Streaming TV and Movies

Class given August 18th, 2016 by Keshia Dotson (adult.programs@rochesterlibrary.org)



What are streaming TV and movie services?

 Streaming video services allow you to watch videos in real time by delivering a continuous "stream" of data to your device



- Some streaming video services let you watch popular TV shows the day after they air, and feature shows and movies from around the world
- Many also feature entire seasons/complete series of popular shows like The X-Files, Breaking Bad, Gilmore Girls, etc
- Many streaming video services also feature exclusive "original content": TV
 shows and movies that were created specifically for that service, and that are
 difficult to watch elsewhere (EX: Orange is the New Black on Netflix, Transparent
 on Amazon Prime Video)

Streaming Video Requirements



In general, to use streaming video services you will need:

- A computer and/or mobile device (smartphone or tablet) that you can install the streaming video app on, OR a desktop computer to access the service, OR a streaming media player (like the Roku or Amazon Fire TV stick)
- Hi-speed Internet access/mobile data → should be fast enough to stream video without having to buffer or pause a lot
 - recommended speed is 3 megabits per second or higher
 - will vary depending on the <u>type of device you're using</u> (laptop vs mobile device vs streaming media player) and the <u>quality/size of the video</u> (standard definition vs. HD video)
- Most video streaming services require you to pay for a subscription in order to use them

Streaming Video Services: Netflix

Cost: \$8.99 a month for standard plan



What It Is, and What It's Good For	Library Size and Content	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?
 Netflix is the most popular streaming video service Ad-free Offers seasons of TV shows that are both on and off the air Lets you watch whole seasons of shows at once (rather than just being able to watch a few episodes) New movies and shows are added monthly 	 Largest streaming video library: over 5,000 titles (including TV shows and movies) Wide range of exclusive & critically acclaimed original shows, like Daredevil, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, and Marco Polo Can recommend new movies and shows for you to watch based on your personal tastes and what you've previously viewed 	 No access to currently airing shows — can take several months after a season ends for it to be added to Netflix Depending on the plan you subscribe to and how many people use your Netflix account, may run into "viewing limits" (limit on how many people can be using your Netflix at the same time) 	 Mobile devices (Android and iOS tablets and smartphones) Desktop computers Streaming media devices like Roku and Amazon Fire TV Stick Certain video game consoles (XBOX 360 or higher, Playstation 3 or higher, PSP, Nintendo Wii)

Streaming Video Services: Hulu



Cost: \$7.99 a month for standard plan, \$11.99 for no commercials plan

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Library Size and Content	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?
 Hulu is best if you want to watch TV shows that are currently airing Wide variety of network TV series, with episodes going up 24 hours after they originally air Offers access to Criterion Collection: critically acclaimed classic films from around the world For additional \$8.99 a month, can pay to access Showtime TV shows and movies 	 Around 1,600+ TV shows Has shows from the majority of the major cable networks (Fox, NBC, Disney, ABC, Comedy Central, etc) Also offers Hulu original series like The Mindy Project and 11.22.63 	 Free version includes commericials, and can only be used on computers; also limits what you can watch Basic paid plan (7.99/month) gives you access to more content, but still has commercials No commercials plan (\$11.99/month) is ad-free 	 Free version can only be used on computers Paid versions can be used on computers, mobile devices & smartphones, streaming media players, and certain video game consoles

Streaming Music Services: Amazon Prime Video



Cost: \$99 per year (includes free 2-day Prime shipping and Prime Music)

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Library Size and Content	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?
 Offers a limited amount of current TV shows, available 5 days after airing Offers access to HBO collection → certain HBO shows like The Sopranos, Sex in the City, and True Blood (but not Game of Thrones) Comes with free 2-day Amazon Prime shipping and subscription to Prime Music 	 About 150 TV series and 1,745 movies are available through Prime Video Also has many more movies and TV series that can be rented or bought for streaming (including some new releases) 	 Selection is not as large as some other services Costs more up-front than other services (although per year is about the same) 	 computers, mobile devices & smartphones, streaming media players, and certain video game consoles

Streaming Music Services: HBO Go/HBO Now



Cost: HBO Go cost varies depending on your cable/satellite provider; HBO Now costs \$14.99 a month

What It Is, and What It's Good For	Library Size and Content	Limitations	What Can You Install It On?
 HBO Go is HBO's <u>cable</u> streaming video service → if you have HBO as part of your paid TV package you most likely have access to HBO Go HBO Now is HBO's <u>standalone</u> streaming service → you can subscribe to it without also purchasing a cable HBO subscription 	 Includes the majority of HBO's original series and movies (including Game of Thrones, Veep, Last Week Tonight w/John Oliver) → shows are usually added as soon as the original broadcast ends Also includes newly released movies as they are added to HBO 	 To use HBO Go, you will need to purchase an HBO package from your cable or satellite provider Can subscribe to HBO Now on its own, but have to either download app to acompatible device, or contact a service provider 	 Desktop computers, iOS devices (8.0 and higher), Android devices (5.0 and higher), streaming media players, and the Xbox One/Xbox 360

Streaming Devices

In addition to your smartphones and tablets, there are a variety of streaming media players that can be used to watch streaming videos! You will need to set up a streaming subscription before using one of these devices.



Roku and the Amazon Fire Stick allow you to watch videos from Netflix, Hulu, and other subscription services on an HDMI-compatible television





Google Chromecast & Apple TV allow you to broadcast streaming videos from your smartphone or tablet directly to an HDMI-compatible television



Certain video game consoles, like the Xbox 360 and higher, the Nintendo Wii, and Playstation 4 and higher, let you download streaming video apps to watch videos directly from your console

visit rochesterlibrary.org/technology to see all of the streaming devices you can checkout from the Library!



Setting Up a Premium Membership

- Most streaming video services allow you to do a trial run of their paid version before actually subscribing > usually for a month (Hulu is a 7 day trial)
- To set up your trial, you can go to the service website and follow the steps for setting up a free trial (usually by clicking on a link that says "Start free trial" or something similar)
- Some services also let you set up premium membership from inside the app itself
- Be sure to read the terms and conditions before you start a premium trial so that you know how to cancel it if you don't want to continue when the trial ends!

Questions?



Enjoy your videos!