

## **Cutting the Cord**

Requires Internet.

Questions to consider:

- What programs do you watch on TV?
- How important is to be able to watch live TV versus watching On Demand?
- Rewind, DVR capabilities?
- Sports?

Once you answer those questions, look at available options and chose the one that works best for your viewing needs. Most offer a free trial so you can sample them but make sure you schedule the trials for times you will be able to fully explore the service and make sure to cancel before it charges your credit card.

-----

Services may have restrictions as to what live programs are available, what devices they work on, and how many simultaneous streams can be watched.

Not all services stream to all devices but Roku and Apple TV seem to be devices that all work on.

May be able to stream to other devices, e.g., tablet. Have not tried streaming to tablet and then connecting to TV via HDMI.

Smart TVs usually have a specific set of services they offer and cannot add additional, which is why Roku, or other streaming device, is needed with Smart TV.

Streaming devices, e.g., Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, offer channels, some of which are free, but others require subscription, e.g., Netflix, Hulu. Most shows are On Demand and not available live. Some channels on streaming devices and Smart TVs require a subscription to another service, e.g., subscription to a TV provider, e.g., Spectrum TV, Comcast, U-Verse.

In no particular order:

### **Directv Now**

\$40/month - Live a Little 65+ plus channels \$40/month.  
Just Right - 85+ channels - \$55/month.

In some markets can get local news but in Midland believe local news are stations out of Detroit.

Have two offers - 7 day free trial or \$10/month for first three months. If use 7 day free trial, cannot use second offer.

Can watch on up to two devices at same time.

Premium channels available at additional charge, e.g., HBO (\$5/month).

All plans allow streaming up to 2 devices at a time - for \$5 additional/month can stream up to three devices.

<https://www.directvnow.com/tv-packages>

-----

### **Sling TV**

Sling Orange \$25 - one device at a time  
Sling Blue \$25 - three devices at a time  
Sling Orange & Sling Blue - \$40 - four devices.

May not have as many channels as other options.

7 day free trial.

Additional channels available for per channel charge.

<https://www.sling.com/>

-----

### **YouTube TV**

\$40/month - 6 accounts per household - 3 simultaneous streams

Appear to have more sports channels than others.

For zip code 48640 appears to include Channels 5, 12, and 25.

Amazon Fire TV not listed as compatible device.

<https://tv.youtube.com/welcome/>

Note: YouTube is an available app on many streaming services, but that app is the same as using YouTube on a browser, includes some live podcasts. Does not provide same channels as available on YouTube TV.

-----

### **Play Station Vue**

5 day free trial.

Access Plan - \$44.99 for 48 channels.

Core Plan - \$49.99/month, more channels, including Sports channels, and appears to include WNEM Channel 5.

Up to five simultaneous streams (with rules).

<https://www.playstation.com/en-us/network/vue/?emcid=se-pi-148139>

---

## Hulu Live TV

\$39.99/month

One week free trial.

Two simultaneous devices but can add Unlimited Screens option for additional \$14.99/month.

<https://www.hulu.com/live-tv>

---

There are services that are specific, e.g., Netflix for movies, CBS All Access for CBS shows live and on demand. When choosing these limited services need to watch that monthly fees don't add up to more than cable television provider or other subscription service.

Hisense TV recent upgrade included new option Xumo TV - advertised as Live and On Demand shows. <https://www.xumo.tv/>

Has over 100 channels - also available as app on Roku and can watch on computer or tablet via browser. Xumo doesn't create or provide any original content so what is available is also available on other streaming services but may find that some of the content you stream from multiple sources are available through Xumo.

---

## Local TV options

Can get local news by watching TV5, 12, and 25 on web browser.

For local channels, installing an antenna (indoor or outdoor) may be an option. Indoor antennas (e.g., Mohu leaf - 50 mile range) can be useful depending on where you live and where antenna is mounted (wall or window) and which direction it is facing in relation to TV station broadcast tower. May be limited in their operation due to where they are positioned. Mohu leaf antenna mounted on South wall in living room picks up Channels 5 and 12 but 25 is spotty and can get better/worse reception depending on season and weather. Sometimes a small change in location of antenna can make a difference.

In many cases, you can watch local news broadcasts on computer or tablet but other programming is not available.

---

## Phone Service

**majicJackGo** - Voice over IP - <http://www.magicjack.com/index.html>

New customers \$35 first year - includes device which plugs into router.

Unlimited calling including long distance.

Can port current phone number.

Renew \$39/year.

App available so home phone rings on cell phone.

Includes - free conference calling; free caller ID; free voicemail; free call forwarding; free call waiting; free 411.

-----

### **More on scams**

Got call from someone who came home to notification on computer that xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx (IP address) had detected problems with their computer and gave number to call. After shutting down and restarting computer, message did not reappear. Asked if computer was left with Gmail open and was told it probably was. Recommend closing out of browser when leaving computer unattended for extended period of time.

Got call from two people on same day who said they had voicemail message supposedly from Microsoft and wanted to check before responding. Sounds like these spammers might target a particular geographic areas at same time.

-----

### **Windows 10 - add Family Member vs. add additional user to this computer**

May only show up if administrator userid is Microsoft account.

When going under Accounts, are presented with both options. When adding Family Member prompted to add Adult or Child. Adding as Child apparently provides some control over what the user can access, set time limits for use of computer, etc.

Family Member cannot be deleted from computer like an additional user. Have to log into Microsoft account on web and delete there.

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/12417/microsoft-account-add-members-to-family>

-----

State of New York kicks Spectrum out because they did not comply with conditions imposed when Charter and Time Warner merged. Primarily to expand coverage to underserved areas.

-----