

Vista Royale Computer Club

Minutes of 19 December 2019

President Mike Johnson opened the meeting with a couple of announcements regarding Viewing of the Christmas Lights at TARA Plantation 7555 20th Street/Rte 60 www.gralllawgroup.com/firm-profile/christmas-at-tara Monday, Wed and Fri are the evenings that you can get special glasses to look at the light display as you drive through.

He also mentioned that it is important to be pro-active and purchase Norton Anti-virus annually instead of just letting it renew on your credit card..... a huge difference in price. Cost is also predicated on the number of devices that you need it for, so check out the Staples and Office Depot ads for specials.

Our membership is at 54 and we had 18 members for our program. The next meeting is January 9, so have a great holiday season.

Vicky Getz was our presenter and talked about 'Cutting the Cord' on your cable by Streaming. The notes below are the ones supplied by her. Thanks, Vicky; saved me lots of work. During her presentation, she showed how to add a TV channel, noting that you will need the billing credentials for your cable provider.

STREAMING

Streaming is the transmission of music or video in a continuous flow of data. The data is played as it is received. This differs from a download, where the entire movie or song is downloaded to reside on the local device before playing.

What do you need to stream?

Internet access

Equipment

Internet Access:

In order to stream you will need Internet Service 24 Mbs or higher speed with 7Mbs at the streaming player. Just because you have high speed service doesn't mean you'll get that speed over Wi-Fi, especially at Vista Royale. All of our AT&T routers are dual band routers offering Wi-Fi connections over the 2.4 and 5.0 Ghz bands. AT&T by default gives them the same name. That allows you to keep a connection as you move around your enormous dwelling, but our condos are not enormous and the 2.4 Ghz band is overcrowded. If you rename the bands to differentiate you can connect to one or the

other. When I use the 5.0 Ghz band, I'm transferring at 118Mbs, but on 2.4 Ghz I'm getting 7 Mbs, in December, before the season starts, it only gets worse during the season. Not all condos here have this situation, that you should be aware.

If you are going to locate the streaming device near the router you might also look for a streaming device with an Ethernet port.

If you are planning on streaming wirelessly and are living in a condo where the 2.4 Ghz band is hostile it would be best to use a Dual band device.

Equipment:

Streaming Device

Computer

Tablet

Smart Phone

Blu-ray player

Gaming system

Smart TV

Streaming Stick such as: AppleTV, Chromecast, Firestick, Roku

If you decide on a streaming stick, note that the AppleTV is the only streaming stick that streams 'iTunes' and you pay a premium to get that capability. The Roku holds 37% of the market share and is the undisputed king of content with the only notable absence being iTunes streaming. Roku is also not involved in the Amazon – Google war, so you can get content from both services.

If you decide on a Smart TV, you should be aware of the Smart OS (Operating System) it is using. Note that not all streams are available on all devices. The more obscure the OS, the less likely that apps will be written for the platform.

Smart TV Operating Systems

Amazon Fire TV: Element, Toshiba, Westinghouse:

Roku TV: Insignia, Hisense/Sharp, Hitachi, TCL, Philips, Element:

WebOS: LG

Tizen Smart Hub: Samsung:

Android TV: Element, LeECO, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Westinghouse

Chromecast: Haier, JVC, LeECO, Philips, Polaroid, Sharp, Skyworth, Soniq, Sony, Toshiba

NetTV: Philips

VEWD: Sharp

SmartCast or Internet Apps Plus: Vizio

Make sure your Smart TV has a tuner

One TV manufacturer, Vizio, has actually taken the bold step of eliminating built-in tuners and antenna/cable connections on most of its sets in favor of its built-in streaming platform as an all-encompassing replacement.

At the same time Over The Air (OTA, antenna) transmissions are increasing in many areas. In my Michigan location I've gone from having 7 OTA channels in 2008 to 57 OTA channels in 2019. If you are interested in seeing what is available in your area check out these two sites.

<https://antennaweb.org/>

<http://tvfool.com/> (last updated 2012)

Why do people stream?

Get commercial free content \$\$\$\$

Netflix, Amazon Prime

Pay Per View – Rental Redbox, Fandango,

Supplement Viewing

Watch with Cable apps

A&E	Disney Now	Hallmark	POP
ABC	DIYgo	HBO Go	Reelz
AHCGo	DTCGo	HGTV Go	SciGo
AMC	E!	History	Show Anytime
AnimalGo	Epix	ID Go	Syfy
BBCAmerica	ESPN	ION	TBS

BET	FF Freeform	Lifetime	Telemundo
Bravo	Food Go	MarchMadness	Telemundo Deportes
CN cartoon	Fox Now	MTGo	TLC Go
CNBC	FoxSports	MTV	TNT
CNN Go	FoxSportsGo	National Geo	TRVL
Comedy Central	Fuse	Nick	USA
CookingGo	FXNow	Nick Jr	VH1
Destination GO	FYU	OvationNow	WatchOWN
Discovery Go	Gameshow.net	Paramont	WatchTCM

We peaked at some free Streaming services:

Tubi, Pluto [has commercials], Crackle, PBS,

Cable replacement streaming services \$\$\$

Sling, Hulu, YouTube Premium, Roku Premium

<https://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-cable-replacements,review-4387.html>

This was an extremely interesting presentation and we all will be looking at our devices a little bit differently and doing a bit of experimentation in trying this out. See you on January 9, don't forget to stop in and pay your dues..... still \$20 cash-bring your badge.

Merry Christmas

Sandy McKenny sec

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