

Incumbents like AT&T and Verizon are seeking to shutter copper DSL services in some states and shift toward fiber optic services like AT&T U-VERSE and Verizon FIOS Internet and TV products. This would result in discontinuation of home phone and DSL services for broadband Internet. At the same time they do not want any open access rules or universal access requirements for newer technologies. In Verizon's case since the Verizon SpectrumCo transaction was approved they have sought permission to discontinue copper service in some states and/or just ignore repairing damaged copper lines. The problem they are refusing to buildout FIOS in these areas. Translation: Some areas can lose Internet and home phone service entirely. If you live in an area that has copper DSL and your phone company is willing to abandon it and refuses to deploy fiber your literally screwed. Some phone companies like AT&T have tried to offer wireless phone service as an alternative to home phone users. How good these new wireless home phone services are though and whether they can work with home alarm systems needs to be on the record in deciding the process for allowing copper discontinuation. These incumbents have been filing applications for permission to discontinue basic telecommunications service in a number of states. If their basic telecommunications services are allowed to be discontinued and there are no viable alternatives to users depending on alarm systems etc that are affordable that will be very bad for consumers. If Sir Tim Berners Lee needed his phone company's permission to connect his phone line to his computer we may not have had dial-up Internet access the precursor to today's broadband (high-speed) Internet access services like DSL, cable, fiber and wireless.