

## Notes from February 14<sup>th</sup> Cutting the Cord Presentation

The following are some of the pages from the presentation. The links we discussed and additional notes. The following were the key areas covered in the presentation:

1. INTRODUCTION-THE INTERNET –THE KEY TO ALL SMART TECH!
2. PROTECT YOUR “SECURITY” WHILE USING THE INTERNET
3. FREE ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES
4. PAID TV/ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES
5. LIVE TV STREAMING SERVICES
6. SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

The presentation spent a lot of time on the various uses of YouTube. It has videos on just about anything (many of the links provided are from YouTube), 37 million channels for specific interests, how to videos on almost any subject and a great deal of free entertainment. It also has one of the best paid live streaming services which we cover in the presentation. Before deciding whether to cut-the-cord go to Youtube.com and look at the various features it provides as well as the informative videos on streaming. To start, Go to the “How to use YouTube” video.

Section 1 on the Internet contained a brief description of how the Internet works with two main points; 1)Each device has a unique internet address and when you are using the internet, if you do not use a VPN (see link in security section), anyone can see where you are and can “learn” a great deal about you and, 2) If you are going to stream you need an absolute minimum of 5mbs per second speed and high speed connection are important.

Section 2 discussed security and the value of VPNs, Good passwords, Paying with PayPal and included security tip videos.

1- Here are the links for some key security information sites:

WHY USE A VPN-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQTRMBAvzg>

One way to create strong passwords-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnmdxReVoNc>

2 FACTOR AUTHENTICATION-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07mRDyydCNY>

WHAT IS PAYPAL AND HOW DOES IT WORK-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aFqCqqaBZQ>

SECURITY TIPS FROM A HACKER-

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ni\\_PWxrsNo&t=6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ni_PWxrsNo&t=6s)

MAYIM BIALIK 5 TIPS FOR SECURITY-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOtQ21hXJ7k>

## 2. Here are really good sites for information of value to seniors

- TECHBOOMERS.COM- Courses and information
- TECHFORSENIORS.COM- Weekly meet-up, You Tube Channel +++
- APCUG2.ORG-Speakers, videos, weekly seminars and more. Members Only!
- AGING2.COM—130 Chapters, Online Information on innovations and new products for seniors
- SENIORRESOURCE.COM-Articles, Tips and More to assist seniors
- AARP- A wealth of information, reports, games, discounts and more for a few dollars per year.  
All the sites above are FREE except AARP (\$9/Year)!

As mentioned in the presentation, Roku and Amazon Firestick are by far the biggest streaming devices. This slide covers both products and provides a link to a comparison:

- ROKU AND AMAZON FIRESTICK ARE THE LEADERS
- ROKU ULTRA (\$89) OR FIRESTICK 4K MAX (\$40) ARE GREAT
- MY FAVORITE- AMAZON CUBE 4K (\$125)-VOICE CONTROL
- ROKU HAS FREE TV CHANNELS AND EARPHONE INTERFACE
- AMAZON IS GREAT IF YOU USE OTHER SMART HOME PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WHICH CAN BE INTEGRATED
- <https://www.cloudwards.net/roku-vs-firestick/>

Section 3 covers free TV streaming services. These services generally have commercials and some limitations but do provide free streaming and are great value and include:

- Amazon Freevee
- Pluto TV, Crackle, Peacock (some), Roku, Fire stick and More
- Hoopla and Kanopy (Through Library)-Includes books, movies and more.

Check YouTube “How to Cut the Cord” for More Info on various services CUTTING THE CABLE CORD- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxbeKs5Bmy0>

[The following is an interesting video on some of the uses of the Amazon Firestick](#)

Live TV and Movies using Firestick-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jlx6qwzzVQ>

### LIVE TV STREAMING SERVICES THAT YOU PAY FOR

The following covers the main features of all the largest paid, live TV streaming services and, also lists key features to think about before choosing what you really want from a service as well as a channel guide for each service:

#### BEST TV STREAMING SERVICES- JANUARY 2023

	DirecTV Stream	FuboTV	Hulu Plus Live TV	Sling TV	YouTube TV
Base price	\$70 per month for 65-plus channels	\$75 per month for 100-plus channels	\$70 per month for 80-plus channels	\$40 per month for 30-plus (Orange) or 40-plus (Blue) channels	\$65 per month for 85-plus channels
ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC channels	Yes, in many markets	Yes, in many markets	Yes, in many markets	Fox and NBC only in select cities (Blue only)	Yes, in many markets
Simultaneous streams per account	20 (in home, 3 outside of it)	3	2 (\$15 option for unlimited)	1 (Orange), 3 (Blue)	3 (\$20 adds unlimited and 4K streams)

	DirecTV Stream	FuboTV	Hulu Plus Live TV	Sling TV	YouTube TV
Cloud DVR	Yes (20 hours, unlimited for \$10 a month)	Yes (250 hours, 1,000 hours for \$17 a month)	Yes (unlimited)	Yes (50 hours, 200 hours for \$5 a month)	Yes (unlimited)
Fast-forward through or skip commercials with cloud DVR	No (Yes with \$15 option)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The following is a live TV streaming shopping list to consider before deciding:

\*Does the service offer your "must-have" channels?

\*Does it offer local channels in your area?

- How good is the cloud DVR?
- Does the interface make it easy to browse for shows?
- Are there enough simultaneous streams for you and your family?

CHANNEL COMPARISON FOR THE MAIN PROVIDERS:

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/comprehensive-live-tv-streaming-channel-guide-you-need/>

There is a low-cost option for Live TV which is an HD TV Indoor Antenna. This works great in major markets (40-60 CHANNELS) but may not provide many channels in rural areas. One time cost under \$50 makes this something worth trying if your goal is to get local live channels. A bit more info on this option:

- MORE CHANNELS ARE BEEN ADDED EVERYDAY
- This one has great reviews-CHANNEL MASTER FLATENA 35 OR DUO-(\$25 purchase)
- LIMITATIONS IS YOU NEED ONE FOR EACH TV AND IT DOES NOT WORK ON PC/PHONE (IT NEEDS A TV AS REQUIRES A TUNER)
- FOR CHANNEL AVAILABILITY IN YOUR AREA- [www.rabbitears.info](http://www.rabbitears.info)

The key “takeaways from the presentation are:

- LIVE TV OFFERS MANY CHANNELS GET THE SERVICE YOU WANT
- PAID SERVICES-NETFLIX, AMAZON AND MANY OTHERS ARE GREAT ADD-ONS
- CHEAPEST LIVE OPTION-INDOOR HD TV ANTENNA
- A LOW-COST CHOICE IS HD TV ANTENNA + A PAID SERVICE THAT MEETS YOUR NEEDS (EXAMPLE NETFLIX OR AMAZON PRIME)

**Good luck cutting the cord and getting great value and entertainment!**

