

The **Justice Department's antitrust lawyers are conducting an investigation** into the cable industry's treatment of online video companies, especially with the increasing number of usage caps coming into the market. With most consumers confronted with a broadband monopoly or duopoly, it is easy for providers to slap limits on usage if the competition follows suit. The new found love of usage caps and usage billing is proving curious to those abroad, because the rest of the world is moving away from consumption limits and towards flat rate broadband.

Cable giant Time Warner Cable which is part of the SpectrumCo LLC coalition selling spectrum to Verizon Wireless and entering into anti-competitive marketing agreements has reportedly learnt from its botched 2009 attempt to force data caps on its broadband customers using unlimited data saying now they will do so again but more gradually and try to change consumer's perceptions of unlimited data. Time Warner Cable is just using the same old playbook but instead of quickly phasing out unlimited data they are trying to do it more gradually to avoid consumer backlash but its still wrong and needs investigating.