artists were making money off of the aesthetics they created. Eventually, the styles and aesthetics of seapunk adapted their way into vaporwave and most fans made the switch over to that other genre instead. As seapunk releases started to slow down, the genre later died out.

Synthwave

Synthwave is a subgenre of electronic music made to pay tribute to the soundtracks of science fiction, action, horror movie and video games from the 1980's. Synthwave reached wider popularity after being featured in the soundtracks of the 2011 film *Drive* and the 2012 game *Hotline Miami*. Synthwave often gets paired with vaporwave for the similar aesthetics and production style

Mallsoft

Mallsoft is a subgenre of vaporwave that romanticizes the nostalgic look and sound of 1980's and 90's indoor shopping malls, grocery stores and anything that is retail.

Mallsoft typically samples smooth jazz or elevator music regularly played in malls and other shopping centers, aiming to resemble the ambiance of shopping in an empty store.

This feeling can resemble invoking nostalgic memories of going to the mall a child, or invoke the imagery of music still echoing through the halls of an abandoned mall

Zeldawave

On Jul 30, 2017, Graeme Claerk released the EP "Zeldawave" under the alias Marble Pawns. Zeldawave samples the original Ocarina of Time soundtrack and remixes it by slowing them down and adding reverb effects over trap beats. Adding this over washed out and hazy visuals of Ocarina of Time gameplay. The original video ["Zeldawave"](#) reached quick success and spawned a short lived and niche trend of other zeldawave inspired videos that remix other zelda games.

Freed/Liberated from the world

新しいデラックスライフ : 世界から解放され

Liberated from the world (also goes by freed from the world) is an album by *Internet Club* under the alias *New Deluxe Life*, which is one of the most devisave albums in the entire vaporwave genre.

Some consider it to be one the most experimental and groundbreaking albums ever made, while others consider it to be nothing more than an ironic shitpost.

This is due to the albums experimental sampling style of excessively looping old tv commercial clips that create an eerie and unnerving vibe

The album was the second of a three part series by New Deluxe Life which was a trilogy of Japanese TV/Commercial focused samples with the other two parts being DELUXE and NHK REMINDS YOU TO BOOST YOUR SIGNAL.

This album is responsible for influencing/birthing other subgenres like vapornoise, signalwave and broken transmission, as well other sampling styles and glitch techniques are still used in vaporwave to this day

Signalwave

Signalwave is an experimental subgenre that combines styles of vaporwave, glitch, and ambient music to create the sound that evokes the feeling of nostalgia and melancholy. Sampling audio from older television and radio clips, then looping, pitch-shifting, and time-stretching the sample clip to create a unique and eerie sound.

Some of the most popular signalwave artists include Infinity Frequencies, Nmesh, and Internet club

Fashwave

Fashwave is a political fascist sub genre that's an instrumental fusion of synthwave and vaporwave with political track titles and occasional soundbites from political speeches.

Fashwave originated on youtube around 2015 by electronic artists Cybernazi, Xurious, Andrew Anglin and Elessar.

Tradwave

Tradwave is an off-shoot aesthetic that focuses on traditional catholic inspired vaporwave content, nothing more to that really.

Deathdream

Deathdream is an experimental sub-category of vaporwave that uses ambient drone music to explore themes of isolation and depression.

Deathdream exists as a short lived and seemingly forgotten genre, as of the writing of the iceberg, only 75 releases exist under the deathdream tag. The genre's prime on Bandcamp was between 2015 and 2016, and while you'll still see a few releases rarely uploaded, the genre seems inactive and stagnant right now.

Youtuber Pad Chengton made a video discussing the genre titled "*Death Dream: The Darkest Music Genre*". Which was unexpectedly deleted a few months later. While Pad hasn't given a clear answer on why he deleted the video, fans speculate that he didn't actually intend to resurrect the genre since he believed the genre had to die and was better left to obscurity and appreciated by those who come across it on their own.

Mix/ Completions

A staple of vaporwave culture are the youtube mix/ compilations. Which are self explanatory, a long completion of different vaporwave songs set to a looping aesthetic gif or a still image.

There are thousands of different completion mixes of vaporwave songs on youtube, with more being uploaded every single day. Some of the most popular mix channels are Sound Station and Spliff Radio

Fun fact: the youtube 24/7 music streams originated from vaporwave completions

“Vaporwave is Dead”

Since vaporwave first became widely popular in the early 2010's, the genre has always been described as “dead” Depending on who you ask, most fans of the genre believe that vaporwave died around 2012 due to it receiving mainstream exposure and causing other artist to make low quality releases either as a joke or trying to cash in as a trend.

It didn't help that the general public came to view vaporwave as an Internet meme, a notion that frustrated some producers who wished to be taken seriously. The phrase “vaporwave is dead” became so frequently asked that it's become a community meme in itself.

On December 9, 2015, Sandtimer released the satirical album “vaporwave is dead”. While the album name was clearly a joke, most fans mark this album's release as the official death of the “classic era of vaporwave”, since less sample based and more experimental music would be released shortly after.

The Olive War

The Olive War is an obscure inside joke/war in the community where fans argue about which olives are better.

Chillwave

Chillwave is an electronic microgenre that emerged in the late 2000's. Known for its use of heavy reverb, pop influences, synths and lofi elements to create its signature dreamy and nostalgic vibe.

This and the vaporwave genre are sometimes confused with each other since both have such a similar sound and rose to popularity around the same time period. For example,

most artists like Vektroid, George Clanton and Surfing are labeled as both Chillwave and Vaporwave artists.

Some vaporwave music was originally made to parody the hype around chillwave by becoming the epitome of what everyone hated about it. Chillwave was criticized for its overuse of reverb and lack of originality with its samples of older songs, vaporwave artist would outright slow full songs down and label them as "Chillwave" tracks on bandcamp

Similar to Vaporwave, Chillwave is considered to be a dead genre but still has its dedicated fanbase

Broken Transmission

Broken Transmission is a subgenre that samples old television commercials, radio jingles, static sounds and blends them together to create a collage of a disrupted transmission signal. Major pioneers of the genre include Midnight Television and Infinity Frequencies, who started making broken transmissions as early as 2011 and 2012. The broken transmission community is small but incredibly active

VHS-pop

VHS pop is an offshoot subgenre of vaporwave and lofi-hip hop that takes 80's pop and smooth jazz or hip hop instrumentals and gives it a lofi effect. The genre is relatively small and undeveloped.

Hypnagogic drift

Hypnagogic Drift is a style or technique of Vaporwave focused on creating and exploring droning, dream-like atmospheres through distorted samples looped smoothly so as to "drift" in and out.

b e g o t t e n 自杀

"b e g o t t e n 自杀" is an infamous vaporwave artist that's shrouded in mystery and infamy. Sending 6 complete vaporwave/Dark Ambient albums to Dennis Mikula, owner of the vaporwave label Geometric Lullaby through cryptic letters and emails. It is still debated whether or not begotten was real or an ARG (alternate reality game)

The Story:

In Mid 2017, Dennis announced on Reddit that he was looking for artists to host on his label Geometric Lullaby. A week after his announcement, he received an email sent from the country Azerbaijan that included mp3 files for six full albums set to be released each year of Halloween, a set of music videos with eerie visuals of skeletons and ghost dancing in slow motion and a link to a bandcamp page with covers and album titles set up without any of the actual music. Each album in the email came with a set of Chinese poetry, presumably written by Begotten, set to slowed ambient music.

Dennis was impressed at what he had discovered. After trying to get in contact with the artist for over 3 months, he finally received a reply that said *"Please release, send me address"*

A few months later Dennis would receive a letter from Baku, Azerbaijan containing 25 J-card cassettes of the first Begotten album "Lifecycle" each with the word "death" written on them. The albums would be sold on Geometric Lullabies bandcamp a week later with instant success. Dennis would try for months attempting to contact Begotten for another year with no avail, until he received another letter in the mail from Georgia containing nothing but an address to both a mental hospital and a graveyard with the words "B.D.W" on the envelope.

Believing this was related to Begotten, Dennis called his friend from Georgia and convinced him to scope out the graveyard hoping to find something. Dennis facetimed his friend while he explored the graveyard but unfortunately found nothing, right as his friend was about to hang up the phone, a black van pulled up to the friend and the call disconnected. Dennis was unable to call his friend back or get in contact with him since his number was no longer working and his facebook was suddenly deactivated.

Three days after this incident, Dennis would get a call back from his friend who claims to not remember anything happening besides facetime at a graveyard and finding nothing. As for the facebook account, he wanted to move on from Facebook and was planning on deleting his account anyway. Dennis asked his friend if he could also check out the asylum for him, and his friend unsurprisingly said "no".

A year went by with no messages from Begotten and Dennis was growing impatient. After Dennis released more of Begottens albums and videos, he finally received an email from Begotten that said *"Thank you. I am still alive. I am okay for now."*

Years later after Dennis had finished releasing Begottens full discography, he received an email from Begotten that read *"do you really want to know who I am?"*. Dennis thought about this email for days, wondering if knowing the identity of the

artist would ruin the mystique of the music. After much consideration, Dennis wrote back *"You are begotten and that is all that matters to me. Thank you for trusting me"*. Since that final email, Dennis and Begotten have not spoken since.

While the music of Begotten has a cult fanbase, the story that Dennis gave about the album's backstory is heavily speculated to be fake. For starters, aspects of the story like the graveyard and black van sound too far-fetched to be true. This entire story sounds like an elaborate marketing stunt, which it probably was.

John Maus cancellation

On June 22, 2023, George Clanton announced 100% Electronicon 4. The main headliner was indie electronic artist John Maus and most fans had an immediate issue with this.

John Maus is a controversial figure in the indie scene over his right-wing beliefs and support of former president Donald Trump. But what really landed him in hot water was showing up to the January 6th insurrection.

His inclusion in the festival was treated as a pretty big deal as most fans were claiming they were going to boycott electronicon and not show up to the concert while others were claiming to protest outside the venue in support of John. Of course, most discourse was all talk and nothing was really going to happen.

On June 27, 2023, George Clanton announced that John would be removed from the lineup. This controversy is still a heavily debated topic in the vaporwave and indie scene, it's unknown when John will return to performing

Wardriver96

Wardriver96 is a vaporwave producer and blogger that was interviewed on Nov 4, 2013 by Brett Smylie in the youtube video Vaporwave: An interview with Wardriver96

What makes this interview so interesting is nobody is entirely sure whether Wardriver was playing a character or not. He mentions he's a full time professional blogger and popular vaporwave artist, yet none of his music or blog posts can be found anywhere online. While doing research, I was able to find that Wardriver had an account that has since been deleted and lost to time.

So whether this was satirical or not will be left up to interpretation

HKE (Hong Kong Express)

HKE (Hong Kong Express) is one of the largest and most influential producers in the vaporwave scene with countless aliases, projects and collabs, as well as co-creator of the Dreampunk genre, and founder of the experimental electronic label—Dream Catalogue.

While incredibly influential, HKE is also one of the most controversial and hated figures in the scene for his online antics. While not ourwarly malicious, he gets his negative reputation due to his constant stunts, twitter rants, superiority complex, beefing with other artists, fighting with fans and overall doucheiness.

For example, HKE would continually announce his label would be deleted in a few days, only to change his mind at the last second. He would sometimes randomly raise the bandcamp prices to thousands of dollars or take down albums without the artist permission. Fans that are subscribed to his label would receive emails from him consisting of unhinged rants or his own poetry.

HKE serves as an example of separating the art from the artist. Whether you like him or not, you can't deny his influence on the genre.

Cloud Rap

Cloud rap is a subgenre of rap that emerged in the early 2010's on soundcloud that's characterized by its distinct sound of hazy, dreamlike and relaxed production style. Cloud rap was influenced by the then-developing sound of vaporwave, and its approach to production and visual aesthetic.

Popular rappers and producers in the genre include Yung Lean, Bones, Xavier Wulf, Clams Casino, Lil B, Chris Travis, Ecco2k and A\$ap Rocky.

Cloud rap eventually manifested into Vaportrap, a style that crossed over with cloud rap just a few years later

Arizona/ Fiji

Arizona tea and Fiji water are both products that have immortalized themselves in the culture and aesthetic of vaporwave. Most of it comes down to the look of the product and how it matches the aesthetic.

In 2013, rapper Yung Lean used Arizona tea in both his videos for “hurt” and “Ginseng Strip 2002”, which used vaporwave aesthetics as visuals. As Yung Lean gained more popularity, Arizona’s connection with Vaporwave began to grow with it. Arizona started to pop up in vaporwave edits, used ironically to poke fun at the trendy hype that Arizona had at the time, and used sincerely because the packaging perfectly fit the vaporwave aesthetic.

Fiji water had the same effect. Used in edits for its unique packaging and visual appeal, but also used ironically since it’s an overpriced product with a cool looking bottle

Vapornoise

Vapornoise is a subgenre of vaporwave characterized by its extreme choppiness and overly aggressive production.

Vapornoise uses microsampling, distortion, static and extreme sound manipulation to the point that the original sample is unrecognizable.

"all caps and alt key codes"

"all caps and alt key codes" was one of the first ever vaporwave parody albums

Daycore/ Slowed and Reverb

Daycore and slowed and reverb are a music style that slows down and adds a lot of reverb to a song. It’s pretty much the same thing as vaporwave, the only difference is it’s given a different name and is more common in the nightcore community.

Vapormeme

Vapormeme is the name given to the ironic/satirical meme culture that's intertwined with vaporwave. The music and aesthetics of vaporwave have been referenced and memed throughout the 2010's. The most popular example of this is "Macintosh Plus 420" used in a variety of vines and memes.

In 2016, vaporwave was a popular choice in the Youtube commentary community. Youtubers like Pyrocynical, Leafyishere and H3H3productions would use vaporwave songs as intros and outros to their videos. This time period was when Vaporwave was at its peak in popularity, which only attracted more onlookers to participate in the genre both ironically and sincerely.

Vapormeme became its own microgenre after an increase of satirical and ironic albums making fun of the genre were posted to bandcamp.

This new peak in popularity wasn't entirely welcomed by the community. Most artists felt their music wasn't going to be taken seriously anymore since half the internet saw the genre as nothing more than a joke.

The Latinwave Incident

In 2015, the record label Latinwave Records was created by artist *Pentium 2* to promote music made by Hispanic and Latin vaporwave producers. The label had an impressive start, receiving dozens of submissions and releasing albums monthly.

On January 9, 2018, a now-deleted Reddit user wrote a post titled "[The Truth about LATINWAVE and the Hispanic vaporwave scam artist](#)". The post detailed that the owner of the label would create different aliases pretending to be different artists to give the impression that the label actually had several people signed to it. When really it was mostly one person.

This especially confused the people who had befriended the different artists on the label and would spend months casually talking, only to find out none of them were real and they were just talking to the same person all along. Pentium 2 would steal personal information, identities and photos from random people online to make the artists behind the projects seem more real.

On top of that, Pentium would harass and fight other people through his many fake accounts. Since the controversy went public, all of Pentium's alternate accounts were removed and the Latin Wave project was seemingly abandoned. As of now, Pentium 2 has a bandcamp page that still releases music as recently as 2023.

Oneohtrix Point Never – Memory Vague

Memory Vague is a visual project by Oneohtrix Point Never (OPN) , which was released as a limited-edition DVD- by Root Strata on June 1, 2009. It features most of the videos uploaded on the sunsetcorp youtube channel and other visuals to songs from Chuck Person's - Eccojams, which wouldn't officially release until a year later. The dvd has become a rare holy grail among the vaporwave and OPN community

Hardvapour

Hardvapor is a subgenre that emerged in late 2015 as an ironic response to vaporwave. This genre emerged from Canadian artist Wolfenstein OS X's album *End of World Rave*. Hardvapor intentionally opposes aspects that are common with the vaporwave sound. Using hardstyle beats, fast tempos, heavy synths and industrial beats. Wolfesteins main goal for hardvapour was to expand the genre past it's slowed and reverb style and create a theme of post-apocalyptic rave.

Barber Beats

Barber beats is a somewhat controversial subgenre that pitches up or down samples from smooth jazz, elevator music, lofi house and hip-hop without changing anything else from the sample. This specific sound originated from artist Haircuts for Men, which is where the genre's name comes from.

Most vaporwave fans argue the morality of the genre's existence since it's stolen music released and sold under a different name. Especially since cassettes and vinyls are created around this genre.

Haircuts for Men is aware of the controversy and has stated on their bandcamp "*I take no credit, everything is plundered*"

Clarence Vaporwave

On Apr 20, 2018, the Cartoon Network official Youtube page uploaded "*Clarence Vaporwave*" showing a clip where Clarence says: "You can fry a french fry" over and over again set to euphoric electronic music with other clips from the show edited to look glitchy with trippy color effects over it.

Liminal Spaces

Liminal spaces are empty or abandoned locations that appear eerie, familiar and surreal. Vaporwave plays into the concepts of familiarity and nostalgia, so vaporwave liminal spaces would include abandoned malls, pools rooms, empty museums with marble statues and anything with neon lighting. Most artist like Hantasi, Infinity Frequencies and City by Dawn capture the liminal spaces aesthetic by using liminal locations as album covers and produce ambient music made to sound eerie and empty

Pad Chennington

Pad Chennington is an American youtuber/musician who uploads reviews and video essays on vaporwave music and other obscure music topics. Pad is one of the most popular vaporwave centered youtubers, with over 150K subscribers as of the writing of this doc. Pad regularly performs at vaporwave and future funk festivals when he gets the chance.

Tumblr

In 2013/2014 Vaporwave would become a popular focus on Tumblr, as most visual aesthetics and music was shared on the site. It soon became the main source of content for fans of the genre. Vaporwave continues to be one of the most popular aesthetics on the site today.

Surfing's missing third member

“Surfing” is an Australian duo project by Penny Van Hazelberg and Leroy Nania. Their debut album; *Deep Fantasy*, releasing on April 3, 2012 has become an instant cult classic in the vaporwave and indie scene. While Surfing continues to release music as a duo, the band originally had a third member named Harvey Goodsell. Not much is known about Harvey, other than the fact he recorded with them on *Deep Fantasy* as the bassist, then randomly disappeared before the album was finished. In a 2016 Bandcamp interview, Surfing member Leroy said:

“Contact just sort of dropped—internet, phone, we couldn’t get a hold of him, We do have a few mutual friends, people who know him better than us, and they’re asking us what happened,”

- **S U R F I N G on “Deep Fantasy” and Their Unlikely Rise to Cult Stardom** By [Louis Pattison](#) · September 13, 2016

