

The U.S. Department of Justice has made a wise decision to investigate the cable & online video market for anti-competitive behavior by big cable companies to unfairly prevent cord cutting by cable TV subscribers to get their TV more cheaply online (a la carte).

Basically, companies like Comcast are now starting to branch out their existing TV services to the web to prevent people from cancelling their subscriptions. Comcast's Xfinity TV service is essentially an OnDemand video library available on regular cable set-top boxes, desktop web browsers, smartphones, and tablets — nearly identical to services like Netflix. And when the company started promoting its **Xfinity TV Xbox App** last month as not counting against a data cap, it sparked a public debate.

Critics, such as **Netflix chief executive Reed Hastings**, point out that imposing data caps on streaming video services gives cable companies an unfair advantage. For example, one argument is that people will end up using the cable company's service over competitors like Netflix because they won't have to pay more money for going over the data cap. Comcast, in particular, said its Xfinity TV service is delivered over a "private" network, and thus isn't subject to the same data accrued from web usage. But since both cable TV and Internet data use the same broadband infrastructure, this **argument is questionable at best**.