

NO MORE CABLE


HOW TO SAVE MONEY AND SWITCH FROM
TRADITIONAL CABLE TO STREAMING SERVICES



Disclaimer:

- *Mentor Public Library and its staff does not endorse or recommend any of the products mentioned within this presentation.*
- *Mentor Public Library is presenting options and suggestions, but you are encouraged to research the best option for your situation.*
- *The services mentioned here are plentiful, but not inclusive of all options available.*
- *Prices mentioned are as of September 2020 and reflect the most basic option for each service.*

Glossary of Terms Used in Relation to Streaming:

- **HDMI:** High definition multimedia interface. This often refers to both the cord and the port. An HDMI cord is required to connect most media players to your TV via an HDMI port. HDMI ports come standard on TVs, but it varies how many ports are available. This cord takes the place of the old “red, white, yellow” cords that were previously standard connections.
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- **Ethernet:** This is a cord/port that connects your TV or computer directly to your internet source. These are less common on new TVs.
 - **Device:** Refers to a computer, tablet, or HDMI connecting streaming unit
 - **DVR:** Digital video recording—allows users to “record” shows/movies and watch later.
 - **Smart TV:** A TV that has built in internet connectivity and streaming player options. It is often set up in a similar way to a tablet, allowing you to download “apps” for streaming. Your TV itself connects to the internet via Wi-Fi to allow you to access online streaming, without the need of an external player. You do not need a smart TV in order to access streaming services.
 - **Streaming:** Playing a video with a constant internet connection. In order to stream, you must have either a Wi-Fi connection or an Ethernet connection. If the internet is interrupted, the video will stop.
 - **Network Name/SSID:** This is going to be the name of your wireless network (ATT483495) and your password (often located on the side or bottom of your wireless router). With some companies you can change the name/password associated with your Wi-Fi, but be sure to write it down somewhere.
 - **Router:** Connects your devices to the modem’s internet access. Often combined with modem to be one machine for your internet access, especially when provided by your cable company. Updating the router may help if you are having a poor connection with your streaming service. The one rented from your cable provider is not always optimum for your internet.
 - **Modem:** Brings internet access into your home by connecting to the cable and/or phone lines when activated by your cable/internet company. Often combined with router for all-in-one internet access to your devices.
 - **Cloud:** Refers to servers which store your information around the world, as opposed to being saved directly on your device. By using “cloud storage” your information is securely saved elsewhere while keeping space open on your device.

- **Streaming Devices:**

- **Game System:** A machine used primarily for playing video games. There are some systems that allow internet connection and downloading apps for viewing streaming material. PS3 and PS4 (Playstation 3 and 4), Xbox One, Xbox 360.
- **Roku:** A device that connects to the HDMI port on your television. It uses a wireless internet connection to host streaming apps to bring movies and TV shows to your screen. Requires HDMI and electrical outlet.
- **Amazon Fire TV Stick:** A device that connects to the HDMI port on your television and is connected to your Amazon account. It uses a wireless internet connection to host streaming apps to bring movies and tv shows to your screen. Certain models have voice control remotes or can be connected to an Alexa device. Requires HDMI and electrical outlet.
- **Apple TV:** A device that connects to the HDMI port on your television and is connected to your Apple account. It uses a wireless internet connection to host streaming apps to bring movies and tv shows to your screen. Can download a “remote” app to your iPhone to control. Requires HDMI and electrical outlet.
- **Chromecast:** A device that connects to the HDMI port on your television and is connected to your Google account. It uses a wireless internet connection to host streaming apps to bring movies and tv shows to your screen. Can connect computer, phone or tablet to “cast” to the TV. Requires HDMI and electrical outlet. (Symbol to the right represents “casting.”)

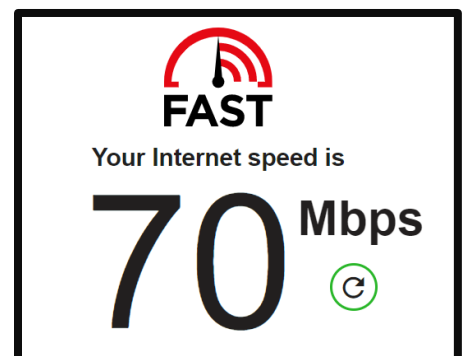


Check Internet Speed:

When using streaming services, your device requires a constant strong connection to the internet in order for you to have uninterrupted viewing. If you have the most basic internet speed, you may not have enough speed for streaming.

A few websites for testing your internet speed free and easily:

- www.fast.com
- www.spectrum.com/internet/speedtest-only
- <https://speedof.me/>



Some things to consider:

- *Not all apps/streaming services operate on all devices. Pay attention to which device you have, and which services will work for it.*
- *Some paid services offer free versions for users, and may be listed in both categories.*
- *Many services offer different tiers of services, and/or in-app purchases. The prices listed in this handout are the base prices for the service as of September 2020.*
- *Most services are month-to-month, far less commitment than cable. You can try a service for a month and cancel if it is not what you want.*

Free streaming with ads:

YouTube: An online video-sharing platform. Videos posted by individual users as well as major networks.

Tubi: (tubitv.com) Owned by the Fox Corporation, a free platform for movies and TV shows with rotating content.



Pluto TV: (pluto.tv) Owned by Viacom, a free platform for movies and live TV. Requires log-in for access.

IMDB TV: Provided by the Internet Movie Database, free streaming movies and TV shows.

Crackle: Jointly owned by Sony, Columbia, and Chicken Soup for the Soul Entertainment. Free to log in and view movies, shows, and original productions.



Peacock: From NBCUniversal. View archived NBC shows, selected movies. Requires log-in for access.

Monthly subscription streaming services:

LIVE TV:

(most like the traditional cable TV)

Hulu+Live—Original shows and movies, films, and TV shows, live version offers live viewing of channels and minimal “recording” options, \$54.99/month

YouTube TV—Live TV, sports, news, entertainment, local channels, kids’ channels, DVR, \$64.99



SlingTV—Multiple packages to choose from featuring different channel collections, live TV, few local options, \$30/month

AT&T TV Now—Live TV viewing, DVR (previously DirecTV Now), \$65/month

FuboTV—Live TV, includes lots of sports channels, no local channels, several channel packages to choose, DVR, \$59.99/month



Philo—Live TV, lifestyle and entertainment, no sports or news, no local channels, DVR, \$20/month

On Demand Viewing Only:

(some of the most popular streaming services fall in this category)

Netflix—Streaming TV and movies, including original content, offerings change periodically, \$8.99/month



Hulu—Original shows and movies, films, and TV shows, live version offers live viewing of channels and minimal “recording” options, \$5.99/month

Amazon Prime—Streams through an Amazon account, includes original content, films, and TV, sometimes additional charges for rentals, \$8.99/month

Disney+—Disney films, TV shows, including original content new content added/removed monthly, \$6.99

Apple TV+—Original shows and limited free channels included, additional channels offered at additional prices or TV provider login, some free movies, lots of rental options, \$5/month or \$50/year



Monthly subscriptions with specific themes:

(These are great if there are only certain channels/shows you are seeking)

Frndly TV: Family friendly-content, limited channels, including Hallmark and Game Show Network, allows for live viewing primarily, as well as DVR options for higher tiers, \$5.99/month



CBS All Access: Streaming of previously aired CBS shows, including daytime TV and classics, as well as original content, \$5.99/month

HBO Max: *Replaced HBO Now*—HBO content, classic TV, movies and original content, \$14.99



Dazn: Sports matches, boxing, live and archived \$99.99/year, or \$19.99/month

ESPN+: Select live sports, archived games, UFC Pay-per-view, \$4.99/month

Peacock: From NBCUniversal, archived NBC shows, variety of movies, next-day airing of current shows, original content, live sports, \$4.99/month



Streaming with Mentor Public Library:

Services mentioned below are free streaming options that you can access with just your library card!



Kanopy:

Stream independent films, classics, and short films.

10 movies a month with your library card, resets the 1st of the month. Allows two day checkout. Saves your place to return to the film within that time. Unlimited checkouts from the “Kanopy Kids Collection.”

Hoopla:

Stream films and shows. (Also features music, e-audiobooks, e-comics, and e-books)

20 items can be checked out monthly, a combination of movies, shows, music, and books. Allows for three day checkout. Saves your place to return to the film within that time. Videos can be downloaded to a tablet or smartphone for viewing without internet access.

RBDigital:

- **AcornTV:** British TV Shows and Films
- **Great Courses:** Classes and video lectures on thousands of topics
- **IndieFlix:** Feature films, documentaries and shows

For each service under RBDigital, you check out a **seven-day pass**. Can be a little tricky since you need multiple accounts (for RBDigital as well as the service you choose).

Note: you must have a Mentor Library Card to access these services. Different libraries within Clevnet offer different digital services. Some are shared, but not all.

Final note: Of all of the services described, you may not find one perfect fit, but a combination of services that best suits your needs.

Feel free to reach out with questions. I am by no means an expert, but happy to help where I can.

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