

FCC Comment About Marriott Blocking Personal Wireless Networks  
Proceeding Number: RM-11737

Allowing Marriott to restrict access to personal wifi networks not controlled by Marriott will eliminate competition from the marketplace and will permit Marriott to monopolize the market for information, disrupting business and personal affairs of customers, vendors and visitors of Marriott facilities. Ruling in favor of Marriott will set a precedent allowing any facility to jam wifi access, allowing extortion of fees for wifi services, regardless of the quality of the service provided. This may include hospitals, private apartment buildings, public buildings, other facilities.

Marriott was wrong to prevent its guests from using personal Wi-Fi networks. The FCC should stand by its original decision to fine them for inappropriate use of a Wi-Fi monitoring system and reinforce consumers' right to choose how to connect to the Internet. Anything less would be reprehensible.

An FCC ruling in Marriott's favor would cause confusion and make it legal for anyone to block WiFi. This would be no different than when hotels blocked cell phone reception of guest- illegal— and charged exorbitant rates for room phones. That was not Ok then and this in not OK now.