

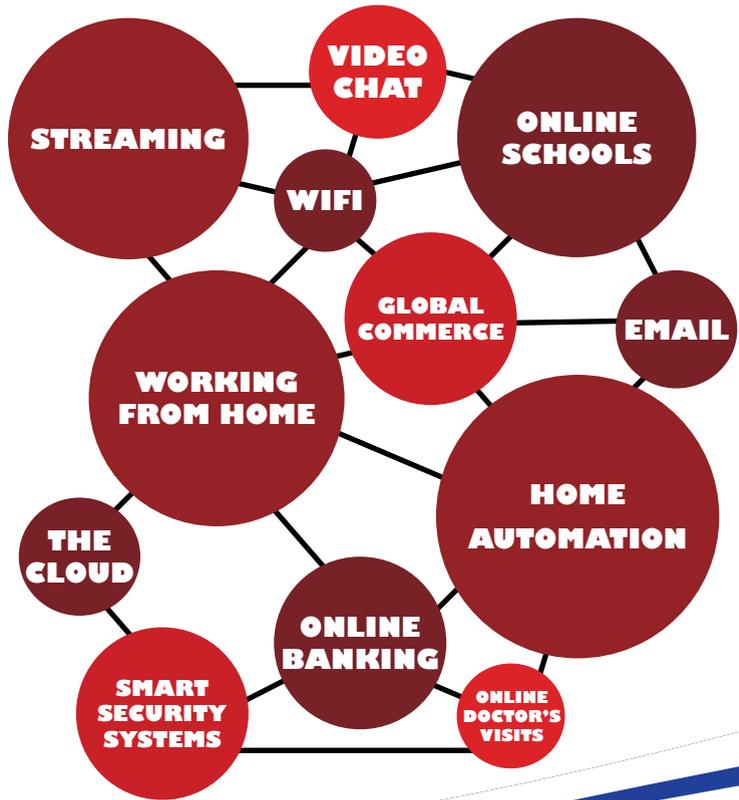


CONNECTING TO THE WORLD:

How to Get the Most Out of HomeWorks Connect

These days, the internet can be used for more than just accessing your email inbox or visiting websites. In fact, today almost everything in your home can be connected to the internet! From smart-TVs to wifi-enabled doorbells, there is a world of possibility for you to explore now that you have access to HomeWorks Connect high-speed fiber internet.

We bring the internet connection to your home, so we want to make sure that you get the most value out of your connection. We hope this handy guide will help you to begin to understand all the ways you can use the internet to improve your quality of life.



Streaming Services:

How to watch live TV without a cable package.

One of the benefits of having a high-speed fiber internet connection, such as what is offered by HomeWorks Connect, is the ability to watch videos from the internet without excessive waiting or buffering. This gives Connectors the ability to seek alternatives online for their current cable TV subscription. These online alternatives are called "streaming services" and are used to watch television shows and movies using the internet.

Taking the leap from a cable subscription to using the internet for your television needs can seem overwhelming and scary due to the wide variety of options and opinions on how to best make the jump. However, the benefits of switching can make it worth it.

BENEFITS OF STREAMING

- Typically less expensive than cable
- More custom package options
- Month-to-month subscriptions
- Unaffected by weather, unlike satellite TV

To cut the cord, you really only need two things: an online service that allows you to watch, or 'stream', your favorite shows, and a device that is compatible with that service.

However, there are many options for both. In order to make the best decision, it is important to research which option in each category best fits your needs. This guide can serve as a starting point.

STREAMING SERVICES



Comparing streaming services can be hard to do. This is because each service has channel offerings that vary based on your zip code. Before subscribing to any streaming service, be sure to check that your streaming devices are compatible with the service. You can do this by visiting the website of either the service or device.

There are two types of streaming services: live and on-demand. Popular examples of live services are HuluTV, DirecTV NOW, Sling TV, and YouTubeTV.

These services, similar to cable, allow you to watch live events such as sports, or catch the latest episodes of your favorite TV shows. On-demand services, such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hulu, don't offer live TV channels, but offer a variety of movies and TV shows that can be watched at any time.

Factors to consider when choosing your streaming service: the type of devices the service is compatible with, if they are live or on-demand, the TV channels they offer, and their package choices.

STREAMING DEVICES



In order to be able to access a streaming service, you'll need a device from which you can access your account. Depending on your service, you'll be able to watch your favorite channels on not only your television, but also on your tablet, smartphone, or computer. Before purchasing a new streaming device, be sure to check that it is compatible with the streaming services you are considering using.

Commonly used streaming devices include Roku Streaming Media Players, Amazon Fire TV sticks, Apple

TVs, and Google Chromecast HDMI Streaming Media Players. These devices all allow you to convert your television into a streaming device by plugging them into your TV's HDMI port and connecting the device to internet through wifi or an ethernet cable. Other devices, such as tablets and smartphones, are able to add apps for the streaming service you choose.

When deciding on a streaming device, it is important to consider the streaming services you might be using as well as where you'd like to be streaming.

Which to Choose?



There are four major device providers: Amazon, Google, Roku, and Apple. Each has its own range of devices from sticks and cubes that are compatible with your existing TVs to products such as smart TVs that are standalone options. After narrowing down which brand you would like to go with, it is important to look at each specific device that they offer to see which channels it can provide you, as most channel offerings are rapidly growing. Although in no way a comprehensive list, this chart attempts to serve as a starting place on your hunt for the best streaming service and device combination to fit your household's needs.

TYPE OF STREAMING SERVICE

- On-Demand Video Streaming
- Live TV and Video Streaming

POPULAR CHANNELS AVAILABLE ON STREAMING DEVICES

	AMAZON FIRE TV	GOOGLE CHROMECAST	ROKU TV	APPLE TV
ACORN TV starts at \$5/month Dubbed "The Best British TV."	●	●	●	●
AMAZON PRIME VIDEO non-Prime users \$9/month If you're already an Amazon Prime user, it's free!	●		●	●
AT&T WatchTV starts at \$15/month Free for AT&T Unlimited phone subscribers.	●	●	●	●
CBS All Access starts at \$6/month For CBS and local CBS affiliate shows.	●	●	●	●
The Criterion Channel starts at \$11/month Classic film and contemporary movie streaming.	●		●	●
DirecTV Now starts at \$50/month DirecTV users who don't want a satellite.	●	●	●	●
ESPN+ starts at \$5/month All the sports offerings!	●	●	●	●
FuboTV starts at \$55/month For year-round sports fans.	●	●	●	●
HBO Now starts at \$15/month HBO content without the cable!	●	●	●	●
Hulu starts at \$6/month Broadcast TV favorites here.	●	●	●	●
Hulu with Live TV starts at \$45/month Live sports, DreamWorks content, & more!	●	●	●	●
Netflix starts at \$9/month Binge your favorite shows!	●	●	●	●
Philo starts at \$16/month 40 channels and no sports!	●		●	●
PlayStation Vue starts at \$45/month Real cable-style TV offerings, online.	●	●	●	●
Showtime starts at \$11/month Same Showtime channel, no cable!	●	●	●	●
SlingTV starts at \$25/month For true custom package options.	●	●	●	●
Starz starts at \$9/month Get your favorite Starz content!	●	●	●	●
YouTube TV starts at \$50/month With over 70 networks, this has it all.		●	●	●

Information accurate as of May 2019, for most up-to-date information visit the websites of each channel or device.

Local Channels: How To Watch Yours Without Cable

USING STREAMING SERVICES

One of the most commonly asked questions about streaming services is in regard to local channel offerings. In the past, even after streaming services were available, many people stayed with their cable packages solely because it was the only way for them to get their local channels. However, this isn't the case anymore. Each day, more and more local channels are being made available on live television streaming services.

In order to determine which streaming service will carry your local channels, it is important to know which DMA, or designated market area, you fall in for television. DMAs are assigned by county and are decided based on the viewing habits of the majority of people in your county. For example, if most people in your county watch Grand Rapids television stations, your county will fall into the Grand Rapids DMA, even though you might be located closer to Lansing.

After you learn your DMA, you will be able to assess whether a streaming service will carry your local channels. Some streaming services, such as Hulu with Live TV, even offer tools that allow you to input your ZIP code to see which of your local channels they offer.

OUR STATE'S DMA MAP



DON'T FORGET

The benefits of cutting the cord are huge. However, to get the most out of your streaming service, it is important to do research into what devices and services will work best for you and your family.

ANOTHER OPTION

Besides gaining access to your local channels through streaming, you can also gain access by connecting an antenna to your TV. These days, TV antennas typically have higher quality images than cable TV due to advances in antenna technology. With an antenna, there are no recurring fees to accessing your local channels, unlike with cable.

