



STREAMING IN LaCHOLLA

With the current trend of "cutting the cable", many Vecinos are curious if streaming will work for them at their Cholla home. First, in order to use any streaming service, you must have access to the internet. Many Vecinos have had landlines with DSL service at their homes for years. This service has been provided by TelMex and is extremely cost effective. The service starts at \$389 MX monthly, which is less than \$20. TelMex advertises speeds up to 500Mbps, but the best they can do in Cholla is 50Mbps. For most of us, the current service is fast enough for streaming services. There are other options available. These include Starlink and TelCel. These services do not require a wired connection. I understand Starlink is amazing, but expensive. TelCel, like TelMex is quite cost effective. Once you have established internet service, then you need to explore the streaming options. Many of the newer televisions are "smart TVs". They have streaming services preinstalled on the TV. These smart TVs are able to download additional services as they become available. If your TV isn't quite so smart, you can buy an inexpensive device where the streaming services are installed. Your TV would access the streaming services through the auxiliary device. These devices are Roku, Firestick and I'm sure there are others. Not every streaming service is available in Mexico and the available services, such as Netflix, have their programming limited by Mexican law. Some of the streaming services are free; many have a subscription fee that varies depending on your requirements, such as advertising vs no advertising. There is a way around the legal limitations of the Mexican internet. The way around the limitation is a VPN. That is a virtual private network. With a VPN, the streaming provider will not know that you are actually in Mexico, so you receive all of the same programming you enjoy north of the border. There are many VPN providers, but a hands-down favorite is ExpressVPN. Express VPN requires an annual subscription, which currently is \$99 US. If you install ExpressVPN on a compatible router, anything device connected to the router is protected by the VPN. The Mexican router receives the DSL signal, but the VPN compatible router is the only device connected to the Mexican router. All other devices access the internet through the VPN compatible router. Devices, such as VOIP telephones can be connected to the VPN compatible router with either a wired or WIFI connection.

The Express VPN website lists the compatible routers available from various manufacturers. Some of these routers come with the ExpressVPN software preloaded, which makes setting up a VPN at your Cholla home even easier. Here is a link to all of the information from the ExpressVPN website:

www.expressvpn.com/vpn-software/vpn-router

Saludos and happy streaming!!