

Tech Tips for Seniors

TV Content Options

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This is a sample of the per-month cost of several TV content services. This isn't intended as a complete list; prices can be negotiable and may change.

The four companies offering one-stop-shopping TV content in our area are:

Verizon FIOS \$50-\$110 (set-top boxes extra)

Comcast Xfinity \$50-\$80 (set-top boxes extra)

DirecTV \$60-85 (satellite dish and one set top box included)

Dish Network \$60-\$90 (satellite dish and one set top box included)

The alternative to those four broadband TV options is to “stream” content over the Internet. That amounts to paying only for what you want.

If you decide to do that, streaming content will reach your TV set via a Wi-Fi connection. Mobile phones receive streaming content with a Wi-Fi connection and/or a data connection to cell towers.

All of the streaming TV content options below require a Wi-Fi connection. The monthly cost of that connection is about \$50, including a router provided by Comcast or Verizon and a wired connection to your house from the street. The cost varies according to the speed of the transmission.

If you want streaming sent to a television set you’ll need a smart TV or a streaming

device that plugs into any TV set. Streaming to a mobile phone is automatic, as long as you have installed the apps for the streaming services you prefer.

Plug-in devices and smart TV sets include a variety of apps for streaming content and give you the option of installing other apps or packages of apps.

Some Plug-In Devices for Your TV Set (one-time purchases)

Amazon Fire Stick \$35-\$58

Amazon Fire Cube \$120

Apple TV \$150-\$200

Google Chromecast \$69

Nvidia Shield \$200

Roku \$30-\$100

When it comes to content, your choices are as varied as picking your favorite brands of

chips at the grocery store. You can choose specific brands or a package that includes several brands. The cost depends on how large the package is; some brands are free.

Some Steaming Packages of Content and Apps

AT&T Now \$50-70

Hulu \$6-\$51

Sling TV \$25-\$40

Some Streaming Stand-Alones

Amazon Prime \$13

Apple TV+ \$5

CBS All Access \$6

Disney+ \$7

ESPN+ \$5

HBO Now \$15

Netflix \$9-\$16

Showtime \$11

Sling TV - various niche add-on channels
from \$3-\$15 each

Some Free Streaming Apps

Crackle

Locast (\$5 contribution requested)

NewsON

PBS Kids

Peacock (coming in 2020)

Pluto TV

Tubi TV

Xumo

You Tube

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If you have questions about any of this, feel
free to make a “Technology Tips”
appointment on Tuesday mornings at

Generations, when the center opens. Just call the main number: 215-723-5841.

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