

FREE NETWORK APPS vs \$ 'ON DEMAND' OR DVR

In our household, as we transitioned to from Comcast to Verizon FIOS, we opted to simply get the HD Set Top Box which is included in the Hershey's Mill plan in lieu of a DVR which will cost a fee per box going forward. We save more than enough money every month to add on a movie channel like HBO or pay for a Netflix subscription.

Also, TV providers have started charging a fee to stream some archived shows in On Demand. You might open the On Demand feature and locate the show you missed earlier and now they want \$1.99-\$3.99 or more so you can play that show. That is understandable - it's how the providers subsidize the costs to them, but also irritating as the same show you could have seen free on Live TV a few hours earlier.

We don't record TV shows on a DVR to watch later, and we save money for the monthly equipment rental fees. We don't generally access shows via the FIOS On Demand feature as there may be a nominal charge for streaming some shows. We watch shows on a network App.

We have a "Smart TV" as well as devices that access a variety of viewing options via specific network Apps that we download for free onto the device. Devices such as Apple TV, Amazon Fire and Google Chromecast permit viewing through Apps. A modern Blu-Ray player that is hooked up to wifi will let you stream. Some people have a Roku or TiVO device - even a gaming device (such as Sony Playstation) can access the internet and permit you to download an app.

Generally speaking, as long as you are a paid subscriber to a network via your FIOS or cable subscription, you can download the network App and stream recent content. It is not a difficult process.

You open the Menu feature of your Smart TV or Device and download the network App.

For instance, we like the TV show [“The Voice”](#). We simply stream it via [the NBC App](#) when we miss the live episode. You can do the same with ABC, CBS and Fox.

The Golf Channel app - if your FIOS package includes the Golf Channel, you can watch content [via the app](#).

Pay for ESPN? Download the [ESPN App](#) for free.

Enjoying a series on [Hallmark](#)? If you pay for the channel in your FIOS Bill, you can download the app and watch shows any time.

In short, if it's a channel you pay for in your FIOS package, there is probably a free app for it and you can stream content at will.

It is good to know that there are options for watching back episodes, and you should check them out before you pay per-episode fees, and you may even be able to save the money you would spend on a DVR to record shows.

Find free Network TV apps in [Google Play](#), the [Apple App Store](#) or via your device App section. Another option is to search the Network online, open their home page and look for the App icon - click on the link and download the app onto the device you have.

If I can do it, you know it's pretty simple.

- Kathy Martinides
Heatherton Village