

I applaud the FCC for moving to require broadcasters put their complete public files online making them more accessible to the general public. By law broadcasters have always been required to maintain a public file available for public inspection but have always maintained the public file in paper form. Documents in the public file have always been kept in individual file folders and stored in a filing cabinet at each broadcast station's office(s). However, if reports are accurate the uploaded files will be searchable but only inside one file at a time. This means that it won't be possible to conduct searches across all files to determine which person or group has spent the most money on negative, political ads across the country. Critics have rightly stated that without fully searchable files Internet accessibility is only a slight improvement over the status quo.