

**Legally Get
Hundreds Of
Free TV
Channels
Without Cable**

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How to Save \$1000 Per Year or More by Dropping Cable TV

Keeping your household expenses under control is an ongoing battle. Something as simple as watching television can cost you over \$1000 per year. In my own case, I have gone back and forth between local cable and both of the major satellite providers, and simply cannot come to grips with the cost. I guess my biggest objection to paying for television is that I'm still forced to watch commercials. Maybe I am missing something...but isn't the idea that the TV networks sell commercials and this is the means by which they fund their operations? I am forced to pay a monthly fee, even for the most basic package of channels, of about \$60. When I had cable TV, I watched only a handful of the channels. My local cable provider does not allow us to purchase channels à la carte, so, if I want Fox News Channel and CNBC, I must purchase these channels as a part of a 'package' that includes channels on gardening and other topics in which I have no interest.

Perhaps the biggest reason I have become obsessed with bills such as cable TV is that they represent a month-after-month ongoing expense. It is like waking up every day and owing money when you take your first breath. If your cable package is costing you \$90 per month, then each day you have to set aside three dollars in your budget just to pay your cable bill. There are a lot of these kinds of bills in all of our monthly expenses. You've probably had the same family financial meetings that I have had. You sit down and look at your income and think to yourself, "Where does my money go?" In my own case, it is now just my wife and I. We sit down at the kitchen table and she brings with her the proverbial pile of bills. My first reaction is, "Who are all of these people that I am working for and how did I get to the point that I am paying them money every month?" You find yourself starting to remember all the decisions that have led to the monstrosity of outgoing obligations that represent each and every one of the items in that big stack.

Many of these meetings, I am sure, end with people just throwing their arms up in the air and concluding there is nothing they can do about all of this; if they are going to live, they are going to have bills, they decide. This is true, up to a point – there is only so much you can realistically cut and still have the basic provisions to be able to live. Where most people draw the line on this, however, is far too short and they give up entirely too easily. In this report, I want to share with you how I completely dropped cable TV in May of 2013 and yet still have access to more than 600 channels and thousands of TV shows and movies on my TV. Today, I honestly do not miss cable TV at all. In fact, I am finding that with my new set up I actually have far more options and I am in much greater control over my viewing choices, and this is all set against the beautiful backdrop of tremendous financial savings.

At this point, your curiosity is probably piqued. You are likely wondering what I am doing and how I am stealing cable or satellite, or otherwise benefiting from some sort of shady behavior. It's nothing like that; what I am doing is totally legal but most people have no idea how easy it is to drop cable and get rid of a nasty monthly bill. In this report, I'm going to focus on two pieces of the puzzle that we will be discussing as a means of completely replacing cable TV. First, we will be discussing *over the air television*, and secondly, I will be addressing the issue of *Internet television* (yes, that you actually watch on your television set in HD).

Over-the-Air Digital Television

Since 2009, virtually all television stations have converted from an analog signal to a digital signal. This means that in most metro areas you can gain access to all of the major network channels such as ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, and usually several UHF stations. Not only can you watch these channels for free, but you can do so with a digital signal that allows you to watch in HD with quality just as high in

resolution as that which is available from your cable provider. To accomplish this, all you need to do is to purchase a [digital TV antenna](#) for about \$30. Depending on how far you live from a major city, you may have to spend a little more money, perhaps up to \$100, to get the reception quality that you want. Most people will only need one of the lower cost antennas. In most cases you won't need to even worry about going up on the roof or mounting your antenna on a pole. It is very likely that you will be able to use an amplified indoor antenna. The best part of all of this is that over the air television is completely free! That's right; it will cost you nothing on a monthly basis to have access to it. I know you are probably asking how this can be possible. If it was this easy to get free television, why isn't everyone doing it? Like many things, most people will simply take the path of least resistance. When you move into a new home, it is already wired for cable and just as you turn on the electricity, the water, and the gas, you just as instinctively make that phone call to have the cable TV turned on. We all do it, and it is this type of approach that leads us to the stacks of bills and family financial meetings we all dread.

One other option to bring to your attention on the subject of local television channels is a new way of accessing them using the Internet. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this because the service is not yet available everywhere. There is a company by the name of *AERO TV* that has received FCC approval on a technology allowing consumers to receive all of their local market TV channels via the Internet. The service is rolling out nationwide as I write this report in June of 2013. Their plan is to have the service in place in 22 cities within the next several months. The cost is about eight dollars per month. This is a low enough expense to make it a viable option for those that don't want the hassle of dealing with an antenna (although the truth is that plugging in an amplified indoor digital antenna takes about three minutes and is really no big deal). I am recommending this new Internet TV option mostly for those that don't live close enough to a major city to be able to get good quality reception with a low-cost antenna. I expect that there will be other companies that will launch as competitors to AERO TV,

and that might bring the price even lower.

How to Get Television Over the Internet and On Your TV

There are two external devices that represent the easiest way to watch Internet television on your regular TV: [Apple TV](#), and [Roku](#). I have both of these devices, and the Apple TV, in my view, is overpriced and does not offer any meaningful advantages over the Roku. In fact, the Roku device has a burgeoning channel selection that is not available on Apple TV. The Roku will cost you about \$60, while Apple TV is around \$100. Both of these boxes connect to your television just like any other device. You plug them in to an input similar to how you would connect a DVD or Blu-ray player. The devices connect to the Internet through your home Wi-Fi network (wireless). You need not be a sophisticated computer programmer to set one of these up - it is very simple and takes less than five minutes (no kidding). I should also note that newer TV's are coming with similar services already built directly into the unit (I won't be covering these TV's in this report, but they are available).

Now that we have our Roku device connected to the TV and the Wi-Fi network, we simply power it up. This gives us access to the "home screen." Your home screen will have several default channels. To begin with, click on "channel store" and take a few moments to browse through the hundreds of available channels that you can select for your Roku. Most of the channels are free but some do require a subscription. For example, if you want to watch major-league sports you can go in to your Roku and sign up for one of those channels and pay a subscription fee. Keep in mind, however, that your local football games and other major league sporting events may be on one of your local over the air channels (which you would be getting free with your antenna). When adding a paid subscription you will be prompted to go on your computer to the website of the channel provider and put in your payment information. Once you have paid your subscription fee you will be given an access code that

you will use to enable that channel on your Roku device.

The Number of Roku Channels is Rapidly Expanding

What is really exciting about the Roku channel store is the exploding number of channels that are available. Most of this channel growth has to do with the fact that creating a channel is akin to building an app. As a result, you will find tons of channels and new ones being added every day. In my own case, I was able to find a channel called Sail TV, which is a very cool channel to watch if you are a sailor. This is one of many free channels that I have added to my Roku from the channel store. There are quite a lot of Christian channels as well. Many local churches have made the decision to set up their own Roku Channel and make available their weekly services and other programming on demand. What's more, broadcasters like Glenn Beck and Alex Jones both have Roku channels.

Live and On-Demand News

Okay, I know you're wondering when we're going to get to the really good stuff – that is now. You may not be quite convinced to give up your cable TV on the basis of what you might consider to be "fringe" TV channels. Roku also provides a means to watch FOX News programs on-demand, as well. One really cool feature of watching on-demand is the ability to select only the programs that you want to view. The way I usually do this is to select the program and then click on "play all." This creates an ongoing stream of all of the clips from that show that are available on Roku, starting with the most recent. While these are not the programs in their entirety, the clips seem to represent the "meat" of the content of each episode. So, using the "play all" option, I can pick the show I'm interested in, sit back while eating my breakfast or "vegging" on the couch, and my Roku will serve up all of the clips, one after the next. My daughter was visiting the other day and she walked in and saw me sitting on the couch watching Fox News. She immediately asked, "How are you getting FOX News if you don't have

cable anymore?" I can also do this with CNN and more than a dozen other "staple" news channels.

What about *live* TV? I might have you 80% sold at this point, but what about watching live news channels? Most people feel that they need to have access to live news (I would put myself in this category for the most part). If there is some major national news story, we all want to be able to sit on the couch and watch the play-by-play on Fox News or CNN. Believe it or not, there are live news channels on Roku that are free. One channel that I turn to for live news is CNN International. For example, this morning I watched live *State of the Union* Sunday morning political show. Another channel that is live is Huffington Post TV. A channel that is also very interesting with a wide variety of life viewing options is RT (Russia Today). RT is fast becoming a mainstream channel, sort of like CNN is here in the United States. It is interesting to note that talk legend Larry King just signed a contract with RT to do a live talk show with them (and no, you don't have to be able to understand Russian – the channel is entirely in English).

As far as the "need" to have live news, I actually find myself less and less feeling that way. I have a couple of news apps on my smart phone that notify me of breaking news, and I find it a lot more efficient to review news events using the Internet while sitting at my desk. It still is nice to know, however, that I can click on my Roku if there is a major national news story, like the recent Oklahoma tornadoes. Don't forget that you still have all of your local channels if you have your digital antenna installed. This means that any urgent weather warnings for your local area would be available on these channels, and the major networks would break into programming for any significant national news events. Also, there is a live Internet channel for FoxNews.com that you can access through your Roku. It is not the same programming as what is on Fox News, but involves many of the same personalities.

Secret Roku Channels

One of the odd things about Roku is that not all channels appear in their official channel store. I don't know exactly why this is. One article I read said that a channel must be approved and vetted by Roku to be added to their official channel list. Some channel developers don't want to go through the hassle of getting an approval, so they simply create what is known as a "private" channel ("private" only means that the channel is not listed in the Roku store). You can add a private channel once you have acquired the code to do so. That is why you'll want to check out the unofficial [Roku Channel Website](#). Once you start looking into the large number of private channels that are available, in addition to the public channels, your brain will almost explode. There are even channels set up strictly for playing games. I am not a gamer, so I can honestly tell you I have never used one of those channels and have no intention of doing so; the channels are there if you or your children want to use the device to play games. To find even more options, simply Google the search phrase "Roku private channel."

Movies and TV Shows On Demand

Now, let's talk movies and TV shows on demand. This is probably the coolest part of having a Roku. It is up to you as to how much of the savings you reap from dropping cable you want to redirect towards some premium options. In my own case, I am spending \$16 monthly for two premium services. For movies, I mostly use Netflix, and through my \$7.95 account I have access to thousands and thousands of movies and TV shows. Netflix is mostly geared towards movies, so if you are interested in TV shows you should also consider Hulu Plus. Hulu Plus will also cost about eight dollars monthly and provides access to a wide array of television programs (including recent episodes within 24 hours of airing). I'll give you an example of how Hulu Plus made dropping cable a reality in the Paris household. My wife, who is a dance teacher, is a huge fan of the ABC show *Dancing with the Stars*. Remember... this is an ABC show and can be picked up with our over-the-air antenna. Here is the beautiful part,

though, and what made the sale with my wife: she could watch *Dancing with the Stars* on-demand within one day of each episode airing. She could also go back and watch every episode going back years, all the way to the beginning of the first season. So, it turned out that I had not lost my mind, after all, and she was going to be able to watch her favorite show, and in a way she never could before.

Even More Choices with Amazon

I have been a member of *Amazon Prime* for about four years. If you are not familiar with the program, it offers free two-day shipping on a very large percentage of the items on its website. If you are like so many people nowadays, you are utilizing Amazon to make purchases on a large number of the kinds of goods you once purchased exclusively from bricks-and-mortar store locations, and so locking in a great deal on shipping for a relatively low annual flat rate is smart. That annual fee is \$79, which is not altogether insignificant, but remember what you're getting here: free two-day shipping on most of what's available at Amazon, and *one-day* shipping for only \$3.99. There is an Amazon delivery to my house at least three days a week; sometimes more. I don't know how much I've saved on shipping with Prime, but it is definitely a four-figure amount, and it is not just me spending all this money on Amazon - my wife and three adult children all buy through my Amazon account (a single membership to Prime can be shared with up to four additional people), and the total savings on behalf of all of us is huge. Right about now, you may be thinking,

“OK, that's great, but what does Amazon Prime have to do with lowering my cost to watch television?”

Well, the answer is, “A lot.” You see, the other huge benefit to Amazon Prime is the access a member has to *Prime Instant Videos*. If you are an Amazon Prime member residing in the United States, you also enjoy access to unlimited, commercial-free instant streaming of thousands of movies and television shows to a variety of devices, including your TV that's connected to the Internet. One of my wife's

favorite shows is House Hunters, and with Amazon Prime she can watch all of the historical episodes of House Hunters for free and on-demand. Now, the most recent season requires a cost of about two dollars per episode, but waiting for shows that assess these kinds of small charges (which you may not mind paying, anyway) to become available for no additional cost is a small price to pay, in my opinion, for receiving the overall, substantial cost-savings of Prime Instant Videos. In addition to the thousands of viewing options available within Amazon Prime, Kindle device owners can also access Amazon's massive lending library and borrow thousands of books for free, as well. Remember, all of this is available to you for \$79 per year currently.

Something else: whether you join Amazon Prime or not, you can connect your Roku to your Amazon account. This will allow you to rent or purchase recently-released movies, and you will even find some movies in current release that can be rented on Amazon.

I think this trend will grow as people continue to choose to do their movie-watching from within the comfort and safety of their own homes. I find myself less and less going out to movies. For about four dollars I can watch a movie on my large screen HDTV with surround sound and make my own popcorn; this sure beats spending \$30 for two tickets, popcorn, and a drink. Also, I am finding more and more that people do not know how to behave in a movie theater, and I have grown weary of paying higher ticket and concession prices so that the movie-going experience can be diminished by a public that is finding it increasingly difficult to behave with any kind of common courtesy or decorum.

Becoming A Roku Guru

Once you get your Roku it will take you a couple of days to get really comfortable with it. After you get past the basic learning curve I encourage you to do some Google searching using the phrase 'Roku Channels' and 'Roku Forums.' You will find that there is a huge amount of information out there and

your fellow Roku users are happy to pass along their own tips and strategies.

Conclusion

You should be able to see from this report that you are really not losing much, if anything, by dropping cable TV. It might take you two or three weeks to get used to using your Roku, but you will quickly become a pro. Oh, and I discovered a couple of weeks ago that there are quite a few apps that you can install on your smart phone to control your Roku device. The Roku does come with its own remote control, but it is honestly a bit clunky. What I prefer to do is to control my Roku with my android phone. It is much quicker and, with a full keyboard, I can type in what I'm looking for and find it much more rapidly. Now, something to note: If you watch TV in multiple rooms of your home, you will have to set up multiple Roku devices. I personally do not subscribe to the idea that there needs to be a TV in every room of a home, but if do decide to go that route, you will have to make the one-time investment of a Roku for each separate TV set. Hulu and Netflix each have slightly different policies on the use of multiple Roku's for one account, but you can do so. The cheapskate option is to just unplug it and take it into the bedroom if you want to watch TV there for an evening. It is not big deal to move it around and you can hold it in the palm of your hand. Still, even if you do want to spring for multiple Rokus, you will still come out *way ahead* in cost, compared to staying on the “cable train.”

I would love to hear your own Roku success story, you can contact me through my website www.ChristianMoney.com.