

I understand the FCC believes the Internet has made rules preventing media monopolies obsolete but eliminating or relaxing said rules any further will allow media monopolies to form that can dominate the Internet. Allowing a single owner in a local market of radio, TV, newspapers and even Internet services is bad for democracy and the open Internet. It threatens the future of Network Neutrality.

If the Federal Communications Commission has its way, Denver and other top-20 markets could see a single owner of local newspaper, television, radio and even internet services in the future. The relaxation of cross-ownership rules currently under consideration by the regulatory agency has been derided by watchdog groups as a big gift from the FCC to Rupert Murdoch. After a quick, closed-door decision was scuttled, a vote has been pushed to 2013.

Currently, the bulk of the media is owned by six companies — CBS, News Corp., Comcast, Disney, Time Warner, Viacom. See a [chart from Free Press](#). Murdoch is angling to buy the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune, the biggest newspapers in the country's second and third largest markets. The media baron already owns TV stations in both cities. Only the FCC's 1970s-era rules against media cross-ownership stand in his way. And the FCC is talking about dropping those rules.

The FCC's argument is that the internet makes the old ownership rules obsolete. But as former FCC Chairman Michael Copps has said, the internet is great for bubbling up emotion and political action in instances like the Arab Spring. But the internet is not good at sustained investigative reporting. Strong local journalism is important for a working democracy.