



The Dangers of "Free TV" SuperBox



UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT

What Is a SuperBox?

A SuperBox is an Android-based streaming device marketed as a one-time purchase (\$200–\$400) that promises access to thousands of live TV channels, movies, and shows with no monthly fees. While SuperBox claims the hardware is legal, the pre-installed software accesses copyrighted content without authorization. Worse, security researchers have discovered these devices quietly hijack your home internet connection for purposes you never agreed to.

What It Promises: 2,200+ channels, movies, sports, "free forever"

The Real Cost \$: **Your bandwidth, security, and potentially access to your internet service**

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Serious Risks to You & Your Family

• Copyright Infringement & DMCA

Streaming pirated content violates the DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998). Copyright holders actively monitor for violations and report them to ISPs such as ETC. Penalties include fines and legal action against you.

• Home Network & Data Exposure

Researchers found SuperBox devices contain network tools (Tcpdump, Netcat) used for monitoring and intercepting traffic, exposing your personal data, passwords, and financial information.

• Your Bandwidth Is Being Stolen

SuperBox software forces your connection to relay traffic for strangers through proxy networks. This eats your upload bandwidth and causes the slow internet issues that trigger ETC support & service calls.

• Botnet & Criminal Activity

The FBI warns these devices become nodes in criminal botnets used for ad fraud, account takeovers, web scraping, and large-scale cyberattacks. These all flow through your SuperBox and are tied to your account.

WHAT WE'RE SEEING

How SuperBox Affects Your ETC Service

Our technical support team has identified a growing trend: customers open trouble tickets for slow internet or connectivity issues only to discover one or more SuperBox devices connected on their home network. These devices consume significant upstream bandwidth by constantly relaying proxy traffic, even when you're not watching. This persistent drain makes your internet feel sluggish or unreliable.

What Happens if DMCA Reports My Account to ETC?

When DMCA violation notices are received by ETC regarding your account, we will notify you. Repeated violations will result in a progressive enforcement process that may lead to suspension or termination of your internet service. Disconnecting your SuperBox is the simplest way to avoid this outcome.

ETC's DMCA Notification Process

- 1 The first Notice of Infringement will make you aware of the copyright infringement and give you guidance on what you can do to prevent further infringement.
- 2 A second Notice of Infringement associated with your account will result in a \$25.00 fee to cover our administrative costs.
- 3 A third Notice of Infringement associated with your account will result in a \$50.00 fee to cover our administrative costs and suspension of your internet service. We also require an explanation of the steps that you are taking in order to have your service reinstated.
- 4 A fourth Notice of Infringement will result in termination of your internet service for a period of twelve (12) months. We will evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Legitimate Streaming vs. Pirate Devices



	Legitimate Devices	SuperBox & Similar
Examples	Roku, Apple TV, Fire Stick, Chromecast, Onn	SuperBox, vSeeBox, Tanggula, generic boxes
App Source	Official app stores (Google Play, Apple)	Unofficial / sideloaded app stores
Content	Licensed agreements with providers	Streamed without authorization
Monthly Fees	Subscription fees to content providers	"No monthly fees" as content is stolen
Network Impact	Normal download bandwidth only	Constant upstream proxy traffic
Security	Play Protect, regular updates	Requires disabling security; has malware
Legal Status	Fully Legal	Violates DMCA

TAKE ACTION

Have a SuperBox? What You Should Do Right Now.



1. Disconnect & Unplug the SuperBox

Physically disconnect it from your TV, network, and power. As long as it's online, it consumes your bandwidth. It works even when you're not watching.

2. Change Your Wi-Fi Password

Prevents any residual software from reconnecting and helps secure your other devices.

3. Switch to a Legitimate Streaming Device

Roku, Apple TV, Fire Stick, and Chromecast provide safe, legal access. ETC also offers a streaming set-top device.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: "I bought it at a major retailer. Doesn't that make it legal?"

A: Not necessarily. The hardware isn't illegal to own, but the pre-loaded software violates copyright law. Amazon and Walmart have removed SuperBox listings after investigations.

Q: "Can I really lose my internet service?"

A: Yes. Under the DMCA, ETC is obligated to act on infringement notices. Repeated violations lead to suspension and account termination. This is federal law.

Q: "Is my personal information at risk?"

A: Yes. These devices contain surveillance tools, connect to unknown servers, and route stranger traffic through your home connection, creating pathways for data theft.

Q: "SuperBox says their device is legal. Is that true?"

A: The hardware may be legal, but the software ecosystem operates outside any licensing agreements. Courts have imposed penalties up to \$1.25M on sellers of similar devices.

Q: "I only watch live sports. Is that still illegal?"

A: If the content normally requires a paid subscription (NFL Sunday Ticket, ESPN+, etc.), yes, it's pirated. The proxy software also runs 24/7 regardless of what you watch.

Q: "Someone gave me a SuperBox as a gift."

A: Disconnect it immediately.

Need Help? Chat with us 24x7 at etcnow.com or call 800.717.3710