

Vista Royale Computer Club  
January 18, 2018  
Meeting Information & Links

Members:

President Mike Johnson welcomed 34 members and guests to our regular weekly program. Our paid membership is now over 102. You can pay your dues any time in the Lab: bring your badge for a membership sticker and \$20 cash. The cut-off for staying on the email list is the end of January.

He reminded us of the sale of used computers and extra flat screen monitors which will be sold at the Feb 1 meeting. See all the specs for them on the sign-up sheets in the Lab or last week's minutes. These are a great buy to leave here in your condo all year or so you do not have to share a computer with your condo mate. Extra monitors are wonderful for a dual monitor set-up. Don't forget the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Genealogy 101 on Tuesday evening 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Bring your memory stick/thumb drive as we will be learning to put our research into the software 'Roots Magic'. Also the Lab is open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons 3 to 5 pm for independent genealogy research.

Our speaker this week was Vicky Getz who presented a broad overview of streaming video to our TVs. She gave us a demo of the streaming capabilities of the AT&T U-verse App, and showed us various types of content available for streaming on her ROKU streaming stick. STREAMING is a way of watching movies or listening to music over Wi-Fi or Ethernet. The movie resides on a server, and the video or music is played but the whole movie is never on the streaming device.

CASTING - is when an app on a mobile device, tosses its video, music or pictures to streaming device for display on your TV. The controls are displayed on the app on your mobile device, while the movie plays on the TV.

MIRRORING - is when a TV displays exactly what is on the screen controls and all. Mirroring is done at the operating system level. The computer club has an AppleTV so that we can mirror iPhones and iPads, and we have a Roku that will mirror Androids so that we can give demos in our meetings.

#### WHY STREAM

Better programs

Place shifting - More convenient location, get movies at your alternate home.

Get commercial free content

Time shifting - Watch something at a more convenient time

#### STREAMING DEVICES

Computer

Tablets

Smart Phone

Smart TV

Blu-ray Player

Gaming Console (Xbox, PS4, Wii)

Dedicated Streaming Stick, (AppleTV, Roku, Chromecast, FireStick)

#### STREAMING SERVICES

TV Now, TV Anywhere, TV Go Apps

Subscription services

Pay Per View Apps

Free services

Niche Services

Personal Content on your DLNA server on your network\*\* (no internet required, usually just a router, sometimes just a direct connect to the streaming device)

## TV NOW, TV GO, TV ANYWHERE

These are services that come with your cable TV subscription. You use your TV provider user name and password to get access these channels services.

[NOTE from Sandy..... Comcast seems to have changed from TVGo to their own proprietary app.]

Major TV providers have their own app (DirecTV, U-verse, Xfinity, spectrum, ) Click the link to video Vicky made for the club allowing you to see the AT&T U-VERSE App that lets you stream live shows, on demand, set up a recording on your DVR,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShqjdaGPg1g>

Other more obscure TV providers might not have their own APP, but your TV username and password still will unlock TVGo apps for individual channels that are included in your cable subscription. Some of the individual channel apps are better than others. The WatchESPN app gives you ESPN3 content + all the content that you get on your TV.

Here is a small sampling of the services that allow logins with TV provider credentials.

A&E AMC, Animal Planet, BET, Bravo/Now, BTN Go, CN, CNBC, Discovery Go, DIY Network, E! Now, Epix, FoodNetwork, FoxNow, FreeForm, FS1,

FXNow, HBOGo, HGTV, History, Investigation Discovery, Lifetime, MTV, Nat Geo TV,

Nickelodeon, Nickjr, OWN, Sci Go, Showtime Anytime,

Spike, Starz, SYFI, Telemundo, Tennis Everywhere, TLC Go, Travel Channel, Univision Now, USA, Velocity, VH1, WatchESPN

## FREE CONTENT

There are a lot of **free** things to stream. IMO, PBS is the best of the best. Go to [PBS.ORG](https://www.pbs.org) and sign up for a free account. Stream classy content with a very minimum of commercials. You can watch via browsers or Apps. PBS is available on a wide variety of platforms, although they have just dropped support for smartTVs manufactured before 2013....

YouTube is another favorite, it's not just Vicky's videos, or cute cats. YouTube does have some quality content and also offers some paid versions as well. Do a search for what you are looking for. There are any number of channels offering free content, supported by commercials.

## SUBSCRIPTION CONTENT

There are lots of subscription sites. Typically they offer commercial free content. They have a cost, but you can turn these services off at any time.

NETFLIX - offers a 1 month free trial, and then has several plans that vary in price. \$7.99 for 1 screen at a time, \$10.99 for a maximum of 2 screens at a time, 13.99 for 4 screens at a time.

They also have a DVD rent by mail service which provides newer movies.

AMAZON PRIME - offers a 1 month free trial and then its \$10.99 a month (Note: effective 1/19/18, price is increased to \$12.99 per month, a 18% increase!). Amazon Prime allows you access to some TV shows and movies, and offers some free books, some free music, and free shipping.

HULU - is another very popular streaming service.

## PAY PER VIEW

There are many other movies that are available for pay per view. Prices vary by title and service. Its best to shop around. Sometimes one service will be offering older stuff for free while another service wants to charge you for the view. Newer stuff like the movie "Dunkirk" was available for pay per view. Directly from the cable company it was 6.00 to rent directly from U-verse (no internet required) and varied from 4.99 to 2:99 at various streaming services, and \$1.25 to rent the DVD at the Redbox at Publix. It pays to shop around.

## DATA RATES AND QUANTITY

Internet connection for on-line services.

You'll need speed 20 Mbs or better (a single HD stream will use about 6Mbs) so 20Mbs will be typically be sufficient for a home housing 2 people streaming on 2 devices, without any other devices on the internet.

High data cap is required, so with cellular based hubs, entire data allowance for the month could be eaten up by 1 movie.

SD 1 GB per hour

HD 3 to 5 GB per hour,

4K 20 to 30 GB per hour

Watch this video if you are having trouble understanding data usage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyK1djKzsEM>

Wi-Fi congestion here at Vista Royale due to the AT&T package may diminish your Wi-Fi speed considerably, especially on the overcrowded 2.4Ghz band.

## CHOOSING A STREAMING DEVICE.

If you don't already have a streaming device, the first thing you need to find out is: **will** the device I'm looking at play my desired content. Nothing on the market plays everything. The price varies depending on what you buy, Roku goes from \$49 to \$119. We have a 'Roku4' in Lab. Make sure if you have a device and get rid of it, it needs to be reset back to factory default to preserve your privacy and account.

Before buying, ask yourself these questions: Does it support 5GHz Wi-Fi 802.11ac or higher so that I can utilize the less crowded 5Ghz Wi-Fi spectrum here at Vista Royale?

Can it be connected via Ethernet to avoid Wi-Fi all together?

## MORE READING

<https://techforluddites.com/streaming-media/> This has an answer for every question!

Thanks Vicky for your notes for this newsletter.... a very comprehensive look at what the future might be in regard to how we interact with our televisions.

Next week Christopher Martinson will be here with Jürgen Schwanitz of **ACT Computers** and he will speak about APPLE products. Bring your questions about them or anything else techie, they are so accommodating. See you then. Remember it is warm in the Lab!

Sandy McKenny, sec.; Vista Royale Computer Club, Pine Arbor Clubhouse; Vero Beach, FL 32962