









HOW TO CUT THE CORD

A beginner's guide to
streaming television



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STREAM™

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There's a reason everyone you know is cutting the cord.



Streaming TV offers all of the programming you've come to know and love with your cable or satellite TV package. But streaming is much more convenient, cost-efficient and customizable to your viewing preferences.

If you've been thinking about cutting the cord and streaming instead, but you don't know where to start, your friends at LightStream are here to make the transition easy.

WHAT IS STREAMING?



The term “streaming” references home entertainment, whether live or on-demand programming, that uses your internet connection instead of a traditional cable or satellite link. You can watch streaming content on your television or even on a mobile device like your tablet or smartphone. Over the past few years, technological advances have made streaming more popular than ever, leading to a boom in both the quality and quantity of content.

HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST?

The short answer is that streaming can cost as much or as little as you want. There are countless subscription services available that range in cost, but there are also services that offer huge libraries for free.

WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT DO I NEED?



- An internet connection from LightStream
- A television (If you have a smart TV, the list stops here.)
- A streaming device such as a Roku, Amazon Fire Stick or Google Chromecast, if you don't have a smart TV

Most streaming services have an app that allows you to watch on your smartphone, tablet or computer. You may already have everything you need to start streaming now.

HOW DO I STREAM ON DEMAND?

The answer to that is entirely up to you! There are dozens, if not hundreds, of options. Some of the most popular on-demand services include:



- Netflix
- Disney+
- Amazon Prime Video
- Hulu
- Paramount+
- Max
- Apple TV+
- Peacock

Additionally, many services offer select live programming.

HOW DO I STREAM LIVE TELEVISION?

Some popular choices for live TV include:



- Sling TV
- YouTube TV
- Hulu + Live TV
- fuboTV
- DirecTV Stream

Some live TV streaming services offer packages that include on-demand streaming, too.

DVR | Digital Video Recorder. Most of us have grown accustomed to being able to set our DVR to record our favorite programs. The good news is that you don't have to give up your DVR just because you cut the cord! All of the most popular streaming services offer cloud-based DVR with their plans, but storage varies from platform to platform.



YouTube TV: Unlimited space, kept for nine months

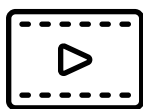
Sling TV: 50 hours

Hulu + Live TV: Unlimited space, kept for nine months

DirecTV Stream: Unlimited space, kept for nine months

fuboTV: 1,000 hours

SPORTS ADD-ONS

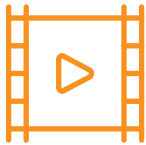


Chances are, the reason you're paying so much for TV now is because you want to be able to see any game you want, right? Each live TV streaming service offers different sports options based on the package you purchase, and there are also options to stream based on your sport of choice!

- **NFL+** offers live games that you can even watch on your mobile device, as well as live audio of every matchup.
- **NBA League Pass** offers hundreds of live games, plus NBA TV.
- **MLB.TV** offers EVERY game, plus an offseason package.

Some live TV services have special packages based on your favorite sport or league. For example, Sling TV offers one specialized package for NCAA football fans and another for NFL fans.

AD-FREE OPTIONS



In the past few years, service providers have started offering cheaper streaming plans supported by ads. As you decide which services are for you, consider whether or not a few commercial breaks for a lower price will be worth the savings.

Note: Ad-free packages are for on-demand service only. Live TV will still have normal commercial breaks.

NUMBER OF SCREENS



One final thing you need to consider when choosing streaming services is the number of screens, both in your home and outside of it, that will be using the same service at once. Every service has a screen limit, so you'll want to make sure you plan ahead to avoid any arguments over who should be able to watch and when.

EXAMPLES



Netflix

- Basic: One screen
- Standard: Two screens
- Premium: Four screens

Hulu and Hulu + Live TV

- Two screens
- Unlimited Screens Add-on for Hulu + Live TV

Apple TV+

- Six screens

Max, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, Paramount+, Peacock

- Three screens
- Live TV

YouTube TV

- Three screens

fuboTV

- Three screens

DirectTV Stream

- Three screens

Sling TV

- Orange: One screen
- Blue: Three screens
- Orange + Blue: Three screens

WHERE CAN I WATCH ___?



Due to contracts and other factors, content you watch on a particular streaming service isn't necessarily going to be there forever. That said, here are a few of the places you can currently* watch some of your favorite shows or those shows you keep hearing about:

- "Game of Thrones" – Max
- "Ted Lasso" – Apple TV+
- "Stranger Things" – Netflix
- "Only Murders in the Building" – Hulu
- "Seinfeld" – Netflix
- "Friends" – Max
- "Frasier" – Hulu
- "Star Trek" – Paramount+
- "The Office" – Peacock
- "I Love Lucy" – Hulu
- "Severance" – Apple TV+
- "The Sopranos" – Max
- "Breaking Bad" – Netflix

*As of May 2023





574-278-7121 | LightStreamIN.com

Happy streaming!