

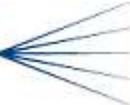
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AT&T's new TV streaming service DirecTV Now seemingly faced significant problems on its launch day. Numerous users reported on Twitter that they were unable to use the service for extended periods of time, with many complaining that DirecTV Now was kicking them off for allegedly using too many devices at the same time -- something the service's apps diagnosed as "error 60."

DirecTV Now is currently limiting streaming to two devices per subscriber, but many users reported yesterday and today that they were getting the error even when just streaming on one device. Some users were also experiencing sign-in issues. DirecTV Now's support staff said on Twitter Thursday morning that this particular issue had been resolved, but some users immediately responded saying that they still couldn't sign in.

Other users were unable to stream certain channels, error messages about incompatible devices and failures to load streams, according to a report by TV Predictions. One user even recorded a video of a series of errors encountered while trying to use the service. An AT&T spokesperson sent Variety the following comment after the initial publication of this story. "We experienced an issue last night that prevented some customers from streaming. Engineers resolved the issue and we haven't experienced it since."

DirecTV Now officially launched Wednesday, offering consumers up to 130 channels via a variety of packages that start at \$35 per month. Aside from technical issues, the service has a few other shortcomings at launch: DirecTV Now's plans currently don't include CBS, the CW or Showtime, but AT&T has told reporters that it is pursuing a deal with CBS. In addition, NBC streams aren't available on smart TVs and TV-connected devices at launch. -- *Variety*

CBS Corp. said it obtained rights to carry National Football League games on its CBS All Access streaming service, allowing the most-watched U.S. TV network to offer its most popular programming online. The multiyear deal with the NFL begins Sunday and will include all CBS coverage of regular, preseason and post-season games in subscribers' local markets, the network said Thursday in a statement. Financial terms weren't disclosed.

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While NFL viewership has declined this year, football remains the most popular programming on TV. Last week, NFL games were the most-watched on both broadcast and cable television, according to Nielsen data. AT&T, which offers the NFL Sunday Ticket package to its DirecTV customers, is working to obtain online rights to those games as well, company executives said this week.

CBS All Access is the network's online streaming service, providing web-based access to the company's programming for \$6 to \$10 a month. Viewers will be able to access programming on the CBS app and using connected devices such as Roku players and Apple TV. All NFL on CBS games will still be available on mobile devices exclusively through the NFL Mobile app for Verizon Wireless customers, CBS and the NFL said. – **Bloomberg**

File this one under: "Well, You Asked."

Michael Stuban, a midlevel manager at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, retired on Thanksgiving after a 35-year career that started in a tollbooth. But before he left, Stuban filled out his exit questionnaire with what he described as "brutal" honesty. Let's just say he didn't give his bosses an E-ZPass. Stuban blasted the "out of touch" executive-level managers who are "only looking out for themselves" and are running a "rudderless" agency that hires incompetents based on political connections.

Stuban, 58, wrote that he actually liked his job and didn't want to retire yet, but that the last five years at the commission had been "terrible," with "no morale" among workers. "Giving us classes where we are being told we are not political. That's bulls-," he wrote. "Jobs/Promotions are filled by the politicians, it's who you know, not what you know. Positions created for people who are not qualified." That's just one example. He really went off. But it gets better.

Stuban, who hails from a small borough in Western Pennsylvania, sent the email not just to the HR department, but to everyone at the Turnpike Commission. More than 2,000 employees. Basically, the email equivalent of that scene in *Half Baked* where the guy quits his job at the burger joint. "Want to get away? Southwest is offering great fares . . ." one Turnpike Commission employee replied-all to Stuban's email, referencing the airline's commercials.

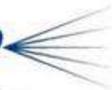
Next up was former State Sen. Sean Logan, chairman of the Turnpike Commission, who apparently didn't find any of this funny. He hit the reply-all button and wrote: "Mr. Stuban . . . I don't believe we ever met, and after reading your Exit Questionnaire, I am grateful that we didn't." We called Stuban at his home along the Ohio River in Beaver County. It sounded like he was smiling on the other end. "When they asked for an honest exit interview, I gave them one," Stuban said, chuckling occasionally. "I sent it minutes before I officially retired."

Stuban, who was an interchange manager at the commission, said his former colleagues told him about Logan's icy reply. "He did miss the point," Stuban said. "If it was an effective company and someone told you there are problems and no morale, you don't have to believe me, but maybe someone should check into it." One of the biggest problems at the agency, Stuban said, is political patronage. He said relatives of powerful people get hired regardless of their qualifications. "They hire a lot of people that are dumb as rocks," he said.

We emailed Logan but didn't hear back. As for Stuban, he sounds like he'll be just fine. He plans to do some traveling, catch up on projects around the house and volunteer at his church. "I'm staying active in the community," he said. We like your style, Stuban. Have you ever considered a second career in the flourishing field of journalism? – **Philadelphia Daily News**

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