

I use the internet for paying bills, watching my bank account and making payments therefrom, obtaining coupons since we had to give up some things to economize and the newspaper was one, occasionally we watch shows we missed from television because we do not have a DVR, downloading patches and other software, shopping when I cannot find an item or an affordable price locally, looking up news and /or information, contacting grandma and grandpa who live overseas and want to see what their grandkids look like currently, emailing friends and family throughout the world, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. The uses are enormous and expanding for us and they are becoming essential, not just a convenience.

The internet was a creation by the US government (and academia) much like the GPS. I worked for the government when it first created the GPS system. Our group used to use the attenuation of the signals from the satellites to study the ionosphere. Now an enormous industry has grown up creating jobs and providing civilian services. Should that industry that has grown up now take control and form for its own benefit that system that the US Government created for the US Military? Yet now I hear that companies who have benefited from the Government's creation of the Internet and who now provide the backbone of the system now want to set the playing field to favor their services and disadvantage competing services from non-ISPs. In the market place if the transportation companies were to open end-retail businesses to compete with some or all the businesses they deliver to, to change the way they deliver goods to those businesses, there would be anti-trust or some type of fairness a!

ction. Moreover, I feel pressure every day to bundle my services with my phone company/ISP provider because they already have me due to their ISP pricing. I fear they will continue to raise their ISP prices if I do not take services from them that are not as good and their competition or that I cannot afford (wireless telephone). which will then disenfranchise me and we will either have to return to lower DSL speeds or dial-up. Moreover, they are already dragging their feet on speeding up Internet. I presume they would be faster to do so if we suddenly signed up to pay three times the price we now pay to get U-Verse. And finally, who do we call when we now learn that AT&T is begin sued for delivering less than the full speed advertised on their Internet service. Apparently they were dialing it back arbitrarily. Certainly our state offers no consumer protection. Therefore the FCC must have the power to protect consumer access to the most important communications medium of ou!

r time. The FCC must stand with us and keep the Internet opera!

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the interest of the people who use it every day. Please reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers! Moreover, make them offer their other Internet services at arms length to prevent conflict of interest and fair competition.

Thank you.

