# CUTTING THE CORD

My experience replacing COX TV

## A couple of points before we start:

- 1. There is no "One size fits all" solution.
- 2. You need to know what you are paying for Cox TV service.
- 3. I am not going to tell you what streaming device or streaming service is best.
- 4. I will try to keep it as non-technical as possible, but we will have to touch on a couple of technical concepts.

# **Overview of Streaming:**

- 1. The Internet signal enters your house on a coax cable from Cox.
- 2. That coax cable connects to a Modem.
- 3. The Modem connects to a Router.
- 4. The Router sends a signal to the devices in your house and probably to some of your neighbors.
- 5. The Modem and Router are probably located in an electronics closet somewhere in your house.

### Is your home ready for Streaming?:

- 1. Is your Modem at least DOCSIS 3.0?
- 2. Does your router support 2.4 ghz and 5 ghz? (Dual Band) 802.11N vs 802.11AC
- 3. Are your TVs Wifi ready? (have USB ports).
- 4. What Internet speed are you receiving?
  - a. Cox is providing 150 mbps, but that's probably not what you are receiving.
  - b. Test the speed using the Speed Test on the Cox website, or SPEEDTEST.NET
  - c. You need about 15 mbps to stream to a TV (25 mbps for 4K). If it drops, you get the dreaded BUFFERING.

# **What effects Streaming?:**

- 1. The number of devices sharing the bandwidth.
- 2. The distance of the TVs from the router.
- 3. The WIFI band being used. 2.4 ghz vs 5 ghz.

### Your Modem, Router, and TVs are all streaming ready-Now What!?:

1. What are your viewing habits?

Live or "On Demand"?

Lots of Sports?

Local channels, PBS?

How many TVs are being watched at any one time?

- 2. Make a list of the channels you watch regularly. "Must Haves" and "Nice to Haves".
- 3. Use SUPPOSE.TV to help find what streaming services have most of the change's you want, plus what streaming devices they work with.

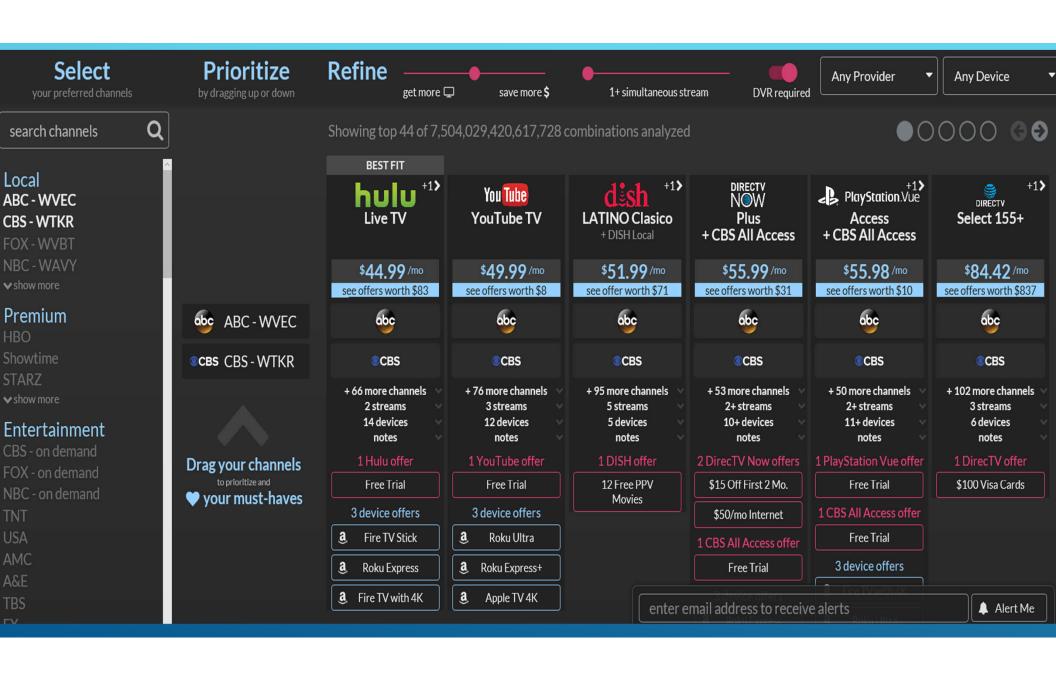
- 4. Buy a Streaming Device, based on the most likely Streaming Service you will use. Roku, AppleTV, Amazon Firestick, Etc.
- 5. Select the Streaming services you want to try. (YoutubeTV, HULU, Amazon Prime, etc.)

Most have "Free Trials"

No Long Term contracts

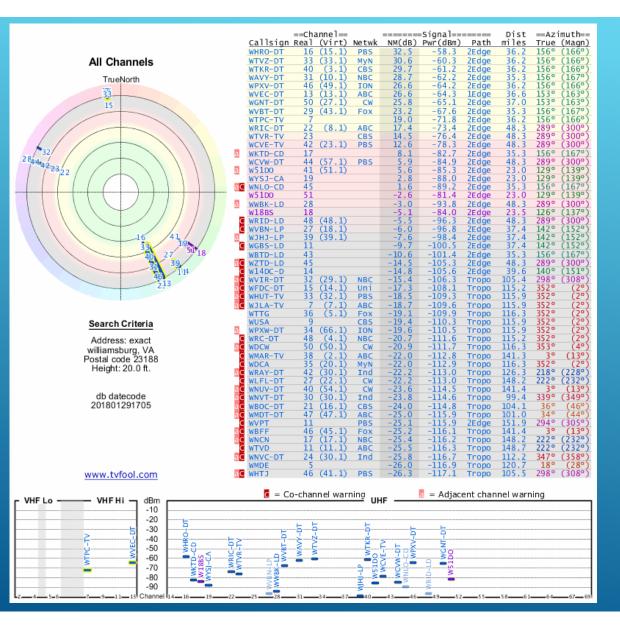
Cancel at any time

And you can try them while still using Cox. So no risk.



# **My Solution:**

- 1. We like live TV.
- 2. No one streaming service met our needs.
- 3. We used an antenna in the attic for local channels for news / weather and PBS, etc.
- 4. YoutubeTV provided about 95% of the channels we wanted.
- 5. PHILO provided the rest.
- 6. We got NETFLIX from my son for free.



### **OVER THE AIR CHANNELS**

Using TVFOOL.COM

# **My Equipment Costs:**

1. Antenna	\$145.00
2. TABLO (antenna DVR unit)	\$143.00
3. 5 Roku units	\$239.95
4. Router	<u>\$315.00</u>
5. Total	\$842.95

# My Streaming Service costs: March 2019

- 1. YOUTUBETV \$40 / month.
- 2. PHILO \$16 / month.
- 3. TABLO TV Guide \$4.99 / month.
- 4. TOTAL = \$60.99 / month vs \$128.44 for COX = a monthly saving of \$67.45.
- 5. HOWEVER!!!! Since I cut the cord in March, YOUTUBETV has added several channels and raised it's price and is now \$49.99.
- 6. Also, PHILO's price is now \$20 / month for new customers, but I am grandfathered.
- 7. So my current saving is now \$57.46 / month.

### **My Streaming Service costs:**

- 1. BUT! YoutubeTV has added some channels that I have PHILO for. If they add a couple more I will drop PHILO and save \$16 / month.
- 2. Also, I am finding that I rarely use the antenna channels, so I may drop the TABLO TV guide and save \$4.99 / month.
- 3. Bottom line the streaming environment is constantly changing.
- 4. Streaming services raise their prices too!!!

### In Summary:

- 1. Your Modem and Router need to be reasonably current.
- 2. Make sure your TVs can be connected to a Streaming Device.
- 3. Determine your viewing preferences. Live vs On Demand.
- 4. Match your Streaming device (Roku) to your selected Streaming service. (HULU, YoutubeTV, etc.).
- 5. Find a Streaming service or services that provide the content you want. (SUPPOSE.TV).
- 6. Hit your kids up for NETFLIX.
- 7. Take your Cox TV devices back to Cox and start enjoying a bit of extra cash each month while actually having MORE viewing options.
- 8. Periodically check for better / cheaper Streaming services!

  New ones are being started all the time and the old ones are adding new channels constantly. CLIKIA, EXPEDITE, DISNEY

### **Info Websites:**

DIGITAL CITIZEN

DISABLEMYCABLE.COM

### **Speed Test Websites:**

SPEEDTEST.NET
FAST.COM
SPEEDOF.ME
TESTMY.NET
NETCONSONANCE.COM
WIFIINFOVIEW

# 5G is coming!