

I am writing to beg the FCC to use every tool available to it to prevent the proposed merger between Comcast and NBC-Universal.

Comcast, who already have cable monopoly in almost every geographical area they do business in, and who have been spending millions of dollars on propaganda trying to convince the public that if the FCC continues to preserve Net Neutrality that would somehow be a "government takeover of the internet."

In reality, Net Neutrality is the cornerstone of the internet as we know it. The earliest ISPs (AOL, CompuServe and Prodigy) quickly learned that customers wanted full access to the whole internet, not limited access to only certain sites, and full access (sometimes filtered by the individual or business customer to prevent kids from accessing adult content or employees from goofing off at work) is what American internet users have enjoyed for over a decade.

Comcast's vision of the future includes the restructuring of internet access to work like cable TV, where customers' only options would be to buy packages that include many high-traffic corporate content providers (as if they were TV channels) they had no interest in in order to get access to the 'channels' they do want (such as Facebook, eBay, Wikipedia, etc.); even which search engine (Bing, Google or Yahoo) and which blogging sites and which news sites customers would be able to buy access to would be subject to their ISP's whims without Net Neutrality. This, of course, is exactly why Comcast opposes Net Neutrality; they would rather double or triple their profit-per-customer even if it meant destroying the internet as we know it. Many Americans would simply choose a different provider if Net Neutrality protections were loosened or eliminated... but some would have few options (perhaps only another company like Comcast would be competitive in their area) and, at the rate !

Comcast has been trying to expand its corporate reach (and often succeeding) the number of ordinary Americans who might find themselves stuck in this nightmare scenario will only increase.

Should Comcast be allowed to buy NBC-Universal, they will gain control of hundreds of local news stations -- and cable stations as well. Even today, many people get some, most or all of their news from TV. Comcast has a long track record of fighting dirty and has been pulling out all the stops in its campaign against Net Neutrality. With the ability to slant news coverage on MSNBC, the NBC Nightly News, local news reports and other programs (probably including special reports produced specifically about Net Neutrality or other subjects where Comcast would have an unmistakable conflict of interest) there's no basis whatsoever for believing Comcast wouldn't use trusted news sources to further spread their noxious propaganda.

This proposed merger, between two corporations which each already have perhaps too much influence under one corporate umbrella, would give one business entity unprecedented control over media content and platforms. It would allow the nation's largest cable and Internet access provider to

control one of the nation's largest media companies.

The merger would also give Comcast-NBC an incentive to prioritize its own online content over other content and stifle the free flow of Internet traffic... which has quite possibly been part of Comcast's anti-Net-Neutrality plans all along.

This is clearly too much influence for one company to be allowed to wield over the American people, and it threatens competition and innovation at the very moment when new forms of online video delivery are emerging.

If this merger is allowed to proceed, it will inevitably negatively affect competition as well as prompting a new wave of media consolidation when other companies scramble to match Comcast-NBC's market power. A problem in one part of the telecommunications and content-delivery industries will ripple out to affect those industries as a whole, like a spreading epidemic. The American people, the free market and the true free press will all suffer, simply so that some stockholders can theoretically earn a few cents more per share? UNACCEPTABLE.

Thus far, the FCC has stood its ground and protected Net Neutrality. Universal access isn't a pipe dream; it's achievable within this decade, but not if soulless corporations, fantastically wealthy already but with insatiable hunger for bigger profits no matter the human cost, are allowed to stifle or slant the debate to the point that the American people can't access the information they need to decide for themselves.

The FCC MUST act to prevent this disastrous merger.