

Plateau PC Users Group

Internet TV and Streaming  
Services  
2024 Update

Presented By  
George Sengstock

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# What's the Goal?

Personally, my household has officially "cut the cord".\*

In this 3rd annual discussion, we will compare the mainstream user (average American) to how our community uses streaming services.



\*Kind of ironic considering we disconnected from a satellite dish only to get all our content via a terrestrial cable.

# Onward....

Our friends and neighbors are at different stages of this technological journey but share some common concerns.

Previous years' presentations (links):

[Internet TV and Streaming Services 2023 Update](#)

[Internet TV and Streaming \(2022\)](#)





## Survey Says!

This year we surveyed PPCUG members and guests on their preferences, likes and pet-peeves regarding streaming.



Not a Thorough  
Scientific Study !



# How Many Stream?

90% of PPCUG surveyed use streaming TV services for an average of 3.4 years and 60% **ALSO HAVE** cable or satellite compared to 57%, 5 years and 36% for American Households in general.

After TV, Music is popular to stream (50%).



# Paid TV Streaming Services

<u>Service</u>	<u>PPCUG</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>PPCUG</u>	<u>USA</u>
<b>Netflix</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>Apple TV+</b>		<b>10%</b>
<b>Spotify</b>	<b>10%</b>		<b>Hulu</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Frndly TV</b>	<b>10%</b>		<b>Paramount+</b>	<b>10%</b>	
<b>Disney+</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Starz</b>	<b>10%</b>	
<b>HBO Max</b>		<b>9%</b>	<b>Showtime</b>	<b>10%</b>	
<b>Apple TV</b>		<b>10%</b>	<b>ESPN+</b>	<b>20%</b>	
<b>Amazon Prime</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>PBS Passport</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>YouTube</b>		<b>10%</b>	<b>Brit Box</b>	<b>1</b>	

After TV, Music is the next most popular reason to stream (50% of USA does). Top sources:



Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music

# Free Add Supported TV Streaming Services

<u>Service</u>	<u>PPCUG</u>	<u>USA</u>	
Freevee	30%	#1	
Roku Channel	20%	#2	
PlutoTV		#3	
Tubi	10%	#4	
Crackle		#5	
Sling Freestream		#6	
Vudu		#7	
Xumo		#8	
Peacock	40%	#9	➤ NBC owns Xfinity

- Amazon Prime is not free ... it is part of your annual online shopping subscription!





# Don't Forget Apps

Newer devices support download and installation of apps. What's the difference?

- You install an app and setup account info the first time then ever after it is like another channel.
- Alternate to using a web site playback (think iHeart Radio or Pandora)
- Specialty content ex: WBIR News Knoxville, Fox Nation
- May provide more functionality vs. Standard streaming channel.



# Keeping Track of Accounts

30% I Don't

30% Use a notebook or equivalent

20% E-Mail notifications

10% More exotic ex: Quicken, Google Calander



The "Low Tech" approach may be a solution to keep track of what you are watching and which service used.  
*more on this later...*

# Hardware

Most users have more than one brand of streaming device

- 10% Apple TV
- 20% Xfinity streaming box
- 40% Non-Roku Smart TV
- 20% PC or Mac
- 10% Tablet Computer
- 50% Mobile Phone
- 20% Old Roku
- 10% Not Sure



# Casting

Rather than hiring actors or fly fishing, Casting means extending the screen from one device to one with a larger screen.

**30%** Using a cable (HDMI)

**50%** Wireless (Wi-Fi)

**10%** I Didn't know you could do this



**10%** Said I'd Like to.

# Pros & Cons: National Perspective

## PROS

**Cost: Low**

**No Commercials**

**Variety**

**On Demand**

**Watch on mobile Devices**

**Free content**

## CONS

**Cost: High / Too many  
Binge Watching Addiction**

**Choice Fatigue**

**Glitchy Technology**

**Need Internet**



# Pros & Cons: PPCUG Perspective

## PROS

**Cost: Low & Free**  
**Less Commercials**  
**Pay for what you need**  
**On Demand**  
**Don't Watch Trad Networks**  
**Free stuff!**  
**Quality better than cable 4K**  
**Love my YouTube and Netflix**  
**DVR Feature ?**

## CONS

**Cost: High**  
**Renewing Subscriptions**  
**Hard to Find what I Want**  
**Confusing / Complicated**  
**No Live News (Networks)**  
**Commercials esp. Repetitive**  
**Which Remote do I use?**



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The jury is still out  
on if this actually  
saves money



**PRO: Cheaper for me or I only  
watch free stuff anyway**

**CON: I don't feel I am getting the  
value I thought I would**



With cable, you could just sit there with one remote and scroll all day long.



With Streaming You Might Have to be a  
More Active Couch Potato





# It Forgot my Program!

Seems that my streaming service forgets what episode I was watching.

- **"Auto Play" On**
- **Restart device**
- **Logout / Login**
- **Always stop playback then go to Home page before shutting off TV.**



While seeking answers to this issue I felt I was on a quest for extraterrestrial aliens.

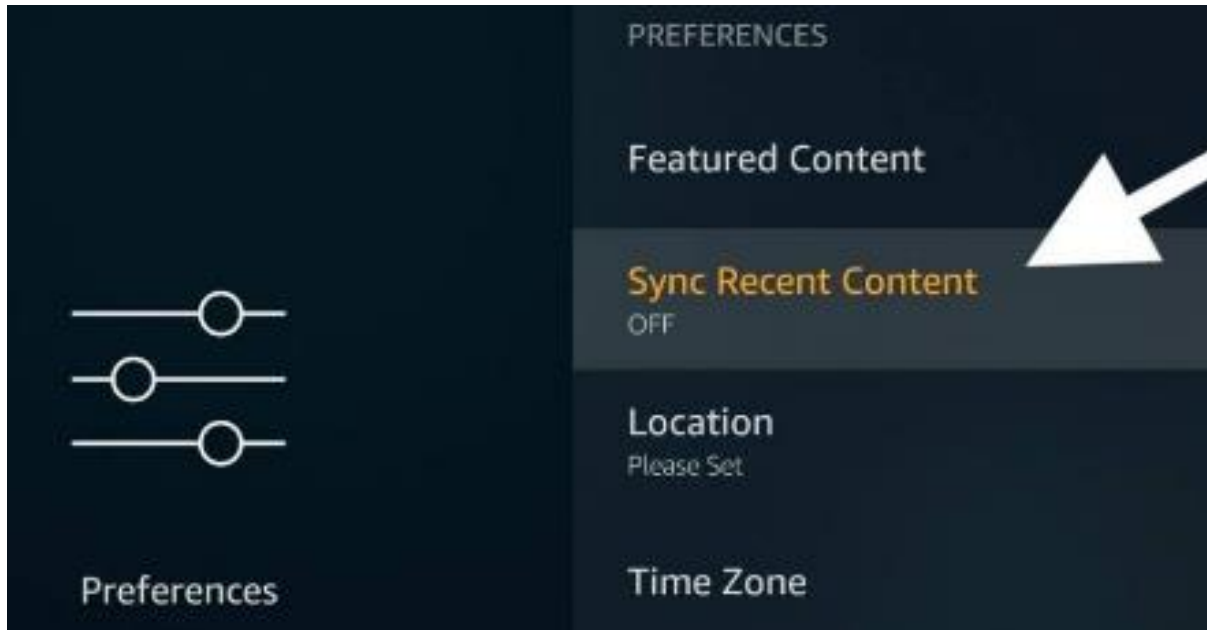
# Amazon FireStick

In some cases the distinction of what is stored locally (by an app) vs network account is quite foggy.

Amazon Prime --> Settings --> Sync ON

Might be the same as this?

Firestick Home --> Settings --> Preferences



**Turn ON**

Or might say

"Sync Across Devices"

# Finding Stuff

<https://www.metacritic.com/news/tv-premiere-dates/>

<https://www.justwatch.com/us>

<https://variety.com/what-to-watch-streaming-movies-shows-online/>

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/easy-ways-to-find-the-streaming-movies-and-shows-you-want-to-watch>



# The Bottom Line

Before making the full switch away from cable or satellite do some self-research using the preceding web sites, talk with friends and neighbors about what they watch. Use the free trial for services so you try out different programs and see if a particular service is right for you.

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.

In the case of my household, we can get almost all our regular viewed programs for less than half of what our Dish Network subscription was.

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# The Bottom Line (cont.)

You can "Al La Carte" your way by having a small number of moderately priced premium services to compliment your mostly free content.

At the other end of the spectrum, you can use a Super Service such as YouTube or Hulu which consolidate nearly all premium content under their umbrella.

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.



# Bibliography / Links

## Internet Speed Testing Tools

<https://speedtest.xfinity.com/>

<https://www.speedtest.net/>

## Streaming Services Comparisons

Consumer Reports, July 2024, pp 24-33 "Cable vs. Streaming Watch Everything for Less"

<https://www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/streaming-media/guide-to-streaming-video-services-a4517732799/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_streaming\\_media\\_services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_streaming_media_services)

<https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/internet/streaming-stats/>

<https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-free-streaming-services>  
free streaming services

in-depth comparison of the top

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-video-streaming-services>  
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## Technical Details

<https://www.techhive.com/article/582754/best-media-streaming-device.html>

<https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/voice-command-tips>

