

According to press reports Monday, the popular website Hulu will move to an authentication system similar to the "TV Everywhere" model large cable providers like Comcast favor. Hulu will now only allow those with a cable subscription to watch its broadband video content. Under the merger conditions Comcast agreed to comply with in exchange for approval to merge with NBC Comcast is forbidden from influencing Hulu's operations but today's announcement shows they are doing just that. Please investigate any illegal activities by Comcast in violation of their merger conditions sanction them as needed and also deny Verizon SpectrumCo/Cox transactions.

As for Hulu's new announcement I submit the following: Where there's smoke, there's fire, or at least a compelling reason to investigate. Under the terms of its acquisition of NBCUniversal, Comcast is forbidden from influencing Hulu's operations. Today's announcement looks an awful lot like an example of such influence, and is likely another in a growing list of Comcast merger-condition violations. This move to tie Hulu to cable TV service merits close scrutiny from the government agencies that approved the anti-competitive Comcast-NBCU pact in the first place.