

Creating the Budget, Exercise 14, Cable/Satellite and Internet

Just about everyone owns a television and has Internet access. There are usually two or more companies to choose from in your area to provide service. You need to determine how much television that you watch and you already have Netflix in your budget. When you start with a service you will be offered a promotional price for a period of time after which the price will go significantly higher. The period is usually for 1-2 years.

Items to consider in the packages:

- Do you want a DVR and if so how many?
- How televisions do you have?
- Do you want to watch premium channels such as HBO and Cinemax or sports packages?
- You will need to speak with a representative on what is included in the higher priced packages (sometimes the premium channels will be discounted or free for a period of time as well)

Example package offer from a cable/satellite

PACKAGES	USA	USA	USA	USA	PKG 1	PKG 2	PKG 3
	Top 120	Top 120X	Top 200	Top 250			
Channels	190+	190+	240+	290+	150+	175+	220+
PRICING							
Promotional Price	\$34.99	\$39.99	\$44.99	\$49.99	\$34.99	\$39.99	\$39.99
	per month	per month	per month	per month	per month	per month	per month
	for 1 year	for 1 year	for 1 year	for 1 year	for 1 year	for 1 year	for 1 year
RECORDING OPTIONS							
Recording Package	Pro X				Pro Z		
Pause and Record	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Record and Watch on Any TV	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
# of Recordings at Once	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
Recording Capacity	2TB	2TB	2TB	2TB	1TB	1TB	1TB
Watch Anywhere (iPhone, iPad, Computer)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Watch Anywhere	Sling	Sling	Sling	Sling	Nomad	Nomad	Nomad
Additional Equipment	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$149	\$149	\$149

Internet

The other part to consider is the Internet cost as it is a separate component and often bundled it with the television service.

-Is there a promotional price?

-Ask the representative how much speed will you need? You will need to consider what draws from the Internet connection that will bog down the speed. Are you a gamer? How often do you surf the net and you also have Netflix? Will there be simultaneous use of electronics by way of multiple users?

Example Internet Package

Package 1	Package 2
Price: \$15/month	Price: \$34.95/month
Download Rate: 3Mbps	Download Rate: 6Mbps
Upload Rate: 1Mbps	Upload Rate: 1Mbps
Data Allowance: 250GB/month	Data Allowance: 250GB/month

The last piece to consider what is the cost for early termination (if you cancel service before the contract ends) and additional fees for beginning the promotion. In the example below there will be \$199 to start service and \$180 to cancel early. Therefore, when choosing a company, you need upfront cash to account for the \$199.

Example Additional Fees

Additional Fees
Early Termination Fee: Up to \$180
Equipment Lease Fee: \$100 One-Time Fee
Installation Fee: \$99 Professional Installation
One-Time Setup Fee: None