



The Best Equipment for Live Video Streaming

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BOXCAST

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The State of Live Video in 2017

In 2016, live video streaming proved itself as a meaningful way to connect audiences and retain their attention. Now that it's proven its viability, live streaming will cement itself as a mainstream digital medium. In fact, video streaming will account for 82% of all internet traffic in 2020, according to a [Cisco](#) report.

What does this mean for organizations looking to stream events? First, it means that video equipment will become increasingly popular, accessible, and affordable. Below we include other trends you can expect in 2017. Afterwards, we'll include our list of the best production equipment for live video streaming.

Enjoy!

Growth in Facebook Live:

Facebook released its live platform globally in April of 2016. Since then, they've seen a great deal of engagement, reporting that [users spend 3x more time watching live video than any other form of video content](#). Because live content has proven far more engaging than recorded video, Facebook's algorithm now ranks live video higher, and therefore shows it higher, in users' newsfeeds.

This means that you can expect new live content creators to emerge in 2017 and have their content fill your feeds. Recognizing this growth, many streaming providers, including BoxCast, are beginning to offer direct integrations with Facebook Live.

Affordable Multi-Camera Production:

The use of various camera angles in a single stream allows organizations to tell a more complete story. Video producers have recognized this and are seeking affordable options to allow them to do just that. The market is meeting this increasing demand, offering switchers and other multi-cam video equipment for a fraction of what it used to cost.

Some streaming providers are now even offering solutions that don't require a camera, including [BoxCast Switcher](#), an app that lets you mix content from various iOS devices.

Virtual Reality and 360 Video Streaming:

Video producers will continue to experiment with both virtual reality and 360 video for live events. As VR and 360 cameras become more affordable and less complex, this popularity will surge. However, there will undoubtedly be a learning period in which content creators determine the best ways to incorporate this new tech into their streams.

HEVC Encoding:

HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding) is a new form of video encoding that allows you to stream live content at a far more efficient rate than what is currently possible. Choose whether you'd like to cut your bandwidth in half for an HD stream or stream at an even higher quality without using up all of your upload bandwidth.

4K Live:

4K refers to a video resolution that contains four times the detail of modern HD televisions. Though it's still in its experimental state, we're confident that 4K live streaming is about to take off. Expect to see streaming providers adopt HEVC encoding and roll out new products that will allow broadcasters to create 4K content for the web.

CAMERAS:

Consumer Camcorder



Panasonic HC-VX981K 4K Ultra HD Camcorder

\$ 798

Buy Now

Why We Like It

4K camcorder at an affordable price

Specs

- 20x high quality Leica optical zoom lens
- Picture-in-picture wireless camera support
- Touchscreen LCD
- In-camera 4K cropping and editing

Prosumer Camcorder



Canon XA35

\$ 2,099

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Light and compact camcorder packed with professional features

Specs

- HD-SDI video output
- 20x optical zoom lens
- 2 XLR audio inputs with manual controls
- Touchscreen LCD
- Great for low-light shooting
- Dual memory card slots

Professional Camcorder



Panasonic AG-DVX200 4K Camcorder

\$ 4,195

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Professional camcorder made for a variety of production and streaming environments

Specs

- Shoots UHD 4K video up to 60fps
- MP4 / MOV recording in 4K
- High quality 13x Leica zoom lens
- 2 SD card slots
- 4K output over HDMI 2.0
- 3G-SDI output

Fixed Mount Camera



Blackmagic Micro Studio Camera 4k

\$ 1,699

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Ultra-compact studio camera

Specs

- Outputs 4K video at 30 FPS
- 6G-SDI and HDMI video output
- Micro four-thirds lens mount
- Built-in color correcting
- Runs on AC power or an external battery

Pro Tip: When shopping for cameras, consider your environment first.

The space you stream in is what most determines your equipment needs. Factors like camera angles, lighting, the distance from your camera to your subject, and the location of the router will help you find the right piece of equipment.

TRIPODS:

Prosumer Tripod



Magnus VT-3000 Video Tripod and Zoom Controller Kit

\$ 199

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Affordable and reliable fluid head tripod

Specs

- Sturdy aluminum build
- Can switch between spiked and rubber feet at the bottom of the tripod
- Comes with a record and zoom controller that works with Sony, Canon, and Panasonic cameras
- Mid-level spreader

Professional Tripod



Manfrotto 504HD

\$ 699

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Professional video tripod with adjustable fluid head and 16.5lb weight capacity

Specs

- Counterbalance system for leveling shots
- Illuminated bubble level
- 66.7" max height
- Can switch between spiked and rubber feet
- Mid-level spreader

VIDEO SWITCHERS:

Prosumer Switcher



Roland V-1HD Portable 4 x HDMI Input Switcher

\$ 999

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Portable, easy-to-use video switcher

Specs

- 4 HDMI inputs
- HDMI preview and program outputs
- Can be controlled manually or through a PC/iPad
- Picture-in-picture, green screen effects
- Built-in audio mixer
- RCA audio inputs and outputs

Professional Switcher



Blackmagic ATEM 1 M/E 4K Switcher

\$ 2,370

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Rack mountable production switcher with ten 4K video inputs

Specs

- 10 SDI inputs, 1 HDMI input
- Built-in audio mixer
- 2 XLR audio inputs and outputs
- Lets you add graphics, lower thirds, titles, and logos for a polished live production
- Picture-in-picture, green screen effects

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING:

Encoder



The BoxCaster

\$ 499

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Fully automated, plug-and-play live video encoder

Specs

- 1080p 30 fps video streaming
- Rugged bullet-proof plastic
- Automatically records the video it encodes
- Streams directly to Facebook Live
- Serves video to any-sized audience
- Captures highlights and offers social promotion tools within the BoxCast Dashboard

Cross-Converter/Scaler



Decimator MD-HX

\$ 295

Buy Now

Why We Like It

Converts SDI video signals to HDMI, and HDMI video signals to SDI

Specs

- Built-in scaling to raise or lower resolution of video signals
- Adjusts frame rates of video signals

ABOUT US

About BoxCast

Launched in 2013, BoxCast is a complete, easy-to-use live streaming solution for organizations. The company is inspired by the idea that any event that is watched live should be streamed live and that live streaming allows everyone, regardless of time or location, to be a part of the valuable experiences that their organizations create.



About the Author

Josh Clemence, Video Content Specialist

Josh loves anything and everything video. Whether its producing live events, flying drones around cities, animating short explainer videos, or telling stories through documentary style shorts, Josh is all-in on live streaming and video production.

Josh's enthusiasm for sports and media have made BoxCast the perfect home for him. A native of Akron, Ohio, Josh loves being in the Downtown Cleveland tech scene. In his free time, Josh will likely be trail running, playing basketball, making videos, or doing anything else creative.

