

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing concerning internet neutrality and general hesitation to classify ISPs as vital communication infrastructure providers, i.e. common carriers.

This is in every way a terrible decision. Comcast has already started to discriminate and prevent legitimate users of online services from accessing them via their network. (HBO Go users are denied access by Comcast as one clear example. Their charging a toll to Netflix to NOT lower their delivery speeds is another). Comcast have not taken any steps to improve upon their network infrastructure, and with a much larger captured audience, would have no incentive to do so. Rather than allowing this merger to proceed, the best course of action that the FCC could take would be to classify Internet as a Telecommunications service and apply common carrier rules. Additionally, the FCC should move to nullify exclusive carrier arrangements and open up all markets to competition, allowing Time Warner to COMPETE with Comcast, rather than fold into them.

The United States prides itself as a nation as an innovator and Free Market where anyone can compete and succeed. Under the current cable and telecommunications structure, not only is competition squashed in the cable industry, but Internet innovation in terms of delivery service is being squandered. One only need to see the capabilities being brought about on a small scale by companies such as Google and Aereo to see how much further we can take our online services if more companies were given the access to the networks that taxpayers have paid Comcast to build.

It is time to reclaim our national information infrastructure by denying this merger and reclassifying Internet services as the vital service it truly is.

This comment, emails, blog posts, news websites, social forums, etc., would not be possible without internet availability to all. A very large percentage of the population, myself included, relies almost solely on various internet sources for entertainment and news.

As a researcher, I rely on the open internet exclusively for work communications and scientific collaborations for multinational projects. Failing to classify ISPs as common carriers could lead to restrictions on the access of scientific journals and content as ISPs seek to restrict the flow of high volume content. ONE publisher, Elsevier, has 240 million downloads per year. When compared to Netflix's 30 million customers you can see that scientific journals make a tempting target for ISPs to add fees for journal traffic.

Leaving the decision in the hands of ISPs as to which sites and content should be available to the general public is at the very least irresponsible, and could be detrimental to the development and advancement of our country.

This failure to act will limit innovation and only succeed in enhancing the revenues of already enormous companies, at the expense of the population through higher prices with fewer or limited services. Without adequate competition coming from new innovations, being censored by large companies, there will be little to no incentive for ISPs to enhance and improve available networks without reaping the financial benefits from both content consumers and providers.

Please consider your position and rulings from the point of view of those who will be affected the most, the end consumer.