

## Outline from Prof G's *Cutting the cord* class

### Cord Cutting Checklist

- Plan for your Wi-Fi Internet connection
- Pick your streaming *device*/player
- Pick your streaming *service*(s)
- Buy and install an antenna (if you want)
- Download VPN (if you want)

### First things to consider:

- What is important to you?
- How many TVs do you use?
- Do you need DVR?
- Local stations
- LIVE TV
- Sports
- TV Shows
- Movies
- No commercials
- How many devices will be streaming at same time?
- Are you stuck with basic cable?
- Once you decide what you can't live without
  - Then you're ready to figure out what features you want

### A bit of vocabulary to get us started:

- Streaming *devices*
  - Roku vs Amazon Fire Stick
  - Smart TVs and computers
  - Your phone
- Streaming *services*
  - Sling, YouTube TV, Hulu with Live TV
  - Netflix, Amazon Prime, HBO Now
- *Apps*
- *OTA* Channels
- Virtual Private Network (*VPN*)

### Streaming Devices

**Keep in mind** – This is a **One-time** cost; price is not a big factor. They are usually within \$10 or less of each other; there are sales and promotions on both all the time.

## Roku

- Stick – bit smaller and lighter
  - Short cable but provides extension
  - Has a built-in antenna
- Has Voice **search**
  - NOT Alexa
  - Netflix, Hulu, Sling and PS Vue  
*these buttons can change*
- Search by voice
- Natural language
- Very easy to find stuff
- Shows all options
- Shows all details
- DVR not available

### Home Screen

- All your Apps listed
- Like your smartphone screen
- No ads or banners
- Follow

## Amazon Fire TV 4K

- Stick – bit longer and heavier
  - Has nice long cord to outlet
- Voice **control** Alexa
  - all Echo devices
  - Mute button which Roku doesn't
- Replaces tv remote!
- Search by voice
  - Alexa Assistant also can  
**Control by Voice**
- Doesn't always find *everything*
- Shows other options but few clicks in
- Amazon Recast Box for DVR (approx. \$250 one time)

### Home Screen

- Auto previews
- Recently watched list
- Banner ad across bottom
- Opening preview

Quick review of the **PAID** services – all that info was pulled down from the reviews listed in the Resources below.

REMEMBER they all have **free** trials!      You will still need a source for your Wi-Fi!

## Resources

Links on YouTube:

Luke runs the *Cord Cutters News* and post his videos here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LukeBK>

Websites:

**Cord Cutters News** [www.cordcuttersnews.com](http://www.cordcuttersnews.com)

**Technology Reviewers:** [www.TomsGuide.com](http://www.TomsGuide.com)

**CNet's review: Best live TV streaming [services for cord cutters](#)**

<https://www.cnet.com/news/best-live-tv-streaming-services-for-cord-cutters/>

**PC Magazine's review: The Best Video Streaming [Services](#) for 2019**

<https://www.pcmag.com/roundup/336650/the-best-video-streaming-services>

## **APPS**

- Just like your smartphone
- Download from Play Store or .....
- PAID ones
  - I download it, check it out, and if it costs..... I usually uninstall it!
- FREE ones
  - Pluto, Popcorn Flix, PBS, Tubi, Freefrom
  - Sony Crackle, YouTube, Amazing Classics
  - Spotify, Pandora, I heart Radio
  - Twitch (for gamers)

## **OTA**

- Antennas
  - Distance makes a difference
  - Rural vs Urban
  - On- time cost, no monthly
- If you want LIVE tv, your local channels

## **A word about *protection***

### **Passwords and VPNs**

Many services will ask you to “**Activate**”. You will go to a website and type in the code shown on your tv screen. This is safe. Do it on your smart phone.

### **Virtual Private Network (VPN)**

- Legal vs illegal
  - Copyrighted material
- Geo-restricted
- Anonymous
- Access to some LIVE tv
- Paid vs Free