

Apple Watch isn't the only gadget out this week

April 9 2015, by Anick Jesdanun



In this Feb. 23, 2015 file photo, two new Samsung phones, the Galaxy S6, top left, and Galaxy S6 Edge, top right, are on display at a special press preview in New York. Samsung's new Galaxy phones make their general U.S. debut on Friday, April 10, 2015. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews, File)

The public will have its first chance to see, touch and buy the Apple Watch on Friday, as Apple stores in the U.S. and eight markets abroad start previews and online orders commence.

Prices start at \$349, but can go as high as \$17,000 for a luxury edition in gold. Apple store employees will show you the range of options, including different watch cases, bands and sizes. Reservations are recommended.

But you won't be able to walk out with a watch. Watches will be shipped, starting April 24, with no in-store pickup option. The same applies even after the 24th, at least for the foreseeable future.

Although Samsung, Motorola, Sony and other companies already have been selling smartwatches, none has been a hit beyond a small group of tech devotees. The market will be watching to see if Apple's device changes the game.

Apple Watch requires an iPhone 5 or later with at least iOS 8.2. But iOS 8.3 is recommended. Released Wednesday, that update offers more than 300 new emojis including different skin tones and depictions of families with two moms or two dads. And no surprise, there's an Apple Watch as a character now. (Friends who haven't updated their iPhones yet will see substitute emojis, though).

The Apple Watch isn't the only gadget available this week. Here are five other new devices and services targeting your wallet.

DON'T FORGET THE MACBOOK

Apple's new laptop, simply called MacBook, debuts Friday. It's the company's lightest and thinnest laptop so far, making the ultra-thin MacBook Air appear bulky by comparison. Apple borrowed many design techniques from the iPad, including eliminating the fan.

The new MacBook comes in silver, gold or gray—the first time there has been a color choice since Apple ditched plastic for metal on its laptops. The base model is \$1,299. You get double the storage and a faster processor for \$1,599.



In this March 9, 2015 file photo, members of the media and Apple guests get a look at the new MacBook in the demo room after an Apple event in San Francisco. The company will debut the new laptop on Friday, April 10, 2015. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg, File)

. OR THE NEW ANDROID PHONES

Samsung's Galaxy S6 phones and the HTC One M9 make their general

U.S. debut in retail stores. (Online orders have been accepted for a few weeks). Samsung swapped its plastic back cover for more stylish metal and glass to better compete with the iPhone. It also improved the camera and software interface. HTC also improved its camera and has added home-screen personalization based on location. Prices vary by carrier. No-contract versions generally start at about \$650.

HBO ONLINE

In time for the return of "Game of Thrones" this Sunday, HBO launched its stand-alone streaming service, HBO Now, priced at \$15 a month. Initially, it's available only to owners of an Apple TV, iPhone or iPad, or to Cablevision's Internet-access subscribers. HBO Now offers the same content as HBO Go, the companion app to HBO's cable channels. The difference is you don't need a cable or satellite TV subscription.

You could also pay \$15 a month to watch HBO shows online through Dish's Sling TV service. That's on top of Sling TV's \$20 monthly fee for nearly two dozen other cable channels, including ESPN and CNN. Sling TV made HBO available Thursday.

SPEAKING OF STREAMING .



In this Sept. 9, 2014 file photo, the new Apple Watch is modeled during a media event in Cupertino, Calif. Consumers will have their first chance to see and hold the Apple Watch on Friday, April 10, 2015, as Apple stores in the U.S. and eight other markets start previews of Apple's latest product. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File)

CBS' \$6-a-month streaming service, All Access, is now available on Roku—the first streaming TV device for the network. The subscription offers live feeds of CBS stations in some markets—14 with CBS-owned stations, plus 56 represented by affiliates under deals announced Thursday. All Access also offers a bigger library of on-demand content than what's available for free.

Meanwhile, the Roku 3 player now has a new remote control with a voice search button that customers can use to see what's available across multiple streaming services such as Netflix. Another feature tracks when

a movie you're interested in becomes available for streaming or gets a price cut.

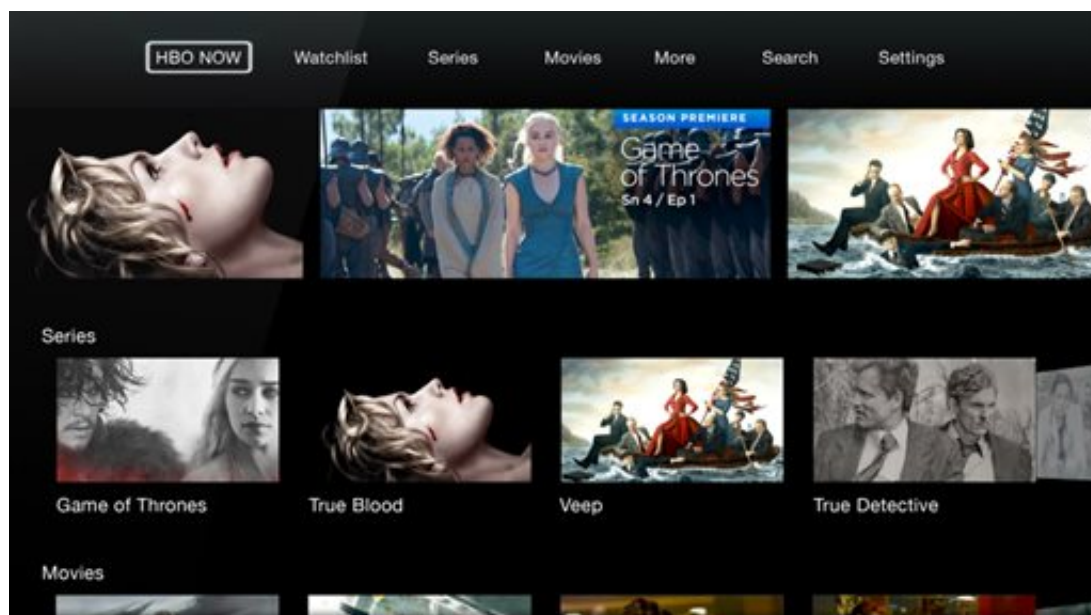
LIVE TV ON XBOX



This March 27, 2015 file photo shows the HTC One M9 mobile phone, in New York. The phone will be in retail stores on Friday, April 10. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Attention cord-cutters and cord-nevers—you'll be able to watch free live local TV stations like CBS, Fox, NBC and PBS through Microsoft's Xbox One. You'll need an \$80 dongle that connects your digital TV antenna to the game console's USB port. Shows will show up in the

Xbox's TV guide and be integrated into the console's dual-screen "Snap" mode so users can play games and watch TV at the same time. With the Hauppauge WinTV-955Q dongle, gamers can also stream the local feed to a tablet computer and pause live shows. The feature is rolling out now to Xbox One Preview members in the U.S. and Canada, and will be available to all Xbox gamers there over the next few months.

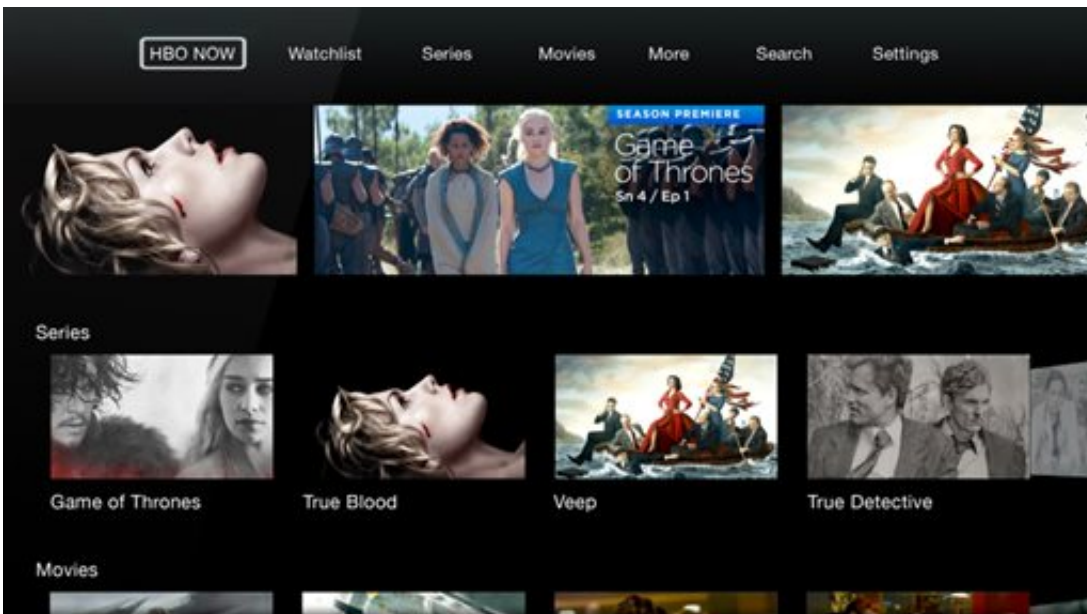


Thus product image provided by HBO shows the HBO Now Apple TV app. For the first time, Americans will be able to subscribe to HBO without a cable or satellite TV subscription. (AP Photo/HBO)

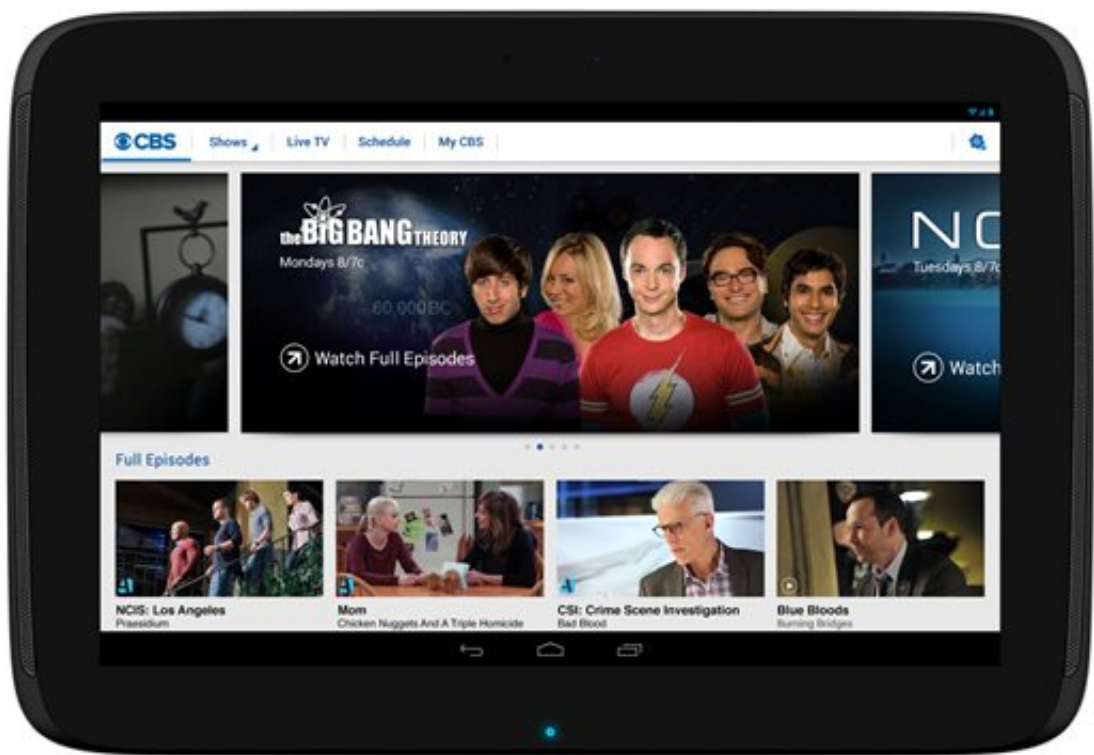
GOODBYE

OnLive, which streams high-end video games over an Internet connection (like a Netflix for games), is shutting down April 30 following Sony Corp.'s purchase of "important parts" of the company.

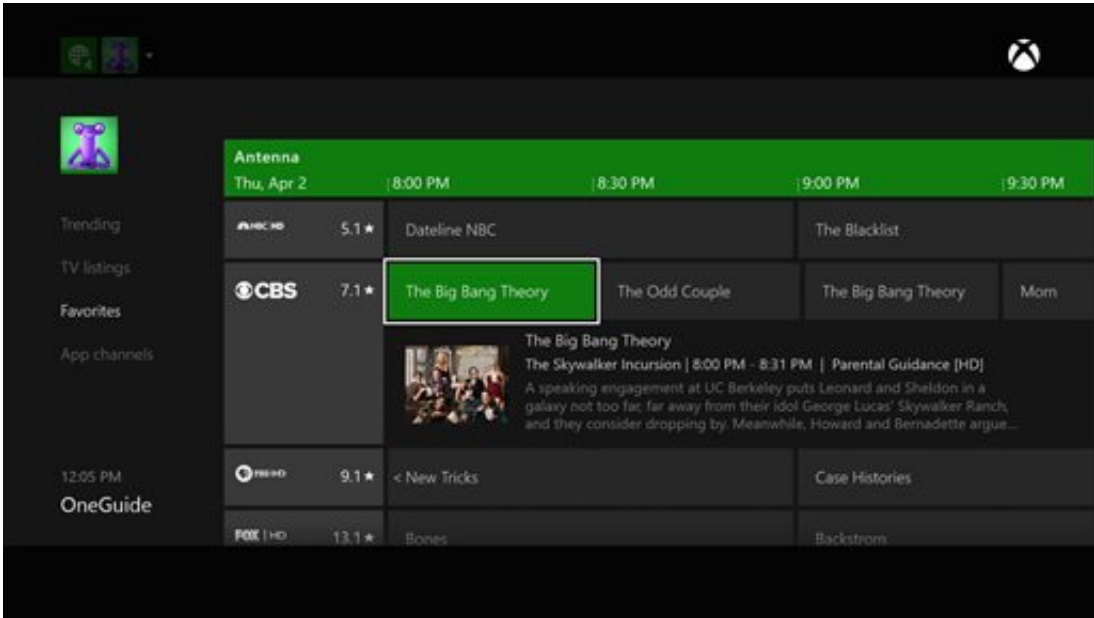
The service had promise, but never gained much usage. Sony purchased its rival, Gaikai, in 2012 and lets PlayStation owners stream games either for a monthly flat fee or through individual rentals. Refunds are being offered to those who bought OnLive since Feb. 1.



Thus product image provided by HBO shows the HBO Now Apple TV app. For the first time, Americans will be able to subscribe to HBO without a cable or satellite TV subscription. (AP Photo/HBO)



This file product image provided by CBS Interactive shows the CBS All Access app. The \$6-a-month streaming service is now available on Roku—the first streaming TV device for the network. (AP Photo/CBS Interactive, File)



This product image provided by Microsoft shows local TV listings as seen on the Xbox One's TV guide. Microsoft is adding the ability to watch free live local TV stations like CBS, Fox, NBC and PBS through the Xbox One, with the help of an \$80 dongle that connects your digital TV antenna to the game console's USB port. (AP Photo/Microsoft)



This undated product image provided by OnLive shows the OnLive console and controller. OnLive, the video game streaming service that started out with a bang in 2010, is shutting down April 30, 2015 following Sony Corp.'s purchase of "important parts" of the company. (AP Photo/OnLive)

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