**Viewing Media on Your TV Set**

**NOTE**:  These are my notes for a presentation that I gave at the **SLO Bytes Second Session** of 04/05/2015.

If you want to watch programs on your TV but prefer not to use DISH, Direct TV or Charter Cable, there are numerous alternatives.

**Free content** **OTA** (Over the Air)
Connect a digital antenna to your television to view local programming. (Amplifier boosts reception)
Antenna selection tool to determine how sophisticated an antenna you will need for your location; <http://www.antennaweb.org/Address.aspx>

Also see **Which OTA HDTV channels are available in my area?**; <https://www.tablotv.com/channels/>

<http://hdtv-antenna-review.toptenreviews.com/> Scroll past reviews for a good overview of OTA antennas.
Generally speaking, outdoor antennas will bring in more channels.
Install an antenna rotator in conjunction with an outdoor antenna and a signal amplifier for optimum OTA results.

Also see Indoor antenna reviews: [http://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-tv-antennas,review-2354.html](http://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-tv-antennas%2Creview-2354.html)

**Consumer Reports** article on indoor OTA antenna
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2013/07/indoor-hdtv-antennas/index.htm>

**Demo my TV with indoor antenna.**

**Free Content – via the Internet**

Use your computer and view programming on-line
Here are some links for free programming viewable on your computer.

ABC <http://abc.go.com/>
NBC <http://www.nbc.com/video>
CBS <http://www.cbs.com/watch/>
FOX <http://www.foxsports.com/foxsportsgo/mobile.html?windowspc> (This downloads an app)
ESPN <http://espn.go.com/watchespn/index>
Hulu <http://www.hulu.com/>  (free with a pay option-Hulu Plus)

**NOTE**: Some Internet-connected TVs and DVD players allow you to access on-line content directly, bypassing the computer.
**Demo Vizio Internet TV** with built in access for Netflix, Amazon (similar at $279.99 – [Costco](http://www.costco.com/Vizio-32%22-Class-%2831.5%22-Diag.%29-1080p-Smart-LED-HDTV-M322i-B1.product.100120177.html))

Show DVD Player with these options See <http://blu-ray-player-review.toptenreviews.com/>; highest rated Blue Ray player $151.48
Some gaming devices also offer Internet connectivity
**Here is a list of all the devices that as of 4/4/15 can be used to connect to Netflix** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Netflix_compatible_devices>

**Article from AARP**
<http://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/info-02-2013/watch-television-online-internet-tv.html>

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**Methods for viewing content from your computer on your TV**
Run an HDMI cable from your computer to your TV – suggested by Dick James

How to connect your computer to your TV (Cables to Go)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDfak20J2Do>

Connect your computer or smart phone wirelessly to your TV
using the following devices

**Show the following devices**

**Apple TV**$67.87 at <http://www.amazon.com/Apple-TV-MD199LL-Current-Version/dp/B007I5JT4S>; Amazon Prime
 <https://www.apple.com/appletv/> (web site)
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_GUuJyyyRQ> (9:30)
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jyaHWkkhf4>  (8:00)

**Chromecast Dongle** $29.99 at <http://www.amazon.com/Google-Chromecast-Streaming-Media-Player/dp/B00DR0PDNE>; Amazon Prime

 <http://www.google.com/chrome/devices/chromecast/> (web site)
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHMCyCd5SDk> (3:27)

**Roku Player** $84.00 at <http://www.amazon.com/Roku-3-Streaming-Media-Player/dp/B00BGGDVOO>;
Amazon Prime so free shipping included)
 <https://www.roku.com/>  (web site)
 <https://www.roku.com/how-it-works> Company video - all products
 <https://www.roku.com/products/roku-3> Company video for Roku 3
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p6T13YYtDU> (5:06)

Comparisons - **Apple TV vs Roku Player**
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tou3hetyHF4> (14:09)

 <http://www.macpowerusers.com/2015/03/29/248-revisting-cutting-the-cord/> - Link suggested by Alan Raul

Ralph Sutter