

As a T-Mobile customer of approximately 8 years, I am vehemently opposed to the AT&T acquisition of T-Mobile from Deutsche Telekom. If the deal is approved, it will sponsor massive anti-competitive behaviors, increased prices, and lower quality of service. T-Mobile is presently commonly considered the cheapest mobile phone service provider with award-winning customer service and incredible customer loyalty to back it up. AT&T, on the other hand, is commonly considered a lower-quality service provider (with regards to network quality as measured by dropped calls and network data speed) with many negative impressions of their customer service.

Much of AT&T's technical problems can be attributed to the success of the Apple iPhone and its exclusive availability on AT&T's network. Now that Verizon Wireless offers the iPhone, and with the growing market share held by a growing number of successful Android-based phones, it is not unreasonable to suspect that the iPhone traffic will load balance between the two carriers as customer's AT&T contracts expire. The consumer market will drive the competition.

If AT&T acquires T-Mobile, there will be one nationwide GSM cellular provider. Sprint and Verizon Wireless employ a different cellular technology ? CDMA ? which is not as widely adopted worldwide. This means that for consumers who travel frequently to other countries and require a worldwide-capable phone, they will have one choice: AT&T. So-called ?global? phones which support GSM technologies and are available through CDMA carriers like Verizon Wireless are priced at a premium and are very few in selection. As the sole feasible and convenient option, AT&T will control the global market and successfully be able to price their services at unreasonable rates and have no motivation to improve the quality of their services.

This is anti-competitive and monopolistic, and the acquisition should be denied for this reason alone, if nothing else.

Lastly, AT&T's plans for re-purposing various radio frequencies will leave most, if not all current T-Mobile customers without wireless service once the final switchover occurs. Current customers will be forced to acquire new handsets at personal expense. This will prove to be an unjust economical burden upon many Americans who are already struggling in these times of financial crises. A provision may exist for AT&T to provide subsidized and/or free replacement phones upon the switchover, but there is no guarantee of equivalent functionality since these future devices may not exist, and the technology of mobile phones is progressing at a remarkable pace (see: technical hardware and software specifications of high-end smartphones of two years ago versus high-end smartphones today).

When the final switchover occurs, most, if not all acquired and existing T-Mobile contracts will have expired and in order to take advantage of a replacement device, will in all likelihood require a new contract with AT&T at the service rates at the time of signing, which, due to aforementioned anti-

competition and monopolization of the industry, will likely have increased, thus further increasing the financial burden upon American citizens.