

## Alternatives to Cable TV

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Options for consuming video and audio media in your home have changed much over the last few decades. Over the years, for remotely based media, cable TV completely replaced over the air (OTA) TV broadcasts for many people. Internet access has provided additional ways to receive remotely based entertainment content. This article is intended to review some considerations in deciding to replace – or supplement – standard cable TV. The ways to access various media – and the services that provide them – continue to change rapidly,

There is a lot to consider, but here's a summary:

- You will need to pay (with either money or your viewing time with advertisements) for media access, programming guides, recording capability, and equipment. You pay less if you accept more advertisements. Cable comes with several added “nickel-and-dime” costs that can be significant.
- You can obtain local TV channels over the air for free, after buying an antenna ± recording box ± paid guides. Recording and guides might require internet access.
- Your options for media are extremely limited without paid home internet access via cable, fiberoptic, or satellite.
- A literal showstopper can be your internet speed. Download speeds of 25 Mbps are the minimum for broadband internet and marginal speeds may prevent you from streaming video to more than one TV. Faster is better. Also, does total data used matter to your ISP service or mobile device?
- There are many useful websites describing streaming services, but a comprehensive and interactive site that displays price and channels for popular service providers is <https://www.suppose.tv/tv>. (Hint: first, select the channels you need on the left side of the screen)
- Depending on your preferences, you may be able to access media on one or more TVs, computers, phones, tablets, or other devices.
- Aside from cost and media options, your overall satisfaction with any new strategy will depend greatly on your comfort with any technical set-up, amount of advertising, and how well you and your family can adjust to the new guide interface.

Want more details? I answer many of your questions in the full article, continued on Google Docs, using this link < <https://tinyurl.com/yc8vpvcz> >. There is useful information with specific recommendations and links to many web sites!