

No to Comcast + Time-Warner

There is no need for big cable companies to merge. It will give them more power over the television channels available, as well as internet service.

There should be competition including:

- Smaller cable companies such as RCN, which happens to be our supplier.
- Municipal fiber optic networks such as Greenlight Community Broadband in Wilson, NC.
- Google fiber.
- Every kind of public and private service.

The big cable companies want to control the TV channels, putting the smaller services at a disadvantage. There is no need for that.

If a person has true high speeds as with Google fiber, then he should be able to get good phone service from a cheap VOIP provider for a couple dollars per month. I think right now people get variable quality from running their voice calls through their home router, but with faster internet and perhaps a new router, a person should be able to call out to the PSTN without going through a traditional phone company.

RCN has actually switched us over to VOIP and installed a cable-to-POTS modem in our basement. I call a friend who is on Verizon FiOS, fiber-to-the-home. That means she is on an IP-to-POTS modem also. One does not know the entire routing, but clearly

- VOIP works. The calls are consistently clear.
- There are no-name vendors who will route your calls for a couple bucks per month, or pennies per minute. For another penny or two, you can call many foreign countries. You just need a POTS-to-internet box for \$50 - \$100.
- A monopolistic vendor can try to make things look complicated, and can screw up the VOIP calls. We don't need that.
- A similar discussion applies for entertainment programming. Depending on a person's tastes, if the internet service is good, a person can stream entertainment services for cheap. For good measure, put an antenna in the attic and get a DVR. Traditionally, live sports is a unique situation, but in my household, we don't watch sports.
- Implicitly, this is all about net neutrality. We don't need a monopolistic monster company to promise us net neutrality. What happens when they don't deliver? Then I hire a K-Street law firm to argue with them?

I heard the recording of the Comcast person abusing a customer on the phone. You heard it too. I would never, ever buy service from Comcast.

James Worthey