

Comcast's decision to block or slow down all peer-to-peer communications on their network disregards the large number of legitimate material offered through this medium, including software patches distributed by leading game publishers and documents, music and other media willingly distributed by the copyright holders -- often individuals or small companies or groups who could not cheaply distribute this material otherwise. While Internet piracy is a serious problem, it is not fair to impose these draconian measures upon honest customers in the name of copyright protection. Furthermore, it is clear that Comcast is using Internet piracy as an excuse to further its own interests and prevent its customers from accessing material offered by its competitors.

After their blatantly disrespectful actions of Monday, February 25th -- when Comcast hired paid seatholders, many of whom slept through the presentation, to prevent members of the public from entering the FCC's hearing in Boston -- immediate intervention in this matter is clearly necessary, and severe sanctions should be imposed upon the company. Comcast must be forced to reopen its network to all traffic, neither hindering nor preventing certain types of connections which can be used legitimately, and they should pay some recompense to the general public or otherwise be penalized for their grossly unfair and disreputable practices. As representative of the people, the United States government, as embodied in the FCC, has a vested interest in guaranteeing the free exchange of information through the Internet and the World Wide Web. Comcast is attempting to end this free exchange, and this cannot be allowed.

I am a Comcast subscriber, and it is not entirely by choice. My apartment cannot be serviced by competing ISPs or cable companies. Were it not for this fact, my family would undoubtedly have moved to one of Comcast's competitors. Since we are forced to use Comcast as our ISP, cable company and phone service, it is not right that they can control what we access in any fashion. They must either allow us to access information and files freely, or their monopoly over this area must be forcibly broken.

Thank you for your time. I sincerely hope you will take my thoughts into consideration.