LIR: Streaming Services: Cut The Cable

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 1:30-3:30pm Clydesdale Room, N.H. Scheppers Distributing





Streaming services are like online, on-demand TV where you can watch what you want when you want on your devices with an internet connection. No cable box needed!





Specifically . . .

- Streaming services allow you to watch TV shows, movies, sports and other entertainment online.
- You don't have to wait for them to come on regular TV.
- You can watch whatever you want, whenever you want.
- You get streaming services by paying a monthly fee.
- This lets you log in on your phone, TV, computer or tablet.
- Browse and instantly watch lots of shows without commercials.
- Internet service required minimum/recommended speeds: SD: 3-10Mbps, HD:5-25Mbps, 4K: 25-100Mbps
- Streaming is different from old-fashioned "cable TV".
- There's no cable box, no channel surfing, and no schedules.
- You are in control and can watch on-demand.
- You can pause, rewind, and replay shows.

Different from traditional broadcast, cable or satellite TV:

- <u>On-Demand Viewing</u> You can watch whatever you want, whenever you want. You are not limited to watching scheduled programs at set times. You can start, stop, pause, rewind as you choose.
- <u>No Need for Cable Boxes</u> Streaming eliminates the need for large cable boxes and satellite dishes. All you need is an internet connection and a streaming device like a smart TV, game console, or inexpensive device like AppleTV, Roku or Fire TV.
- <u>Online Access</u> Because streams are delivered via the internet, you can access your services on multiple portable devices like phones, tablets and laptops by logging into your account.
- <u>Subscription-Based</u> Rather than a long-term contract with a cable or satellite provider, most streaming services allow you to pay month-to-month on a subscription basis, or try a free trial.
- <u>On-Demand Movies</u> Streaming services typically have extensive libraries of movies you can instantly watch at any time without having to rent DVDs. Their movie catalogs often rival or exceed those of previous video rental stores.

The convenience and flexibility of streaming has caused a major shift away from traditional broadcast viewing. Though channel surfing and schedules still exist with some streaming TV services, the ability to deeply customize and control your entertainment options sets modern streaming apart.

Examples of popular streaming services:



Netflix - The largest streaming service with over 200 million subscribers. Offers original shows and movies as well as licensed content. Plan options range from \$9.99/month for basic SD streaming to \$19.99/month for 4K HDR streaming on 4 devices simultaneously. Recommend shows like The Crown, Stranger Things, Ozark.



Hulu - Owned by Disney, offers latest TV episodes, originals like The Handmaid's Tale, and thousands of hit movies. Has an ad-supported plan for \$6.99/month or ad-free for \$12.99/month. Popular shows are Abbott Elementary, Only Murders in the Building, Dopesick.



Amazon Prime Video - Included with an Amazon Prime membership which is \$14.99/month or \$139/year. Home to originals like The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, The Boys, Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan. Also streams Thursday Night Football.



Disney+ - Specializes in Disney, Marvel, Star Wars, National Geographic and more from the Disney entertainment universe. \$7.99/ month or \$79.99/year. Top shows are The Mandalorian, WandaVision, The World According to Jeff Goldblum.

Examples (continued):

HBO Max - Owned by Warner Bros. Has HBO shows, DC movies, Studio Ghibli, Adult Swim and more. \$9.99/month with ads or \$14.99/month ad-free. Flagship shows are Game of Thrones, Euphoria, The White Lotus.



Apple TV+ - Newer streaming service focused on Apple original content. \$4.99/month after free trial. Known for Ted Lasso, Severance, The Morning Show.



Peacock - NBCUniversal's streaming service. Has classic shows like The Office and Saturday Night Live plus new originals like Bel-Air. Three tiers from free with ads to \$9.99/month without ads.



Paramount+ - Offers shows and movies from CBS, BET, Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, MTV and Paramount Pictures. Plans from \$4.99/month with ads to \$9.99/month ad-free. Known for Star Trek series, 1883, The Good Fight.



Discovery+ - Focused on reality TV and non-fiction programming, HGTV, Food Network. \$4.99/month with ads or \$6.99/month ad-free. Top shows are 90 Day Fiancé, Fixer Upper, Chopped.

Examples (continued):



ESPN+ - Sports-centric streaming from ESPN. \$9.99/month or bundled with Hulu and Disney+. Airs MLB, NHL, La Liga soccer and more. Includes original shows and documentaries.



YouTube TV - Live TV streaming service costing \$64.99/month. Has over 85 channels including major broadcast and cable networks. Cloud DVR with unlimited storage included.



FuboTV - Live TV streaming option starting at \$69.99/month. Strong focus on sports channels and packages. Over 100 channels available.



AMC+ - For \$8.99/month, get AMC shows ad-free including The Walking Dead, Better Call Saul, Kevin Can F*** Himself. Also films from IFC and Sundance.



Showtime - Premium network with series like Billions, Dexter, Yellowjackets. \$10.99/month as add-on or standalone app. 30-day free trial available.



Starz - Another premium channel with Outlander, Power, Men in Kilts. \$8.99/month standalone or via Amazon Channels. Supports downloads for offline viewing.

Examples (continued):



BritBox - British TV streaming service with classic BBC and ITV shows. \$6.99/month option in US and Canada. Programs like Doctor Who, Downton Abbey, Love Island UK.



Acorn TV - Focused on British and international television. \$5.99/ month in HD. Offers mystery, drama, comedy from UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada.



Crunchyroll - Specializes in anime with over 1,000 shows like Demon Slayer, Attack on Titan, Naruto. \$7.99/month premium membership with simulcasts.



Shudder - Horror genre fans can subscribe for \$5.99/month. Has scary movies, paranormal TV series and Shudder originals.



ALLBLK - Caters to Black TV and film. \$5.99/month for acclaimed shows, stand-up comedy.

These illustrate the major streaming platforms and content libraries available, but there are many more available . . .



Demonstrations:



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Switch to live Internet access using Safari . . .



Viewing Restrictions:

- Many streaming services offer mature content intended for adult audiences, such as graphic violence, explicit language, and sexual situations.
- Most streaming platforms provide ways to filter out inappropriate content through parental control settings and maturity ratings:
 - For example, Netflix allows you to restrict movies and shows by their MPAA rating or TV Parental Guidelines rating. You can set filters to only allow G, PG, or PG-13 content.
 - Amazon Prime Video lets you create profiles that only include family-friendly content. This prevents them from accessing shows above their age range.
 - Disney+ also has robust kids mode with stricter ratings enforcement. It automatically blocks all R or TV-MA level programs.
- Be cognizant of content sensitivities. There are tools to filter sexually explicit or violent titles viewers may wish to avoid. You can customize your streaming experience to align with your personal comfort level.
- Streaming allows choice including the choice to not watch graphic content unsuitable for your or others. Convenience need not mean compromising standards.



Viewing Suggestions:

- Start with a free trial of 1 or 2 services before committing to paid subscriptions.
- Pros of streaming include on-demand access and diversity of content.
- There are drawbacks like monthly costs and learning new technology.



Links to more information

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_streaming_media_services
- https://agoodmovietowatch.com/how-to/complete-list-streaming-services/#
- <u>https://www.usnews.com/360-reviews/technology/streaming-services</u>
- <u>https://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-streaming-video-services,review-2625.html</u>