Cutting the Cable Cord

What we will cover

• Things to think about before you cut the cord.
• What are your other options?
  • Antennas
    • what is out there
    • what they do now
    • what to expect
    • How do they work
  • Streaming over the internet
    • basic internet and equipment requirements
    • streaming services
    • equipment to watch the streaming services on.
• I will include resources for all of these
What does it mean to cut the cable cord?

switching from a cable or satellite television provider to:

• streaming your television over the internet
• using a DTV antenna
• some combination of both

Things to think about

• Cost of Cable
• Internet might cost more
• You might not get all of your local channels
• Streaming isn’t always reliable
• Number of users may be limited with the subscriptions streaming services
• One service may not be enough to provide all of the channels you want
general cord cutting resources:

- **CR Consumer Reports**: has a wealth of information on all subjects involved in cutting your cable cord. Start here with this article “Take Control of Cable TV!” (Make sure and login to their site for full access free with your library card) https://www.consumerreports.org/tv-service/take-control-of-cable-tv/

- **GroundedReason**: is a website devoted to getting rid of “Pay” TV and still being able to watch your favorite shows. It has whole sections on everything from antenna reviews to how to watch the HBO’s True Detectives online (spoiler alert! It is still going to cost $) https://www.groundedreason.com/


**Antennas???

- They fill that gap when streaming services don’t provide local channels.

- HDTV Antenna- They are new old fashioned indoor TV antennas that allow you to watch TV “Over The Air”. (btw CR mentions that outdoor antennas tend to perform better than indoor)

- TV signals what most of us grew up watching before pay/cable TV.

- You can still watch over the air TV for free and many broadcast TV signals are now in HD (high definition).
Consumer Reports has a great article HDTV Antenna Review and that nice video explanation. [https://www.consumerreports.org/antennas/hdtv-antenna-reviews-indoor-tv-antennas/](https://www.consumerreports.org/antennas/hdtv-antenna-reviews-indoor-tv-antennas/)

FCC has lots of great information about Antennas period- from a map of broadcast towers for reception because— Antennas don’t work equally well everywhere you can check your address at the FCC website to see whether you are likely to get good reception or not. [https://www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps](https://www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps) (they even have tips about antenna placement)

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**Antenna Resources**

[AntennaWeb](http://www.antennaweb.org) and [TVFool](http://www.TVFool.org)

[NoCable](http://www.nocable.org) Lots of general cord cutting resources here—my favorite things here?

- broadcast station TV guide!
- a step-by-step guide!

[YouTube](http://www.youtube.com) Lots of great do it yourself videos on every step things like how to connect your antenna! Check out this one [https://youtu.be/U_jx5ZwKWM](https://youtu.be/U_jx5ZwKWM)
How do they work

- Plug in the antenna on the back of your TV (note what it says where you plugged it in)
- Place the antenna in a good location
- Find the “input” that you made a note of
- Scan for channels on your TV (this might be called different things, auto program, scan, etc.)
- Use your remote to change the channels

Streaming TV: internet

How much internet do you need?
(Broadband speeds are measured in (megabits per second)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Speed Requirement</th>
<th>0.5 Mbps (500 Kbps)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Minimum Speed</td>
<td>1.5 Mbps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended Speed for SD (Standard Definition)</td>
<td>3 Mbps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended Speed for HD (High Definition)</td>
<td>5 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Speed for Ultra HD</td>
<td>25 Mbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.highspeedinternet.com/

https://www.consumerreports.org/products/internet-providers/ratings-overview/

https://broadbandnow.com/ See plans, prices, & ratings for every internet provider in your area.

https://testmy.net/ to test how fast your internet connection is
Streaming TV: equipment

How does it work?

Equipment for Wi-Fi (wireless internet)
You will need a router.

A router is the box that distributes the internet signal wirelessly throughout your home. (these days it is usually also the box that also receives the internet formerly called a modem.)
Many internet service providers will sell or rent you one or you can buy your own

Routers

Shop around and do your research to get the features you want and need.

Things to consider

• How fast
• How far
• Security
• Guests

Consumer Reports

CNET
https://www.cnet.com/topics/networking/best-networking-devices/

PC Magazine
https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2398080,00.asp

Tech Radar
Streaming TV: what to watch

Cable Replacement
• Hulu Live
• PS Vue
• Direct TV Now
• YouTube TV
• Sling

Subscription stand alones
• Netflix
• Hulu
• Amazon Prime Video
• Acorn TV
• CBS all Access

Free
• Roku--has tons
• Hoopla– from your local library!

There are so many more!!

Shop around!

Consumer Reports

PC Magazine
https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2489103,00.asp

CNet
Streaming TV: how to watch

how do I access this stuff?

- Smart TV
- Roku
- Chrome Cast
- Apple TV
- Video gaming systems
- Computer or smart device
- Amazon Fire stick
- And more I’m sure

Shop around!

https://www.techlicious.com/guide/5-easy-ways-to-get-netflix-video-streaming-services-on-your-tv/comments/-/CP2/

Streaming TV: how do they work

- Plug into your TV usually an HDMI port
- Select the input from your TV
- Follow the onscreen instructions to setup and view

Questions?
Shari Schawo Computer Trainer
sschawo@tscp1.org
785-580-4607