

Plateau PC Users Group

Internet TV and Streaming
Services
2023 Update

Presented By
George Sengstock

June 13, 2023



What is My Goal?

Since moving to FFG, we have had both Dish Network and Xfinity internet. We have the free Xfinity TV box, a Roku and a Visio “smart TV”. We will be cutting off the Dish contract (> \$100/month) and replacing some lost content for hopefully under \$50/month.



What is My Goal?

For the last year, we have been “figuring it out”. This year, July 4 will be Freedom from Dish day!

Last year’s presentation (link):

[June 14, 2022 George Sengstock: "Internet TV and Streaming"](#)



Hardware Prerequisites

In last year's presentation, we talked a lot about hardware and network prerequisites to access streaming technology.

This time, we assume you have what you need to get started but will quickly review some key topics.



Viewing Hardware

- Cellphone or tablet via Bluetooth/WiFi
- Tablet or PC via HDMI cable
- Streaming device over WiFi (or Ethernet cable)
- “Smart” TV over WiFi (or Ethernet cable)



Network

In this context, “Network” refers to not only to how internet signals are routed in your house but also your internet provider. In our area, you are likely using one of the following providers:

[Xfinity](#) (Comcast)

[Frontier](#)

[Spectrum](#) (Charter)

[Ben Lomand](#)



Hardware Checklist

- Know your provider(s) plans and costs. Explore what you have now.
- Know your house Network. i.e. SSID, password(s) and physical layout.
- Sound re-enforcement. Almost a must given with modern super-flat TVs.
- Learn how to navigate with your remote control. Do you have voice command?



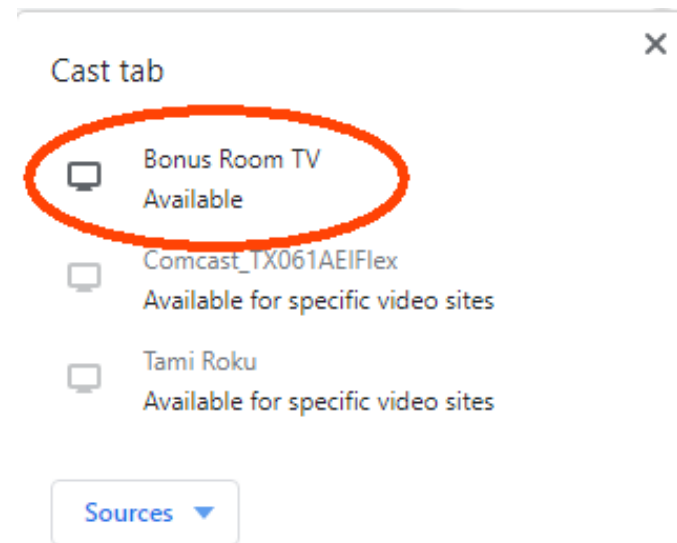
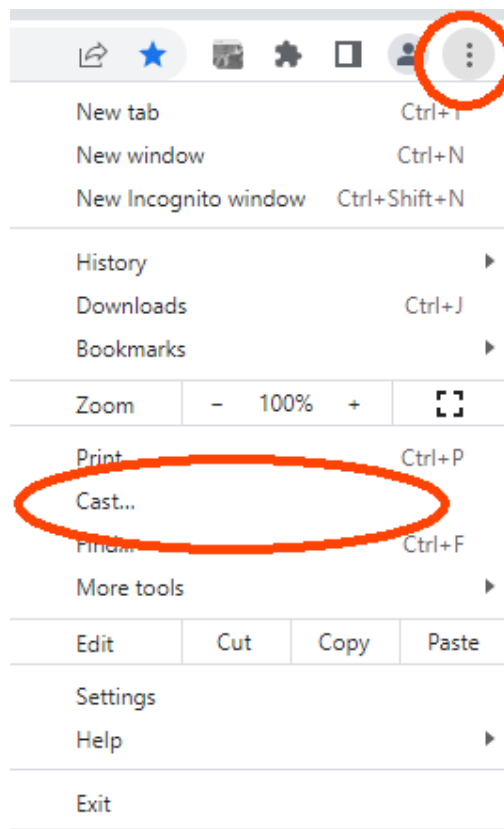
Buying a New Smart TV?

- Combines HD or 4K LCD television with one of the common Streaming Devices.
- Besides screen size, make your selection based on the inputs and outputs you need for your situation.



A Neat Trick: ChromeCast

My smart TV and Roku device allows me to “clone” my PC or phone screen to the TV without using cables. It works over Wi-Fi and is part of the Chrome Browser making surfing the web or watching internet videos with you spouse easy.



What is Streaming?



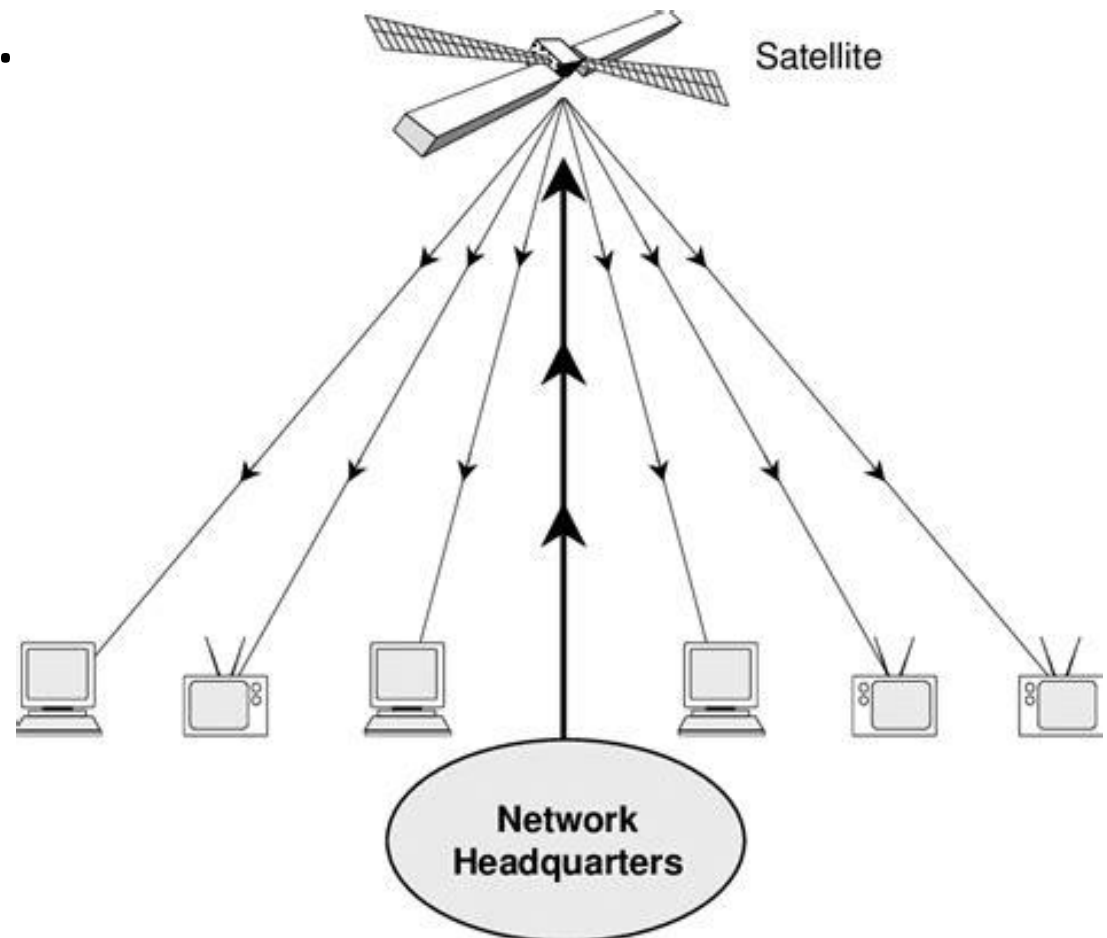
What is Streaming?

Streaming is a way to receive music, radio and TV broadcasts, movies or even going to church on the internet.

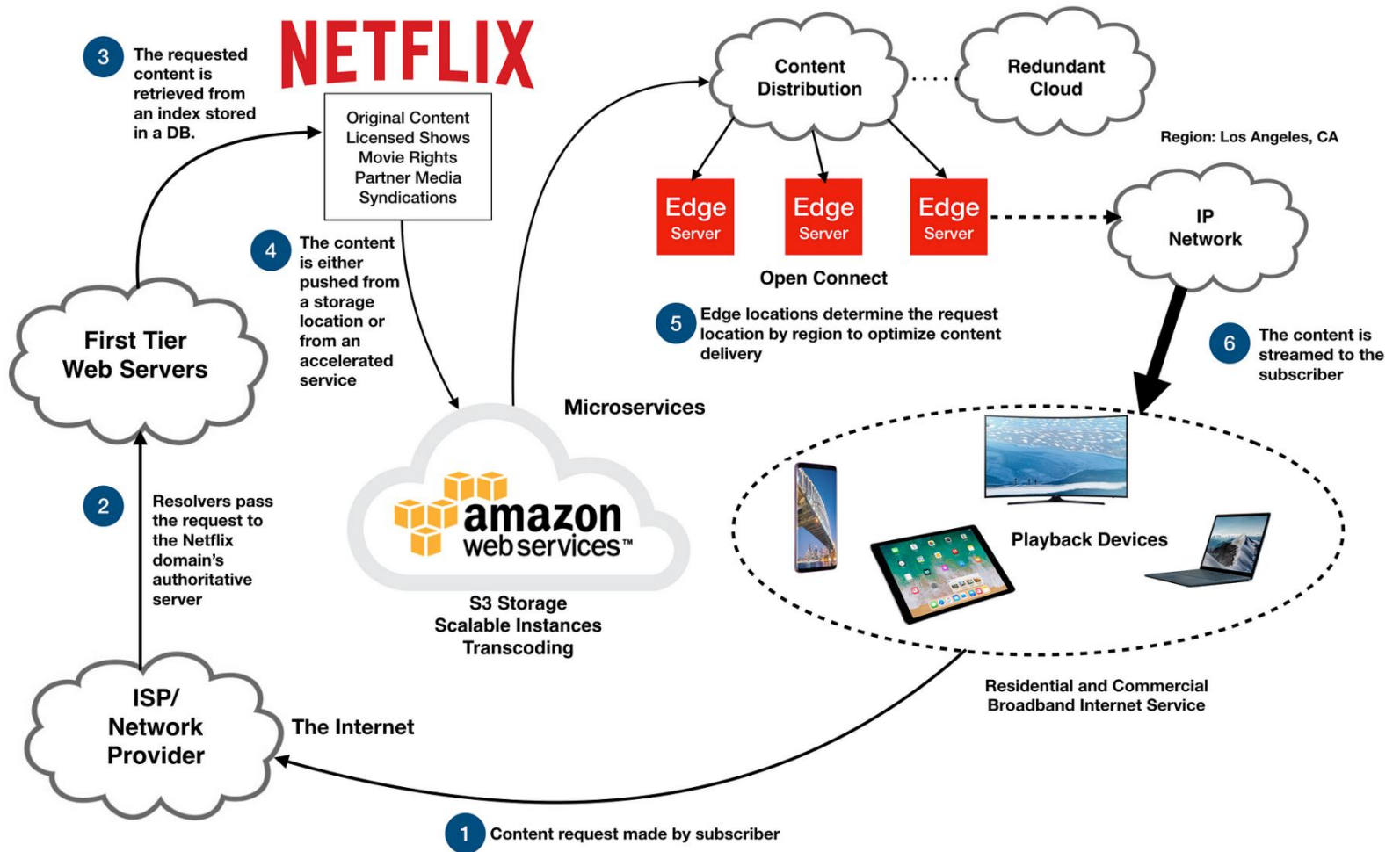
Personally, I group these into two technical types; **live** or **on-demand**. The former are like traditional TV (or radio) stations and have a schedule while the later are watched whenever you want.



Cable and satellite TV has been similar to radio broadcasting which started in the early 1900's. A device has been added to your home to enable reception of channels based on subscription basis.



When streaming, a unique connection between the server and the client (your device) is established. The content passes through layers of technologies and protocols so complex they are represented as boxes and clouds.



What does it cost?

Many channels are free. In general, this works like traditional TV in that advertisements financially support the programming.

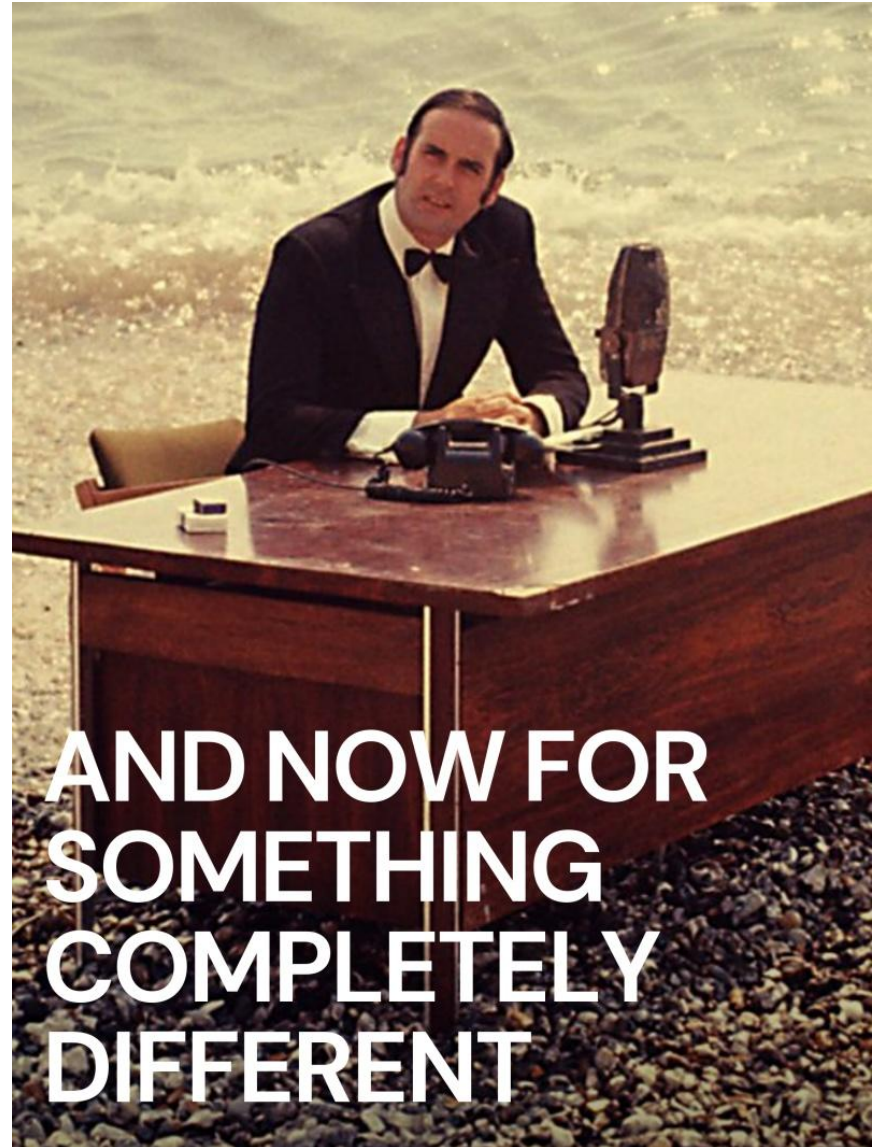
One can also do “pay per view” and is cheaper than the movie theater.

Subscribing to one or more of the premium services give access to thousands of programs for a monthly or annual fee.

Paid for programming is generally “On demand” and does not have commercials.



Enough
Technobable,
Show me the
Content!



Common “Free” Channels

‘Live’, TV series, classic movies and more.
Has advertisements just like regular TV.

Amazon Freevee (formerly IMDb TV)

Crackle

Fawesome.tv

The Film Detective

Haystack News

Hoopla

HyFyTV

Kanopy

LG Channels/Channel Plus (LG owners only)

Mozi

Peacock

Plex

Pluto TV

Redbox

The Roku Channel

Samsung TV Plus (Samsung owners only)

Sling Free

Tivo+

Tubi

Vice TV

Visio Watchfree+ (Visio owners only)

Vix

Vudo (Fandango)

We TV

Xumo TV



Popular Paid Services



Netflix
Best for Original Shows



YouTube TV
Best for Replacing Cable



PBS Documentaries
Best for Popular Documentaries



Hulu
Best for Live and On-Demand Content



Tubi
Best for Free Movies



History Vault
Best for Military Documentaries



Peacock
Best for Affordable TV Shows and Movies



Fubo
Best for Sports



KweliTV
Best for International Programming



Amazon Prime Video
Best for On-Demand Shows and Movies



Crunchyroll
Best for Anime



Plex
Best for Media Server Setups



Max
Best for HBO Shows and Popular Movies



CuriosityStream
Best for HD & 4K Documentaries

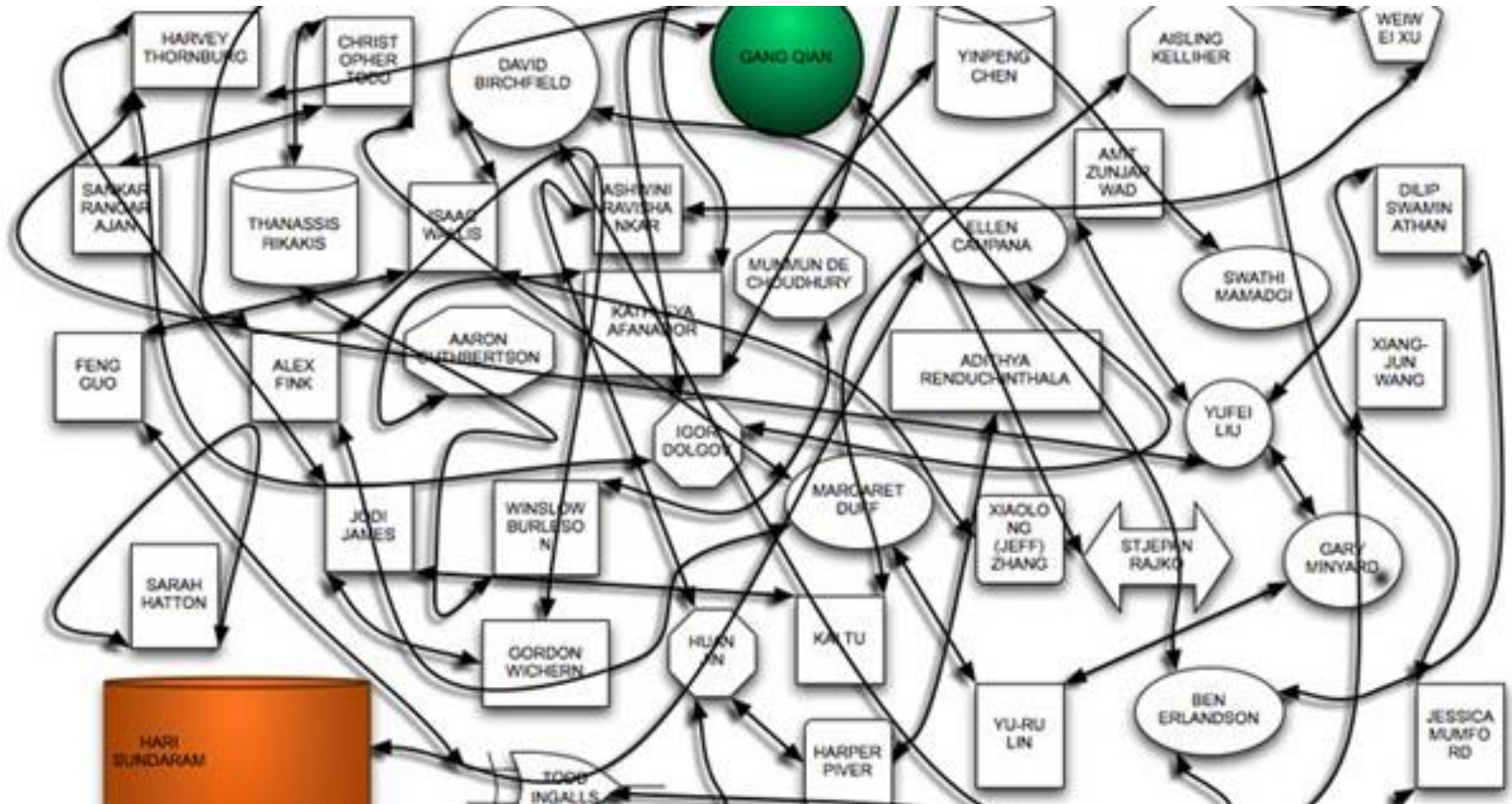


Disney+
Best for Family-Friendly Content



Kanopy
Best for Educational and Family Content

Pick a Service



The inter-relationship of internet, media and streaming providers is complex. Even what brand hardware (TV) you have may affect which streaming services you will use, especially when seeking “free” options.



Two services have marketed themselves as being the all-inclusive, one-stop shop to replace the dish/cable box and provide on-demand streaming options. The price is the same or less than your current Cable/Satellite service while including features not possible with legacy TV.

The Hulu logo is displayed in a bright green, lowercase, sans-serif font.

<https://www.hulu.com/welcome>



<https://tv.youtube.com/welcome>



Details on each follows



[youtube base-plan](#)

Base Plan

~~\$72.99/mo~~ **\$64.99/mo**

\$8 off first 3 months

Our bread and butter – all 100+ live channels and all the perks.

- ✓ **100+ live channels**
- ✓ Unlimited DVR space
- ✓ Special features like Key Plays View
- ✓ 6 household accounts and 3 streams

[YouTube Premium - YouTube](#)



YouTube and YouTube Music ad-free, offline, and in the background

[Try it free](#)

1-month free trial • Then \$11.99/month

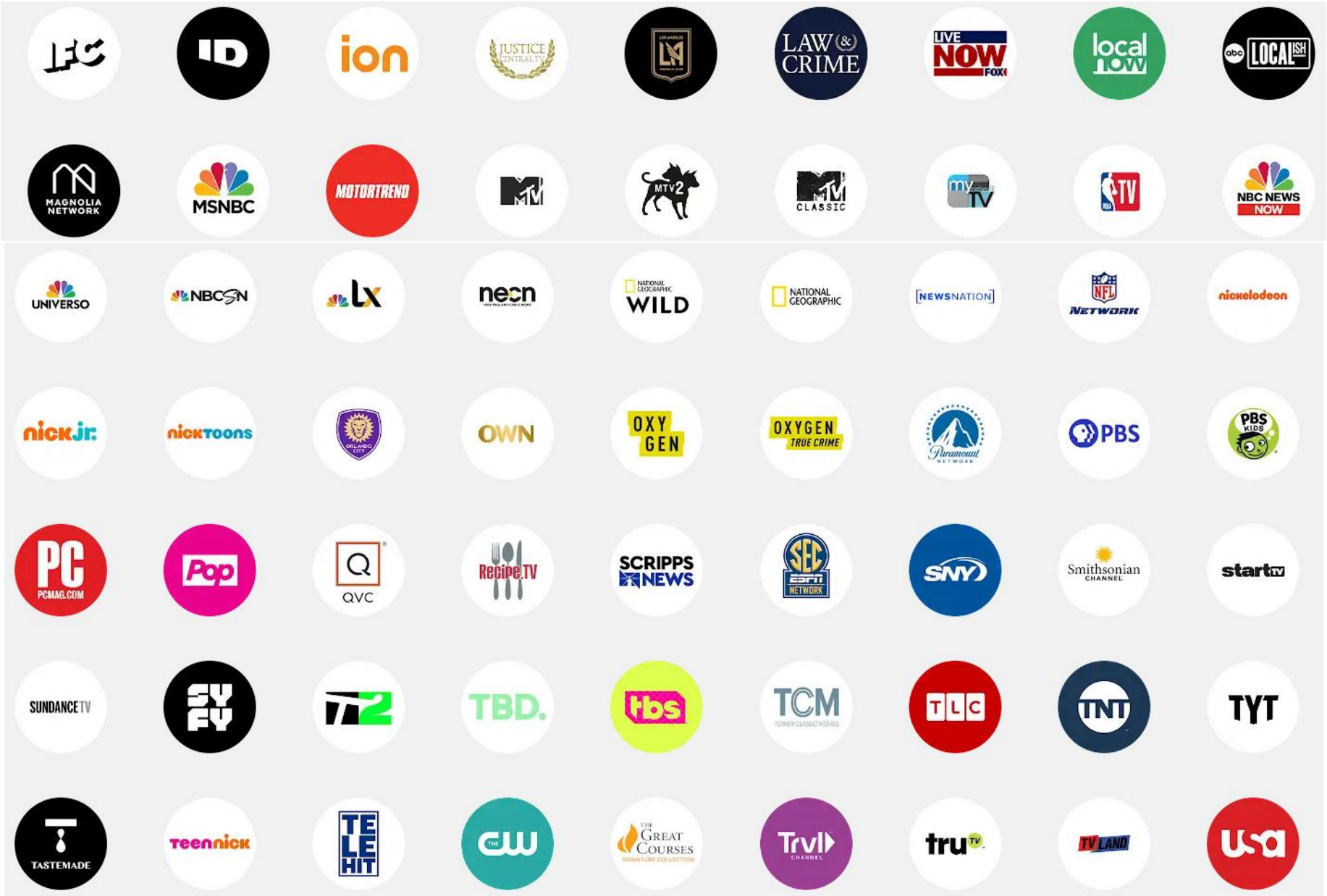
We'll remind you 7 days before your trial ends

Free trial for eligible new members only • Recurring billing • Cancel anytime

Base Plan



YouTube TV



hulu

BASE PLANS



BUNDLE / SAVE

hulu

hulu Disney+ ESPN+

30 DAY FREE TRIAL

Hulu (With Ads)

\$7.99 / MONTH

30 DAY FREE TRIAL

Hulu (No Ads)

\$14.99 / MONTH

Monthly price	\$7.99/mo.	\$14.99/mo.
Streaming Library with tons of TV episodes and movies ⓘ	✓	✓
Most new episodes the day after they air*	✓	✓
Access to award-winning Hulu Originals	✓	✓
Watch on your favorite devices, including TV, laptop, phone, or tablet	✓	✓
Up to 6 user profiles ⓘ	✓	✓
Watch on 2 different screens at the same time	✓	✓
No ads in streaming library ⓘ	—	✓
Download and watch ⓘ	—	✓



Available Add-ons

Add-ons available at an additional cost. Add them up after you sign up for Hulu.

Max

SHOWTIME®

CINEMAX®

STARZ®



BASE PLANS



BUNDLE / SAVE

hulu

hulu Disney+ ESPN+

hulu Disney+ ESPN+

Disney Bundle
Trio Basic

\$12.99 / MONTH

hulu Disney+ ESPN+

Disney Bundle
Trio Premium

\$19.99 / MONTH

hulu Disney+ ESPN+

Hulu + Live TV

\$69.99 / MONTH

Subscriptions included in each plan

Disney+, Hulu, and ESPN+, all with ads

Disney+ (No Ads), Hulu (No Ads), ESPN+ (With Ads)

Hulu + Live TV, Disney+, and ESPN+, all (No Ads)

Hulu Streaming library with tons of episodes and movies ⓘ



Most new episodes the day after they air*



Access to award-winning Hulu Originals



Watch on your favorite devices, including TV, laptop, phone, or tablet



Download and watch on Hulu ⓘ



Live TV with 85+ top channels. No cable required. ⓘ



Live TV guide to navigate channels



Record Live TV with Unlimited DVR ⓘ





[VIEW CHANNELS IN YOUR AREA →](#)

Channels in your area

Enter your home ZIP code for channels available in your area.

SUBMIT

The channels below are available in your ZIP code for this plan. Live TV is available for those live local, regional, and national channels available in your area, which are subject to change. Certain channels or content may not be available in all locations or on all devices.

Live Local Channels



hulu

<https://www.hulu.com/welcome>



hulu

News Channels



Sports Channels



Add-on Premium Channels



Sports Add-on



hulu

Movies Channels



Family & Kids Channels



Add-on Premium Channels



Sports Add-on



Entertainment Add-on



NETFLIX

	Basic	Standard	Premium
Monthly cost* (United States Dollar)	\$9.99	\$15.49	\$19.99
Number of screens you can watch on at the same time	1	2	4
Number of phones or tablets you can have downloads on	1	2	4
Unlimited movies, TV shows and mobile games	✓	✓	✓
Watch on your laptop, TV, phone and tablet	✓	✓	✓
HD available		✓	✓
Ultra HD available			✓



[Netflix Plans and Pricing](#)

NETFLIX

Popular on Netflix



Stranger Things



All American



Squid Game



Criminal Minds



Ozark



Grey's Anatomy



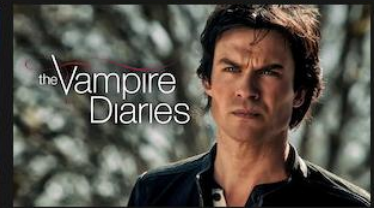
Bridgerton



Bunk'd



Breaking Bad



The Vampire Diaries



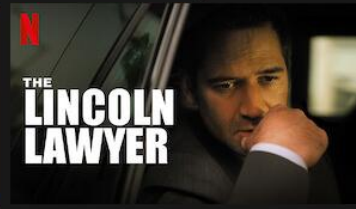
The Flash



Outer Banks



Naruto



The Lincoln Lawyer



The Fairly OddParents

<https://www.whats-on-netflix.com/coming-soon/>

<https://www.netflix.com/browse/genre/83>



Sharing your Netflix account

A Netflix account is meant to be shared by people living together in one **household**.

▼ Share Netflix with someone who doesn't live with you

People who are not in your household will need to **sign up for their own account** to watch; or in many countries you can buy an **extra member slot** to add an extra member to your account.

• Add an extra member

Account owners on a **Standard** or **Premium** plan in many countries can share Netflix with someone who doesn't live with them by adding an extra member to their account.

- The account owner will need to purchase an extra member slot, then invite an extra member to use the extra member slot.
- The extra member must be activated in the same country where the account owner created their account.
- Extra members cannot be added to Netflix-included packages or third-party billed accounts.
- Extra members cannot be added to ad-supported plans.

When starting a new account or adding an extra member, a profile can be **transferred** from an existing account, including recommendations, viewing history, My List, saved games, settings, and more.





Current Amazon Prime membership pricing: \$14.99 per month or \$139 per year
Prime Video (only) membership: \$8.99 per month

Amazon Prime (full) membership includes:

- Free same-day delivery of items bought on Amazon in major U.S. metropolitan areas
- Free watching of online movies and TV shows through Amazon Instant Video
- Discounts on some items, and early access to deals on others
- Free access to songs, playlists, and custom radio stations in Amazon Music
- Unlimited storage for photos in Amazon Cloud Drive
- Flat delivery fee on groceries from Prime Pantry, including Amazon Elements products
- Access to early Kindle e-books and a lending library
- Ability to share these benefits with another member of your household
- Free two-day shipping of items bought on Amazon throughout the continental U.S.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/other/how-much-does-amazon-prime-cost/ar-BB19ivxB>

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html%3FnodeId%3D200966690>



prime video



<https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/epg>

Thinking Outside the Box

There are many sources of programming you will not find unless you specifically look for it



These are all British offerings. Yes, there is streaming outside of the USA and we have access to much of it.



24/7 Horror?



If there's a hobby, there's a "channel" for it.



How Do I Find Anything?

- Internet
 - Google
 - Streaming company web site



- Text search on device



- Voice command



Example Voice Command Results








“Music”





Music 2:49p

Today's hits

[View all](#)

 <p>3:44</p>	 <p>3:19</p>	 <p>3:55</p>	 <p>3:49</p>	 <p>3:31</p>
Lil Durk ft. J. Cole - XITE	Miley Cyrus - Flowers	Rema ft. Selena Gomez - XITE	Bad Bunny - WHERE	Dua Lipa - XITE

New music this week

 <p>3:10</p> <p>vevo</p>	 <p>3:38</p> <p>vevo</p>	 <p>3:00</p> <p>vevo</p>	 <p>2:55</p> <p>vevo</p>
Niall Horan - The Show (Official Video) 519.8K views • 3 days ago NiallHoranVEVO on YouTube	Halle - Part of Your World (Official Video) 1.6M views • 3 days ago DisneyMusicVEVO on YouTube	Moneybagg Yo - Shol Is (Official Video) 906.5K views • 4 days ago MoneyBagg Yo on YouTube	ROSALÍA - TUYA (Official Video) 3.6M views • 3 days ago RosaliaVEVO on YouTube

Example Voice Command Results



“70s Hits Music”

The screenshot displays the Amazon Music application interface. At the top, there are navigation icons for Home, headphones, and a clock, along with a search bar containing the text "Search ...". Below the navigation bar, the section "Your Frequent Plays" is visible. It features four items:

- PLAYLIST** Mellow '80s Gold: A yellow playlist cover with the text "MELLOW '80S GOLD".
- STATION** Dave Matthews B...: A blue station cover featuring the Dave Matthews Band and the text "DAVE MATTHEWS BAND".
- ARTIST** The Alan Parsons ...: A circular artist cover showing two men, with the text "The Alan Parsons ...".
- ALBUM** The B-52's: A yellow album cover featuring the band members and the text "The B-52's".

At the bottom of the screen, the section "Stations for You" is partially visible, showing several horizontal bars of different colors (pink, white, red, white, yellow, red).

Example Voice Command Results



“Led Zeppelin”

LED ZEPPELIN

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W X
Y Z 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 0
Space Clear

Led Zeppelin IV
Program
The making of Led Zeppelin's untitled fourth studio album, commonly known as Led Zeppelin IV.

MORE INFO

All Results (44)

Free Results (15)

Example Voice Command Results



“Symphony Concert”

SYMPHONY CONCERT

A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	0

Space Clear

Brahms: Symphony No 1;...
Program
Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 1 is performed.

[MORE INFO](#)

All Results (9)

Free Results (1)

Example Voice Command Results



“Classical Music”

Classical

2:54p

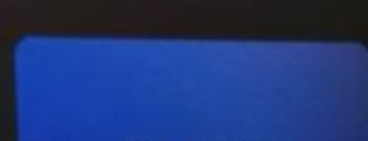
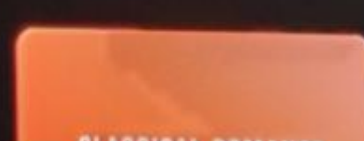
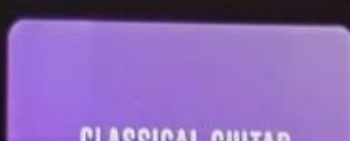
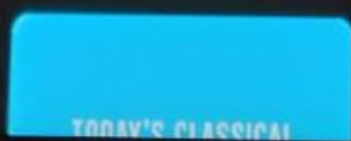
Featured



Stingray Classica



Pandora Stations



Making the Switch: Our Situation

- We currently have a Dish Network contract and moved the receiver/VCR here. A dish installer showed up the day we moved in and installed and connected a new dish for free!
~~\$ 107/ month~~ recently reduced to \$89/month but with many channels lost including all music channels
- Comcast sent a cable modem/WiFi router and “free” Xfinity Flex streaming TV box (basic device).
\$ 34/ month



Note: Apple TV and Airplay do not support Xfinity Stream.

Making the Switch: Weekly TV

Her

Grey's Anatomy
The Good Doctor
Station 19
A Million Little Things
This is Us
New Amsterdam
NBC Nightly News
Local News (Knoxville 6)

Both

Wheel of Fortune
The Blacklist
Chicago Fire
Chicago PD
Chicago Med
The Weather Channel
When Calls the Heart*

Him

Fox News

Newsmax

AM560 (Chicago)

* My Man Card is revoked



Making the Switch: Weekly TV

Her

Grey's /
The Go
Station
A Million Little Things



This is Us

New
NBC Nightly News



Local News (Kr ;)



Watch at

<https://www.wate.com/live-newscasts/>

Both

Wheel of Fortune

The Blacklist

Chic



Chicago PD

Chicago Med

The Weather



inel

When Calls t



art

Him

Fox News



Newsmax

AM560 (Chicago)

560theanswer.com



Know Your Apps

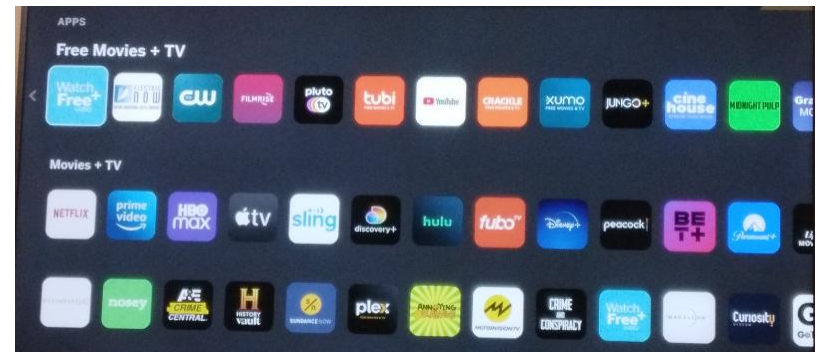
The built-in apps and level of service vary from device to device.
Welcome to WWIII The TV Wars!

The Xfinity internet service is “NBC centric” so Peacock Premium is included no matter the device!

But to get the usual “free” ABC, CBS and other channels competitor devices have one must subscribe to Xfinity Plus for \$35/month.

<https://www.tomsguide.com/reviews/xfinity-flex>

The Visio smart TV have the basic network channels built in.



<https://www.vizio.com/en/smart-tv-apps>



What Do We Stream?

For many years, I have been listening to what are normally AM radio broadcasts on my computer and now phone.

Several years ago, my wife and I starting using the Kindle Fire then Roku to watch movies using our Amazon Prime subscription. After Moving to FFG, we now have an Xfinity Flex device and a new smart TV (for the man cave).



Streaming: Our Situation

- Our Network speed is much faster here in FFG than it was in Illinois (enhanced DSL).
- We have 3 streaming devices (3 rooms with a TV)
 - An old Roku
 - Xfinity Flex TV
 - Visio Smart TV
- We have the following paid for services



Full Amazon member for Xmas shopping

NETFLIX

Shared with sister-in-law



Shared with sister-in-law but we really haven't used much



What Premium Channels Do We Watch?

Her

Both

Him

Good Girls

Classic Rock Concerts
and Documentaries

Classic “Chick Flicks”

Yellowstone

Symphonies

Downton Abbey

Classic Action Movies

Ozark



What Premium Programs Do We Stream?

Her

Classic “Chick Flicks”



Both

Good Girls

NETFLIX

Yellowstone



Downton Abbey

NETFLIX

Ozark

NETFLIX

Movies



Pay per view occasionally

Him

Classic Rock Concerts
and Documentaries

free

Symphonies

free

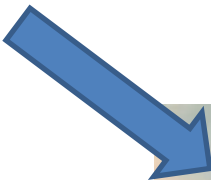
Classic Action Movies



and free



What we are watching Today?



1923



?



Sorry Ladies

Kevin Costner is reportedly not returning to “Yellowstone” after Season 5 concludes

But there’s now a new old guy in town.....



What we are watching Today?

We are currently having Tuesday night viewing with friends. This happens to be via YouTube TV as they “bundle” several of the content providers (such as paramount).

This is an example of the complex inter-connection between services.



Paramount+
TV network



The Bottom Line

Before making the full switch away from cable or satellite do some self-research like the examples above. In our case, we will be able to get almost all our regular viewed programs for less than half of what our Dish Network subscription is.

If you do not watch much TV, cut the cable and watch free for the cost of your internet connection and a one-time purchase of a basic streaming device or smart TV.

If you are in the middle of the road, like us, subscribing to 2 premium services will likely get all you want, much more than cable/satellite ever had.

It takes a while to get used to but by word of mouth, patience and some internet searching you may find the experience more rewarding than cable.



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<https://youtu.be/wRNYs2ijwRA> quick video summary of the top paid for services

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-video-streaming-services> in-depth comparison of the top paid for services

<https://youtu.be/K2WqaRWR0NQ> quick summary of the top music streaming services

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