

New TV Options: Which One Is Right for You?

Cable TV companies have had captive audiences for too long. Now streaming services delivered over the Internet and slimmed-down packages from traditional pay-TV providers are creating a buyer's market. Here's a rundown of your options:

PROVIDERS	MONTHLY COST	CONTENT	PROS	CONS	DEVICES
LIVE TV					
Cablevision Optimum Cord-cutter Plan	\$50 (\$45 plus \$5 modem rental)	Local over-the-air broadcasts, broadband.	Includes Mohu Leaf antenna, 50-Mbps broadband, HBO Now available for \$15 per month, access to Wi-Fi hot spots.	No cable channels, no DVR, requires ability to get over-the-air TV signals.	Cablevision modem/router.
Sling TV	\$20	About 20 cable channels, including A&E, AMC, Cartoon Network, Disney Channel, ESPN, Food Network, HGTV, TBS.	Live sports, low price, only \$5 per month for each extra channel pack, \$15 per month for HBO.	No broadcast channels; no DVR; limited pause, rewind, and fast forward; available on only one device at a time.	Amazon Fire TV, Roku, Google Nexus player, iOS and Android tablets and phones, Mac and PC.
Sony PlayStation Vue	\$50 to \$70	From 50 to 85 broadcast and cable channels, including AMC, Bravo, CMT, CNN, Fox Sports, FX, Spike, TLC, TNT, USA.	Cloud-based DVR, excellent search and discovery, regional sports networks.	Expensive, currently limited to three cities, no broadband, works only with PS3 or PS4 game consoles, no ABC or ESPN.	PlayStation 3 or 4 game console.
Verizon FiOS Custom TV	\$55 (without broadband)	Base package includes broadcast channels and about 30 cable channels (including AMC, CNN, Food Network, HGTV), plus choice of two channel packs.	Local broadcast channels, \$60/month plan includes 25-Mbps broadband, add-on packs (including ESPN) available.	Not much cheaper than other FiOS TV plans with much more content, being sued by ESPN because channel is not in core package, higher fees than most.	Verizon set-top box.
SINGLE CHANNELS					
CBS All Access	\$6	Select live and on-demand CBS shows.	Local CBS broadcasts for those who can't get free over-the-air TV.	No NFL games yet, no DVR.	Android and Apple devices, BlackBerry, Chromecast, Kindle, Roku, Windows 8.
HBO Now	\$15	Movies, original shows such as "Game of Thrones," documentaries.	HBO content without pay-TV subscription.	Available only on Apple devices and through Cablevision.	Apple devices, Cablevision cable box, soon available on Android and Chromecast.
Showtime	\$11	Movies, original series such as "Ray Donovan," documentaries.	Showtime content without pay-TV subscription, costs less than HBO Now.	No blockbuster shows like HBO's "Game of Thrones."	Apple devices, Roku, and Sony PlayStation Vue.
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES					
Amazon Prime Instant Video	\$8.25 (\$99/year)	Movies, original series such as "Bosch" and "Transparent," older HBO series.	Free with Amazon Prime delivery, growing content library, Amazon Music with a Prime subscription.	No current episodes of programs from other channels, lag before getting blockbuster movies.	Wide device support (except for Apple TV).
Hulu Plus	\$8	Current and past seasons of broadcast TV shows.	Current and previous ABC, Fox, and NBC shows, older ones from CBS, a few cable channels, and soon, original series.	Includes ads, modest selection of movies, limited selection of older shows.	Almost universal device support.
Netflix	\$8	Movies, original series such as "House of Cards," past seasons of shows such as "Breaking Bad."	Vast selection, compelling original programming, wide device support.	No current episodes of programs from other channels, lag before getting blockbuster movies.	Almost universal device support.

Full channel lists are available on company websites. All information current as of mid-June 2015.