

VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

February 11, 2021

Announcement from Bob Elliot

It is a Starz weekend from AT&T U-verse, so SD channels 902-942 and HD channels 1902-1942 are active, probably through Sunday. You also have access to Starz channels for viewing and recording and Starz OnDemand content for viewing only.

Streaming Apps

Streaming Services

- Free with ads
- Subscription bundles
- Premium channel add-ons
- Pay per view

Digital Subscriptions

Non-refundable

Cancel-able any time

This merely stops automatic billing, services end on your next billing date.

Amazon Video

Amazon offers bulk video with Amazon Prime Membership.

Amazon Prime Membership costs \$12.99 per month or can be discounted to \$119 per year if you pay for a year in advance. It comes with a wide variety of perks, free shipping on most all your purchases, special sales, as well as access to the bulk prime video.

Amazon Prime Video Membership without the shopping perks is \$8.99 per month

Amazon also offers Video Rentals on individual items- Prices vary by title.

AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Prime Video Pros

Prime Video app available on all streaming devices

Good catalog
Updated regularly
Create a watch list from inside the app, or when visiting the amazon website.
Original Prime content

Prime Video Cons

Plagued with lip synch issues
Unsubscribing to digital content is un-intuitive.
Primarily a sales tool for pay per view content.

Amazon's IMDb

IMDb.com, Internet Movie Database, is a website that has everything you ever wanted to know about movies, tv shows and actors. But they also offer a great selection of ad supported streaming.

IMDb has a standalone app on a FireStick and is also available from within Prime Video

Minimal ads

Good ever-changing library, no filler type content.
Critics call it “nostalgia TV” that might appeal to “old people”
Worth watching – IMDb currently has all 92 episodes of Mad Men, and the entire Parenthood series. That should eat up some hours during our lock down.

APPLE+

\$4.99 a month

\$14.99 a month with music, iCloud and arcade

Apple+ Pros

Excellent Apple original content like Greyhound, Ted Lasso, The Morning Show
Access to premium streaming channel add-ons.

Apple+ Cons

Very limited bulk content at present (less than 100 titles)
Hard to isolate included content, from items that come at an additional cost
Mostly a sales tool for Apple's pay per view titles.
Unsubscribing un-intuitive

NETFLIX

\$13.99 per month for has HD and allows up to 2 streams
SD only \$8.99, 4K 4 stream \$17.99

Netflix Pros All inclusive, no extra charges.

Build a watch list or select from suggestions
Large library of popular older movies, TV shows Netflix Originals - The Crown, The Kominsky Method, The Social Dilemma.
Easy to turn off your subscription

V&S both strongly recommend watching *The Social Dilemma*. It is an educational documentary.

Netflix Cons

Lots of foreign content with subtitles.

FXNow

One of the many watch-with-cable apps that is paid for with our AT&T U-Verse package
Reduced # of commercials on the streaming version, unlike some other watch-with-cable apps like TNT and TBS.

On demand movies and FX original content

Create an FX login, and it will keep your place so you can pick up the show you are watching later, or on another device.

PLUTO

Pluto Pros –

Spontaneous TV watching.

Live Streaming 250 channels divided into categories.

75% of the live shows offer a start from beginning option

Large library of On Demand content.

Watch list available.

Pluto Cons -

Spontaneous TV – no published schedule, no way to plan.

25% of the shows don't offer a start from beginning

Longer commercial breaks (5 to 8 ads in a row) no count down

Transition to and from commercials often SLOW.

PBS

Requires a free PBS.org account.

Offers quality entertainment both live and OnDemand

Two Tier

Free Tier

Premium streaming available to members who give at least \$60 a year, or \$5 a month as a Sustainer. Due to geographic Restrictions, some Passport programs may only be available to U.S. residents.

Recommended viewing if you missed it:

Frontline China's COVID Secrets S2021 Ep4 | 1h 24m 23s

Roku Channel

Only available on Roku devices

Decent library of ad supported content, minimal ads.
Allows you to add premium services AMC+, HBO, Showtime, Starz. without incurring a Roku base charge from Roku but you need Roku to access these services.

Tubi

Free ad supported channel.
Lots of B Grade movies – no box office smashes, many films you have not heard of, with your favorite actors.
Minimal commercials with a countdown 1 of 3
Watch list available if you create an account at Tubitv.com

YouTube

Wide variety of content.
Sign in and you can subscribe to content creators
YouTube Premium 11.99 a month (no ads, ad free music, YouTube originals)
YouTube TV is a \$49.99 cable replacement product, not to be confused with YouTube Premium.

Hint: If there are multiple YouTube users in your household, instead of signing in to YouTube directly on the streaming device, start the app from your phone or tablet and then send it to the streaming device.

HBO Max

New service from AT&T, \$14.99 per month. Is the new kid on the block. They intend to release new Warner brothers movies to PPV at the same time they go to the theaters. We will let you know what we think after we subscribe during the summer.

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ZOOM Backgrounds

Zoom backgrounds are made available in the settings of your account. **If you tried to set a background and it said None Available.**

Sign into the Zoom.US web portal

Click on your account picture or silhouette

From the left menu

Personal

Settings

Click on the **Meetings** tab.

About 46 settings down

Virtual background Turn it on

Customize your background to keep your environment private from others in a meeting. This can be used with or without a green screen.

Now Close and restart zoom.

Sandy McKenny warned members to always watch out for scams and check on sending email address..... She had a couple of nasty ones this week... DO NOT CLICK TO OPEN OR ENGAGE WITH SUSPECT EMAILS..

She also reminded everyone to register for RootsTech Connect which is free this winter. It starts is from 25-27 Feb 2021 <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>; LOOK FOR HANDOUTS TOO!

Next week Sandy will give you more info on Photo Organization, naming & tagging old photos

If you have any suggestions for future meetings, we'd like to have some suggestions