

Cable and teleco giants like Comca\$t (sorry Comcast) have been double dipping creating an artificial scarcity using unnecessary data caps to limit bandwidth to users and to web companies and charge more for using more data. While Comcast claims to no longer have data caps (they can call it a data threshold or whatever they want to call it but it still a cap) as they no longer claim to throttle or slow down a user's Internet connection when they use a certain amount of data they impose overages - to charge extra for exceeding a certain amount. They have different data caps and different prices for each cap. Let's say \$70 usually gets you 4 GB of data in a month and if you go over that you pay extra for going over your cap. In contrast paying \$100 a month gets you a plan with a 8 GB cap (if you go over it lets say you use 12GB then again you pay overages and/or they recommend you pay more for a higher cap each month) this proves there is no real bandwidth crisis these companies are creating a scarcity on their own to limit our Internet usage and then pay us for using it more. What's worse once they charge the consumer for their Internet service they turn around and charge interconnection to the websites we visit. So Comcast wants us to pay more to it to get faster speed and use more data for streaming movies & TV via Netflix etc but then tell Netflix they have to pay up also.

Even if the Network Neutrality Title II rules hold up in court a merged Comcast Time Warner Cable will have more power to break Over The Top Television (OTT) by messing with these providers. Such OTT providers cannot flourish if broadband providers like Comcast can discriminate against their content. If paid prioritization is made illegal, the idea is major broadband providers would be forced to play fairly. However, the new FCC rules would not stop Comcast from exerting its market leverage to stop OTT providers in their tracks. The merged Comcast-TWC would gain control of 30 percent of the U.S. cable and broadband markets and that increased market share would result in Comcast having a greater ability to persuade or pressure third party content providers into not granting over the top rights to their content. For example, Comcast-TWC could go to Discovery Communications and say okay Discovery if you want carriage to Comcast-TWC's 30 million homes we'll give it to you but you can't give the following over-the top rights to Netflix, Sony or Dish. Also worth noting the HBO Go streaming service has now reportedly finally come to Sony's PlayStation 4 consoles but Comcast subscribers still cannot use HBO Go on the PS4.