

The Department of Justice is looking into cable providers' power over how and where consumers can access television content via the Internet, according to the [Wall Street Journal](#). It's a step that finally acknowledges the vertical integration of cable providers as well as their ability to influence consumer behavior because of their control over the last mile.

The investigation likely arose not just because of the issues surrounding access to cable over devices and data caps, but also due a realization by the Justice Department that if the cable companies sell their spectrum to Verizon and eliminate Verizon as a wire line broadband competitor, the cable industry becomes the nation's most advanced source of last-mile broadband. And since the DoJ is in the course of deciding whether the spectrum deal [is anti-competitive](#), perhaps it realized that it had better understand a bit more about how cable is influencing and [directing the future of television](#) by virtue of its control over broadband.

See Verizon's Spectrum Deal With Cable Is End of Broadband Competition

<http://gigaom.com/broadband/verizons-spectrum-deal-with-cable-is-the-end-of-broadband-competition/>

The Future of TV Isn't TV It's Broadband

<http://gigaom.com/2012/04/24/the-future-of-tv-isnt-tv-its-broadband/>