

# The Set-top Box: Thick or Thin Client? 4Q 2013

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## Abstracts

This report analyzes the trend in the set-top box market related to feature-rich set-top boxes, thin-client set-top boxes, and the technologies and systems that will affect CPE devices in the future. The report assesses the feature and tradeoff decisions faced by pay-TV providers and set-top box makers in the set-top architecture. It evaluates new technologies that will impact set-top box growth and virtualization of features to the cloud or to operator networks. It also includes a forecast for set-top box growth through 2018.

“Investment in set-top box technology is no small decision for any pay-TV provider,” said Brett Sappington, director of research, Parks Associates. “Service providers must assess the future growth of cloud services, CPE systems, and consumer appetites for future services as they define their service and capital expenditure plans. Similarly, makers of retail set-top boxes must decide which architecture and which features will have the greatest market appeal.”

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