“Home Entertainment Cutting the Cord”

Joe Parla
Grand Computers Club
General Meeting
April 7, 2021

Topics

- Why cut the cord?
- How to cut the cord
- Over the air (OTA) broadcast
- Popular streaming channels & packages
- Smart TVs
- How to compare
- Future technologies

Current Technology

Why cut the cord?

- Monthly costs are too high
- Costs continue to increase
- Lack of competition
- Content is tied to service provider
- Majority of content is not watched, but paid for due to “tiers” of service

How to Cut the Cord in 7 Steps

1. Review Your Cable TV Bill
2. Get Quotes for Internet Service
3. Set a Streaming TV Budget
4. Buy an Entry-Level Streaming Device
5. Test Out a Live TV Streaming Service
6. Cancel Cable TV Service
7. Continue to Comparison Shop

#1 Review Your Cable TV Bill

1. Review Your Cable TV Bill

- Will I owe an early termination fee?
- If so, how much is the early termination fee?
- Can I avoid paying an early termination fee if I keep internet service?

#2 Get Quotes for Internet Service

2. Get Quotes for Internet Service

- Price ($50-$100/mo.)
- Download Speed (200mbps)
- Data Caps

* Consider buying vs. renting equipment (modem & router)

#3 Set a Streaming TV Budget

3. Set a Streaming TV Budget

An example to keep cost the same:

$150 Cable & Internet Bundle – $60 Price for Internet Only

$90 Left for Streaming

#3 Set a Streaming TV Budget

3. Set a Streaming TV Budget

My example to keep cost the same:

$330 Cable & Internet Bundle – $80 Price for Internet Only

$250 Left for Streaming

#4 Buy an Entry-Level Streaming Device

4. Buy an Entry-Level Streaming Device

Roku Premiere 4K

$35

Roku Streaming Stick+4K

$49

Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K

$40

Chromecast with Google TV 4K

$50

#4
Buy an High-end Streaming Device

4. Buy a High-end Streaming Device (Check Budget)

Apple TV 4K

$179.99

Nvidia Shield TV 4K

$149.99

Roku Ultra (2020) 4K

$94

#5 Test Out a Live TV Streaming Service

5. Test Out a Live TV Streaming Service*

- YouTube TV $65 85ch
- Sling TV $35 30ch
- Hulu + Live TV $65 65ch
- fubo TV $65 100ch
- Philo TV $20 64ch
- Tvision/YoutubeTV $55 85ch
- AT&T TV $60 65ch

*Most of these TV streaming services offer free trials

Streaming Service	YouTube TV	sling	hulu	AT&T tv Now	fubo TV	philo	vidgo
Free Trial	7 days	3 days	7 days	7 days	7 days	7 days	3 days
Base Price	$64.99	$30	$54.99	$55	$64.99	$20	$40
Channel Lineup	85+ channels good mix	30+ channels 2 choices	85+ channels good mix	Has HBO missing a lot	Lots of channels & sports	Limited	No local No premium
Guide Quality	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair
Simultaneous Streams	3	1, 3, or 4	2	3	3	3	3
Compatible Devices	Most	Most	Most	Most	Most	Most	Most
User Profiles	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cloud DVR	No limit 9 months	10 hours 30 days	50 hours	500 hours 90 days	500 hours	No Limit	No
Fast Forward thru DVR	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Some	N/A
Sound & Video	Stereo 720/1080	Stereo 720/1080	Stereo 720/1080	Stereo 720/1080	Stereo 720/1080/4K	Stereo 720/1080	Stereo 720/1080

#6 Cancel Cable TV Service

6. Cancel Cable TV Service

- Cancel by phone and call early in the day
- If you have a competing offer from another company, this is the time to mention it
- Make sure that you return any rental equipment to your provider

#7 Continue to Comparison Shop

7. Continue to Comparison Shop

- Streaming services beat cable TV on price
- Streaming services have no contracts, you can cancel at any time
- Switch streaming providers or pause your subscription whenever you want

LIVE
BREAKING
NEWS

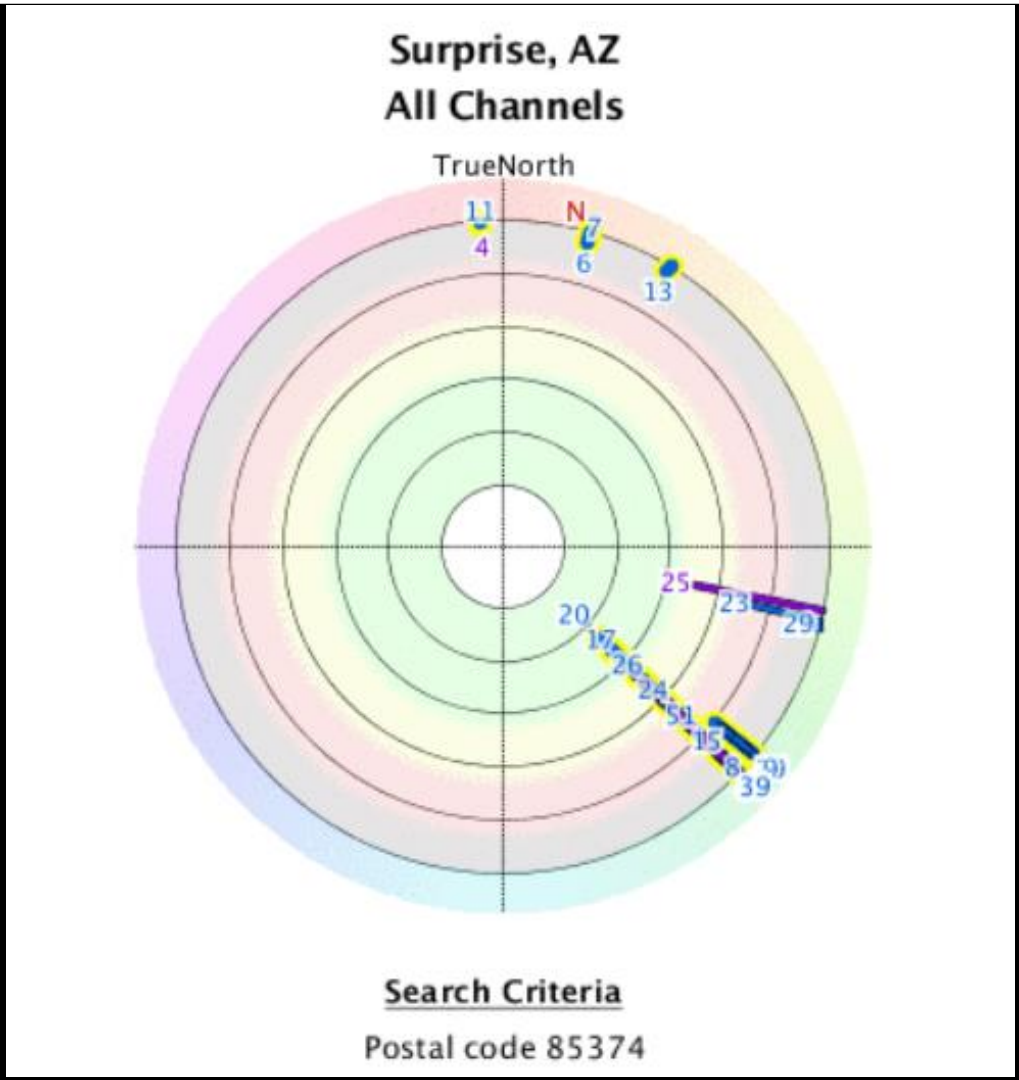
DVR Live TV (With Guide)

- **Channels DVR (Record on local storage) $8/mo**
- **Stremium (Record in the cloud) $5/mo**

Local Live TV (No antennae; many channels)

- **Locast (Free & Donation) $5.50/mo. donation**
- **Stremium (Free no DVR) Merges subscriptions**

Over the Air TV



Over the Air TV

Phoenix Over the Air Station Info (stationindex.com)

Station	Virtual Channel	Physical Channel	Frequency	Video	Audio	Call Sign	Network	Power	City	Location
KTVK	3.1	24.1	UHF	1080i	DD5.1	KTVK-HD	Independent	1000 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KTVK	3.2	24.2	UHF	480i	DD2.0	THIS-TV	This TV	1000 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPHO-TV	5.1	17.3	UHF	1080i	DD5.1	KPHO HD	CBS	1000 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPHO-TV	5.2	17.4	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KPHO SD	Weather	1000 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAZT-CD	7.1	36.3	UHF	720p	DD5.1	KAZT7.1	Independent	15 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAZT-CD	7.2	36.4	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KAZT7.2	Me-TV	15 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAZT-CD	7.3	36.5	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KAZT7.3	RTV	15 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAET	8.1	8.3	VHF	720p	DD5.1	EIGHT H	PBS	40 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAET	8.2	8.4	VHF	480i	DD2.0	Life	PBS Encore	40 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAET	8.3	8.5	VHF	480i	DD2.0	World	World TV	40 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KAET	8.4	8.6	VHF	480i	DD2.0	KBAQ	Audio	40 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KSAZ-TV	10.1	10.3	VHF	720p	DD5.1	KSAZ FOX	FOX	48 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPNX	12.1	12.1	VHF	1080i	DD5.1	KPHX-DT	NBC	39 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPNX	12.2	12.2	VHF	480i	DD2.0	Weather	AccuWeather	39 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KNXV-TV	15.1	15.3	UHF	720p	DD5.1	ABC15HD	ABC	458 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KNXV-TV	15.2	15.4	UHF	480i	DD2.0	LWN	Live Well	458 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPAZ-TV	21.1	20.3	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KPAZ-D1	TBN	500 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPAZ-TV	21.2	20.4	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KPAZ-D2	Church Channel	500 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPAZ-TV	21.3	20.5	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KPAZ-D3	JCTV	500 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPAZ-TV	21.4	20.6	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KPAZ-D4	Enlace USA	500 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPAZ-TV	21.5	20.7	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KPAZ-D5	Smile of a Child	500 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KTVW-DT	33.1	33.1	UHF	1080i	DD5.1	KTVW-DT	Univision	470 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KTVW-DT	33.2	33.2	UHF	480i	DD2.0	KTVW-DT	TeleFutura	470 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KUTP	45.1	26.3	UHF	720p	DD2.0	KUTP-DT	MyN	1000 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain
KPPX-TV	51.1	51.3	UHF	720p	DD5.1	ION	ION	210 kW	Tolleson	South Mountain
KPPX-TV	51.2	51.4	UHF	480i	DD2.0	Qubo	Qubo	210 kW	Tolleson	South Mountain
KPPX-TV	51.3	51.5	UHF	480i	DD2.0	IONLife	IONLife	210 kW	Tolleson	South Mountain
KASW	61.1	49.1	UHF	1080i	DD5.1	KASW-DT	CW	531 kW	Phoenix	South Mountain

data compiled from - http://www.rabbitears.info/market.php?mktid=15

Clear Stream 2V Antenna

Roll over image to zoom in

Antennas Direct ClearStream 2V TV Antenna, 60+ Mile Range, UHF/VHF, Multi-directional, Indoor, Attic, Outdoor, Mast w/Pivoting Base/Hardware/ Adjustable Clamp, Sealing Pads, 4K Ready, Black – C2-V-CJM

Visit the Antennas Direct Store

5,830 ratings | 874 answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "clearstream anten...

List Price: ~~$119.99~~

Price: $82.35

prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

You Save: $37.64 (31%)

Clear Stream 4 Antenna

Clearstream 4 TV Antenna, 70+ Mile Range, UHF, Multi-Directional, Indoor, Attic, Outdoor, Mast W/Pivoting Base/Hardware/Adjustable Clamp/Sealing Pads, 4K Ready, Black – C4-CJM

Visit the Antennas Direct Store

2,788 ratings | 454 answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "clearstream anten...

List Price: ~~$159.99~~

Price: $97.94 prime

& FREE Returns

You Save: $62.05 (39%)

360 Degree 4K Antenna

1byone Outdoor TV Antenna 360° Omni-Directional Reception Digital Amplified 4K 1080P HDTV Antenna VHF&UHF Long Range for Outdoor Attic RV Use Weather Resistant - 39ft RG6 Coax Cable

Visit the 1 BY ONE Store

84 ratings | 12 answered questions

Price: $51.99 prime

& FREE Returns

Coupon

Save an extra 15% when you apply this coupon.

Details

Ultra Thin Indoor Antenna

Roll over image to zoom in

Amplified HD TV Antenna, Digital Indoor HDTV Antenna Up to 120 Mile Range, 4K HD VHF UHF Television Local Channels Detachable Signal Amplifier and 16.5ft Longer Coax Cable

Visit the Vansky Store

7,666 ratings | 584 answered questions

Price: $24.99

prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

Coupon

Save an extra $5.00 when you apply this coupon.

Details

Get $100 off instantly: Pay $0.00 ~~$24.99~~

Antenna Booster & Splitter

Antennas Direct 4-Port TV Distribution Amplifier, Connect Up to 4 Televisions to 1 Antenna, Power Supply, Coaxial Cable, for Indoor Use, 4K Ready, Silver - CDA4

Visit the Antennas Direct Store

778 ratings | 89 answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "antenna amplifier"

Price: $45.88 prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

Over-the-Air Wi-Fi DVR

Roll over image to zoom in

Fire TV Recast, over-the-air DVR, 1 TB, 150 hours, DVR for cord cutters

Brand: Amazon

8,099 ratings | 1000+ answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "fire tv recast"

Price: $279.99

✓prime Today 5PM - 10PM

or 5 monthly payments of $56.00

Get a $100 Amazon.com gift card instantly upon approval for the Amazon Prime Store Card. No annual fee.

In Stock.

FREE delivery today if you order

Popular Over-the-Top Streaming Options

- Amazon Prime Video TV ($119/year)
- Apple TV+ ($4.99/month)
- Disney+ ($7.99/month)
- HBO Max ($14.99/month)
- Hulu ($5.99/ month)
- Netflix ($8.99/month)
- Paramount+($5.99/month)
- Peacock (Free, $4.99/month)

Smart TVs

Pros

- **Connected to Internet**
- **Some services like YouTube & Netflix**
- **Browser on some models**
- **Built-in apps**
- **Does not require additional box**

Smart TVs

Cons

- Poor quality apps
- Hard-to-use interface
- Services aligned to TV Mfg.
- Updates slow in coming out
- More expensive than without features
- Privacy issues; voice/camera
- Not portable; to room/travel

Smart TVs

Free Apps on Smart TVs & Streaming Devices:

Pluto, Stirr, Crackle, Tubi, XUMO, Distro TV, Redbox, Hoopla (access at library) IMDB TV, Crunchyroll, Kanopy (access at library) Locast (local channels) Roku Channel (only on Roku Devices)

Internet Streaming Offerings

ISPs in the Surprise area:

- **Cox Communications**
- **Century Link**
- **Zona Wyyerd** (new)
- **Others**

Internet Streaming Offerings

Pros

- Greater flexibility
- Viewer suggestions
- Add & remove services instantly without penalty

Cons

- Need ISP to work
- If Internet down; no viewing
- May be hard to troubleshoot issues

Cable/Satellite Offerings

Pros

- More channels, shows & events
- More sports & movies

Cons

- May require a tier of mostly undesired channels
- Poor customer service; but only 1 call
- More expensive

Compare Plans Offerings

Items to include in comparison

One-time charges

- **Set-top box**
- **DVR box (OTA/Antenna)**
- **Consolidated remote controller**

Compare Plans Offerings

Items to include in comparison

- **Monthly charges**
- **DVR rental**
- **Channel guide**
- **Premium channels**
- **Network subscriptions (MLB,NFL, NHL)**
- **Charge for HD channels**

Future Technology

Alternatives to getting content

- **Over-the-air UHD broadcasts**
- **In-house (5G) cellular home network**
- **Cellular hotspot/modem**
- **Set-top box**
- **Smart TV**
- **Other subscriptions**

Future Technology

Cater to subscriber needs

- **What, when, where you want it**
- **Subscriptions customized to viewer desires**
- **Cloud-based DVR capabilities**

Breaking News Videos

- 6 Things to Know for Locast
- Locast/Stremium
- Stremium Free – No DVR
- Stremium with DVR Option
- Channels DVR
- Channels DVR Free TV Commercial Skip

Useful Videos

- How to Cut the Cord in 7 Steps
- Cord Cutting the EASY Way
- Which Streaming Service is the Best in 2021?
- Cord Cutting Weekly (02/12/21)
- Cutting the Cord in 2021

Useful Sites

- Cord Cutting News You Can Use
- Best media streaming devices
- 100 channels compared
- The best streaming devices for 2021
- Where to get 4K Content

Useful Sites

- Guide to streaming video (CR)
- Help to find the best streaming service
- Phoenix TV Channels
- How to Cut the Cord and Never Pay for Cable TV Again
- Compare streaming devices

Questions???

Next General Meeting

Is Cyber Security Really Important?

Norbert (Bob) Gostischa from the APCUG

Wednesday May 5

2:00pm via Zoom

www.grandcomputers.org

Thank you for your participation and support!