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Cutting the CORD



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What is Cutting the Cord?

The phrase Cutting the Cord refers to replacing traditional Cable/Satellite TV and Phone Services with OTA (over-the-air) TV and Internet based solutions. In January 2018 Time Warner (now Spectrum) started the upgrade to digital cable TV which fueled demand in our area for more options.

Over-The-Air Television (OTA TV) is free high-definition local broadcasting. The stations that are included are many of the channels that you currently watch on cable or satellite to view local news and major network shows.

Another way to view content is to stream it over the Internet. This can be pre-recorded content or live broadcasting. The broadcast is streamed through a device and not stored or downloaded.

There are a lot of ways to use the Internet to make telephone calls. I am going to demonstrate a couple of ways to replace a traditional home phone using Internet based solutions.

The main reason people are Cutting the Cord is to save money. With high-speed Internet access and a few gadgets, you can craft a package that works for you and saves a lot of money.



**I SEE HERE THAT YOU'VE BEEN
A LOYAL CUSTOMER FOR 10 YEARS!**

**I'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND INCREASE YOUR
BILL INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU THE SAME
SWEET DEAL WE GIVE NEW CUSTOMERS, OK?**

OTA Antennas

25 mile range antenna



Price around \$10

50-60 mile range antenna
with a signal booster



Price range \$20 - \$40

OTA Exterior Antennas



There are other antennas available that can be mounted to the roof or exterior of your house or apartment. In general these types of antennas have much greater range. The one shown here boosts reception to a 150 Mile Radius. It costs around \$55 online. There are many options available with prices below \$100.

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

I put in zip code 12084. These channels should be available in that area.

Callsign	Network	Ch#	Band	IA
WRGB	CBS	6	Lo-V	
WYPX-TV	ION	55	UHF	R
WTEN	ABC	10	UHF	R
WCWN	CW	45	UHF	R
WNYT	NBC	13	Hi-V	
WNYA	MY N	51	Hi-V	R
WMHT	PBS	17	UHF	R
WXXA-TV	FOX	23	Hi-V	R
WKTU	NBC	2	UHF	
WFNY-CD			UHF	R
WNCE-CD			UHF	
WGBY-TV	PBS	57	Hi-V	RS

Channels Received

6-1 WRGB
6-1 TBD
6-3 Comet
10-1 WTEN
10-2 get TV
10-3 Justice
10-4 Escape
13-1 WNYT ME
13-3 WNYT Hi
17-1 WMHT HD
17-2 WMHT Cr
17-3 WMHT Wo
17-4 WMHT Ki
23-1 WXXA HD
23-2 WXXA OT
23-3 WXXA LF
23-4 WXXA BC
45-1 WCWN HD
45-2 Charge
45-3 WRGB
45-4 Stadium
51-1 WNYA HD
51-2 WNYA LT
51-3 WNYA DE

You connect these antennas to the **coaxial connector** on your TV. First select the **antenna input** on your TV and then perform a **channel scan**.

Streaming Devices

These devices require a high speed Internet connection (a minimum of 3 Mbps) to function properly. For HD Streaming the required speed jumps to at least 5 Mbps and for 4K Streaming or Ultra HD you should have around 25 Mbps Internet speed.

You can use a Smart TV, PC, MAC, iPad, Tablet, Android or iPhone to stream content from many providers. There are many devices available designed specifically to stream content. At the library, we make Chromecast, AppleTV, Roku and Amazon Firestick devices available for borrowing. Even game consoles like the PS4, Xbox, and Wii have streaming capabilities. Similarly, many DVD and Blu-ray players have built in streaming applications.

The devices range in price from around \$25-\$35 for a Chromecast/Roku/Firestick all the way up to \$180 for the 4K 64MB AppleTV.

At the time I put this presentation together, Sling, one of the popular streaming content providers, had some deals for new customers where you got a free Amazon Fire Stick or AIRTV mini if you prepaid for two months of service.

Many of the online Streaming Services have a “Try Before You Buy” deal, where you can tryout the service for free. As far as I know, all of the streaming providers are on a month to month service plan.

Guiderland Public Library

Cut the Cord Collection

Roku @ \$30



Amazon Fire TV 4K @ \$50



Apple TV @\$180



Google Chromecast @ \$35



25 Mile OTA Antenna @ \$10



PC Magazine “The Best Video Streaming Services of 2019”

Product	Disney+	Hulu	Amazon Prime Video	fuboTV	Sling TV	CBS All Access	Philo	Netflix	YouTube TV	HBO Now
										
Lowest Price	Disney+ Trial SEE IT	Hulu SEE IT	Amazon SEE IT	fuboTV SEE IT	Sling Media SEE IT	CBS Interactive SEE IT	Philo SEE IT			
Editors' Rating	●●●●○	●●●●○ <small>EDITOR'S CHOICE</small>	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●● <small>EDITOR'S CHOICE</small>	●●●●● <small>EDITOR'S CHOICE</small>	●●●●○
Best For	Families	TV Fans	Original Programming	Sports Fanatics	Cord Cutters	CBS Shows	Entertainment	Original Programming	General Audiences	HBO Series
Starting Price	\$6.99/month	\$5.99/month; \$44.99/month**	\$8.99/month	\$54.99/month	\$25/month; \$40/month	\$5.99/month	\$20/month	\$8.99/month	\$49.99/month	\$14.99/month
Concurrent Streams	4	2	2	2	1/2/4	2	3	1-4	3	Unlimited
Live TV	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—
Original Programming	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓	—	✓	—	✓
Ads	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—
Read Review	Disney+ Review	Hulu Review	Amazon Prime Video Review	fuboTV Review	Sling TV Review	CBS All Access Review	Philo Review	Netflix Review	YouTube TV Review	HBO Now Review

Disney+ Originals Disney+ offers originals such as *Encore!*, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*, *Marvel's Hero Project*, *The Mandalorian*, and *The World According to Jeff Goldblum*.

Search

Disney+ lets you browse collections of similar content from the search page. The search box also accepts keywords such as title, character, and genre.

Mobile App

Disney+ is available on both Android and iOS devices. You can download shows and movies for offline viewing on either platform as well as set preferences for the quality of downloads.

Profiles

Disney+ allows users to set up seven different user profiles. Each profile gets personalized recommendations, too.

Details and Watchlist

You can view the details of movies and TV shows on the platform, along with suggestions for similar content.

PROS - Tons of Disney-owned content all in one place. Offline downloads. 4K streaming. Good performance.

CONS - Most originals are from existing franchises. Not all content from 21st Century Fox acquisition available yet. Only basic parental controls.

BOTTOM LINE - Disney+ offers an impressive library of high-quality shows and movies in a featured-filled video streaming package, but it needs to expand its content horizons for it to become an absolute must-have service.



Hulu

Free trials dependent on plans and add-ons vary. \$5.99 - \$50.99 monthly & add-ons available

**** PC Mag editors choice**

Originals and On-Demand Shows

Hulu gives you access to a deep catalog of content to watch on a variety of devices. Hulu produces its own shows too.

Movies

Hulu's library features lots of popular movies, as well as some documentaries and foreign films.

Live TV and Sports

Hulu's Live TV option includes a good variety of channels across the news, entertainment, and sports categories.

Subscribe

You can add supplement Hulu's library with subscriptions to premium channels.

Mobile Apps

Hulu's redesigned app experience looks great and performs well.

PROS - Good value. Excellent selection of TV series and movies. Cloud DVR. Varied channel lineup. Available on nearly every media-streaming device.

CONS - Base plan includes ads during on-demand shows. Offline downloads feature requires premium account. Few high-quality originals. No live Viacom channels.

BOTTOM LINE - Hulu is a dependable option for streaming new and classic shows as well as live TV across a wide variety of platforms. It's a top choice among streaming video services.

Amazon Prime Video

Included with Amazon prime or \$8.99 /month Student discount available has optional add-ons

Original Shows

Amazon's growing library of promising original content includes titles such as *Bosch*, *Electric Dreams*, *One Mississippi*, *Patriot*, *Red Oaks*, *Sneaky Pete*, *The Grand Tour*, and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

Channels

Amazon Prime Video lets users add on subscriptions to different content providers to their account for a monthly fee. Options include HBO, Starz, Showtime, CBS All Access, and Cinemax.

X-Ray

Amazon's X-Ray feature (powered by IMDb) shows useful information on the characters and actors currently in a scene, any soundtrack titles, as well as relevant show notes.

Accessibility

Amazon's Audio Descriptions narrate information about actions, characters, scene changes, on-screen text, and other visual content.

Mobile Streaming

You can download the Prime Video app on Android and iOS devices, as well as on a wide range of other hardware platforms.

PROS - Excellent original content and collection of shows from other networks. 4K, HDR, and offline capabilities. Lets you rent or buy movies and TV shows.

CONS - Some interface clutter. Sometimes difficult to discover content.

BOTTOM LINE - Amazon Prime Video hosts lots of popular and prestige content for streaming and also features impressive technical capabilities such as 4K HDR streaming and offline viewing.

fuboTV

one week trial \$54.99 monthly

Web Interface

FuboTV's interface is clean and compact. Each main section (Sports, Shows, and Movies) highlights live or upcoming programming that may be of interest.

TV Shows and Movies

FuboTV also includes an impressive collection of on-demand TV shows and movies.

Guide

You can scroll down through the channels to browse for something to watch and even record content to your DVR storage directly from the guide.

Mobile

From fuboTV's mobile app, you can watch live sports or on-demand series and movies. You can also schedule recordings of future events.

DVR

FuboTV makes it easy to record shows, even if they are in progress. You can store up to 30 hours of DVR content with the base account.

PROS - Wide variety of live sports and on-demand entertainment content. Reliable streaming. Good web and mobile apps. Capable DVR functionality. Some 4K content.

CONS - Expensive. Most live streams limited to 720p. No ESPN channels.

BOTTOM LINE - FuboTV is a particularly good streaming service for sports fans, but its wide range of news and entertainment programming should appeal to general audiences, too.

Sling TV

current promotion %40 off two \$15/month options or combined \$25/month

Streaming Packages

Sling TV's plans offer a good range of content across the news, sports, and entertainment genres, but for the most coverage you'll need to spring for the Orange & Blue subscription.

Channel Guide

Users can filter the channel guide by a range of content types.

Cloud DVR

Even though you need to pay extra for them, Sling TV's DVR capabilities work well and are easy to use.

Movie Rentals

One of Sling TV's most unique offerings is the ability to rent movies. Pricing varies depending on the popularity and resolution (HD or SD) of the movie.

Parental Controls

Sling TV's parental control settings are a welcome feature, but we would prefer the ability to associate restrictions with individual profiles.

PROS - Inexpensive. Good selection of national networks. Flexible channel options. Reliable streams. Movie rentals available.

CONS - Offers few local channels. Cloud DVR costs extra. Confusing Extra packages. Interfaces and apps lag behind competitors.

BOTTOM LINE - Sling TV is a reliable and cost-effective streaming video service for replacing cable, but it falters in the local programming department and is not as intuitive as competitors.

CBS All Access

one week free trial options \$5.99 with commercials \$9.99 w/o commercials

The Best of CBS

With a subscription to CBS All Access, you can watch a wide variety of past and current shows from CBS's extensive catalog as well as some live sports and news content.

CBS Originals

In the US, CBS All Access is the only way to watch original series such as *Star Trek: Discovery* and *The Good Fight*.

Show Guide

The Schedule section shows the prime time television scheduled to air over the next few weeks.

Now Playing

In my experience, CBS All Access streams on-demand content and its live channels without issue. It also has good customization options for closed captions.

Mobile Downloads

CBS All Access recently added the ability to download shows for offline viewing on Android and iOS, but only for subscribers to the Commercial Free plan.

PROS - Huge catalog of current and classic CBS shows. Live CBS news and NFL games. Competitive pricing. Support for a variety of platforms. Mobile downloads for some account tiers.

CONS - Few exclusive originals. Some reliability issues. No support for 4K or HDR content.

BOTTOM LINE - CBS All Access is mandatory for those who want to watch CBS originals as they air, but its large catalog of past and current shows may not be enough to attract anyone else



Philo

50+ channels \$20/month prepay 6 months get Fire Stick 4K

Live TV

Philo is one of the cheapest video streaming services that gives you access to both live television and on-demand shows.

Guide

Philo's guide shows past, live, and scheduled shows across its channels.

Networks

Philo primarily includes entertainment and lifestyle channels.

Save Shows

Philo lets you save entire shows at a time for on-demand viewing.

Mobile App

Philo's iOS app looks great and works perfectly fine, but Philo does not offer a native Android app.

PROS - Inexpensive. 58-channel lineup. Solid performance. Good mobile apps.

CONS - No local coverage. No sports and few news channels. Lacks parental control options.

BOTTOM LINE - Video streaming service Philo offers a good mix of entertainment and lifestyle channels at a reasonable price, but it includes few news networks and no sports content.



Netflix

30 day trial \$8.99 per month

** PC Mag editors choice

Web Interface - You can hover over a movie or show in Netflix's web interface to view a preview or click into the title to see more details.

DVDs - Netflix still runs a DVD service, but you need to pay an extra monthly fee to use it.

Original Content - Netflix's lineup of original shows and movies continues to grow. Top original productions include *Black Mirror*, *Disenchantment*, *Russian Doll*, *Stranger Things*, and *The Crown*.

Player Options - From the playback screen, you can change the language and turn off the subtitles at any time, as well as browse through other episodes in a series.

Parental Controls - Netflix lets you set parental control options for each profile. Another useful feature, called Smart Downloads, deletes downloaded episodes after you finish watching them and automatically retrieves the next one in the series.

PROS - High-quality original programming. Ad-free streaming. Excellent apps and features. Offline downloads on mobile. Physical media option.

CONS - Expensive. Little to no information about changes to availability of content.

BOTTOM LINE - Netflix's large collection of TV shows and movies, including critically acclaimed originals, make it one of the best video streaming services to date, despite its high cost.

YouTube TV

21 day free trial \$49.99/month add-ons available

**** PC Mag editors choice**

Channel Lineup - YouTube TV offers a collection of over 70 channels, with tons of sports, news, and entertainment options.

Live TV Guide - YouTube TV gives you the option to customize which options appear in the channel guide, so you don't need to browse every one of its channels.

Search Tools - A robust search tool can help you find content to watch from specific genres or channels.

Now Playing - The service's streaming interface includes a good set of playback controls. However, we would like to see more accessibility options.

Mobile Apps - YouTube TV offers apps for Android and iOS, as well as a variety of streaming devices.

PROS - Excellent lineup of sports, news, and entertainment channels. Robust and easy-to-use DVR features. Intuitive interface.

CONS - Only basic parental control options.

BOTTOM LINE - YouTube TV offers an excellent variety of channels, top-notch DVR features, and solid performance. It's a top choice for cord cutters who want to replicate the cable TV experience.



HBO Now

7 day free trial then \$14.99/month

HBO On-Demand

HBO Now, HBO's on-demand streaming service, features premium on-air originals and an extensive on-demand collection of quality shows and movies.

Premium Shows

HBO's library features beloved series such as *Deadwood*, *Game of Thrones*, *Girls*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Sopranos*, *Sex and the City*, *Six Feet Under*, and *The Wire*.

Original Programming

HBO Now also includes popular and recent movies, such as its adaptation of *Fahrenheit 451*.

Parental Controls

You can set the maximum rating allowed for both Movies and TV shows, and lock down these preferences with a four-digit PIN.

Mobile Apps

HBO offers solid apps on a wide range of platforms, including Android and iOS.

PROS - Unmatched library of top-notch original shows. No ads. Excellent interfaces and performance.

CONS - Expensive. No HDR or 4K content. No offline viewing. Web player requires Flash. Unclear how many concurrent streams allowed.

BOTTOM LINE - HBO Now delivers an impressive catalog of shows and movies, but it costs more than many competitors and does not let subscribers view content offline.

Continued Free Online Streaming Services

Crackle

The great-granddaddy of free streaming services, Crackle is still one of the best. Sony owns the site, meaning that you'll be able to find some of your favorite TV shows and movies, from Seinfeld and Heroes, to The Karate Kid and The Thing. The shows and movies are all available on a rotating basis, so you won't always be able to find exactly what you're looking for, but you'll also never want for new content. You'll also have to watch ads, but it's no worse than sitting through the average network or cable program. There are even a few original shows, like SuperMansion.

Available on: Amazon Fire TV, Android, Apple TV, PCs, Google Chromecast, iOS, Nvidia Shield, Roku, PlayStation 4, smart TVs, Xbox One

Pluto TV

Streaming individual movies and shows for free is relatively easy; it's much harder to find a way to stream live content. Pluto TV offers more than 75 live channels, and the remarkable thing is that you're probably even familiar with some of them. Pluto TV is particularly useful for news junkies, as you can stream NBC News, CBSN, Bloomberg TV, as well as stations for weather and sports. There's a little something for everyone, whether you want classic TV shows, kids' programming or nonstop B movies. Of course, you'll have to watch on Pluto TV's schedule rather than your own, but that shouldn't be a problem for veteran TV watchers.

Available on: Amazon Fire TV, Android, Android TV, Apple TV, PCs, Google Chromecast, iOS, Roku, Smart TV

Telephone Options

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1
YEAR PLAN

Best Value

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3
YEAR PLAN



I contacted **BEST BUY** to find out about their Free IN-HOME CONSULTATION and made an appointment. Daniel Lindemann came over and talked to me about the services BEST BUY had available. We spent close to an hour talking about Cutting the Cord devices and services BEST BUY had to offer. For \$100 they will come to your house and setup the device or devices you need to Cut the Cord. They also have a Total Tech Support membership for \$199/annually that covers a wide range of products and services at a discounted rate.

To setup a FREE IN-HOME consultation call these folks directly.
Daniel Lindemann @ 518-902-0825 or Taylor Griffin 845-420-8008 or 888-237-8289.

I also spoke with Nick from **Town TV** in Rotterdam he said they have antennas starting at around \$40. Also external mounting style ones in about the \$100 range. 518-355-1020

The Guilderland Library

Our reference desk is staffed with librarians who know a lot about the devices we have available for loan. I can also help with specific questions and can be reached by email. Sean Silvernail silvernails@guilderlandlibrary.org

Free Online Streaming Services

[Guiderland Public Library](#)

We have 650 video titles available online through Overdrive check out our website www.guiderlandlibrary.org and view our Collection [Here](#). We also have over 173,000 DVDs and Blu-ray discs throughout the UHLS collections.

Coming in January 2020!!!

The screenshot displays the RBdigital website interface. At the top, it says "WELCOME RBdigital" and features the "rb digital" logo. There are also icons for app availability on the App Store, Google Play, and Kindle Fire. Below the header, a navigation bar reads "Welcome to RBdigital Trials - All in One App and Desktop - Books - Magazines - Comics - Entertainment - Education - Health&Wellness". The main content area is titled "AUDIOBOOKS" and includes a microphone icon and an "EXPLORE" button. A carousel of audiobook covers is shown, with the following titles and authors:

Book Title	Author
LAND OF WOLVES	Craig Johnson
THE TESTAMENTS	Margaret Atwood
THE INSTITUTE	Stephen King
KILLER INSTINCT	James Patterson
VENDETTA IN DEATH	J.D. Robb
THE GIRL WHO LIVED TWICE	David Lagercrantz