

Popular Streaming Services

Are you planning to “cut the cord” from cable or satellite TV and switch to streaming over your internet connection? Guthrie Center Communications wants to simplify your search for the right streaming service(s) by summarizing key points about these popular choices with big entertainment catalogs. Suggestions are based on our personal experiences as well as hundreds of online reviews.

NETFLIX

Monthly Fee: The Basic option begins at \$8.99 for unlimited standard-definition streaming on one device, followed by the Standard plan for \$12.99 where high-definition viewing is available on two screens simultaneously. The Premium option costs \$15.99 and allows four simultaneous streams in high-definition or 4K Ultra HD when available.

of Simultaneous Streams Possible: Between one and four, depending on the plan

Offline Viewing?
Yes, with select titles

Ads? No

Bundle Options? No

Pros

- Great selection of TV shows and movies
- Good recommendation system
- Easy-to-use interface
- Creates their own quality movies and TV shows
- No ads

Cons

- Limited brand-new content
- Titles come and go frequently

hulu

Monthly Fee: It starts at \$5.99 for Hulu’s on-demand streaming plan. You can also opt for the ad-free version for \$11.99. For an extra cost, a wide range of add-ons are available including HBO, Showtime, and Starz, as well as viewing on unlimited screens and enhanced cloud DVR.

of Simultaneous Streams Possible: Hulu’s simultaneous streaming limit is up to two devices. However, with the unlimited screens add-on, there’s no cap on how many can watch from the home network, and up to three mobile devices are allowed for viewing outside the home.

Offline Viewing? No

Ads? Yes, with the basic option but none with the ad-free version for \$11.99

Bundle Options? Yes. Besides Hulu’s pre-existing flexible subscription options, Disney recently announced it will offer a bundle with Disney+, Hulu, and ESPN+ for \$12.99.

Pros

- Bundle package gives you more variety.
- Tons of TV shows from a variety of networks
- Hulu original content

Cons

- Pricing – If you want to eliminate ads, it costs more.
- Interface isn’t the most user friendly.
- Limited selection of shows for each network



To enjoy the best experience while streaming, you may need more bandwidth. Call us at (641) 332-2000 or visit www.guthriecentercom.com.

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Monthly Fee: Membership to Amazon Prime will cost you \$12.99/month or \$119 per year, and on top of the shipping and shopping benefits, it includes full access to Amazon's video streaming service. If you aren't an Amazon Prime member but still want access to the streaming platform, it costs \$8.99/month. Additionally, you can rent or buy movies and shows that aren't included in the main Prime Video service, as well as subscribe to over 100 premium channels for \$4.99 to \$14.99.

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Possible: You can stream on up to three devices at a time. However, the same title can only be streamed on two devices at once.

Offline Viewing? Yes, you can download a range of titles for watching offline.

Ads? No

Bundle Options? Yes, for an extra cost, it's possible to add-on over 100 premium entertainment, sports, and lifestyle channels including HBO, Showtime, CBS All Access, AMC, Cinemax, Starz, NBA League Pass, and more.

Pros

- Original Prime Video content
- Included with Amazon prime
- Can watch new movies for an extra fee.
- Rotation of prime movies is great.

Cons

- Prime-eligible movies are usually older.
- Less of an "on-demand" feel with the interface



Monthly Fee: It started with an initial price of just \$6.99 or \$69.99 per year. Disney CEO Bob Iger explained that the low cost reflects the fact that Disney+ will have substantially less volume than competitors like Netflix. However, as the service matures and broadens its catalog of movies and shows, its price will likely go up.

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Possible: Up to four simultaneous streams

Offline Viewing? Yes, the service offers unlimited downloads on mobile, while content can be downloaded on up to 10 devices per account.

Ads? Technically, yes. Although Disney sold their service as an ad-free direct competitor to Netflix and Apple TV+, they've since added a caveat to that promise in order to launch with select titles that are still licensed to other platforms, most notably Star Wars: The Force Awakens (currently licensed to Starz). The ad in question will be for Starz and supposedly seen only once after the initial signup.

Bundle Options? Disney is offering a discounted bundle for those who sign up to Disney+, Hulu (ad-free), and ESPN+, for \$12.99/month.

Pros

- Complete library of ALL Disney videos
- Great selection appropriate for children and adults

Cons

- Content is limited to Disney, Marvel, Pixar, Star Wars, and National Geographic.



Monthly Fee: At \$4.99, Apple TV+ is the least expensive streaming service on this list.

of Simultaneous Streams

Possible: The service includes Apple's Family Sharing feature, which allows up to six family members on one account.

Offline Viewing? Yes, every original program is available for download and offline viewing.

Ads? No

Bundle Options? Apple has launched TV+ with a few bundle options for the time being. If you've bought a new Apple device since September 10, 2019, you're eligible for a free one-year subscription.

Pros

- Price

Cons

- Limited original content
- Still working out the streaming platform game

