

Space launch live streaming

Space launch [live streaming](#) is the act of broadcasting rocket space launches onto media outlets, including television services and live streaming websites. [NASA TV](#) was the original provider of these live streams for the US as they were established since the beginning of the space program as a way for [NASA](#) engineers and managers to have real-time footage of missions. In modern day these real-time video feeds of space launches are accessed via online streaming services such as the US-based sites like [Twitch](#) or [YouTube](#).^[1]

While NASA has been gathering footage of their launches for decades, their first live streamed Space launch on YouTube was in 2013, with their earliest Twitch live stream being in 2017.

These launches can and are also streamed by users across live streaming websites.^[2] The popularization of this hobby has also lead to the emergence of always live channels that stream Space satellite footage.

Overview[\[edit\]](#)

History[\[edit\]](#)

The most popular instance of a space launch broadcast was during the [Apollo 11](#) mission which had about 600 million people watching in 1969.^[3] This launch was broadcasted across television networks including an all night [BBC](#) broadcast of the event.^[4] All three major US television networks ([CBS](#), [NBC](#), and [ABC](#)) covered the [Apollo 11](#) mission in its entirety for the general populous to be informed. This was the mark of the first live lunar television broadcast.^[5]

[NASA](#) broadcasted their first live stream on [Twitch](#) 2017.^[6] Their first space launch broadcast took place the next year with the GOES-S Launch.^[7]

[SpaceX](#) broadcasted their first live stream on [YouTube](#) May 23rd or 2012.^[8]

Genres[\[edit\]](#)

Official Co-Streams[\[edit\]](#)

These are live streams in which the space launches are broadcasted along some sort of panel or talking table with experts or guests related to the field. They are typically hosted by the company who is launching the aircraft, along with [NASA](#). [SpaceX](#) partners with [NASA](#) to stream their launches along side other space experts.^[9] These live streams have evolved to include real time data such at countdowns, mission progress, and altitude/speed.^[10]

General Streams^[edit]

Users of live streaming websites set up their own cameras and broadcast their own footage. The same way media gets access to launches, they often times have public viewing areas.^[2]

Publicity^[edit]

Streaming numbers^[edit]

[SpaceX](#) holds the record for most-watched online event ever with the launch of the Demo-2 missions. It is estimated that they had at least 10.3 million concurrent viewers across all of their platforms.^[3]

Negative press^[edit]

With the successful launch of [Blue Origin's](#) spacecraft in July of 2021, the motives of the billionaires funding these trips was brought into question. Most notably, [Jeff Bezos](#) was a passenger in that flight.^[11]

A [Pew Research Center](#) poll published in 2018 showed that the general population was split almost evenly when asked about the future endeavors of space exploration.^[12] Along with believing that "NASA should prioritize monitoring the Earth's climate and atmosphere for asteroids and debris above sending manned trips to outer space."^[11]

- ¹ ^a Loff, Sarah (2016-07-13). "[NASA Live](#)". NASA. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ² ^a
- ³ [Jump up to:](#)
- ⁴ ^a ^b "[Twitch streamers capture awesome footage of SpaceX rocket landing](#)". *Dexerto*. 2019-04-12. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ⁵ ^a
- ⁶ [Jump up to:](#)
- ⁷ ^a ^b published, Mike Wall (2020-06-02). "[SpaceX's 1st astronaut launch was NASA's most-watched online event ever](#)". *Space.com*. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ⁸ ^a "[From the Moon to your living room: the Apollo 11 broadcast](#)". *National Science and Media Museum*. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ⁹ ^a Science and Technology 2. "[First live lunar television broadcast](#)". *National Museums Scotland*. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ¹⁰ ^a [2017 Human Exploration Rover Challenge - nasa on Twitch](#), 2017-03-31, retrieved 2022-04-24
- ¹¹ ^a [GOES-S Launch - nasa on Twitch](#), 2018-03-01, retrieved 2022-04-24
- ¹² ^a [NASA/SpaceX Launch To Station -- SpaceX Webcast](#), retrieved 2022-04-24
- ¹³ ^a "[Twitch](#)". *Twitch*. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ¹⁴ ^a "[SpaceX](#)". *SpaceX*. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
- ¹⁵ ^a
- ¹⁶ [Jump up to:](#)

17. ^{a b} Nguyen, Terry (2022-02-02). "It's the dawn of a new space age — at least for billionaires". Vox. Retrieved 2022-04-24.
18. [^] Johnson, Courtney. "How Americans see the future of space exploration, 50 years after the first moon landing". *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved 2022-04-24.