Taking Control of the Media

4 Systems to Help

1. **Circle Home Plus** (www.meetcircle.com) - This device helps you to filter, control, track, block, and monitor all internet devices in your home. You can even set up to 10 phones that can be monitored outside of your home.

Pros:
- It works with laptops, tablets, phones, and gaming systems.
- It takes charge of everything and has different levels for kids and teens and a ton of options.

Cons:
- It costs $129 and after the first year the service costs $10 a month.
- It can be a little tough to set up.

2. **Vidangel** (www.vidangel.com) - This service filters movies and tv shows that stream on Netflix and Amazon Prime. It can also filter many movies that you may own digitally that sync with Amazon through Movies Anywhere.

Pros:
- The service is fast to provide filters for Netflix shows like Stanger Things,
- The service has a ton of TV shows - Band of Brothers, Game of thrones (requires an HBO subscription through Amazon Prime), Seinfield, etc.
- The filters are extremely precise and numerous.
- Vidangel can work from a phone or a tablet through the vidangel app and can be streamed to any TV that has a Google Chromecast plugged in.

Cons:
- It costs $7.99 per month to use.
- Vidangel does not work with some studios - namely Disney/Marvel films. For Marvel movies, check out Clearplay.
- The service can sometimes be a little clunky. For the best results, use on a laptop with an HDMI connection to a TV.

3. **Clearplay** (www.clearplay.com) - This service filters movies that steam on Amazon Prime or that you may own digitally on Amazon through syncing through Movies Anywhere. This service requires you to install a free plugin to the Google Chrome web browser to work. The service costs $10 a month to use.

Pros:
- Works with all Marvel movies!
- Can be cast to a TV from a computer or laptop using a Google Chromecast. If you do not have a Google Chromecast, you can connect your HDMI laptop port to your TV if you use an HDMI cable.
- Like VIdangel, the filters are very thorough and precise.

Cons:
- Does not work with any TV shows.
- Does not work with a lot of older movies.
- The price is the most expensive monthly cost for filtering.

4. **Vudu** (https://www.watchvudu.com/familyfeatures/) Owned by Walmart, Vudu is becoming a strong steaming company that lets you purchase or rent digital films. It's new "Family Play" feature, which is powered by Clearplay, allows you to filter more than 500 films!

Pros:
- It is free! But you have to own the film or pay the fee to rent the film.
- Vudu offers many Free to Watch movies that have ads - but some of these free to watch films include the family filtering.
- They are adding more movies to the service almost daily. You can check out the entire list by going to https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/uxrow/Family-Play/1959

Cons:
- The filters are general and do not allow the selective options you get with Vidangel or Clearplay, but they seem to be very good.
- Sadly - it does not filter TV Shows. Right now, Vidangel is the only service that filters TV shows.

Get the Movies you Want for Cheap

Many of these movie filtering systems are dependent on either owning or renting the digital version of the film. While you can enter the code from the DVD/Bluray case to get the digital version of most films, growing a digital library can get expensive. I have found the following services to be a cheap way to grow a digital library:

A. Vudu's Disk to Digital system - This system will allow you to scan DVD's and Blu-ray's you already own and convert them to the digital format for $2 each. You scan the bar-code with your phone's camera and the system converts the film to digital and adds it to your Vudu library. This system does not work with all studios and films, but it does work with many.
B. Facebook Digital Code Groups - A lot of people will buy the DVD's and Blu-Ray's of a movie and sell off or trade the Digital Codes. Using these groups - I have found where most films can be purchased for $3 or less. Here are the names of the groups I work with: 1. Ultraviolet Code Collectors 2. Digital UV Codes Buy/Sell/Trade 3. Digital Maniacs. You have to be careful with possible scammers who will take your money and never give you a code. But I have found this practice to be rare in my experience.