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The internet was abuzz on Wednesday when it appeared DirecTV had loosened its exclusive hold of the NFL's Sunday Ticket package, allowing non-DirecTV users to subscribe to stream the service or as the company headlined "Stream NFL Sunday Ticket live online. No satellite required!" While DirecTV has expanded the service to now include streaming on phones, tablets and game consoles in addition to computers, the service hasn't yet been fully opened up.

In a statement to USA TODAY, DirecTV confirmed that the company's new NFLSUNDAYTICKET.TV service only applies to homes that do not have the ability to install a satellite dish. This means it will work if you live in an apartment complex or if you are a student at one of the ten "select universities" the company has partnered with. If you can get a satellite installed then this service doesn't apply to you. The company has been offering a Sunday Ticket streaming service for those unable to get DirecTV installed since 2010 and last year partnered with Amazon and EA Sports on a special version of Madden 25 that included a code to allow non-DirecTV customers to stream Sunday Ticket.

Now if you are a football-loving tenant in an apartment building or a student at one of those universities, DirecTV has made watching every game online a bit easier to access, though it's still pricey. The new NFLSUNDAYTICKET.TV has three streaming plans that start at \$199.99 and all offer the ability to stream live out-of-market games in HD. The differences in the plans however is on which devices you can watch games. The lower level, \$199.99 "Digital" package allows for streaming on Android or iOS phones and tablets as well as on computers, but not on game consoles connected to your TV.

If you would like to use an Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3 or PlayStation 4 you would need to purchase the \$239.99 "Console" package, which offers streaming on those systems but not phones, tablets or computers. While rumored to be making an appearance on the Apple TV, DirecTV has confirmed on its website that Apple's streaming box will not have access to the service for the 2014 season. If you would like the ability to watch on your game console, phone, tablet and computer you will need to subscribe to the \$329.99 "Max" package, though this offering also grants access to the Red Zone channel and new DirecTV Fantasy Zone. All three packages, as well as a special discounted "University" edition for those select colleges, are available for order today from the SundayTicket.TV site.

The NFL's exclusive agreement with DirecTV has been a profitable arrangement for both sides, even playing a role in AT&T's attempt to acquire the satellite provider for \$48.5 billion. DirecTV and the NFL are currently in negotiations to extend the exclusivity of the package, their current deal expires after this coming season, but the large popularity Sunday Ticket has led to interest in the service from other companies particularly Google, who last year was rumored to be meeting with NFL about acquiring the rights. DirecTV currently pays the NFL \$1 billion a year to offer Sunday Ticket. It remains to be seen if the company will expand this offering to include other non-DirecTV subscribers. – **USA Today**

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If Time Warner Inc. were to walk down the aisle with Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox, the marriage of media giants would surely receive close scrutiny from antitrust regulators.

Such a merger could bring Time Warner cable channels like CNN, TBS and HBO under the same roof with Fox's broadcast network, as well as its Fox News, FX and Fox Sports 1 channels. In the film and TV studio business, the combined company would be an even bigger force, combining Warner Bros. with Twentieth Century Fox. "In terms of overall

content, Rupert Murdoch would have a lot of control over what runs on the airwaves," said Jeffrey Jacobovitz of law firm Arnall Golden Gregory LLP. But those antitrust concerns potentially could be addressed through divestitures, such as the sale of some cable channels, he said, noting "it doesn't mean the deal wouldn't fly."

Time Warner, in confirming Wednesday that it had rebuffed Fox, cited regulatory risks as one of several factors it had considered in rejecting the bid. Fox had proposed selling off CNN in any deal on the assumption that regulators would look askance at a combination of the cable news network with its competitor Fox News. Several antitrust observers said CNN likely would need to be sold for a merger to go through. "Concerns may arise, particularly given the different political orientations of the channels, as to whether there would be a significant loss of diversity of news and information," said Gene Kimmelman, a former Justice Department antitrust official who now heads the consumer group Public Knowledge. Fox News is known for its right-leaning audience, while CNN viewers are more middle of the road.

While consumers have hundreds of channels to choose from, antitrust regulators would likely study how a Fox-Time Warner merger would affect control of the types of shows and sporting events that draw the most viewers and advertisers, Mr. Kimmelman said. "They will look at whether this consolidates too much power in the high-quality programming market," he said. While lawmakers have no direct say in whether mergers get approved, they would likely take a keen interest in any deal between Fox and Time Warner. Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D., W.Va.) said at a hearing Wednesday that the combination would have "enormous consequences."

Industry observers have speculated that it is only a matter of time before the media market sees a major merger of content providers to counter the proposed consolidation of companies that distribute pay television. The Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission are scrutinizing two major planned deals on the distribution side: the combination of Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Cable and that of AT&T Inc. and DirecTV.

Maurice Stucke, a lawyer with GeyerGorey LLP and a law professor at the University of Tennessee, said the government's treatment of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable deal could set the stage for how other deals fare with regulators. "It could unleash a wave of industry transformation," he said. While the FCC is playing a prominent role in reviewing the distribution deals, it may not have a big role to play in reviewing any deal between Fox and Time Warner. While the commission polices broadcast ownership, it doesn't have similar rules that apply to cable channels, whose operators don't need federal licenses. – *Wall Street Journal*

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Gov. Tom Corbett continued his statewide pension reform roadshow Wednesday in the Lehigh Valley, where he also squeezed in an evening fundraiser with a little out-of-state GOP star power. The Republican incumbent – facing the growing prospect of becoming the first Pennsylvania governor in decades not to win a second term – brought in Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal to help bolster his campaign coffers.

Jindal joined him for an evening fundraiser at the North Whitehall Township home of David and Jackie Jaendl, the turkey farm magnates and residential and commercial land developers. Jindal said in a phone interview before the fundraiser that as vice chairman of the Republican Governors Association, he's not concerned by Corbett's poll numbers. The state's lower unemployment rate and Corbett's spending cuts are signs that he made tough but necessary choices, Jindal said. "I think Tom shows that he doesn't govern based on polls," said Jindal, describing Corbett's race as one that is "very important" to the RGA. "He knows that it's about following your principles."

Jindal is the latest Republican governor to visit the state to aid Corbett's campaign: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie stumped with him in Pittsburgh last month and Texas Gov.

Rick Perry was at an energy-themed rally in May. Corbett is facing a tough general election fight: he and Democrat Tom Wolf already are trading negative television ads skewering each other's record. Wolf's ad bashes the governor on education funding and opposing a natural gas extraction tax, while Corbett is attacking the York businessman over state taxes proposed during his tenure as state revenue secretary.

The 200-person fundraiser was anticipated to be the governor's largest in the Lehigh Valley during this election cycle. A source close to the campaign said the event was expected to raise around \$250,000. While it was a private event, some Lehigh Valley drivers still may have caught a glimpse of Jindal, who is mulling a 2016 presidential run. To greet the two Republican governors, the Jindals bought a digital billboard ad along Rt. 22, featuring headshots of the two men. As for whether Pennsylvanians may see him again in two years with his name on the ballot, Jindal chuckled and said he's been "thinking and praying" about his next steps and will be deciding sometime after November. But he was quick to add that during his travels to support various Republican candidates, he's seen "a frustration with the liberal agenda in D.C." "This country is hungry for leadership," Jindal said. "I don't think they're looking for incremental change." – *Allentown Morning Call*



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