

TV Options

The delivery of TV service is changing rapidly nationally - and more and more television is moving to the internet. In the early days, all TV came through the airwaves, at no charge. Then cable companies (Charter, Comcast, Time Warner, et al.) came along and distributed TV at a fee on cables that they owned and maintained. To compete with that, and for those of us without cable, TV was then offered from (expensive) satellite delivery, through companies like DirecTV and Dish.

As a result of the wide availability of broadband internet, media companies are now choosing the internet as their preferred delivery vehicle. Instead of scrolling through channels and watching TV when it is broadcast live, consumers have the ability to choose what they want to watch and when they want to watch it.

Additionally, the internet allows the possibility of unbundling - a la carte options where you can just choose the specific channels you want OR even just buy the individual TV shows you want. Generally this is a better option for most people and can save you money.

It can be overwhelming to think of all the options so a good way to go about deciding is to make a list of the shows you like to watch and the networks that host those shows. Ask all the members in your household what they want; then you can all work together to choose well.

For example (dollar amounts are examples only!)

What you want to watch	Which network is this on	Cost Network	Cost for individual show on Prime
The Good Place	NBC	\$12.99/mo	\$19.99/ season or included with Netflix
Grey's Anatomy	CBS	\$4.99/mo	\$9.99/season
Patriots Games	ESPN	\$4.99/mo	N/A
Game of Thrones	HBO	\$14.99/mo	\$25.60/ season on Prime
This Is Us	CBS	\$4.99/mo	\$21.00/season

Black-ish	ABC	\$5.23/mo	\$16.99/season
Outlander	Showtime and Netflix	\$10.99/mo	\$19.95/season
Various Movies	Netflix	\$13.99/mo	NA

By doing this you can see common providers between the shows you want to watch. For example, if you have multiple shows you like on CBS it probably makes more sense to get a monthly subscription so you can watch all of them for one low price. But if there is a TV show you like that is independent of any other networks you use then buying the season on Prime is usually a better deal. Here's a website where you can find lots of great information about which shows are on which networks.

A matrix of channels and options: <https://www.cordcutters.com/channels>

A nice summary of options: <https://www.cordcuttersnews.com/the-beginners-guide-to-cord-cutting-2019-update/>

If you want a comprehensive channel lineup without individually subscribing to lots of different channels or services, Hulu and YouTube TV are good options. You can demo Hulu for free for one month to see if it fits your needs.

Whether buying individual shows or subscriptions, most do not require annual contracts like cable and satellite. As options change or you finish watching a show series, you can change your packages to best suit your needs.

How to get Local Channels

Many local channels let you watch for free if you install their own channel app. To find the official apps for your local channels, search for the local station name followed by the city.

For example: WWLP springfield app

If you're going to subscribe to a streaming service go to the website of the service you want (ex. [YouTube](#), [Sling](#), [Hulu](#), [DirecTV Now](#)) and type in our zip code. This will show you which local channels are available to you for that service – including sports channels.

How to get New England Sports

To watch Patriots, Red Sox and Bruins games check out these services:

YouTube TV subscription (about \$45/mo)

Sling TV

Hulu Live TV

New TV or use what you have?

Most TVs currently on the market come "smart" - ready for internet-delivered content. In addition, [Apple TV](#), [Roku](#), [Chromecast](#), [Amazon Fire Stick](#), Sling, and others are small, inexpensive devices that connect older TVs to the internet to make them into a smart TV (your older TV will need an available HDMI port). There are lots of deals where if you sign up for a few months of subscription you can get one of the devices for free - so check to see if there are any introductory offers for the device you want. Even if you end up having to purchase one, it is much less expensive than buying a whole new TV.

Finally, there are also DVD players and game consoles that are already enabled to get internet-delivered content without having to buy anything new for your TV. Here's a guide on the game consoles: <https://www.cabletv.com/blog/best-gaming-consoles-for-streaming-cable>

In general, newer units will have faster menu response and program loading. If you have an old device and find it too slow, consider getting something newer.

New things are (always) on the horizon

On Nov 1, Apple will be launching its own streaming service, Apple TV+ (\$4.99/month), including proprietary content, like Amazon Prime and Netflix. Disney will launch [Disney+](#) Nov 12 (\$6.99/month). HBO will launch a streaming service [HBO Max](#) in Spring 2020. NBC plans a new service for April 2020.

Internet Security and Protecting Yourself Online – Top Three Tips

1. Don't use the same password for all websites! Using the same password for all sites means that if a hacker gets one password, that hacker can get into all your accounts. Instead use your web browser or a password manager to generate unique and secure passwords for each website you visit.
2. NEVER click on any link or attachment from an email you get unless you know the sender and were expecting to receive that specific attachment or link. Hackers are very clever and emails that look like they came from your bank, for example, can be scams to try and get your password. Instead, go to the website yourself using your own bookmarks to retrieve your bank statements and other information if prompted via email.
3. Never give out passwords, credit card, social security information or any other information to people that request it on the phone or by email. Only give out this

information if you've initiated the contact so you know you're actually talking to a legitimate business.

SPAM and Robocalls

Crocker Communications is committed to using the latest technology to prevent spam calls. This includes the latest authentication technology that has been mandated by the FCC to try and verify that the call coming in is from a legitimate source. Unfortunately no system is 100% reliable since spam callers are always thinking of new ways to get around technology and regulatory rules. If a specific number continues to bother you, you can call Crocker Support and get that number blocked.

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