

**Philadelphia Inquirer**

[Philadelphia's skyline rising: From a colonial church spire to glassy blue Comcast 2](#)

**Washington Post**

[Facebook faces fresh lashing from nine countries for its inability to stop the spread of fake news](#)

**TVNewsCheck**

[ABC Jumping Onto NFL Draft Bandwagon](#)

**Harrisburg Patriot-News**

[This is what the midterms told us about public support for gerrymandering reform](#)

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

[Ex-Attorney General Kathleen Kane headed to jail after appeal fails](#)

**Philadelphia Inquirer**

[Bob Brady aide casts doubt on claim that \\$90K payoff to rival was legit](#)

**Allentown Morning Call**

[Bob Casey stokes speculation for a presidential run in 2020](#)

**Philadelphia Daily News**

[Bob Casey for President? Hmm](#)

Sports is moving to the internet. But the internet still isn't ready for sports.

Media giant AT&T Inc. was forced to make a pay-per-view golf match between Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods free to watch on Friday after suffering a glitch processing customers' online purchases. It marked the latest botched attempt at streaming sports online, a trend that threatens to undermine television's transition to a digital future. From Walt Disney Co.'s ESPN to Amazon.com Inc., more companies are broadcasting major sports on the internet, which can be more prone to problems than cable or satellite TV. "People think of this as TV and it will never be as reliable as TV," said Dan Rayburn, the principal analyst at Frost & Sullivan who writes for the website Streamingmediablog.com. "The internet was not built for reliable video delivery."

Even technology giants are having trouble. In August, Amazon had problems live streaming the U.S. Open for U.K. viewers, with fans complaining about poor picture quality and functionality. In July, YouTube's TV service crashed while England and Croatia played in the World Cup semifinals. In February, some Hulu viewers got error messages during the final moments of the Super Bowl. Perhaps the biggest example came in 2017, when Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor met for a highly publicized boxing fight that cost \$100 for a high-definition stream. NeuLion, which was UFC's streaming partner, experienced technical difficulties that led to many buyers being unable to see the bout.

Live streaming sports is harder than streaming TV shows and movies — like Netflix Inc. does. That's mainly because live sports is only available for a few hours, making it vulnerable to crashes when many people watch at the same time. It's also more complicated. It involves taking a feed, ensuring it works on devices such as Xbox or Roku, encrypting it, inserting ads, then handing it off to a third party for delivery to an internet provider — all in real time. A crash means viewers can miss a thrilling touchdown, buzzer-beater or a missed putt. That hasn't stopped tech companies from pushing deeper into sports. Amazon now hosts Thursday Night Football and is reportedly bidding on regional sports networks.

The challenge of live streaming sports is so great that many media companies rely on third-party companies to do it for them. Disney, home of ESPN, bought a majority stake last year in BAMTech, a leader in online sports streaming, to bolster its growing number of streaming services. In 2015, WarnerMedia's Turner Broadcasting bought a majority stake in a company called IStreamPlanet to help with its own streaming efforts. WarnerMedia said this weekend that it's still investigating the cause of Friday's glitch.

Friday's golf event was supposed to showcase AT&T's media prowess following its \$85 billion purchase of Time Warner Inc., the owner of HBO, Warner Bros., and Turner. AT&T and other pay-TV providers said they'd issue refunds to customers who paid to watch the match.

There weren't reports of problems for telecasts on cable and satellite TV. "Turner didn't do a good job making sure this would work beforehand," Rayburn said. "When you're charging \$20, you should pull out all the stops to make sure it works." -- **Bloomberg**

President Donald Trump is raising the possibility of starting "our own Worldwide Network" to counter news spread internationally by CNN. Trump said via Twitter on Monday that CNN "has a powerful voice portraying the United States in an unfair and false way. Something has to be done." It wasn't immediately clear what he meant. The U.S. government already operates Voice of America, which last year reached some 275 million people worldwide with news reports from the United States available on television, radio, online and social media. CNN had no immediate comment about the new criticism by the president.

The president has frequently criticized CNN and its reporters. His administration recently backed down from its effort to ban reporter Jim Acosta from the White House. It wasn't known why he was focusing on CNN's worldwide reach. CNN International is the most widely distributed television news network overseas, with BBC World News second. Trump said he wanted a worldwide network "to show the World the way we really are. GREAT!"

The president's favorite news network, Fox News Channel, is available in nearly 100 countries, although not distributed as widely as CNN. The president has complained about being in hotel rooms abroad and having no alternative to CNN. Voice of America, which began operating during World War II, is also determined to show the United States as it really is, but not through the prism of any particular political leader. The agency's charter, signed into law in 1976, says VOA "will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions." Voice of America had no comment on the president's tweet. -- **Associated Press**

---

At holiday time, grown children return home to face a tricky challenge of modern life: How to work their parents' remote controls.

At their home in Austin, Texas, Amanda and Nathan Ryan control their TV with their phones, like many tech-savvy millennials. The only remote control they own is their **Apple TV**'s, and it has five buttons and a touchpad. The TV remotes at Ms. Ryan's father's home in Los Angeles are beyond their expertise. Mr. Ryan, 31, who runs a consulting business, said he's the one educating his older relatives about their computers. When it comes to remotes, the roles are reversed: "It's them explaining to me these crazy convoluted setups they have."

This year the traditional remote-control lesson began almost immediately after they pulled into the driveway for a Thanksgiving visit. Things got complicated quickly. The bigger green button (no, the other button) on the largest remote turns on the surround sound. The red button on the Vizio remote turns on the TV. The Roku remote toggles between Hulu, Netflix, HBO and live TV channels. Want it louder? Back to the first remote. Ms. Ryan, who works on Amazon integration at Whole Foods, pulled out her phone and started recording. "We're never going to remember how to do this," the 29-year-old said.

Her father, Paul Kne, 60, said he's tried to whittle down his remote collection but hasn't had much luck. "If they could make one remote that could do everything I'd be happy, but nobody seems to be able to do it." He tried a universal remote and "it worked on everything else but the TV." One year Ms. Ryan made a remote blunder—she's still not sure where she went wrong—that took an hour to unscramble. "Some people gather around the table to play Monopoly and we gather around trying to work the TV," she said.

Collin Johnson, a 25-year-old web developer in Seattle, was confounded by the complex process of turning on the TV when he visited his family in Alabama last Christmas. It involves multiple remotes with buttons that have to be pressed in a precise sequence. "I just wanted to turn the TV on and browse channels," he recalled. "There were four remotes and I couldn't figure out what any of them do." Mr. Johnson said his home entertainment system is simpler: he doesn't have cable or complicated speakers. A list of applications appears when he turns on his new TV, and he navigates them with a single remote. "It's pretty intuitive," he said.

His mother had to step in to assist. "There's this weird combination you need to get them to work," said Tammy Roper, 51. The secret is there is no one remote that turns the TV on: there are two, along with the power button on the TV itself, she said. "I'm the only one who knows the dance." Remotes are piling up as people try to stitch together cable TV, streaming content, gaming consoles, Blu-Ray players and speakers. Younger users used to navigating the world through a touch screen are struggling with the morass of devices with dozens of cryptically labeled buttons. All the remotes mystify even the people who set the systems up. Ms. Roper said she has a bowl full of ancient remotes she's reluctant to get rid of. "I'm scared to throw any of them away because what if they start working one day?" she said.

Kimberly Pavelich, 34, a Ph.D. candidate in Ottawa, Ontario, is steeling herself for the inevitable frustration when she goes to visit her family in Calgary over Christmas. Her parents know exactly how to use the five remotes they've amassed over the years as they have layered a smart TV, sound equipment, and other devices in pursuit of the latest features. "If you hit them in the wrong order, you'll get picture but not sound. Or sound but no picture. Or you'll get nothing," said Ms. Pavelich, who at home streams TV from her laptop to a monitor and doesn't use a remote at all. Her parents are amused—they don't see what's so difficult. "We show her every time, and she's baffled. We say OK and we turn it on for her," said Kimberly's mother, Cathy Pavelich, 64. The Paveliches all "have a good giggle" about it, she said.

Monica Bellamy, a 34-year-old office administrator, said at her parents' home in Duluth, Minn, it isn't clear what all the remotes are meant to do: there is a "dusty old haunted remote" languishing in the corner no one can explain. She's learned there is no use confronting the equipment on her own. If she gets up before her parents in the morning, she'll typically wait for one of them to wake up and assist. "I usually have to have a tutorial," she said. Every new babysitting job means a new system to learn for India McCarty, a 20-year-old college student in Nashville, Tenn. Parents are often impressed when they come home to find Ms. McCarty doing homework or reading. "They're always like, 'oh you're so diligent with your studies,'" she said. "I'm just

thinking, ‘Yeah, because I didn’t know how to use any of these remotes.’”

Companies say they are trying to help tamp down on remote-control inflation. Logitech International SA is among those offering universal remotes, including ones it says can control as many as 15 devices. Ian Crowe, senior director of Harmony Remotes at Logitech, said the biggest barrier is getting the remote set up. He programmed one for his parents, who were using three remotes. Comcast Corp.’s Xfinity X1 platform brings together live TV, Netflix, and other on-demand streaming services—with a single voice-controlled remote. That has been a leap forward for Michelle Broderick’s in-laws, who she visited in Virginia for Thanksgiving. Turning on their TV had been “almost like a séance,” involving as many as four remotes with some 30 buttons apiece. “Now they just yell at the remote control, ‘Netflix,’ and it happens,” said Ms. Broderick, a 42-year-old senior vice-president of marketing.

Not everyone wants to get down to one remote. David Dwyer, a 64-year-old ophthalmologist who now works part-time, said he always liked having the latest technology. He recalls drawing diagrams to help his in-laws figure out their remote controls. But he is resigned to his five-remote system. “I’ve lined them all up and there they are. If it says Sony, it goes to the Sony TV. If it says Samsung, it goes to the Blu-ray,” he said. His 30-year-old son Brad, a software developer, doesn’t think that’s working out so well. “There’s a thousand buttons you don’t want to touch, or it might change something,” said Mr. Dwyer. “Every time we want to watch a game, it’s an ordeal.” The younger Mr. Dwyer thought he found a solution last Christmas when he bought his parents a universal remote that could be programmed for all the remote controls. It didn’t help. “Now they have six remotes instead of five,” he said. — *Wall Street Journal*



First in Broadband.  
The Future of Broadband.®