

Get our best deals on phones, tablets, home internet and more. | [Shop](#)

Get Verizon Home Services

Check if Verizon Home Internet is available.

Enter street address ⓘ

Use my location ⓘ

e.g., 123 Main St, Anytown, CA 91234

Get started

Articles / Internet Essentials / **What is Streaming - Definition, Meaning & Explanation**

Streaming



Feedback

[Definition](#) | [How does streaming work](#) | [What is live streaming](#) | [Streaming devices](#) | [Streaming apps](#) | [Internet for streaming](#)

Definition

The technology of transmitting audio and video files in a continuous flow over a [wired or wireless internet connection](#).

What is streaming? Streaming refers to any media content – live or recorded – delivered to computers and mobile devices via the internet and played back in real time. Podcasts, webcasts, movies, TV shows and music videos are common forms of streaming content.

How does streaming work?

Music, video and other types of media files are prearranged and transmitted in sequential packets of data so they can be streamed instantaneously. And unlike traditional downloads that are stored on your device, media files are automatically deleted once you play them.

All you need to stream is a reliable and fast [high speed internet connection](#), access or subscription to a streaming service or app, and a compatible device. See speed recommendations below.

What is live streaming?

Live streaming is the broadcast of an event over the internet as it happens. Awards shows, sports, boxing matches, video games and special one-time events are the most popular types of live streaming with an ever-growing menu of topics.

Social media platforms and others broadcast everything from celebrity events, promotions and livestreaming to streaming



Mobile Home Internet Shop Deals

Search Verizon

Sign in

Get our best deals on phones, tablets, home internet and more. | [Shop](#)**Get Verizon Home Services**

Check if Verizon Home Internet is available.

Enter street address ⓘ

Use my location ⓘ

e.g., 123 Main St, Anytown, CA 91234

Get started

deleted once you play them.

All you need to stream is a reliable and fast [high speed internet connection](#), access or subscription to a streaming service or app, and a compatible device. See speed recommendations below.

What is live streaming?

Live streaming is the broadcast of an event over the internet as it happens. Awards shows, sports, boxing matches, video games and special one-time events are the most popular types of live streaming with an ever-growing menu of topics.

Social media platforms and others broadcast everything from celebrity events, promotions and livestreaming to streaming between users. You can live stream on any compatible smartphone, tablet, TV, computer or gaming console with a relatively fast internet connection. And, with high-speed internet services, you can also enjoy events like a live stream AR concert.

Streaming devices

There are a number of streaming devices available, each with their own unique features. Whether you want a hands-free option, ample internal storage, something affordable and/or 4K accessibility, there's a streaming device for you. Search for reviews by reputable companies and consider alternate options such as a gaming console or a set-top box from your TV provider.

Verizon offers the [Stream TV](#), which supports services like Disney+, Hulu, ESPN, Pluto TV, MLB TV, HBO, STARZ, Prime Video and Netflix. Compatible with 4K Ultra HD content,* it gives you 4 times the resolution of Full HD with a deeper and wider color range. Built-in Chromecast allows you to stream select videos, pictures and music from your phone to your TV. Customize your content by pinning your favorite apps or content to your home screen for easy browsing. Stream TV is easy to set up, allowing you to jump right into your next binge-watch.

If you have Fios, Fios TV One is a powerful all-in-one with voice remote and seamless Netflix integration to get to what you want to watch faster – including select shows in 4K quality.

*Requires viewing on 4K UHD-enabled device.

Streaming apps

Now that you know how to stream and the devices you'll need – what type of content are you going to stream? Netflix, YouTube TV and several others are still some of the best and most popular streaming services with apps you can access on the go -- many of which you can stream through Fios TV One.

Verizon also offers a number of perks featuring a [wide selection of streaming services](#). Potential options include Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+ in one convenient bundle, as well as Netflix, HBO Max and even Apple TV+. Add your favorite streaming service to your home internet service on one convenient bill.

Even more exciting is the growing number of streaming apps joining the ranks that will offer a world of new content. Variety is definitely the future of streaming apps with something for everyone.

Internet for streaming

As mentioned, streaming requires a certain amount of speed for optimal performance. Many video streaming services offer minimum speed recommendations based on quality of content resolution. The higher the resolution like 4K, the more speed is needed for virtually flawless music and movie streaming.

To maximize your entertainment experience and virtually eliminate lags and buffering, you'll want the [best internet for streaming](#). Fios fits the bill with speeds up to 940/880 Mbps with its Fios Gigabit Connection plan, while Verizon 5G Home Internet typical download speeds go up to 300 Mbps.

To see recommended speed guidelines, [visit the FCC website](#).

Sources of data:

Feedback

Get our best deals on phones, tablets, home internet and more. | [Shop](#)

Get Verizon Home Services

Check if Verizon Home Internet is available.

Enter street address ⓘ

Use my location ⓘ

e.g., 123 Main St, Anytown, CA 91234

Get started

As mentioned, streaming requires a certain amount of speed for optimal performance. Many video streaming services offer minimum speed recommendations based on quality of content resolution. The higher the resolution like 4K, the more speed is needed for virtually flawless music and movie streaming.

To maximize your entertainment experience and virtually eliminate lags and buffering, you'll want the [best internet for streaming](#). Fios fits the bill with speeds up to 940/880 Mbps with its Fios Gigabit Connection plan, while Verizon 5G Home Internet typical download speeds go up to 300 Mbps.

To see recommended speed guidelines, [visit the FCC website](#).

Sources of data:

<https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/measuring-broadband-america/measuring-fixed-broadband-eleventh-report>

<https://www.usnews.com/360-reviews/services/internet-providers/satellite-internet#speed>

Reviewed By: Verizon Editorial Team

Last Reviewed: 15.2026

Feedback

Home internet services

The speed you need, from 5G home internet to fiber-optic internet services.



Check your current internet speed

Test your download and upload speeds with this internet speed checker.

[Speed test](#) >



Internet service in your area

Find the fastest Verizon internet service available at your address.

[Check internet availability](#) >



Discounts by Verizon

See if you qualify for discounts on home internet.

[Learn more](#) >

Get our best deals on phones, tablets, home internet and more. | [Shop](#)

Get Verizon Home Services

Check if Verizon Home Internet is available.

Enter street address ⓘ

Use my location ⓘ

e.g., 123 Main St, Anytown, CA 91234

Get started

Test your download and upload speeds with this internet speed checker.

Speed test >

Find the fastest Verizon internet service available at your address.

Check internet availability >

See if you qualify for discounts on home internet.

Learn more >

Things are different with Fios.

100% fiber optic, 100% phenomenal.

Check availability

Feedback

This content is provided for information purposes only. All information included herein is subject to change without notice. Verizon is not responsible for any direct or indirect damages, arising from or related to use or reliance of the above content.

Shop

Devices
Accessories
Plans
Prepaid
Home Internet & TV
Deals
Mobile + Home discount
Bring your own device
TracFone

Top Device Brands

Samsung
Apple
Google
Amazon

Support

Support overview
Return policy
Contact us
Community Forums
Business support
Sign in
Download My Verizon App
Lifeline
Accessibility

About Verizon

About us
Careers
News
Responsibility
Verizon Innovative Learning
Articles
Brochures
5G overview
Innovation Labs

