

Comcast's blatant and deceptive blocking of peer-to-peer communications is exactly the problem millions of Americans have warned would occur without Net Neutrality protections.

I contend that Comcast is guilty of the following:

1. Stifling Internet free speech by completely denying me a service that I pay for.
2. Curtailing the entire Internet marketplace's ability to innovate and develop new methods of Internet communications, thus hindering free trade.
3. Hindering my ability to make transactions with a third party company.

Comcast decided to "protect consumer connections" to the internet by limiting access to certain types of internet traffic which it ASSUMED were related to questionably legal file sharing activities. However, in their zeal to limit internet capabilities, Comcast failed to realize that their technology was limiting corporate communications which were not in any way related to P2P file sharing. **COMCAST SHOULD BE FINED FOR THEIR ACTIONS, AND NO OTHER INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO IMPLEMENT ANY TRAFFIC LIMITING TECHNOLOGIES WITHOUT USER CONSENT.**

The company I work for is a committed user of Lotus Domino servers (an email and database server technology). In order to exchange data in an encrypted format between my local internet connection and my company, I use Domino and Lotus Notes (Notes is the client-side program). Comcast's unwarranted limitation of P2P technology interferes with the legitimate use of Lotus Notes and Domino across the Internet. Their technology does not have the effect of simply slowing communication, instead, it has the effect of **DENYING SERVICE** to Lotus Notes users. Connections in Lotus Notes are dropped as a result of Comcast's interference with the normal functioning of the Internet.

[<http://kkanarski.blogspot.com/2007/09/comcast-filtering-lotus-notes.html>]

I am a computer programmer. I write software which does not necessarily conform to known Internet RFC protocols. Because of Comcast's interference with the normal functioning of the Internet, I am unable to adequately test software which uses custom-built protocols. I have no way of knowing if Comcast's traffic shaping is to blame for problems I might see while testing my software, or if the problems are of my own design. **THIS SEVERELY LIMITS MY ABILITY TO INNOVATE, DESIGN, and TEST NEW PROTOCOLS FOR THE INTERNET.** If all internet service providers were allowed to do what Comcast is doing, **THERE WOULD BE NO MORE INNOVATION OF RELIABLE COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS ON THE INTERNET.** By taking this action, Comcast is essentially deciding **FOR ME** which Internet communication protocols I am allowed to use and limiting my ability to develop new ones.

Additionally, I am an avid fan of World of Warcraft - a multi-player online game from Blizzard. I pay Blizzard monthly fees to access their network via the Internet and play the Warcraft game. Warcraft depends on regular programming updates which are downloaded via P2P software. This legitimate use of P2P is hampered by Comcast's traffic management. Warcraft updates that normally take 20-30 minutes to download take more than 5 hours and are more prone to error directly because of Comcast's interference with the way the Internet functions.

The FCC must take serious and immediate action to put an abrupt end to this harmful practice and prevent other Internet service providers from following Comcast's example of discriminating against the free flow of online information.

The Internet is a vital engine for economic growth, civic participation and free speech. We simply can't allow corporate gatekeepers to smother these democratic communications by discriminating against new technologies, secretly interfering with Internet traffic and stifling innovation.