Recording Eras (DAWs and Emerging Technologies) - Knowledge Organiser

GLOSSARY	
Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)	A device/piece of software capable of recording, editing and mixing audio and MIDI files

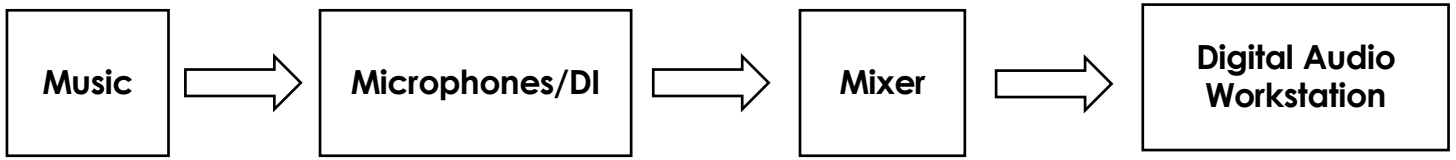
DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATONS

- DAWs started out as early software for controlling and capturing audio and MIDI data
- DAWs can come in both hardware and software forms

Integrated DAWs	Software DAWs
	

• Store a control surface, mixing console, audio converter and data storage all in one device	• Are computer based and require the following components:
	  • A computer
	  • A sound card or other audio interface
	  • Audio editing software
	  • An input device to modify data (i.e. mouse, MIDI keyboard etc.)

TYPICAL 2000s SIGNAL FLOW



DAW DEVELOPMENT

- Early DAWs were limited by the hard disk technology at the time
    - Theoretically they were able to edit more tracks and larger files, but hard disks stored relatively small amounts of data
        - Larger drives = very expensive
- By the late 90s DAWs had integrated both audio and MIDI into their software
    - Software eventually became more capable of running increasingly large numbers of audio and MIDI tracks simultaneously
- DAWs began to replace hardware like tape machines, making them essentially obsolete
    - They also began to reduce the need for rack-mounted hardware effects and dynamic processing
    - Software emulations of things like compressors, EQ and reverb started to be included within the DAWs

These developments made recording and production software smaller and more affordable, allowing for more artists to access it