

What Is Streaming?

Streaming is a technology used to deliver content to TVs, computers and mobile devices over the Internet without you having to download it.

Streaming transmits data—usually movies and live shows and events, but increasingly, other kinds as well—as a continuous flow, which allows the recipients to watch or listen almost immediately without having to wait for a download to complete.

Overall, streaming is the quickest means of accessing Internet-based content. When you stream something, you can start using the content before the entire file downloads.

If you have a service such as Netflix, for example, you don't have to wait for the entire movie to download before the movie can start being played. This is one of the major advantages of streaming: It delivers the movie content (data) to you as you need it.

This is the reason why a fast Internet service is crucial for a pleasant experience when you watch movies or live TV through streaming.

A primary difference between streaming and downloads is what happens to the data after the content has finished playing. For downloads, the content stays on your device until you delete it. For streams, your device automatically deletes the content after it is no longer needed.

Watch Live TV

Traditionally, you would have to pay a subscription service to a Cable company to be able to watch live TV. But recently, because of the increased speed of Internet services such as Fidium, it is now possible to completely cancel the high-price cable subscription and stream a number of live channels for a much lower price.

What is needed to stream live TV?

For most streaming services, all that you will need is a Smart TV, which is a TV that allows you to install apps. For those TVs, you will install the app of the

streaming service of your choice, then login only once to the TV app, then start watching recorded shows as well as live TV.

If you have a TV which **is not a smart TV**, you will have to purchase a piece of equipment (sometimes called a box), which is very inexpensive, such as the Roku box. Roku also offers you the Roku stick (see picture below), which you insert in one of your TV's HDMI ports.

Here's is a picture of what the Roku box and remote control looks like:



3 ways to Roku: Roku TV; Roku Box on the left above; a Roku stick on the right side of this picture

However, depending on which TV you have, you may not have to purchase the actual Roku box (the small black box on the bottom left side of the picture) because some TVs already have the same equipment embedded into the TV itself.

For example, the TV in the picture above is of the brand TCL and it already has a Roku hardware inside.

How much would the subscription to a streaming service cost?

Prices vary, but most of the services will offer you no-ad service plans starting at about \$15 a month.

Here is a list of streaming services

<https://help.hulu.com/s/article/getting-started>

<https://www.roku.com/how-it-works>

<https://www.fubo.tv>

<https://tv.youtube.com>

<https://www.philo.com>

<https://www.sling.com>

<https://streamtv.directv.com>

Price Comparison

The cable bundle (Internet + cable TV + phone) offered by Comcast will usually cost you **about \$270 a month**. However, many people nowadays don't use a physical phone service because they already have a cell phone.

So, for a comparable level of experience but one that comes with fiber optic (Fidium), you would typically have to sign up for the fiber service (\$70 for 1Gb) + sign up for one of the many streaming services (such as hulu), which starts at \$15 a month, for a **total of \$85 a month**.

Another minor advantage of subscribing to a streaming service is that you will be able to watch your contents on your TV, on your computer and your mobile device regardless of where you are.

Suggestion: because the Comcast/xfinity office is just across the street at the Walgreens plaza, it is advisable that you walk there and confirm whether or not you are under contract, rather than calling them on the phone.