

Roku Streaming Stick+ and Xfinity Streaming App



RH Computer and Technology Club

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Charlie Gamble

Introduction

- My wife and I want to:
 - Watch DVR recorded programs on our office TV without a rented Xfinity X1 box (the office TV is currently connected to a “legacy” Xfinity box with no DVR capability)
 - View apps not currently available on the Xfinity X1 app menu (such as Disney+)
- A friend’s discovery:
 - He wanted to watch Xfinity DVR recorded content on a TV in a room that didn’t have a cable connection or a cable box
 - A Comcast technician told him about the Xfinity Streaming app (currently available on streaming devices sold by Roku)
- Investigated a possible solution:
 - Purchased and connected a Roku streaming device to our office TV
 - Downloaded and installed the Xfinity Streaming app and Disney+ from the Roku online app store
 - Evaluated the Xfinity Streaming app on our office TV to see if it would allow us to:
 - Replace the current rented Xfinity box
 - Watch DVR recorded programs

Roku Streaming Stick+

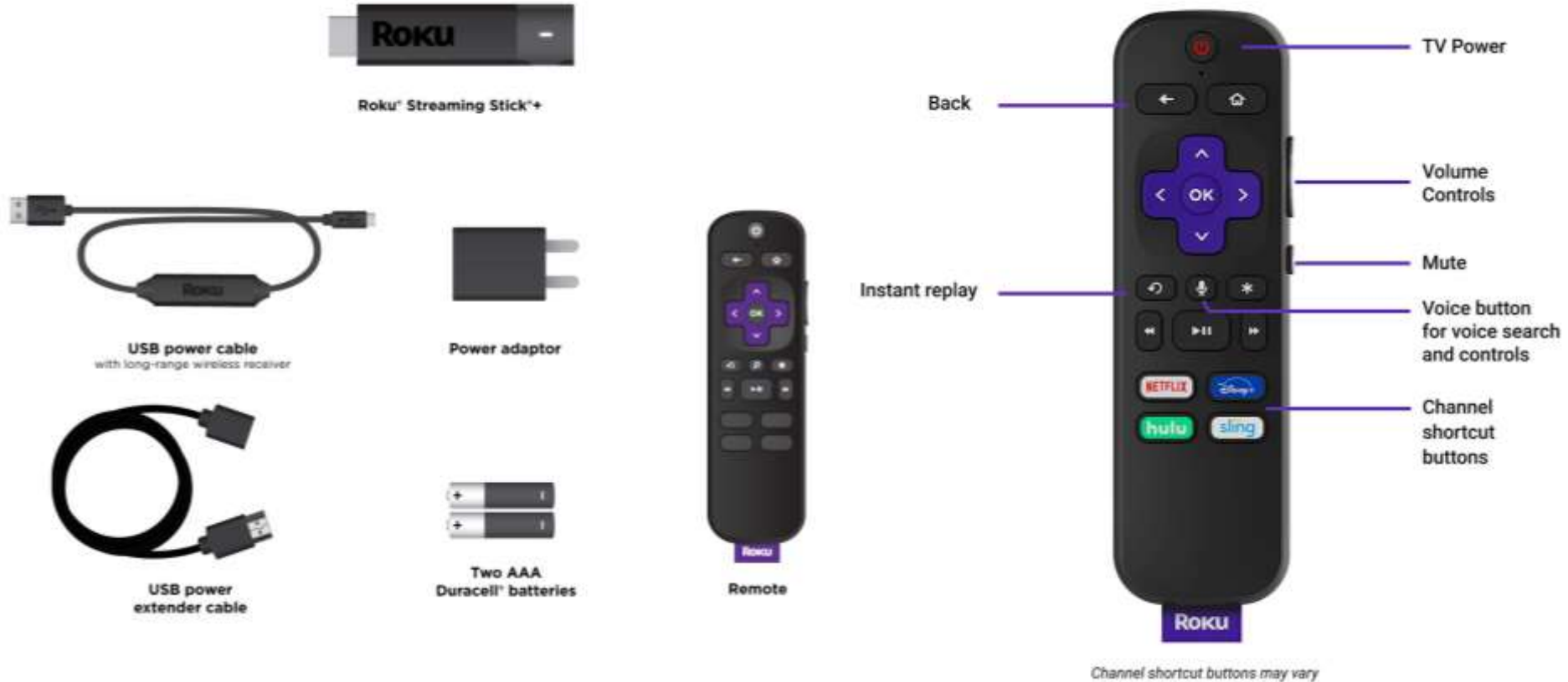
We chose the Roku Streaming Stick+ (Model 3810)

Roku sells a wide variety of streaming devices. We chose the Roku Streaming Stick+ (Model 3810) because:

- Of its cost (**\$49** from Amazon Prime)
- It supports HD and 4K UHD video formats
- It connects to available HDMI connector on an HDTV
- It provides content via available WiFi connection
- It has a voice control capability (works with Alexa & Google Assistant)

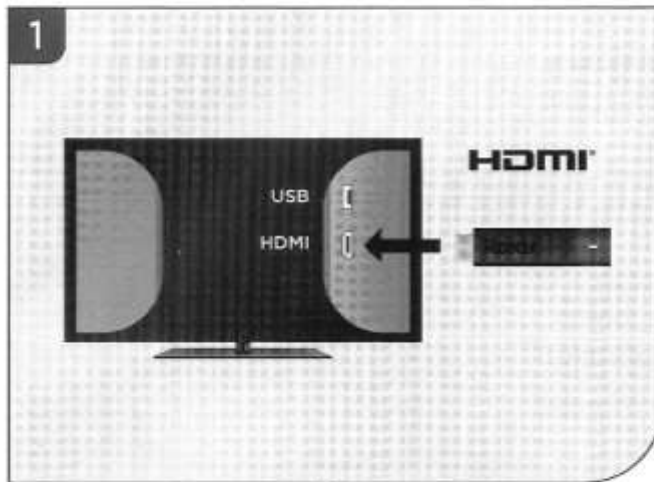


Roku Streaming Stick+ - What's Included & Remote Control Features



Roku Streaming Stick+ - Installation

Setup



STEP 1: Connect to TV

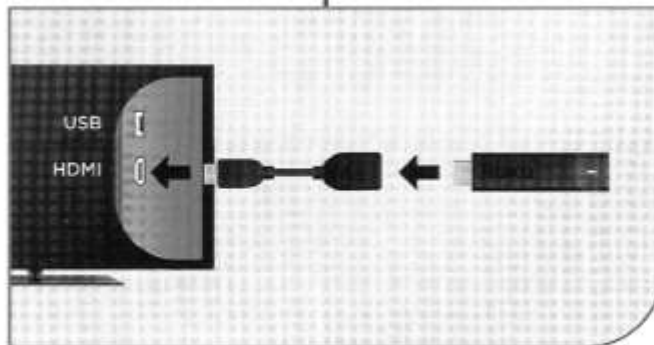
HDTVs:

Plug your streaming player into an HDMI™ port on your TV.

4K and HDR TVs:

To stream 4K or HDR, choose an HDMI port that supports **HDCP 2.2**. For help determining which port supports HDCP 2.2, visit go.roku.com/hdcp

OR



Doesn't fit?

Order a free HDMI extender cable at my.roku.com/HDMI

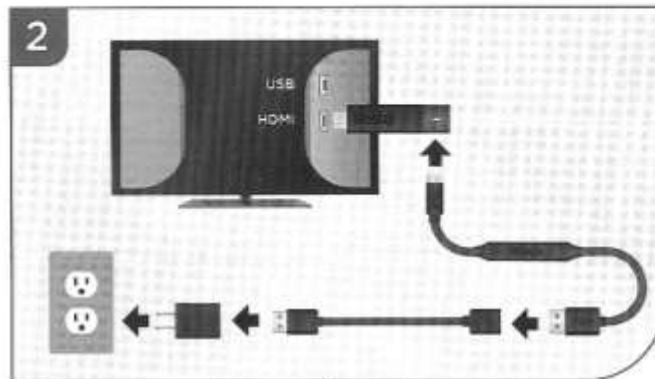


FREE

- **In our case:**

- Our office HDTV only has one HDMI connector
- We also wanted to keep the connection to the “legacy” cable box
- We installed an HDMI switch box to toggle the Roku and cable box inputs

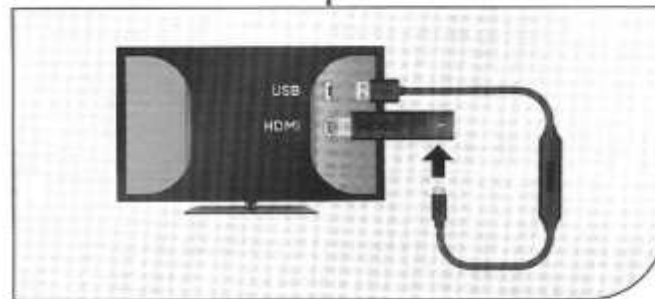
Roku Streaming Stick+ - Connect to Power



STEP 2: Connect to power

For the best streaming experience, use the included USB power cable, power extender cable and power adaptor to connect your streaming player to a wall outlet.

OR

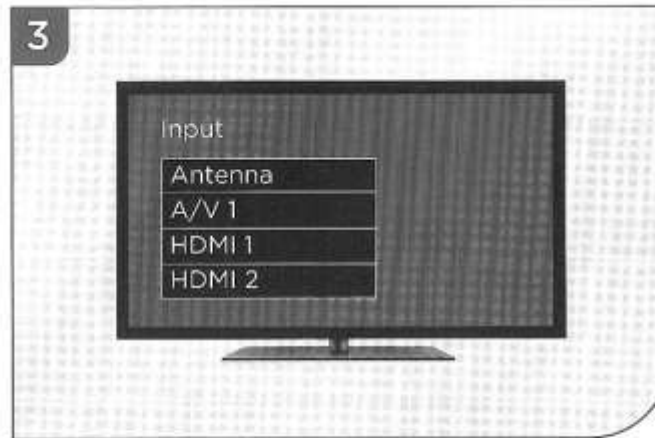


Or use the included USB power cable to connect to the USB port on your TV.



NOTE: See a red light on your streaming player? That means the USB port on your TV is not providing enough power. Use the included power adaptor instead. For help, visit [go.roku.com/lowpower](https://www.roku.com/lowpower)

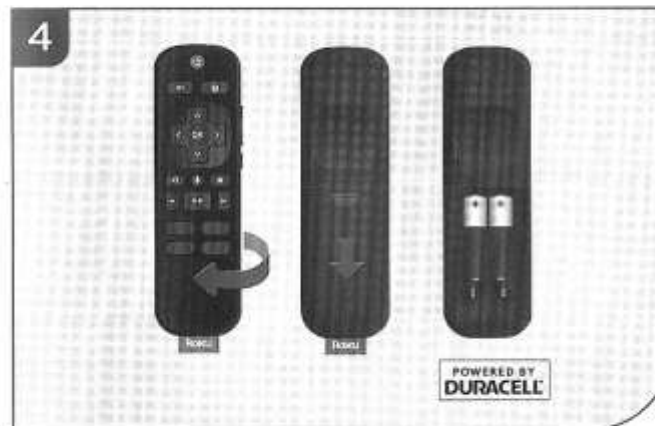
Roku Streaming Stick+ - Select TV Input & Insert Batteries in Remote Control



STEP 3: Power on TV and select input

Use your TV remote to power on your TV and select the input you used to connect your streaming player.

For help on how to select the correct input, visit go.roku.com/selectinput



STEP 4: Insert batteries

On the back side of the remote, slide open the battery cover. Insert included Duracell® batteries placing the negative (-) ends in first.

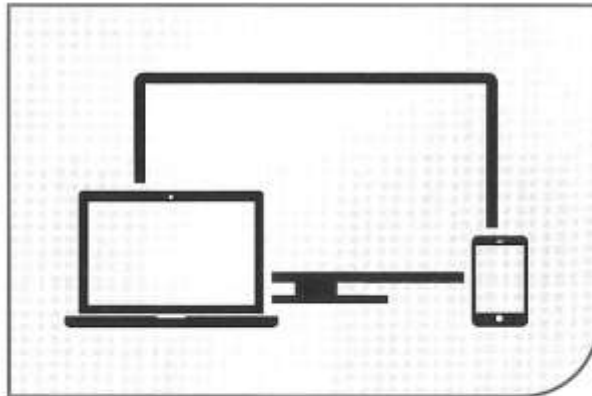
Your remote should pair with your streaming player automatically. For help pairing your remote, visit go.roku.com/remotehelp

Roku Streaming Stick+ - On-Screen Setup & Activation



STEP 5: On-screen setup and activation

Follow the instructions on your TV screen.



Activate your streaming player by using your computer or smartphone to link to a Roku account.

NOTE: Roku does not charge for activation support - **beware of scams.**

Roku Streaming Stick+ - Common Questions

Common questions

Why do I need to create a Roku account?

Before you can start streaming, channels must be downloaded and installed on your streaming player. You'll need a Roku account to access the Roku Channel Store, manage your subscriptions, view your purchase history, ~~and add a payment method.~~ For more info, visit go.roku.com/whyaccount

Why do I need to enter a credit card?

No, you don't have to provide a credit card. For more information, click the following link – ["How to Set Up Your Roku Without a Credit Card – YouTube"](#)

What should I do if my streaming player is not connecting to my wireless network?

Your streaming player connects to your wireless network the same as your laptop or smartphone. If these other devices can access the internet, then your streaming player should be able to do the same. Make sure to select the same network name, and enter the same password you use with the other devices. Remember that passwords are case-sensitive and easy to enter incorrectly. For more help, visit go.roku.com/wireless

For more information, click the following link – ["Check Internet Connection to Roku"](#)

Can I take my Roku streaming player with me when I travel?

Yes. You can bring your streaming player and watch your favorite entertainment when you travel. Remember to also bring a USB power adaptor (like your phone charger), remote, and any cables you use to connect your streaming player at home. Make sure your destination has a good internet connection. You may need a computer or smartphone to help connect your streaming player to a new wireless network. For more details, visit go.roku.com/travelwithroku

Roku Streaming Stick+ Links (1 of 2)

How to set up the Roku Streaming Stick+ (Model 3810)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xw_hW4bU_CI

How do I set up my Roku Streaming Stick+?

- <https://support.roku.com/article/115008193567-how-to-set-up-your-roku-streaming-stick->

How to use the Roku Streaming Stick: A beginner's guide - Business Insider

- <https://www.businessinsider.com/what-is-a-roku-stick-how-to-use>

How to Set Up Your Roku Without a Credit Card – YouTube

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-KuouqK1bY>

Roku Streaming Stick+ Links (2 of 2)

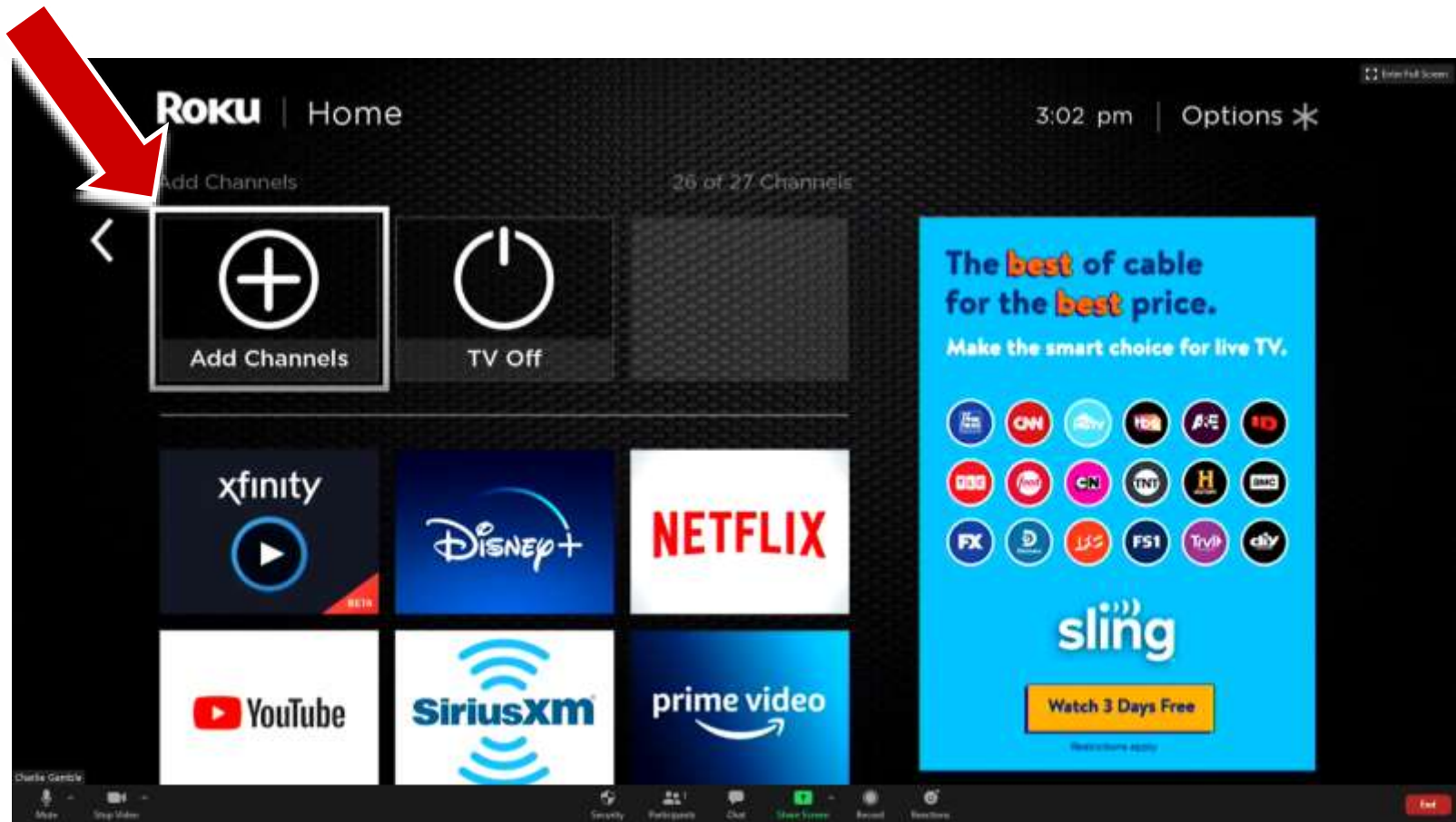
Roku Article - Wikipedia

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roku>

Roku Streaming Stick+ - Amazon.com

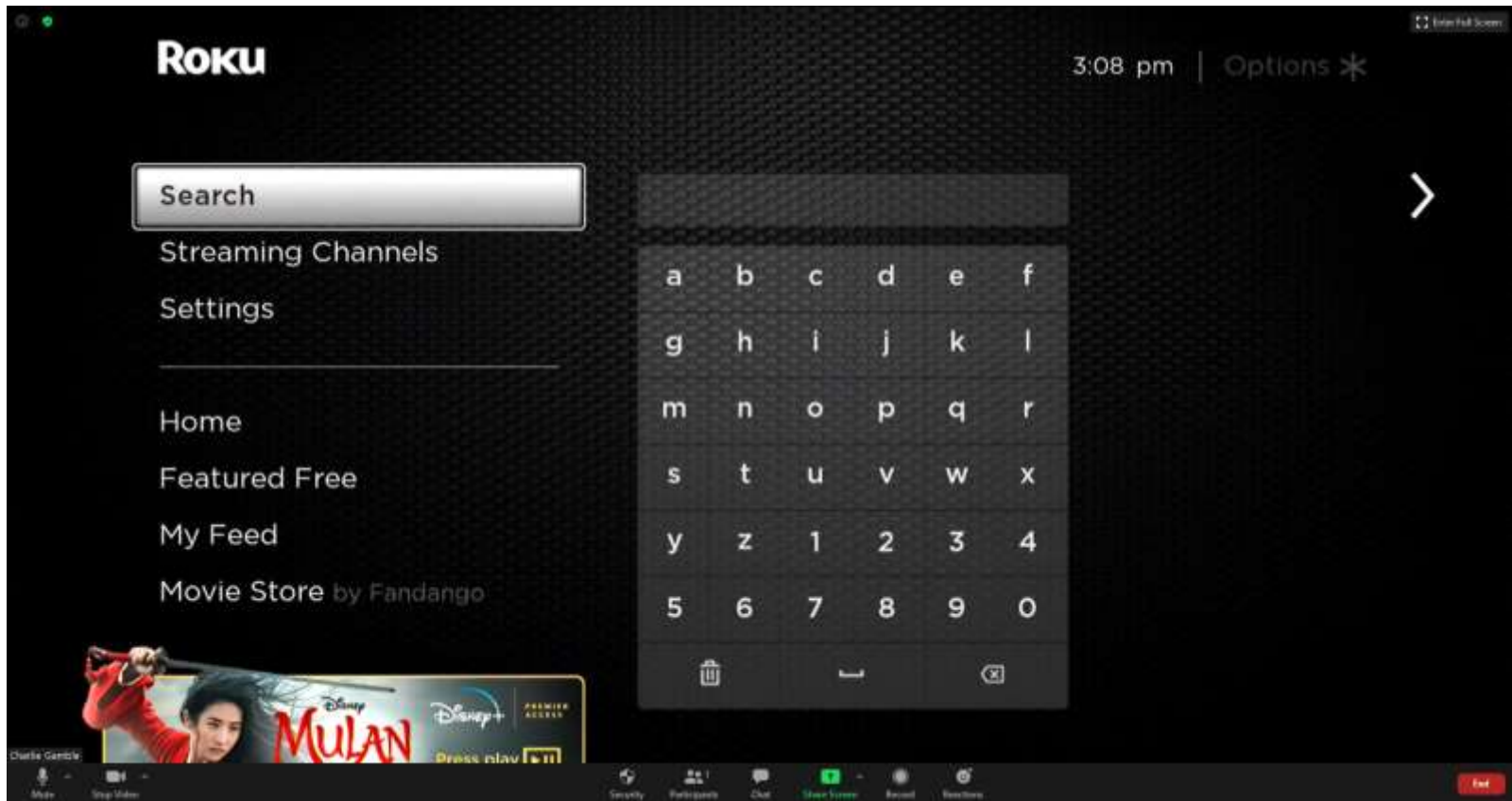
- https://www.amazon.com/Roku-Streaming-Stick-HDR-Streaming-Long-range/dp/B075XLWML4/ref=sr_1_1?crid=13UYKFSVGBQZ9&keywords=roku+streaming+stick%2B+black+3810r&qid=1579810039&srefix=Roku+Streaming+Stick%2B%2Caps%2C192&sr=8-1

Find, Download, and Install Apps (Channels) (1 of 3)

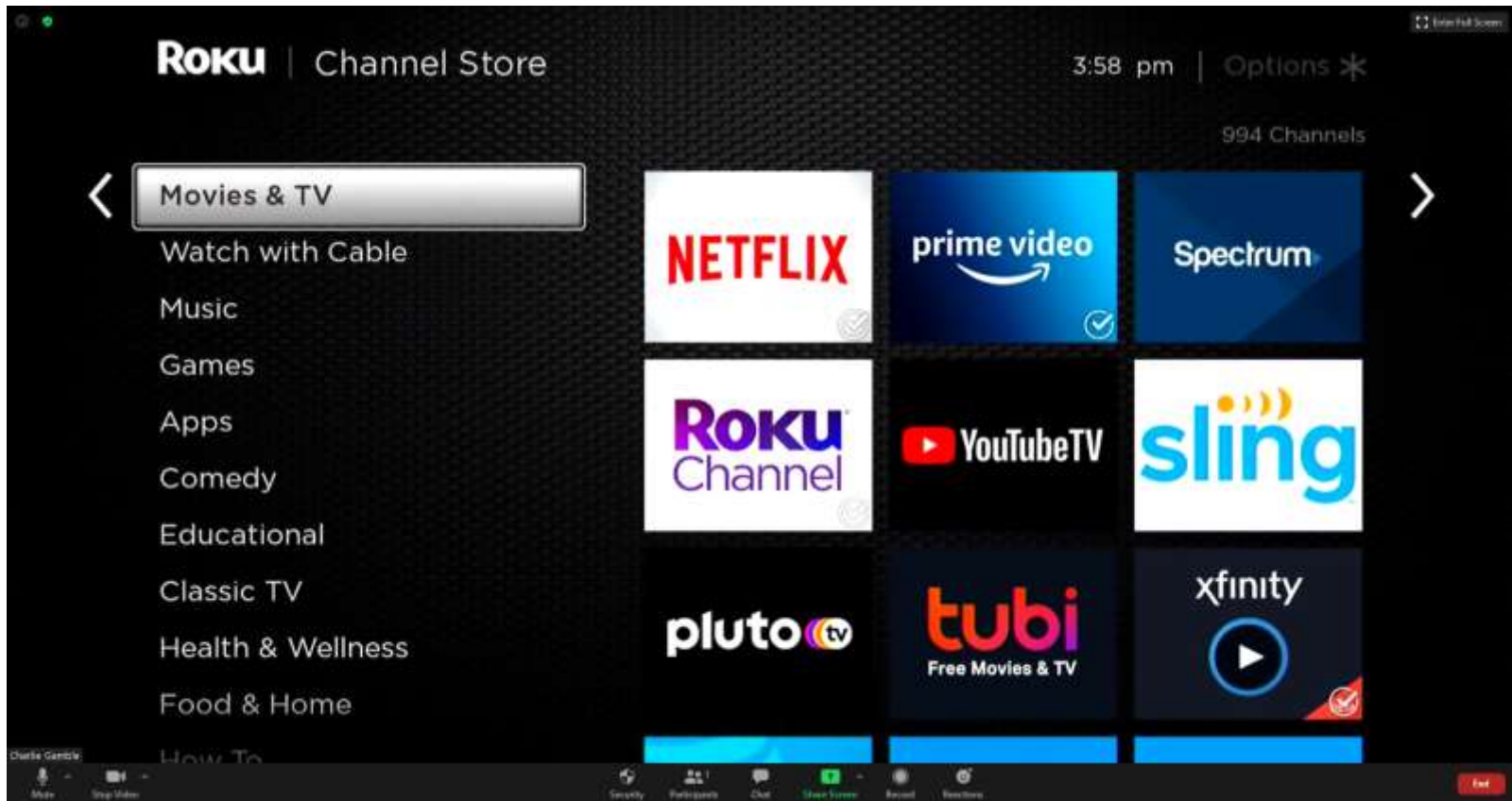


- Many apps require you to verify your cable provider (Xfinity)
- Many apps (such as Netflix, Hulu, Disney+) require the user to pay a monthly subscription fee

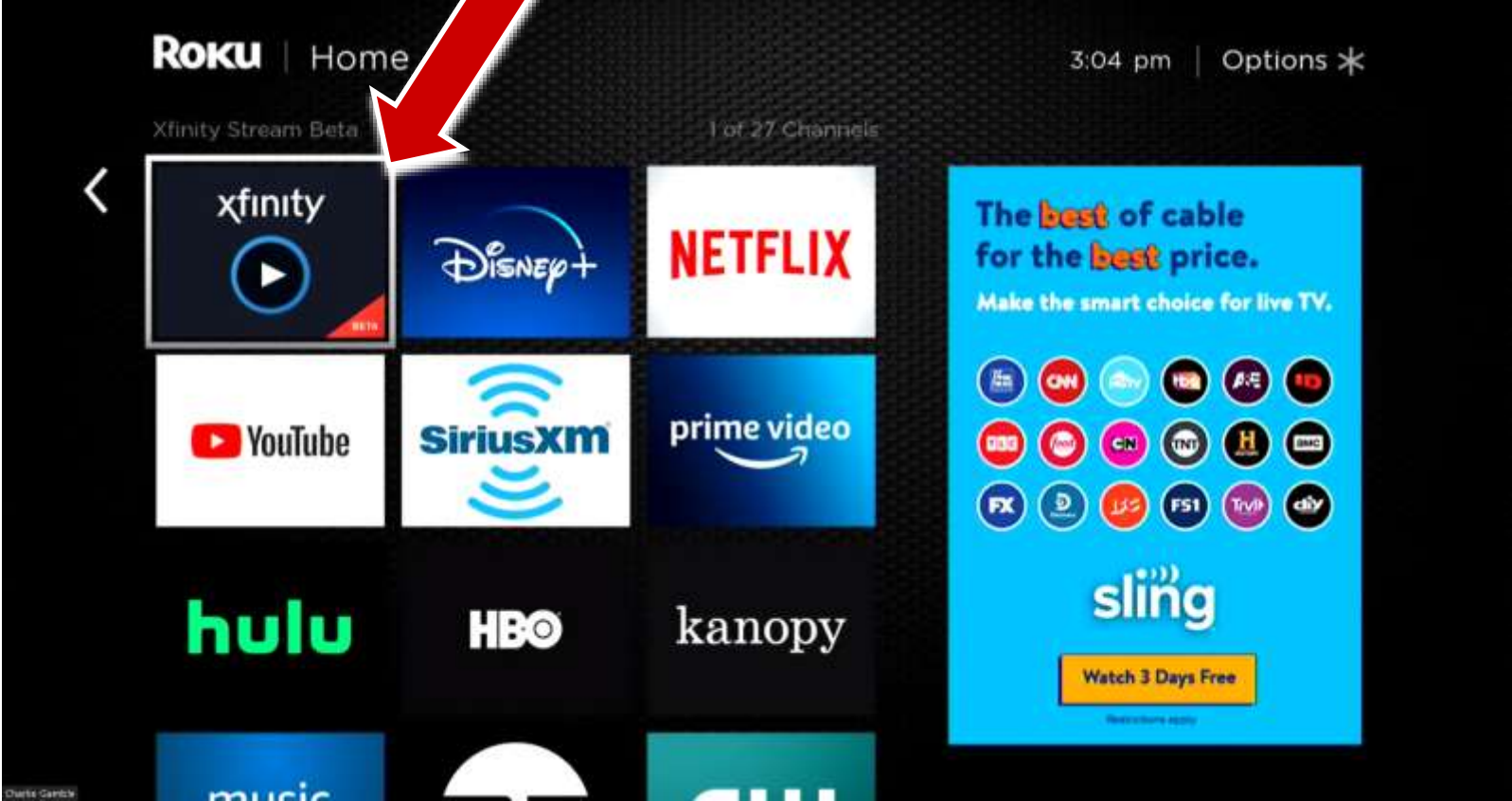
Find, Download, and Install Apps (Channels) (2 of 3)



Find, Download, and Install Apps (Channels) (3 of 3)



Xfinity Streaming App (Beta)



Xfinity Streaming App (Beta)

- Beta release:

- In 2016, Xfinity made a Beta release of the Xfinity Streaming App available for free to various streaming device manufacturers (such as Roku, Samsung Smart TVs, LG Smart TVs) so Xfinity X1 customers can evaluate it and submit feedback.
- The Xfinity Streaming is not currently (**officially**) available on Amazon Fire TV device.



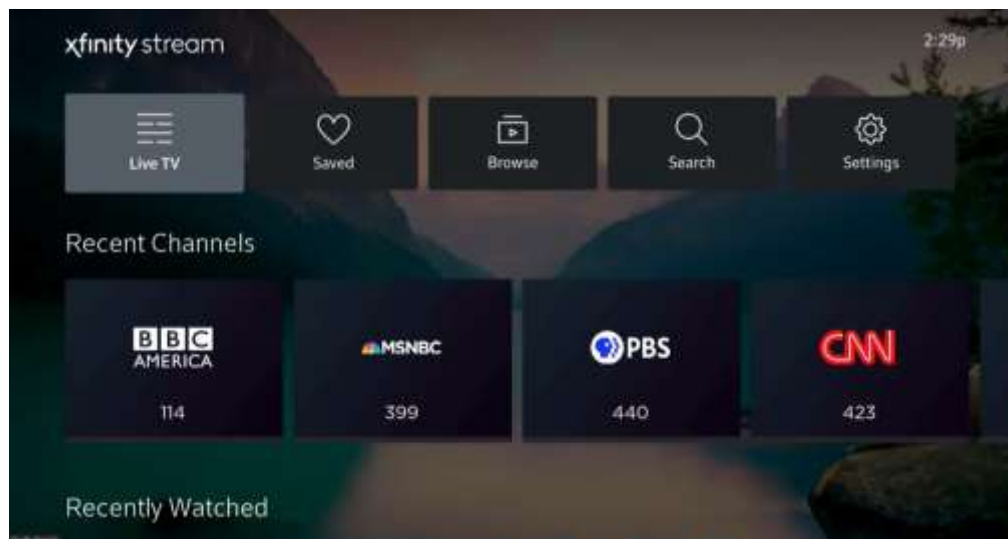
Comment:

Xfinity apparently wants to get out of the “hardware” business and become a “cord-cutting” content provider.

Xfinity wants to eventually migrate their subscribers from a hard-wired “coax” delivery system to a completely Internet and cloud-based system that relies on third party vendors (such as Roku, Amazon, and smart TV makers) to provide its hardware platforms.

Xfinity Streaming App – Main Screen




- **Live TV:** Use All Channels to see all channels with TV listings. Or, use Favorite Channels to see only your desired channels.
- **Saved:** View the For You screen, Completed Recordings, Scheduled Recordings, Favorites, Purchases, or Downloads.
- **Browse:** Find On Demand and Live programs by genre, including TV, Movies, Sports, Networks, Kids, News, Latino, and Black.
- **Search:** Find a movie, TV show, or channel
- **Settings:** Access settings such as accessibility options and Parental Controls




Xfinity Streaming App – Live TV (All Channels Schedule)

Live TV / All Channels Options | 2:30p

All Channels Favorite Channels Kids Sports Movies

Today 9/5	Now - 2:30p	3:00p	3:30p	4:00p
 2	Local Programming Ch. 2			
 3	Fútbol UEFA Nations League - Portugal vs. Croacia			
 4	The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cro	The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross		
WACX 5	Paid Programming	Paid Programming	Jump Ministries	Paid Programming



Local Programming Ch. 2

DETAILS
 2:00 - 6:00p
 2 VNN, 240min

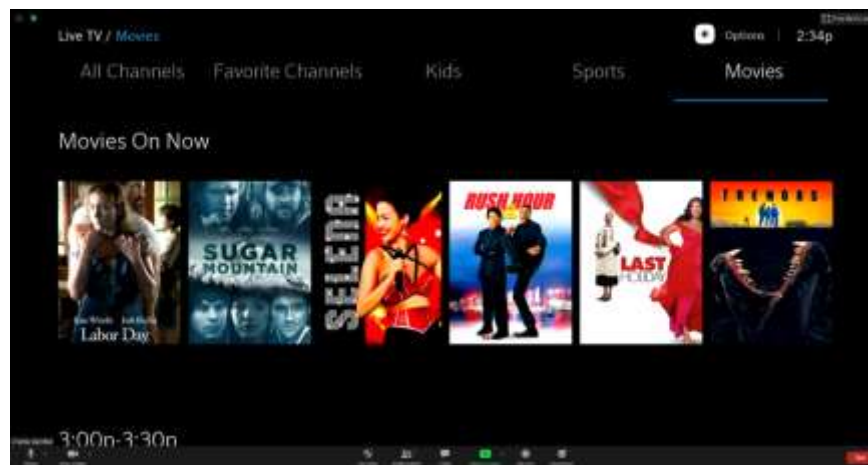
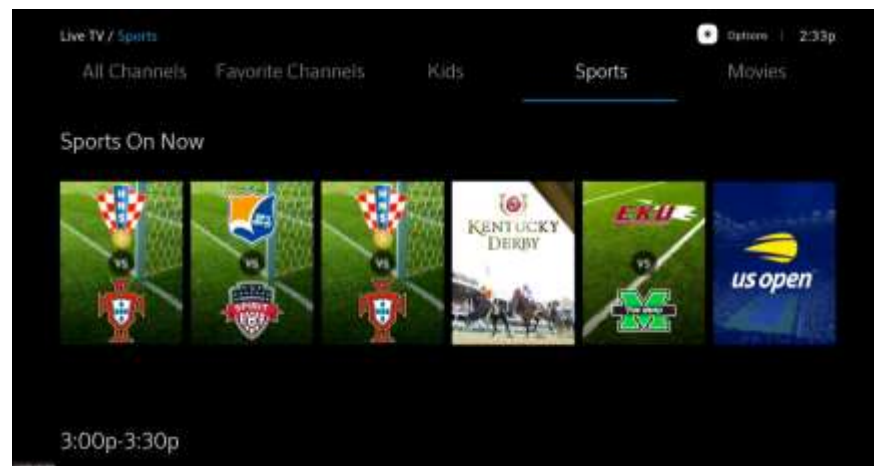
Xfinity Streaming App – Live TV (Favorite Channels Schedule)

The screenshot displays the 'Live TV / Favorite Channels' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'All Channels', 'Favorite Channels', 'Kids', 'Sports', and 'Movies'. The 'Favorite Channels' tab is selected. Below the tabs, a grid shows the schedule for various channels. The channels listed are BBC AMERICA (114), movie.com (149), GAME SHOW (179), and create (213). The schedule is organized by time slots: 'Now - 2:30p', '3:00p', '3:30p', and '4:00p'. The current time is 2:31p. A detailed view for 'Planet Earth: Blue Planet II - One Ocean' is shown at the bottom, including a thumbnail, title, description, and details like 'REPEAT (1/20/18) S2 Ep1', '2:00 - 3:00p', '114 BBC, 60min', 'TV-8 CC', and 'age 7+'. The bottom navigation bar includes icons for Home, Search, My List, Live TV, Record, and Favorites.

Channel	Now - 2:30p	3:00p	3:30p	4:00p
BBC AMERICA 114	Planet Earth: Blue Planet II	Planet Earth: Blue Planet II		Planet Earth: Blue Planet II
movie.com 149	An American Tail	An American Tail: Fievel Goes West		An American Tail
GAME SHOW 179	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Cash Cab
create 213	Suze Orman's Ultimate Retirement Guide			Rick Steves Fascism

Planet Earth: Blue Planet II - One Ocean
REPEAT (1/20/18) S2 Ep1 Life exists in nearly every part of the oceans, and the different regions present unique challenges for its inhabitants.
DETAILS
2:00 - 3:00p
114 BBC, 60min
TV-8 CC
age 7+

Xfinity Streaming App – Live TV (Kids, Sports, & Movies)

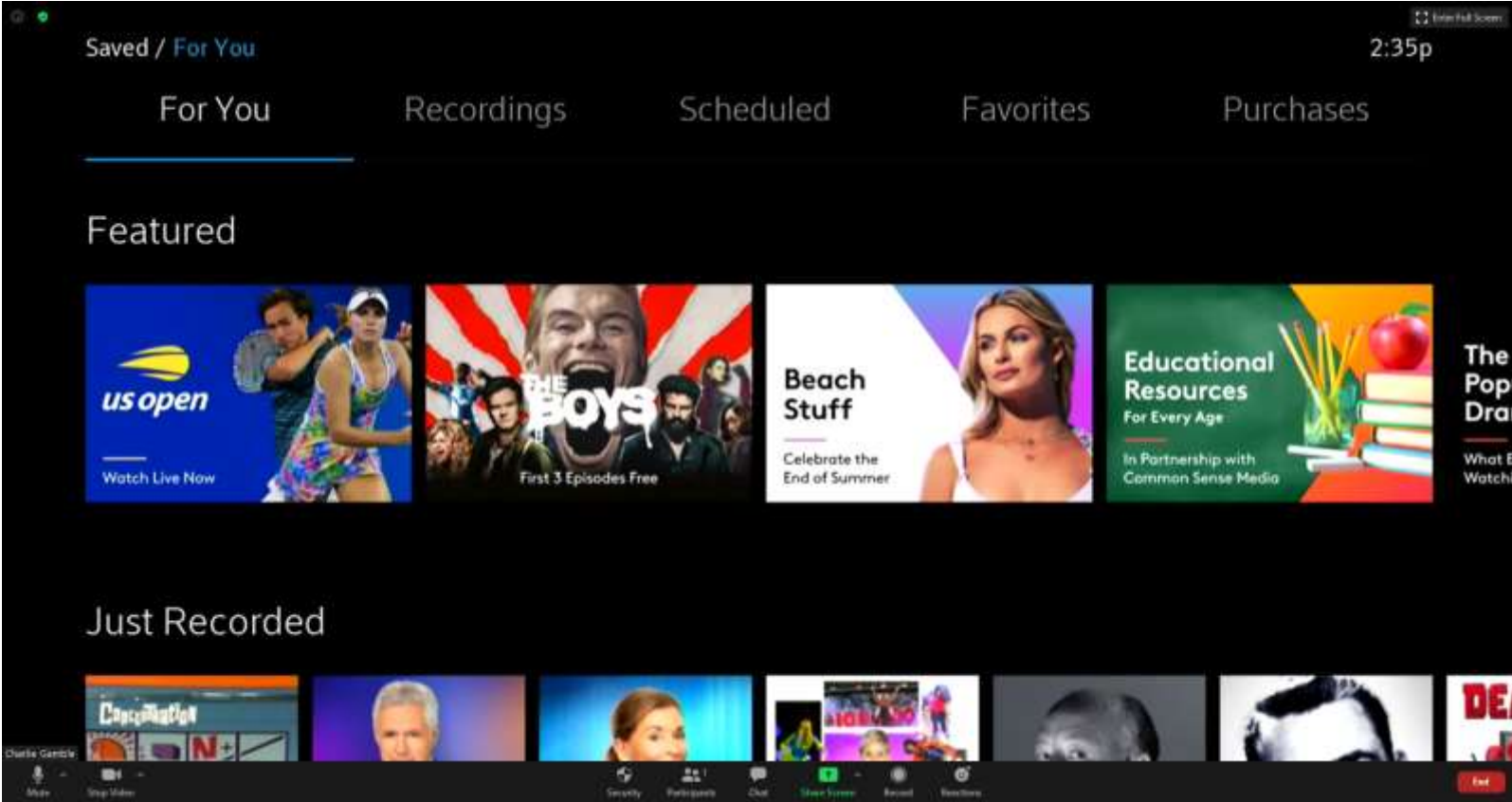


Xfinity Streaming App – Live TV (Drawback)

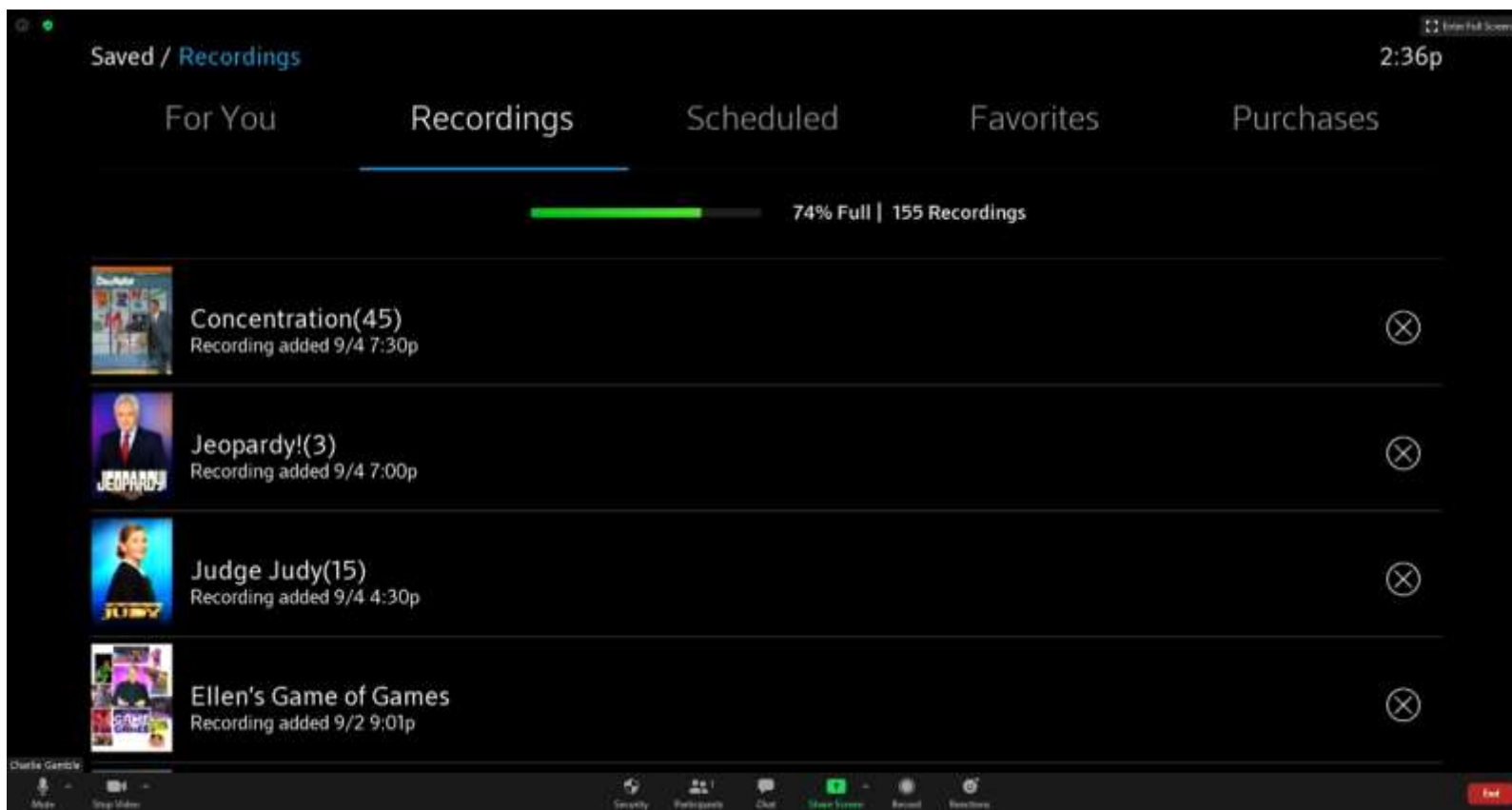


Unable to Pause, Rewind, or Fast Forward Live TV Programs
(No buffering)

Xfinity Streaming App – Saved/For You



Xfinity Streaming App – Saved/Recordings



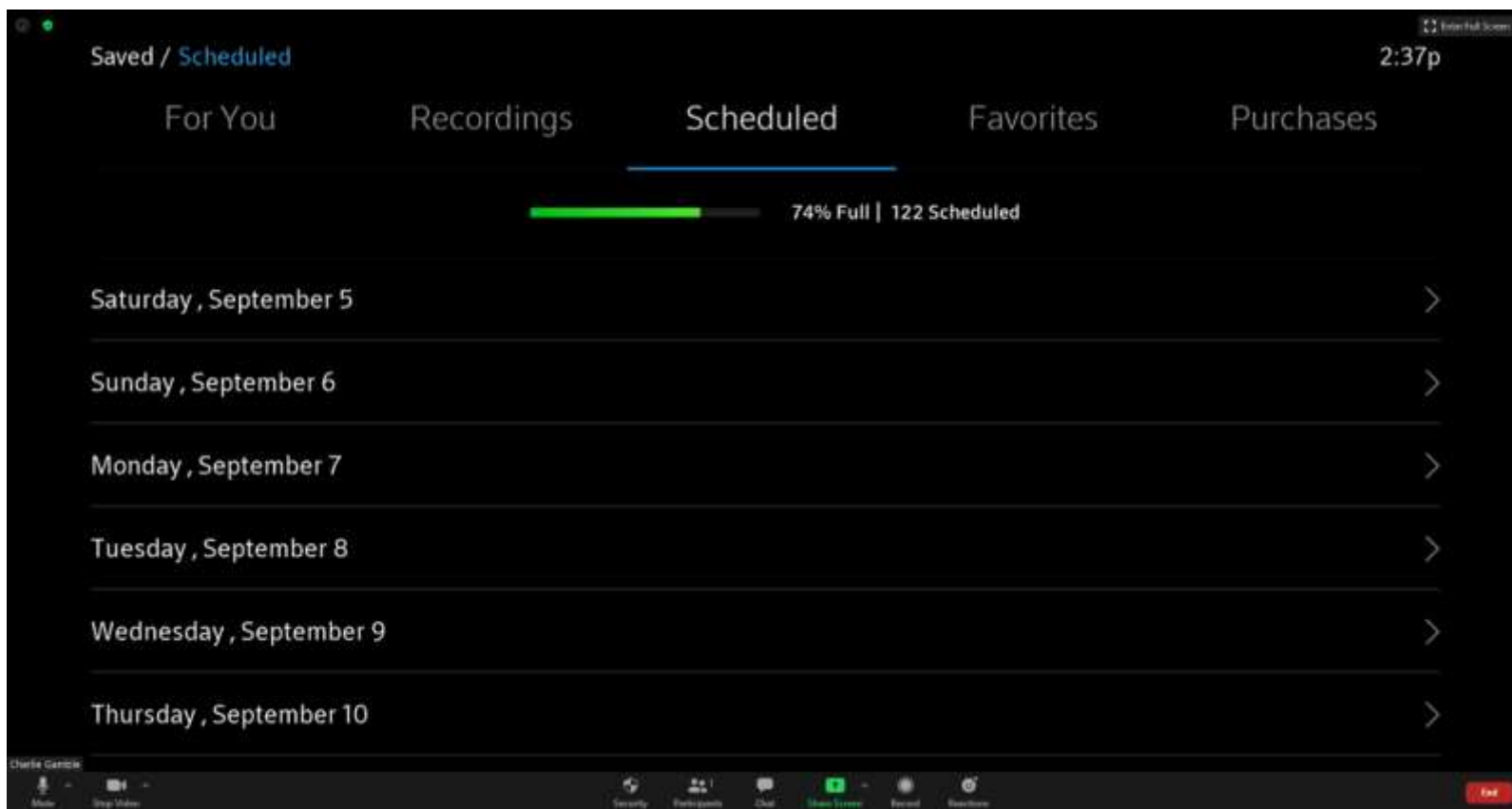
GLITCH: The Recordings (DVR) list doesn't always show all of the programs recorded using the full X1 cable platform.

Xfinity Streaming App – Recorded TV (Drawback)

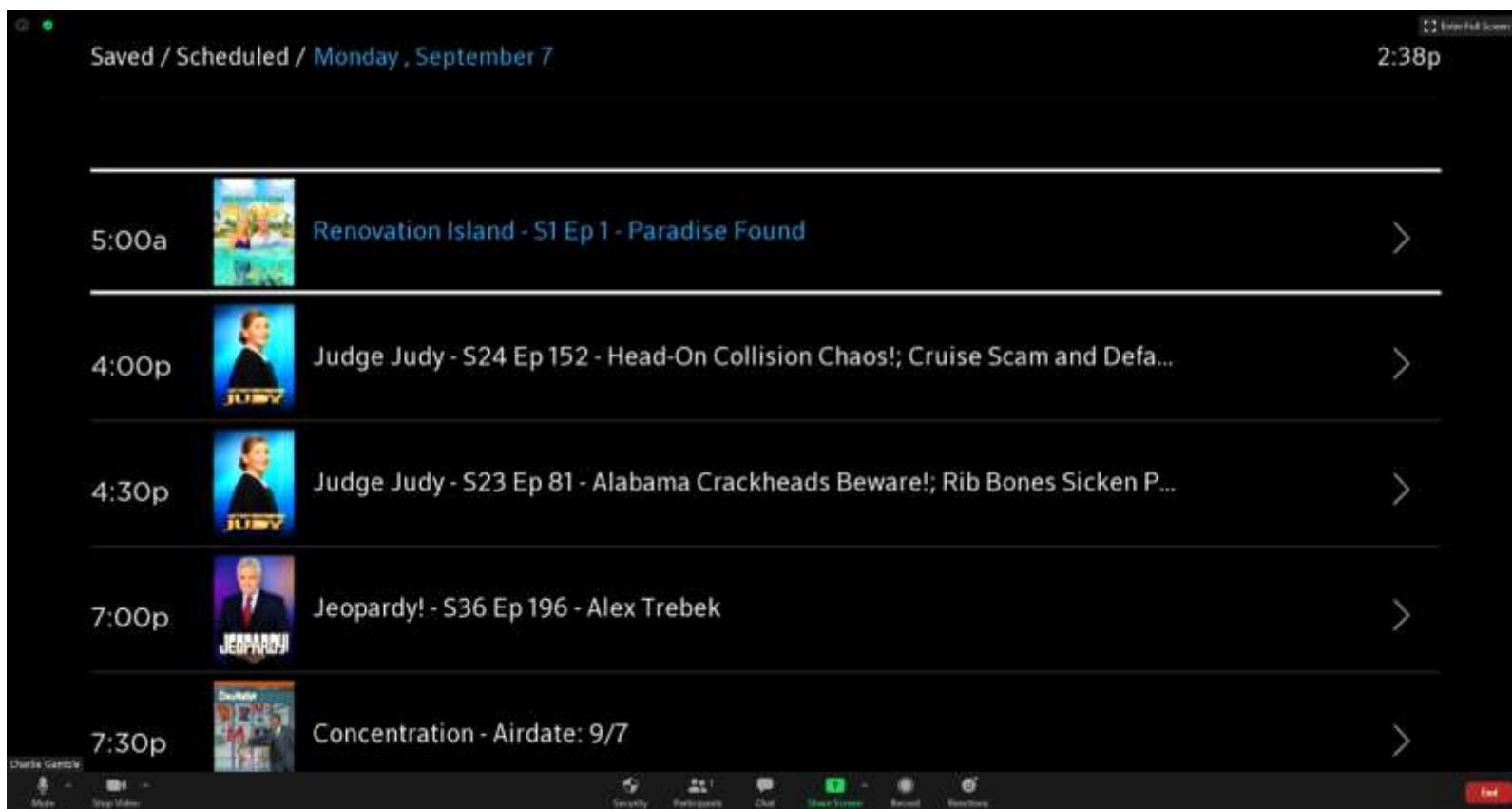


When Rewinding or Fast Forwarding a recorded program, the image remains paused (“frozen”) until the action is finished. This means the user doesn’t know if the program is at the desired point.

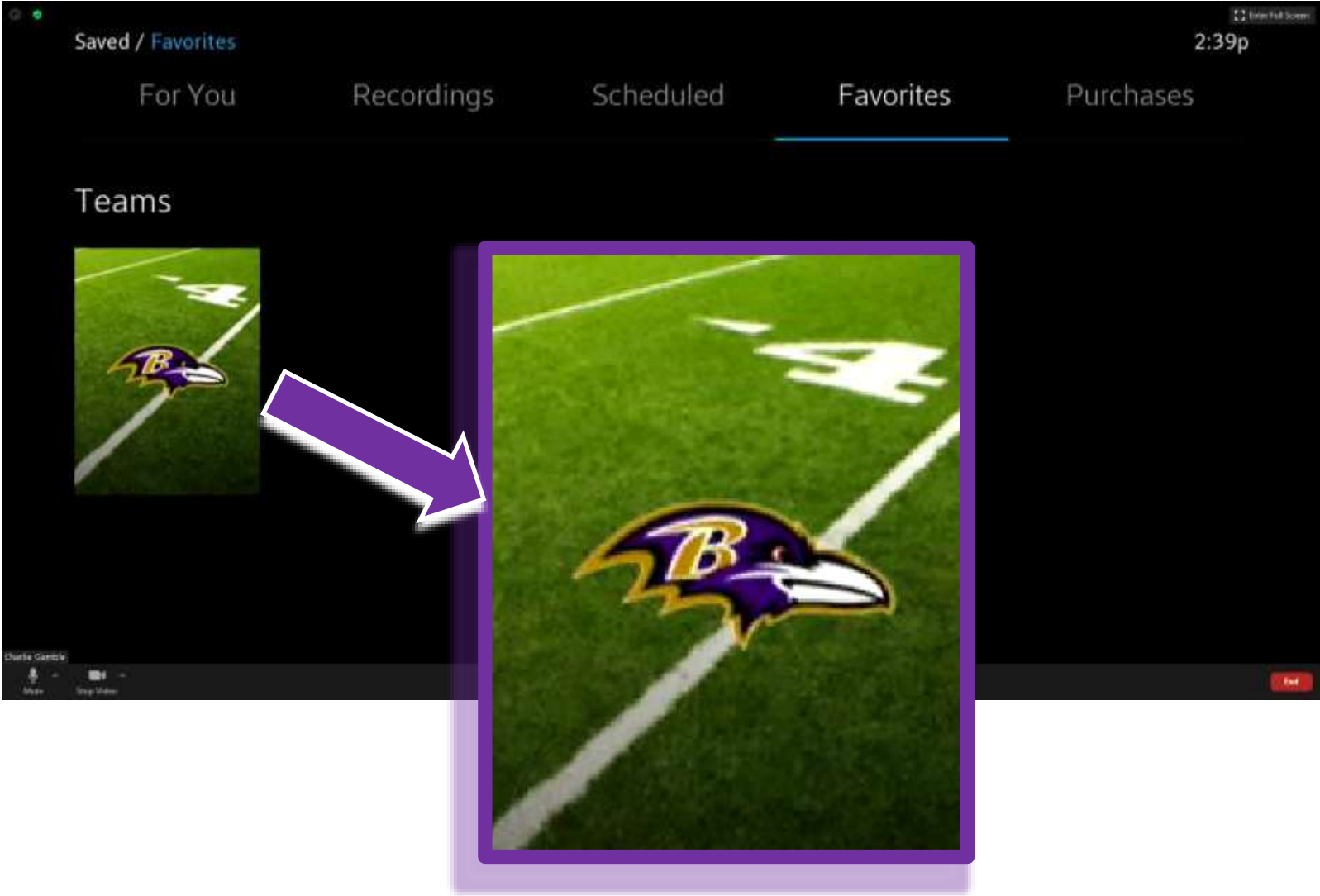
Xfinity Streaming App – Saved/Scheduled (1 of 2)



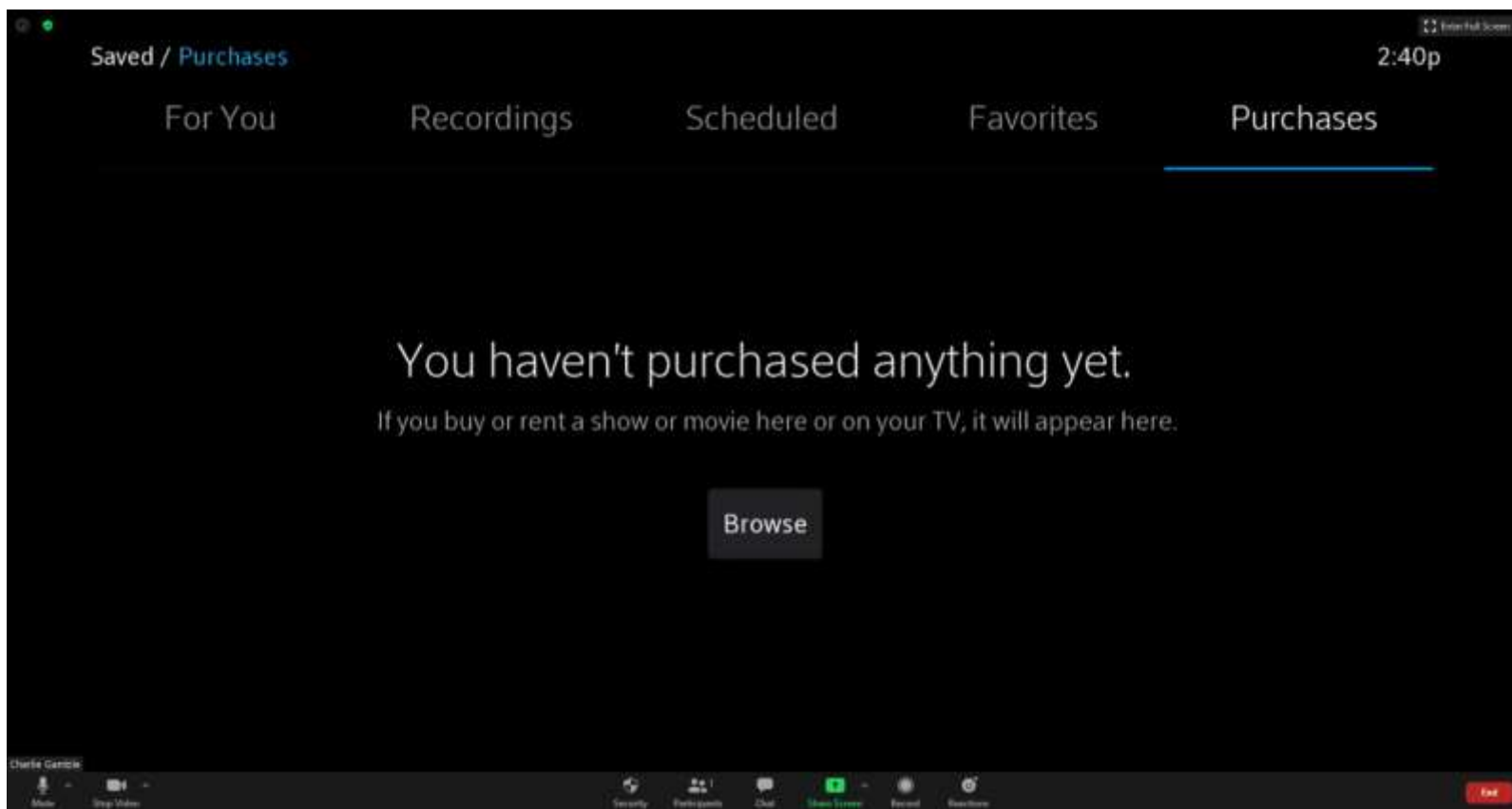
Xfinity Streaming App – Saved/Scheduled (2 of 2)



Xfinity Streaming App – Saved/Favorites

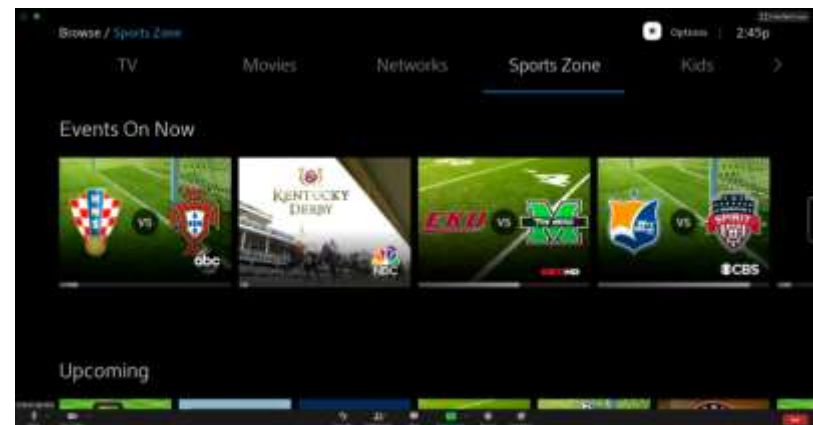
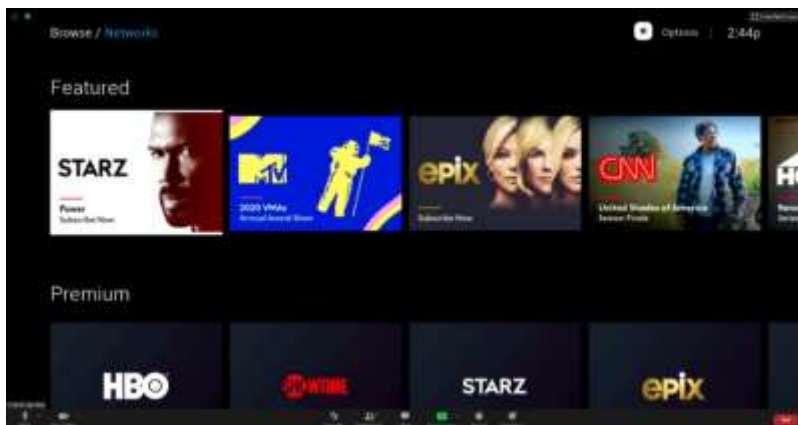
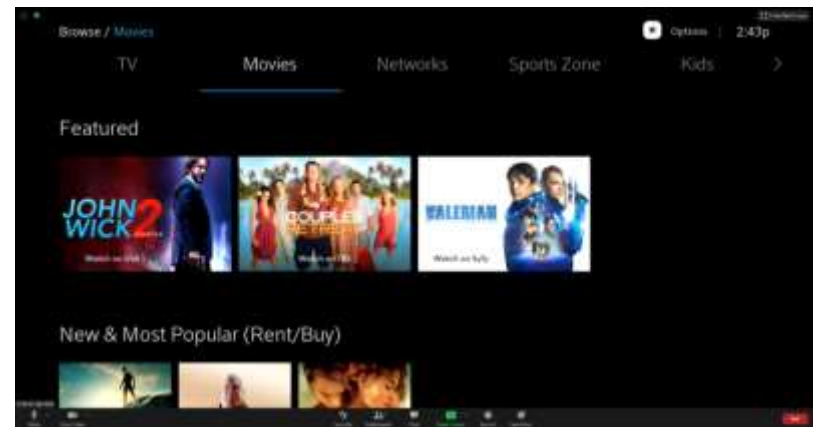
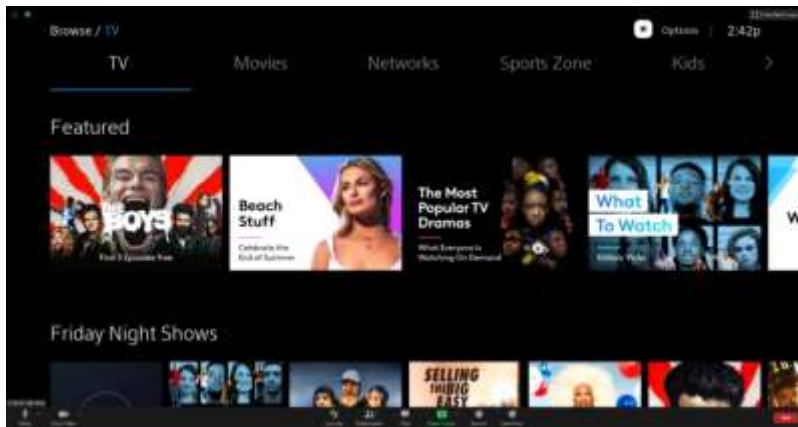


Xfinity Streaming App – Saved/Purchases



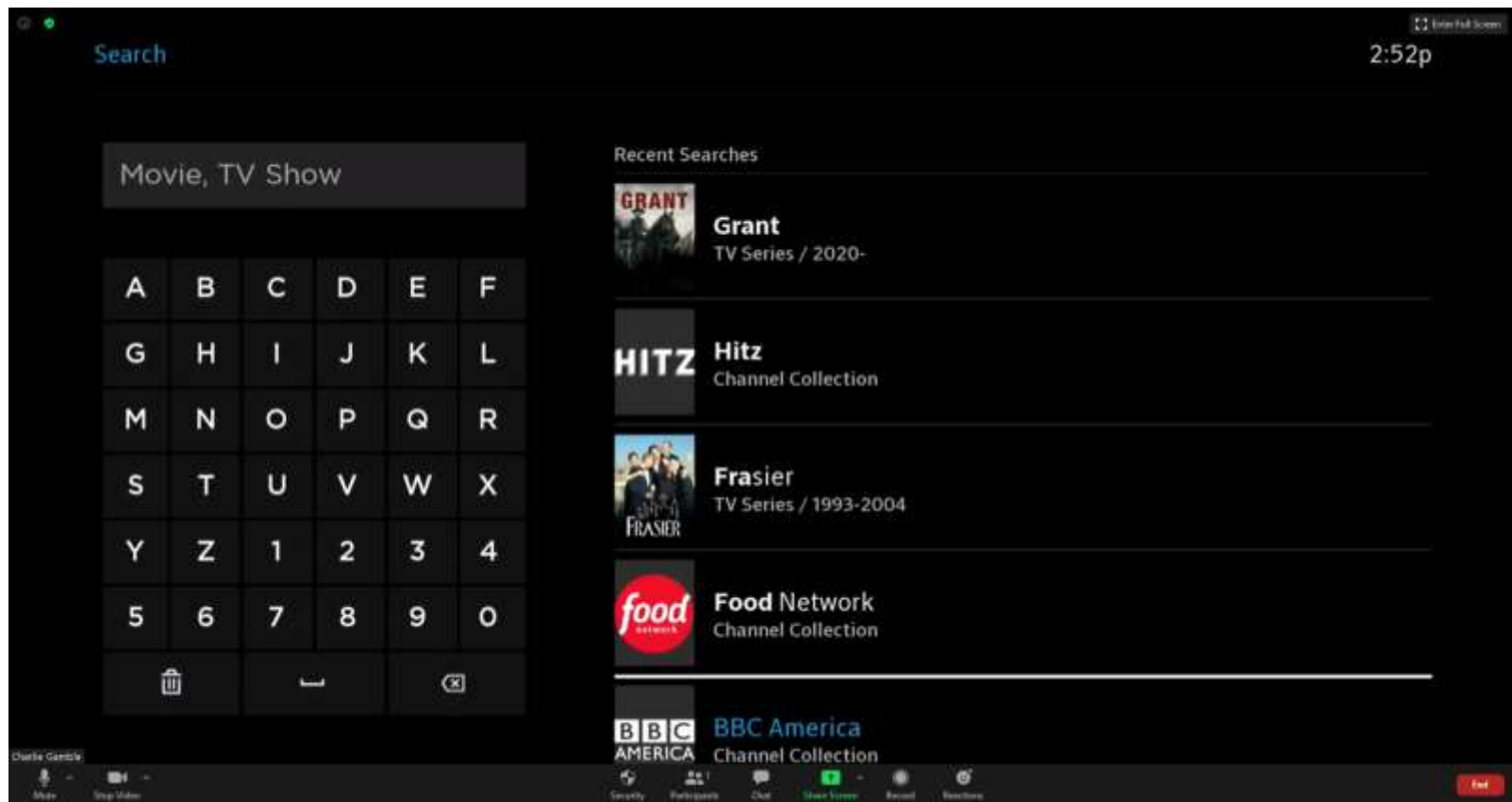
Xfinity Streaming App – Browse

Browse Live TV and On Demand programs by TV, Movies, Networks, Sports, Kids, News, Latino, and Black categories.

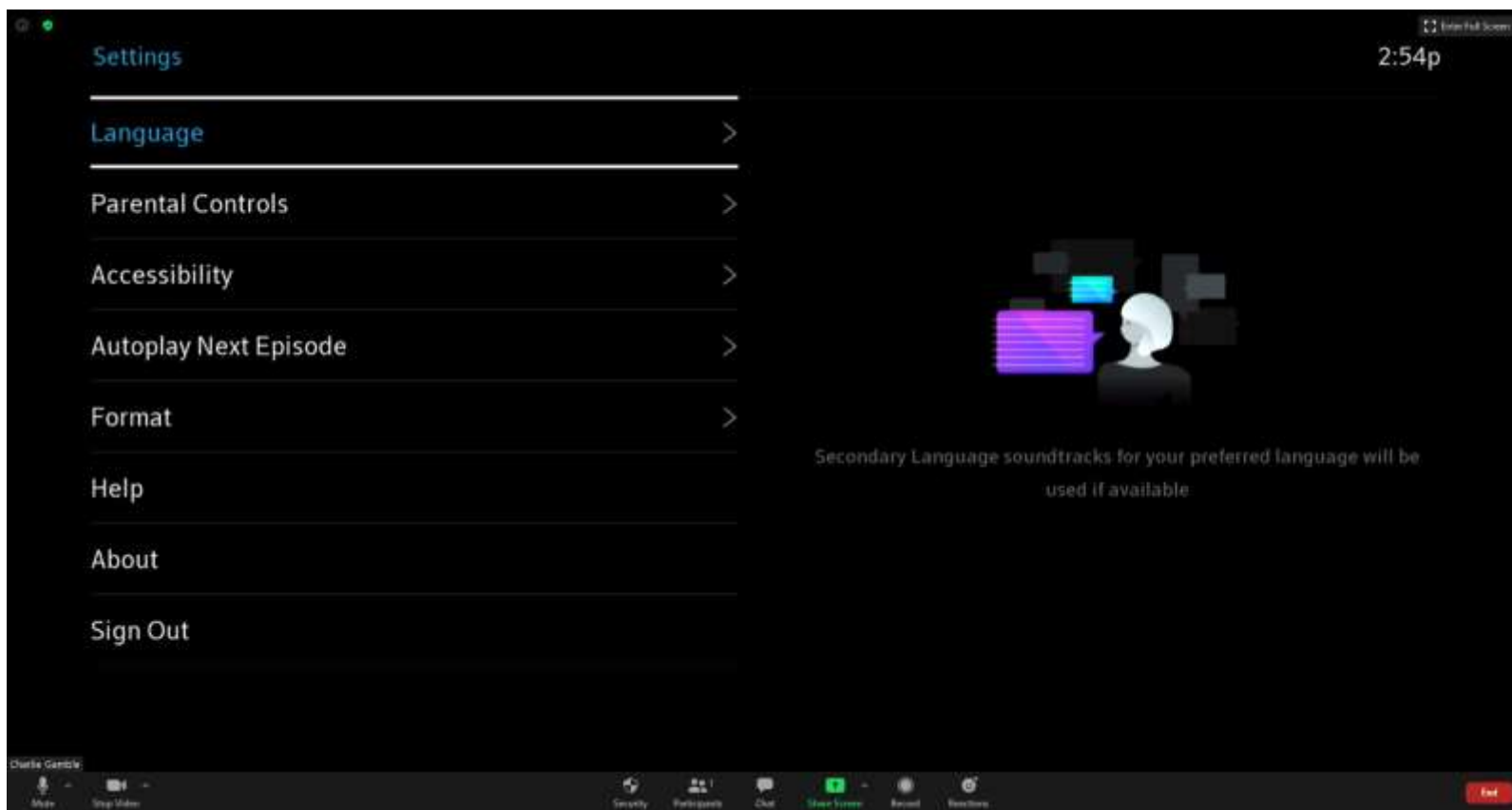


Xfinity Streaming App – Search

Search for a movie, TV show or channel.



Xfinity Streaming App – Settings (1 of 2)



Access user settings such as accessibility options and Parental Controls.

Xfinity Streaming App – Settings (2 of 2)

- Modify the following app settings:
 - **Language:** Selects secondary language soundtracks (if available), including: French, German, Italian, Spanish
 - **Parental Controls:** Restricts viewing of certain types of content
 - **Accessibility:** Enables audio descriptions of a video program
 - **Autoplay Next Episode:** Enables the option (after watching an episode of a TV series) to automatically start the next episode
 - **Format:** Selects the best watching option for Live TV programs
 - **Help:** Displays URL links to learn about the Xfinity Streaming app and to submit feedback
 - **About:** Displays URL links to general Terms & Policies as well as Privacy information
 - **Sign Out:** Allows the user to sign out of (exit) the Xfinity Streaming app

Xfinity Streaming App - Pros and Cons

Pros:

1. Doesn't need a coax cable connection, only an Internet connection & an Xfinity account.
2. Allows user to schedule & record programs.
3. Access to previously recorded programs.
4. Access to On Demand content.
5. Has pause, rewind, & fast forward functions for recorded programs.
6. App is free (**for now**).

Cons:

1. Unable to pause, rewind, or fast forward "live" programs (no buffering).
2. Pause, rewind, & fast forward functions for recorded programs is limited. The image on the screen remains "frozen" until the action is done.
3. The Recordings (DVR) list doesn't show all of the programs recorded using the full X1 cable platform.

Some Thoughts & Conclusions...

- The Xfinity Streaming App has many functions that approximate the Xfinity X1 hardware platform:
 - DVR functionality (schedule, record, and play TV programs)
 - Ability to customize the Live TV channel menu
 - Access to On Demand content
- However, the Xfinity Streaming App has limitations/glitches:
 - DVR (fast forward & rewind limits of recorded programs)
 - DVR program list glitch (full list of recorded programs don't always appear)
 - Live TV (No pause, rewind, or fast forward functions)
- Is the Beta version of the Xfinity Streaming App “Ready for Prime Time”?
 - At this time, the answer is: **NO!**
 - Xfinity has to add much more functionality (& fix some glitches) to make its streaming app a satisfactory alternative to its current X1 cable platform.

Xfinity Streaming App - Links

Xfinity Streaming App information:

- <https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/getting-started-xfinity-tv-mobile-app>

Learn more about the Xfinity Streaming App Beta:

- <https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/xfinity-stream-beta-app-faqs>

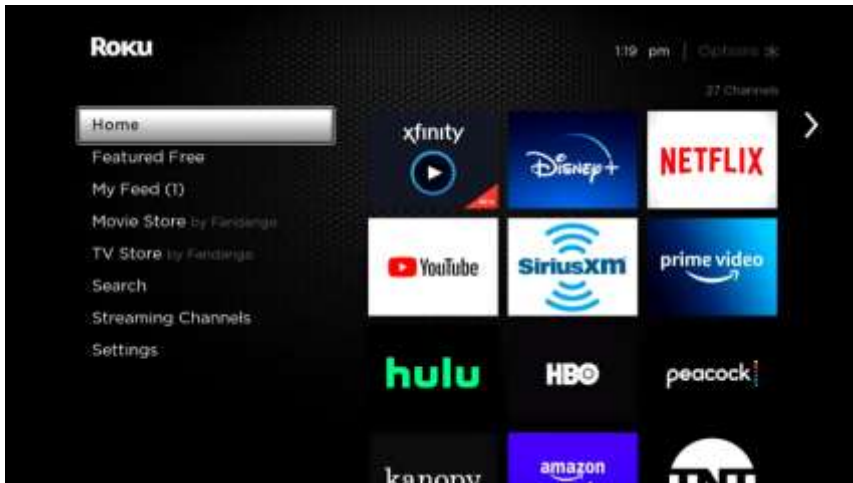
Latest announcements and to submit feedback:

- <https://forums.xfinity.com/t5/Stream-TV-App/XFINITY-Stream-on-Roku/m-p/2834869#M3522>

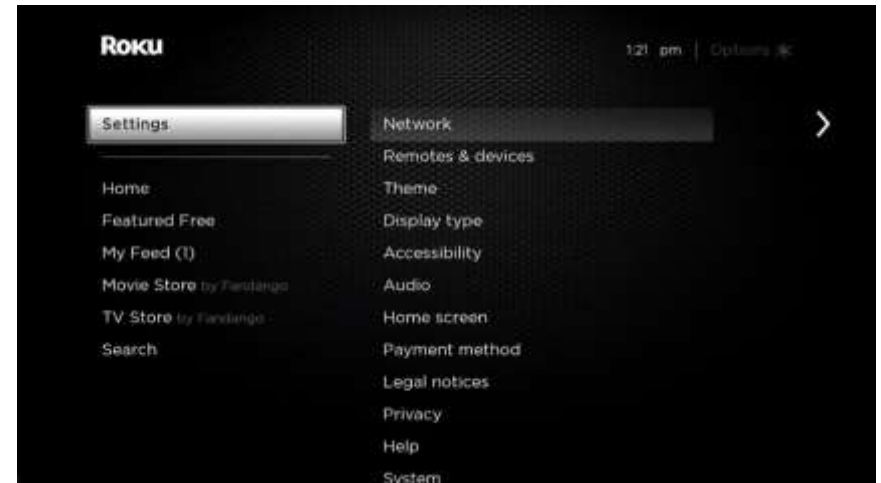
Questions

Bonus Slides: Check Internet Connection to Roku (1 of 2)

1. On the Roku Home screen, select **Settings**



2. Select **Network**



3. Select **Check connection**

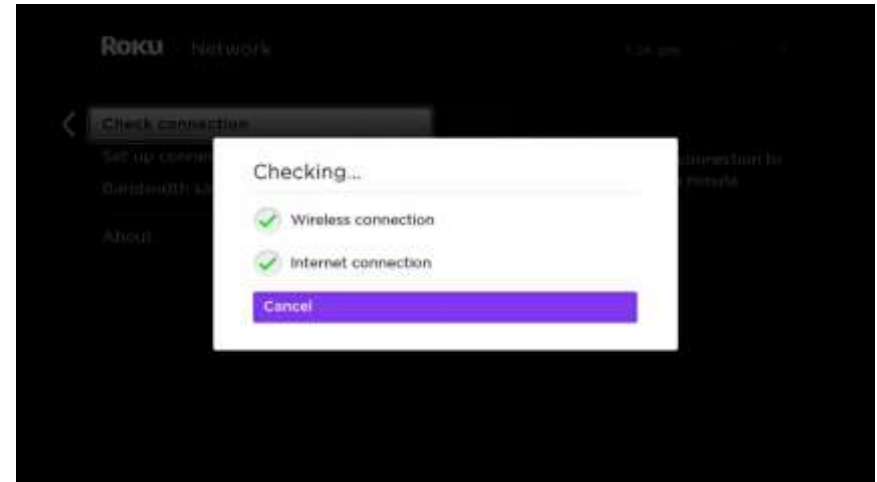


Bonus Slides: Check Internet Connection to Roku (2 of 2)

4. Select **Check connection**



5. Checking wireless and Internet connections



6. Connection test results are displayed

