

Video Streaming Devices

Overview

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Apple TV (\$69)

HOW IT WORKS: For easy TV access to your videos, music and other iTunes content, you can't beat this set-top box and remote. Plus, families can pool content, using Apple TV to share up to six iTunes libraries. The system allows you to mirror your Apple device's screen on the TV - great for viewing photos. Like all the devices in this story, Apple TV also lets you access third-party services such as Hulu and Netflix (which require a subscription).

Amazon Fire TV Stick (\$39)

HOW IT WORKS: The Fire TV Stick, which plugs into your TV's HDMI port, promises to stream content instantly, without buffering. Use the device and remote to mainline your free Amazon shows, as well as video from other big providers (HBO Go yet: Amazon says it's coming this spring). The Fire TV Stick is compatible with 300 plus videogames, though you'll need a \$40 controller for some.

Roku Streaming Stick (\$39)

HOW IT WORKS: This is a plug-in device with accompanying remote control with all the usual channels, but the real appeal of the Streaming Stick is its wide range niche selections. Users can access more than 1800 channels, with categories from sports to news to kids programming. Roku also gets points for an outstanding remote, complete with "quick launch" buttons that take you straight to Amazon or Netflix.

Google Chromecast (\$35)

HOW IT WORKS: The Chromecast has no remote, instead you use apps on your smartphone or tablet to sling video to your TV. The device supports content providers, such as HBO Go, YouTube, and Netflix. To watch, pull up the app and tap the icon to transfer the video to your set. Your smartphone controls volume and playback, and using the Chrome browser, you can cast websites from your computer to the TV.

Helpful Hyperlinks (Thanks Pat LeMay)

<http://www.theverge.com/a/online-tv-stream-price-guide>

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/22/technology/personaltech/streaming-devices-lead-the-way-to-smart-tv.html?_r=0

<http://www.komando.com/tips/298865/how-to-get-free-hdtv>

<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/27882938/8-on-your-side-questions-surround-do-not-call-list>

http://www.ubergizmo.com/2015/04/alabama-mulling-tax-on-streaming-tv-shows-and-movies/?utm_source=mainrss

http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2480483,00.asp?mailing_id=1217100&mailing=DailyNews&mailingID=CAC7038A1E60BE3CACEB617828766F63

<http://techforluddites.com/streaming-media-players-overview/>

<http://www.howtogeek.com/215791/use-your-tv%E2%80%99s-hidden-%E2%80%9Cdial%E2%80%9d-feature-to-cast-netflix-and-youtube-without-a-chromecast/>

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