



Tuesday Tech Talk  
 Cut the Cord? Live TV Streaming Options  
 April 16, 2019

	<b>Hulu with Live TV</b>	<b>YouTube TV (Cnet Fav)</b>	<b>Sling TV</b>	<b>PlayStation Vue</b>	<b>DirecTV Now</b>	<b>Philo</b>
<b>Base price</b>	\$45/month for 60+ channels	\$50/month for 70+ channels	\$25/month for 30+ channels	\$45/month for 55+ channels	\$50/month for 40+ channels	\$16/Mo 40 channels
<b>Free trial</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes
<b>ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC channels</b>	Yes, in many markets	Yes, in many markets	FOX and NBC only in select cities	Yes, in many markets	Yes, in many markets	NO
<b>Video on demand from local channels</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	NO
<b>Step-up packages with more channels</b>	No	No	Yes, an extra \$5/month each	\$50/month, \$60/month or \$80/month	\$70/month	\$20/mo for 57 channels
<b>Simultaneous streams per account</b>	2 (\$15 option for unlimited)	3/	1 or 3	5	2 (\$5 option for 3)	3
<b>Family member/user profiles</b>	Yes	Yes - 6	No	Yes	No	
<b>Pause, rewind, fast-forward</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes, except for Disney or ESPN channels	Yes	Yes	
<b>Record shows for later (cloud DVR)</b>	Yes	Yes (keep for 9 months)	Yes (\$5 per month, can't record Disney or ESPN channels)	Yes (keep for 28 days)	Yes (20GB, keep for 30 days)	Yes, up to 30 days Unlimited space
<b>Fast-forward through or skip commercials with cloud DVR</b>	No (Yes with \$15 option)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>DVR show replaced by on-demand version</b>	No	Yes	No	No	No	
<b>Video on demand/3-day replay</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Parental controls</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	
<b>Bandwidth limiter</b>	No	No	Yes			



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Considerations before cutting off cable

How much does your internet cost – and do you have a data limit? If you need to increase your data plan and that costs you more, the benefit of cord cutting is also less.

Can you negotiate a better price for cable by threatening to quit?

What channels do you actually watch? Does the new service offer them? You need to shop around – each streaming service has its own lineup. You may need to mix and match.

Will you need to buy a new device or do you have one already? Smart TV might have it built in, or may have to buy Roku (\$30-99), Google Chromecast (\$30-60), Amazon Firestick (\$40) or Apple TV (\$129-199) as your streaming device. Many services also available to watch on phone, tablet or computer too.

How much live TV do you watch (versus movies etc)? Look at live TV streaming. How many streams do you need at one time?

Most TV's have an "over the air" (OTA) tuner built in so you can plug in an antenna and get network TV. You will need an antenna DVR to record anything on network TV. Digital antenna is \$10-40. 1byone Amplified Antenna is \$24.99 and well reviewed. Three DVR options well reviewed are Amazon Fire TV Recast, the Air TV and TiVo Bolt OTA.

Are you ok with switching from DVR to on-demand viewing? Some streaming services will show you the on-demand version and you can't skip commercials.

Do you watch sports? Limitations exist.

Are you prepared to keep up with changes?

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Some additional information:

- See front page article in Washington Post Sunday 4/14/19 re: live TV streaming services.
- [www.suppose.tv](http://www.suppose.tv) – select your favorite channels and it provides your best combination.
- Channel list comparison - <https://clark.com/technology/tvsatellite-cable/streaming-tv-comparison-best-channel-lineup/>
- Hulu and Spotify together - \$9.99/month – deal through June 10.
- Combining YouTube TV and Philo TV equals best option to getting all channels.
- Netflix and YouTube fear Disney + will command the market when it launches in Nov 2019. Disney + will cost just \$6.99/month. 7500 TV episodes, 500 movies by end of year 1.
- Netflix – free 30 day trial - \$8.99, \$12.99, \$15.99 – pricing adds to the number of screens that can watch at the same time.
- Baseball fans – to get MASN you need cable. If you want to watch teams other than Orioles and Nats you can get MLB.TV and stream to your TV via firestick, chromecast etc. Annual fee is \$118 for All teams and \$92 for 1 team.



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**Apple Products**

Apple TV – set-top box for streaming services. Once you buy the box (\$129-199) there are some free apps within the system. However, to use Netflix, Hulu Plus or Amazon Prime Video, you'll need to subscribe to them.

Apple TV +(Plus) – video subscription service that will feature Apple's growing list of original TV shows and movies. Launching this Fall. Accessible through the Apple TV app on iOS, Mac and other platforms. Ad free since you pay for it. This is not a competitor yet to Netflix or Amazon Prime Video libraries since this will include only Apple original programming. Unlikely to be available on Android or Windows devices and no mention of streaming on web browsers like Chrome or Firefox. Cost is unknown at this time, but guesstimates are \$30-40/month.

Apple TV app – Available on 4<sup>th</sup> generation Apple TV, iPhone and iPad as pre-installed app. Free to use. It is a hub for watching content from subscription services, though it does push you to those other apps. Soon to be available for Mac and new Smart TV's.

Apple TV Channels – Available in May. This is will an optional add-on subscription similar to Amazon Prime Video channels. Subscribing to them through Apple TV Channels will allow you to watch within the app, share with up to 6 family members, and download for offline viewing. Key channels will be HBO, Cinemax, CBS All Access, Starz. Cost is unknown right now.