

CUTTING THE CABLE CORD

Ready to Ditch Cable?

With streaming video increasingly available, and sometimes exclusively, through platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, and more, some people are finding that cable is no longer for them. Perhaps you're here, wondering if cable is for you. We'll give you a lot to think about today and consider your options for the future.

Over-The-Air

Most televisions manufactured mid-2007 –Current, likely come with a built-in digital tuner. This allows the television to pick up digital over-the-air broadcasts available locally. Signal strength varies based on location and there are various antennas that may be used to pick up the signals.



Smart TVs & Devices

Smart TVs come with a built in operating system and hardware that allow it to connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi or Ethernet cable. The applications available vary based on the make and model of the TV and version of operating system. Operating system updates may be available that add newly available apps. Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hulu are frequently found.



Smart Devices are items that have built in hardware that allow it to connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi or Ethernet cable. The device connects to an open HDMI port on your television and uses applications for viewing content. Some smart devices and smart TVs will allow you to mirror content from your smartphone.

<https://mashtipscdn-n2te0e7z57as.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/smart-tv-stream-device.jpg>


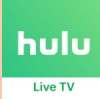

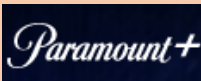


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On Demand Streaming Media Services Fact Sheet

	Starting Price	Free Trial	TV during season	TV after season	Movies	Ads	Special Notes
Hulu	\$7.99/mo	1 Month	Yes (delay)	Some	Some	Yes	Network Television Channels
Hulu (No Ads)	\$14.99/mo	1 Month	Yes	Yes	Some	No	Predominately Network Television Channels
Hulu + with Disney+ and ESPN+	\$12.99/mo \$19.99/mo (No Ads)	1 Month	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes/No	Includes Hulu with Disney+ and ESPN+
Netflix	\$6.99/mo for 1 device (with Ads & Not all Content)	No	No (Unless Netflix produced)	Yes	Yes	Yes	There are also \$9.99/mo \$15.49/mo and \$19.99/mo options
Amazon Prime Video	Included in Prime Membership at \$14.99/mo 1 device per title \$8.99/mo for just Prime Video	30 Days	Free (unless Amazon produced)	Yes	Some free, some fee	No	Full Prime Membership for \$139/yr (or \$14.99/mo) includes Prime Video, 2 day prime shipping, 1 eBook/mo, and music. Can also add channels with-in PrimeVideo such as Brit-Box, PBS, Acorn, Discovery, and more for additional fees.
Disney +	\$7.99/Mo with Ads	No	No	Disney, Marvel, Nat Geo	Disney, Marvel, Nat Geo	Yes	\$10.99/mo (No Ads) Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, National Geographic. \$109.99/Year
Apple TV +	\$6.99/mo	7 Days	Fee	Fee	Fee	No	Family Sharing covers up to 6 devices.
Google Play	n/a	n/a	Fee	Fee	Fee	No	
HBO Max	\$9.99/mo with Ads	7 Days	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ad Free \$15.99/mo or \$149.99/year.
Acorn TV	\$6.99/mo \$69.99/yr	7 Days	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	British TV and movies.
Showtime Anytime/ Showtime Now	\$10.99/mo for 3 devices	30 Days	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Free with Showtime Subscription. New "add-on" feature.

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Live Streaming Media Services









	Starting Price	Free Trial	Live Stream	DVR/On Demand	Add-Ons	Ads	Special Notes
	\$35/mo for up to 3 devices	Week	Yes	Limited	Orange or Blue for \$35 each, or \$50 for both	Yes	30 channels including ESPN, ESPN2, AMC, TBS, Disney, A&E, History, Food Network
	\$69.99/mo	No	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Hulu Plus, Disney +, ESPN +, all with Ads plus 85+ live TV Channels
	\$64.99/month	2 Weeks	Yes	Yes	Yes. Premium channels and sports.	Yes	More than 40 channels with add-on options. 6 users and nice DVR options
	\$4.99/mo	Week	Yes	Yes	\$9.99/mo for no ads	Yes	NFL on CBS. Local CBS Station \$9.99/mo Premium. Other live sports.
	\$74.99-\$109.99/mo	No	Yes	Yes	Extra monthly charge for premium channels	Yes	Check for local regional sports networks.
	\$74.99 or \$94.99/mo	Week	Yes	Yes DVR & 3-Day Replay	Sports/Premium Packages	Yes	Known for Sports Streaming Packages. 4K content. Latino option \$33/month.

Resolution Info

Service	Resolution	Service	Resolution	Service	Resolution
	Standard, HD and 4K (depends on subscription)		Standard, HD		Standard, HD
	Standard, HD		Standard, HD	Google Play, Vudu, iTunes, etc.	Standard, HD and 4K (depends on title)

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Streaming Devices Fact Sheet

Device	Cost	Pros	Cons
 <p>HD Antenna</p>	\$12-150	Up to 50 free channels	Limited content, Signal/location based programming
 <p>Roku Stick</p>	\$49.99	Low price	Only HD content and a little slow
 <p>Roku Express</p>	\$29.99	Cheapest device that supports apps	Needs 25mbps internet or faster for 4K (\$39.99 for 4K Version)
 <p>Roku Ultra</p>	\$99.99	Supports HDR/4K	Not much 4K or HDR content available
 <p>Apple TV</p>	\$129.99	Fast & contains Apple's easy-to-use interface	Generation three and earlier does not support 4K/HDR
 <p>Fire Stick</p>	\$39.99	Supports most streaming apps. 4K support when available	Needs 25 mbps internet or faster for 4K and only has Amazon app store
<p>Video Game Consoles</p>	\$150-400	All entertainment in one device	Only certain consoles. Available apps are limited compared to other options.
 <p>Chromecast</p>	\$29.99	Cheapest streaming device	Needs another device for Chromecast to work
 <p>Chromecast with Google TV</p>	\$49.99	Cheapest 4K/HDR streaming device	Needs 25mbps internet or faster for 4K and another device for Chromecast
<p>Smart TV or Blu-ray Player</p>	\$250+	All in one, great option if you're already in the market for a new device	Depending on the brand/model, not all apps are available. Apps may not be supported after a few years.
<p>Computer in a stick plus wireless mouse & keyboard (intel stick, Chromebit)</p>	\$80-150 for stick \$30-60 for mouse and keyboard	Provides full computer/Chromebook functionality	Most expensive and complicated option. If not tech savvy, might not be the best choice.

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Streaming Video & Data Usage

Streaming video, although content is not downloaded, uses a similar amount of data. The amount of data will vary based on quality of video, for example standard definition streaming uses less than high definition streaming. According to Netflix, data usage is shown on the right.

Netflix Data Usage

SD: 1GB per hour

HD: 3GB per hour

UHD (4K): 7GB per hour

Start with the Library

Kanopy & Hoopla offer a variety of Entertainment & is included with your Elmhurst Public Library card. ElmLib.org/eVideo



Antenna Research:

Simple listing: <https://www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps>

Complex listing: <http://www.tvfool.com/>, <http://www.antennasdirect.com/>

Consumer Reports (search antennas): <http://elmLib.org/consumer>

AntennaWeb: <https://www.antennaweb.org/>

Elmhurst Library Catalog:

<http://elmLib.org>

CordCutting.com's Calculator:

<https://cordcutting.com/blog/cord-cutting-calculator/>

More:

<https://www.nytimes.com/guides/watching/tv-streaming-cut-the-cord>

<https://sidelinesignals.com/2018/11/04/diary-of-a-cord-cutter-variables-failure/>

Searching for content:

<http://justwatch.com/us>

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Where can I find my shows?

Shows I Want	Network	Where can I get it?

Notes: _____

