

Excite At Home's AUP (Acceptable Use Police) contains clauses which restrict users from contacting one's home computer remotely, running a home network, fully participating in the internet. Internet access is bi-directional, what Excite is selling is not internet access. Their AUP creates the following problems:

Unnecessary: Bandwidth concerns are dealt with through upload throttling.

Arbitrary and vague: They can define anything they like as a server.

Restrain free speech: This is a hallmark of the internet.

Subvert the right to privacy: If I can't accept connections (implied by their AUP) then I can't encrypt my packets and participate in my companies VPN (I can't work from home).

Anti-competitive: Are designed to prevent VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) competition with AT&T.

This problem is best solved through competition; however there is no market in my neighborhood (I'm too far from the CO for DSL) and my local Cable Franchise Authority has no authority.