Supplementing DirecTV viewing with FREE Streaming Services

The benefits of streaming are that you will have more content to match your taste and round the clock entertainment instead of the paid programming that fills the wee hours of the morning on your DirecTV subscription.

Streaming can be done one
Live Streaming – (On a schedule)
On Demand Streaming
Hybrid (pick from the guide, but play from the start via on Demand)

Screen
TV (Smart TV or TV with Streaming device attached)
PC via Website
Tablets and Phones via an App

DirecTV Gemini Box
This is old technology. It is running AndroidTV 11, released in 2020. The current version of AndroidTV 14. Because the tech is so old, some apps crash, and some apps are missing features that they offer on other more up-to-date devices.
Vicky has always replaced her own streaming devices long before security updates cease because her devices are no longer able to run the newer apps. She showed us a video on how to install and hide apps on our DirecTV gemini box. https://youtu.be/RrLLD-o3hkk

She recommended some General Entertainment apps.

Tubi website: TubiTV.com
Pluto TV website: TubiTV.com
Plex website: Plex.TV
Roku website: therokuchannel.roku.com
Hoopla website: HooplaDigital.com
BYU website: BYUtv.org
WatchTCM website: www.tcm.com/watchtcm

Tubi website: TubiTV.com
Free **A**d **S**upported **T**V (FAST)
No Account needed but recommended.
Extensive On Demand content with over 200,000 titles. Lots of content you can't find else where. Commercial placement feels more natural than most streaming services.
Tubi offers "My Stuff" to bookmark videos you may want to watch later.

This service also offers 260 live channels but there is no “Favorites List” on most streaming devices which makes viewing the live channels very difficult.
Tubi has apps for phones, tablets, smart TVs, streamers including your DirecTV box.

PLUTO website: TubiTV.com
Free Ad Supported TV (FAST)
No Account needed but recommended.
Favorites and a Save List
400 Live Channels + On Demand
This App takes the fewest amount of clicks to start watching TV. The "Last Channel Feature". It automatically starts up live streaming on the last channel you were watching. Commercials are inserted often mid sentence.
Favoriting is clumsy.
Has apps for phones, tablets, smart TVs, streamers including DirecTV box.
Browser version confusing

PLEX website: Plex.TV
Free Ad Supported TV (FAST)
No Account needed but recommended. There is a free version and a paid version/ Profiles, favorite and watch lists.
600 Live Channels + On Demand.
Commercial warning and count down.
Multiple profiles, favoriting easy and sortable and allows for a cross platform search results combined with content make this a very good option
Has apps for phones, tablets, smart TVs, streamers including DirecTV box.

Roku Channel website: therokuchannel.roku.com
Free Ad Supported TV (FAST)
No Account needed on non-roku streaming devices logged in automatically on Roku devices. Roku has fewer commercials on their On Demand titles than you find on other ad supported services list.
The Roku channel allows you to create a favorite channels for live content and a save list. 500 Live Channels + On Demand
Special features when played on a Roku Device.
Has apps for phones, tablets, smart TVs, streamers including DirecTV box.

Hoopla website: HooplaDigital.com
Ad free content
Requires a HooplaDigital account
Email, Library Card, and Pin (last 4 digits of phone number)
On Demand Only
The bookmarking Save List is called favorites.
Different content depending on the device
App on the DirecTV box is severely outdated, and does not support newer features like the Binge Pass and Bonus Borrows.

BYU website: BYUtv.org
Sign in recommended
Ad free, wholesome entertainment
Live and On Demand content
Typically 2 good movies per month among a lot of hokey content. This upcoming month *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, and *The Kings Speech* are the movies.
BYU is one of the many religious channels that we used to get with U-Verse that are missing from DirecTV. Others like Eternal World (ETWN),Trinity Broadcasting Networ (TBN), and Christian Television Netowork (CTN), Impact have their own streaming services. CTN does not all work on the DirecTV box.

watchTCM website: www.tcm.com/watchtcm
Requires authorization with your DirecTV credentials
Offers OnDemand content of films shortly after they air on TCM.
Changes several times a day as new films are added and other films are de-listed. Most of the movies are not available through DirecTV's On Demand and when they are, they are difficult to find, many often don't allow fast forwarding or they launch from channels that have commericals.
watchTCM is NOT AVAILABLE ON DIRECTV box but can be streamed on your PC, tablet or Rokus and Firesticks.

Streaming DirecTV At A Secondary Location
Vicky changed her "home location" to Michigan last week. She wanted to see what effect that would have, if any, on the local channels. Local channels were still Florida channels. After 24 hours DirectV said she was not connected to her home location. The next day she had no home location in either Michigan or Florida. Twenty four hours later her devices in Florida said they were once again connected to her home location without taking any actions to reset her home location.. Remember you are limited to 2 simultaneous streams when off home network.

Streaming DirecTV WILL NOT interfere with your traditional cable, or other streaming

services. **Giving up Cable TV While keeping Internet**

If you give up traditional cable TV at your secondary location, even though you continue with their internet service, you probably **will not be able to go back to traditional cable TV**. Switching from one app to another isn't as intuitive as having all of your TV in a single package. We recommend you try it before turning off your traditional cable.

LOCAL NEWS and SPORTS

Viewing Local News on your TV at a Second Location will require an app

Local Now is a Pre-installed app on your DirecTV device. Simply launch it and fill in the zipcode you want your news from.

HayStack New Website: https://www.haystack.tv/
Haystack app that allows you to monitor the news from multiple locations. This is a great app for snowbirds.

Other Local News Apps for individual local channels are probably available, but it is unknown whether these apps will be compatible with the DirecTV box.

News feeds from major cities are often bundled in other streaming services
CBS news on Pluto, Plex, Sling
CBC news on Plex
Euro news on Plex
TV5Monde Info & France 24 on Sling (French)
https://www.vrcc.info/uploads/4/9/8/5/49857803/tv5_in_french.pdf

$$ Direct To Consumer Regional Sports $$
Another reason to have a local cable at your secondary location is for local sports. Typically a streaming or cable package that includes local sports costs you about $129 for the TV package. Since 2023, most sports are available on a Direct To Consumer package offering In Market Games.

The big news this spring is that 21 baseball teams that have left FanDuel are going with MLB in-market streaming this year. The cost for most teams is $19.99 a month or $99 for the season.

Vicky also pointed us to a page on the Vista Royale Computer Club website that is perpetually underconstruction but has quite a DirecTV information

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