

March 21, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication
CG Docket Nos. 09-158, 10-207

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On March 18, 2011, Julie Vetter, the co-founder of a company that has developed an Android app for tracking mobile data usage in real time, spoke with David Tannenbaum, Special Counsel in the Office of General Counsel.

Ms. Vetter's app, called 3G Watchdog, allows users of phones with the Android operating system to track real time usage of data services, to receive real time alerts when they are close to incurring overage fees, and to view predictions of their total monthly use based on current usage. Users can specify the thresholds at which they want to receive alerts, and the app can detect when a user is roaming. The app works by using APIs in the Android operating system that allow third party apps to monitor real time usage.

The app also allows users to have their service automatically cut off at a certain threshold, in order to avoid overages. Users can override this cut-off and incur overages voluntarily. Users must manually enter their provider's billing rules for their plan in order for the app to track when a user is close to incurring an overage fee.

Ms. Vetter's partner worked part time for approximately 3 months to develop the first functional version of the app, which was released in June 2009. It is currently used actively by approximately 700,000 users worldwide.

According to Ms. Vetter, the biggest obstacle to effective usage of the app is that some carriers do not fully disclose their billing policies. For example, some carriers round up data usage, and have other complex and unintuitive rules for calculating usage. These policies can be entered into the app, but often cause confusion among users.

Ms. Vetter believes that the app allows users to take fuller advantage of their monthly plans because without the app users worried about overages may limit their usage to levels substantially below their plan limits. A user of this type of app can keep accurate track of remaining data in their monthly bucket and so will not hesitate to take full advantage of their plan's allowed data usage.

Sincerely,

David Tannenbaum /s/
Special Counsel
Federal Communications Commission