Cable or Satellite TV: Getting a Little Sensible when Choosing by Nathan Brown T

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Buying a TV service for your home may sound simple, but the truth is otherwise. There are an umpteen number of issues that may escape your attention, and price of course plays an important role in decision making, but nevertheless it is not the only factor to tilt in favor of a particular provider. The quality of the picture delivered both for basic and HD, reliability, down time, access in remote areas and post sale services are some of the major issues that require closer scrutiny.

There are at least two major segments that provide TV Services in the US; the Cable TV and the Satellite TV. Both have good reasons to tell why they should be preferred over the other, and both will not tell you the big fat details that make a big difference to your viewing pleasure. They will talk about picture quality, high definition, super speedsâ€¦and everything else will be in fine prints. But you will ultimately have to fall for either segment after having weighed the pros and cons against your own backdrop and experiences in the past.Satellite TV is a poor cousin when you consider the range of services that they can provide, but on the positive side they are easier to access at any place in the US.

Most of them have a nationwide foot print, and if you are one of those who shifts home frequently and live in a locality far into the countryside, all that you have to take along with you is the dish and the small equipments that come along with, unlike the cable TV. If TV is the only thing that you want, and a plain and simple one at that, it is good. But don't forget that, snow storms, hail, and sky borne disturbances can interfere with the quality of reception, even a low flying aircraft for that purpose can cause enough perceptible disturbance on your TV.

Cable TV is a different ball game altogether; new technological changes are making them a better lot, especially the use of optical fiber cable over the coaxial cables that were in vogue. That means, cable TV services will offer phone and internet services clubbed with TV. But unlike satellite TV, prospective cable TV subscribers need to be closer to the network of cables that they lay to provide services. In fact the maximum distance to which a cable TV operator will connect with a subscriber is 2000 or lesser feet from their nearest node for optimum viewing experience. Unless you have a cable TV service from the same provider, shifting your home and retaining the same cable TV is impossible.

Satellite TVs are out of the race if subscribers want TV, internet and home phone all included like in Verizon FiOS Bundles. There is simply no technology available today to do it. Moreover, cable has the ability to link with local channels to provide better local content. The other big advantage that helps cable TV sell their service is that, that atmospheric disturbances don't normally affect their quality of service like in satellite TV, unless it is a major natural disaster. Providing all three services has some advantages for subscribers; fewer dollar deposits to make, lesser investment on equipment; and finally the advantage of a bundled offer. And what is more, subscribers can save themselves from the trouble of having to deal with so many service providers every month.

Pricing is an issue that you can always negotiate with the local office of the cable TV company, and offers can be specific to a locality unlike a satellite TV which is usually national in outlook. Cable TVs sometime have a no-compete agreement between them, so you will have to live with the sole provider anyway.

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Nathan Brown is a freelance writer and is immensely interested in writing about the entertainment industry in general; and more particularly about cable TV companies, satellite TVs and comprehensive service providers like

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