

“Cutting the Cord”

A guide for those who want to get their TV over the Internet

This guide was prepared by the Brooksville Broadband Committee in May of 2023. We believe the information to be correct as of that date, but you should “check before you buy” in case things have changed. For assistance with cutting the cord, contact your local library or town office and ask for the town’s internet expert! Brooksville residents, contact Brook Minner at the library (326-4560 or brook@brooksvillelibrary.org), or Eric Brehm (703-608-9493 or ericbrehm@icloud.com), or Doug Cowan (837-1285 or cowandoug@gmail.com).

Devices

You will need a “smart TV” (connects to internet) **OR** a “streaming device”.

How can you tell if you have a “smart TV”? The easiest way to know if you have a smart TV is to check your remote. If you see a button for Amazon prime, Netflix, Hulu, or Roku, you have a smart TV. If you push the menu button on the remote and it indicates there is an “apps” section, your TV is smart. If there is an ethernet port (looks a lot like a jack that your phone cord plugs into), your TV is smart.



If you don’t have a smart TV, You can use a streaming device to turn your regular TV into a smart TV. What’s a streaming device? It’s a small box that plugs into your TV so you can watch on-demand services or streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu+, etc. To connect your streaming device, you will need an HDI port that looks like this:



Streaming device options are listed below, from [Consumer Reports](#) , top rated to lowest rated, but all recommended. For more details, consult the manufacturer’s website.

NVIDIA Shield TV Pro	from \$200
NVIDIA SHIELD TV	from \$150
AMAZON FIRE TV CUBE (3RD GEN)	from \$140
ROKU ULTRA (2022)	from \$100
ROKU STREAMING STICK 4K+	from \$70
AMAZON FIRE TV STICK 4K MAX	from \$55
AMAZON FIRE CUBE (2 ND GEN)	from \$120
ROKU STREAMING STICK 4K	from \$48
GOOGLE CHROMCAST&GOOGLE TV	from \$48
APPLE TV 4K (128GB, 2022)	from \$138
APPLE TV 4K (32GB, 2021)	from \$95
ROKU EXPRESS 4K+	from \$39
TIVO STREAM 4K	from \$30
AMAZON FIRE TV STICK (3RD GEN)	from \$40
AMAZON FIRE TV STICK LITE	from \$27

Streaming Services

You will need to subscribe to a streaming service. Here are the current options. For more details consult their websites:

Company	\$/month	# of packages	# of channels	DVR Storage	Duration	Stream at same time	add-ons
Direct TV	\$65-\$124	4	75-150	unlimited	9 months	3	yes
YouTubeTV	\$73	1	117	unlimited	9 months	3	yes
FuboTV	\$75-\$95	3	153-228	1000 hours	unlimited	3	yes
Hulu+TV	\$70-\$83	1	85+	unlimited	9 months	2	yes
SlingTV	\$40-\$55	3	31-43	50 hours	1 year	1-4	yes
PhiloTV	\$25	1	70+	unlimited	1 year	3	yes

Direct TV charges an additional \$15/month for network device, \$13/month for regional sports, and up to \$7/TV in home per month.

Hulu+TV also gives you their inventory of TV shows and movies plus Disney+ and ESPN+ (with ads) for free.

Channels

Which Streaming Services offer which TV channels? See the following table. Not every channel they offer is listed. Some are obscure and only offered by one streaming service. Other channels are only available as add-ons. If there is one or more channels missing that you want to have, go to the websites of the streaming services to see if they are offered as an add-on.

“A la carte” streaming If a service were available that truly allowed you to pick only the channels you wanted, it could reduce the cost of subscribing to a streaming service that requires you to pay for channels you don’t want. Unfortunately it appears that true a la carte streaming is not available, although some of the above services do allow some customization.