

Cut the cost if not the cord

Presented by Sunflower Technology Club

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Current Costs for Many Users

- Cable TV: \$99.00 per month: Source, NBC News.
- Internet: \$50 for 100mbps: Source Time.Com
- Cell Phone (2): \$130 per month: Source, Consumer Reports
- Streaming: \$18 per month: Source, USA Today
- Landline: \$50 per month: Source, Familyeducation.com
- TOTAL: \$347.00 per month, \$4164.00 per year

Objectives

- Keep ALL existing services – NO cord cutting
- Keep existing quality
- Don't complicate your life
- Reduce costs by 25%-50%
- Make it easy to cut the costs

Combining Services

- If you have a landline through a traditional provider (i.e. the phone company) consider getting a bundle deal from Comcast or CenturyLink– it's actually cheaper to get three services than two. I can add a landline to my current package for less than \$10 a month (I have Internet, Cable and Mobile with Comcast).
- Consider home security from Comcast only to cut your overall costs

Share Streaming

- Netflix allows 5 users per account so instead of \$13.00 a month, it's \$2.60 split 5 ways. Suggest you share only with family and that you collect yearly for the proportionate share.

Share Internet

- In spite of what Comcast will tell you, it is NOT illegal to allow guest users of your wireless. If you are a very light user, consider looking up the available wi-fi connections, find out which one is strongest (probably the neighbor right next door) and approach them about using their wi-fi and sharing the bill. Today's routers allow you to setup several very secure connections. Of course, this makes you wholly dependent upon the neighbor to keep on top of their Internet.

Now the big one:

- For Comcast users (or a reason to become one).
- Sign up for Xfinity Mobile – it's FREE if you are an Internet customer. Data usage, other than off a wi-fi setup, is extra but most people our age use minimal amounts of non-wi/fi data.

What it did for me:

- Previous cell phone bill(s): $\$55 + \$35 = \$90/\text{month}$
- Cable & Internet: $\$125/\text{month}$
- New cell phone (2) cable & Internet: $\$129/\text{month}$
- Savings of $\$86/\text{month}$ or $\$1032/\text{year}$
- Still with Verizon, same service, same features, same unlimited talk and text. If we do use data over the 100mb allowed, it's $\$12/\text{GB}$ and we have never gone over 1GB a month.
- Did have to buy a new Android phone for me @ $\$145$

How else do I save:

- Share Netflix with family - \$48 a year, saving \$108.00
- Cut landline completely \$60 year (used VOIP)
- Amazon Prime – buy it during their July special and it's half price \$50/year instead of \$99. For readers, Kindle Unlimited is also \$7/month with a one year contract in July only.
- I periodically call Comcast customer retention and negotiate my rate, often knocking the \$10 to \$15 they've snuck in back off.

Comparison to national averages

- National Average: \$4,164 per year
- My costs:
- Cell/TV/Internet \$1548.00/year
- Streaming: \$98/year
- Landline: \$0/year
- My TOTAL: \$1646.00/year
- Savings: \$2,518/year a 60% savings
- No change in channels, service, speeds or reliability.

Just hate Comcast?

- Century Link is offering “pricing for life” for as little as \$45.00 a month.
- DirectTV is available through ATT&T as a streaming service for \$35-\$50 a month.
- Century Link will offer a bundle deal for Internet/DirecTV Streaming/Landline
- DO NOT, under any circumstances, rent your modem/router – they are under \$100 each
- You can still share streaming, cut Amazon costs by timing purchase properly

Why:

- Providers know 5G Internet is coming with gigabyte speeds for as little as \$40 a month. They want to lock you in now in as many ways as possible to prevent you changing providers when 5G is offered.
- Do not sign a contract for more than a year unless they are giving at least a 40% discount off the pay as you go plan.



Questions: