

Remember, the dial-up era of Internet access? Back then there were line sharing mandates requiring the telephone company to allow firms like AOL, Prodigy, CompuServe etc to use the phone company's network to supply dial-up Internet access into an individual's home. You could use your home phone connection - suppose you had AT&T for your home telephone service and AOL in that case AOL could use your phone connection with AT&T or whatever phone company you had for an affordable cheap reasonable rate to connect you to their internet service. AOL could use AT&T's phone network to connect an AT&T phone customer to the Internet. There were plenty of competitors in the dial-up arena from AOL and Prodigy to CompuServe, NetZero and even EarthLink to name a few of the commercial providers, What happened in the broadband era? When we started the broadband era in 2001 the U.S. was poised to lead the world in broadband and have the same level of competition as the dial-up market but the FCC under George W. Bush's Presidency ended the line sharing requirement and any competition mandates by re-classifying broadband services under ***Title I of the Telecommunications Act*** as an ***information service***. We need to get back to that. We need competition restored it is the best way after all to protect Net Neutrality. If competition mandates had been continued and phone companies had to provide access to their infrastructure to competitors today we would still have plenty of land-line or wire-line competition for the Internet. We also need to protect, promote and strengthen wireless competition and that requires limiting the amount of spectrum AT&T and Verizon can acquire and giving smaller carriers including Sprint and T-Mobile a chance to get more wireless spectrum in the upcoming incentive auctions.