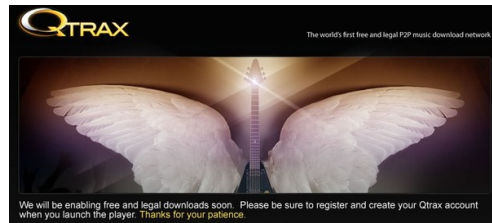




Qtrax Signs With Last of Big Four Music Publishers

By Eliot Van Buskirk  May 14, 2008 | 9:38:39 AM Categories: [Digital Music News](#), [Music Software and Sites](#), [Social Media](#), [Sponsored Music](#)



Qtrax, the "world's first free, legal P2P service," has signed a deal with music publisher Warner/Chappell, which had been the last of the big four music publishers to hold out on signing a deal. [EMI Publishing and Sony/ATV](#) signed with Qtrax in early March and [Universal](#) signed earlier this month, meaning that as of today Qtrax has deals with every major music publisher in the world. A spokeswoman for Warner/Chappell confirmed that the deal was signed.

Although this is a significant milestone for Qtrax, the company still needs more label deals in order to put these publisher deals into effect. So far, only [Universal Music Group](#), [TVT Records](#) and [Beggars](#) have signed on, so Qtrax still has a fair amount of work cut out for it label-wise. TVT's music is already downloadable, while Universal's is still being added. A spokeswoman for Qtrax said the Beggars catalog, consisting of over a thousand indie labels, will start showing up in about a week.

But the deal brings the company one step closer to its stated goal of offering legal, ad-supported, DRM-ed P2P file sharing of the estimated 25 million songs currently available on the world's file sharing networks. All four major labels have signed deals with [imeem](#) and [Last.fm](#) to allow them to offer free, on-demand streaming. The next phase could be licensing P2P -- a moment that cannot come too soon for Qtrax, which has been trying to offer this service for over seven years. Limewire is [said](#) to be pursuing a similar strategy.

Qtrax's feature set is of secondary concern in advance of more label deals being signed, but if/when those deals are signed, the company would do well to have all of its ducks in a row software-wise, to avoid turning off users during what could be an initial rush try the service.

To that end, the company updated its Songbird-based software to version 0.3 with linked artist names and keywords, four search options (artist, keyword, track or album), charts ranking the most frequently-traded files, user profile pages and regional sites for France, the US and the UK.

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