

STREAMING

Streaming is the transmission of music or video in a continuous flow of data. The data is played as it is received. This differs from a download, where the entire movie or song is downloaded to reside on the local device before playing.

Why do people stream?

Most often when you talk about streaming you think about Netflix, Amazon or any of the new services coming on line, that offer premium services that offer commercial free content for a fee \$\$\$\$, but there are lots of streaming sites that offer commercial supported content without any payment, and plenty that you already pay for with your association dues.

What do you need stream?

Internet access

Equipment

INTERNET ACCESS

In order to stream you will need Internet Service 24 Mbs or higher speed with 7Mbs at the streaming player. Just because you have high speed service doesn't mean you'll get that speed over WiFi, especially at Vista Royale. All of our AT&T routers are dual band routers offering WiFi connections over the 2.4 and 5.0 Ghz bands. AT&T by default gives both bands the same name. That allows you to keep a connection as you move around your enormous dwelling, but our condo's are not enormous and the 2.4 Ghz band is overcrowded. If you rename the bands to differentiate you can connect to one or the other. When I use the 5.0 Ghz band, I'm transferring at 118Mbs, but on 2.4 Ghz I'm getting 7 Mbs, and this measurement was taken in December, before the season starts, it only gets worse when the rest of the part-time residents arrive. Not all condos here have the overcrowded WiFi situation, but you should be aware that it can be an issue depending on where your condo is located.

If you are going to locate the streaming device near the router you might also look for a streaming device with an Ethernet port and avoid the airways completely.

If you planning on streaming wirelessly, and are living in a condo where the 2.4 Ghz band is hostile it would be best to use a Dual band device.

EQUIPMENT

Streaming Device

Computer

Tablet

Smart Phone

BluRay player

Gaming system

Streaming Stick such as a

AppleTV, Chromecast, Firestick, Roku

Smart TV

If you decide on a streaming stick, note that the AppleTV is the only streaming stick that streams itunes and you pay a premium to get that capability. The Roku holds 37% of the market share and is the undisputed king of content with the only notable absence being itunes streaming. Roku is also not involved in the Amazon – Google war, so you can get content from both services.

If you decide on a Smart TV you should be aware of the Smart OS (Operating System) the TV is using. Note that not all streaming services are available on all devices. The more obscure the OS, the less likely that apps will be written for the platform.

Smart TV Operating Systems

<u>Amazon Fire TV:</u>	Element, Toshiba, Westinghouse:
<u>Roku TV:</u>	Insignia, Hisense/Sharp, Hitachi, TCL, Philips, Element:
<u>WebOS:</u>	LG
<u>Tizen Smart Hub:</u>	Samsung:
<u>Android TV:</u>	Element, LeECO, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Westinghouse
<u>Chromecast:</u>	Haier, JVC, LeECO, Philips, Polaroid, Sharp, Skyworth, Soniq, Sony, Toshiba
<u>NetTV:</u>	Philips
<u>VEWD:</u>	Sharp
<u>SmartCast:</u>	Vizio
Internet Apps Plus:	Vizio

Make sure your Smart TV has a tuner!

One TV manufacturer, Vizio, has actually taken the bold step of eliminating built-in tuners and antenna/cable connections on most of its sets in favor of its built-in streaming platform as an all-encompassing replacement.

At the same time Over the air (OTA, antenna) transmissions are increasing in many areas. In my Michigan location I've gone from having 7 OTA channels in 2008 to 57 OTA channels in 2019. If you are interested in seeing what is available in your area check out these two sites.

<https://antennaweb.org/>

<http://tvfool.com/> (last updated 2012)

Don't forget that your cable subscription usually comes with access to streaming content.

A&E	Disney Now	Hallmark	POP
ABC	DIYgo	HBO Go	Reelz
AHCGo	DTCGo	HGTV Go	SciGo
AMC	E!	History	Show Anytime
AnimalGo	Epix	ID Go	Syfy
BBCAmerica	ESPN	ION	TBS
BET	FF Freeform	Lifetime	Telemundo
Bravo	Food Go	MarchMadness	Telemundo Desportes
CN cartoon	Fox Now	MTGo	TLC Go
CNBC	FoxSports	MTV	TNT
CNN Go	FoxSportsGo	National Geo	TRVL
Comedy Central	Fuse	Nick	USA
CookingGo	FXNow	Nick Jr	VH1
Destination GO	FYU	OvationNow	WatchOWN
Discovery Go	Gameshow.net	Paramont	WatchTCM

The cable based streaming has much better content than your AT&T OnDemand service.

We peaked at some of my favorite free Streaming services

Tubi, Pluto, Crackle and PBS

Some people may want to do away with cable completely and go with cable replacement streaming services \$\$\$

Sling, Hulu, Youtube Premium, Roku Premium

<https://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-cable-replacements,review-4387.html>

Of the 70 Streaming channels I watch, only 2 cost money, and I only turn them on for a couple of months at a time.