

Time Warner and Comcast should not be allowed to merge.

Time Warner provides my service today. I hate them. They nickel and dime me every month, they add ridiculous nonsense fees to the bill, allowing them to increase revenue without having to say they're raising their cable prices, and their set-top boxes are obviously made by the lowest bidder for half the bid.

However, I am more concerned with Comcast.

They have chosen the route of placing a data transfer cap on their plans. This is terrible. This isn't like a water service, or something where the amount of service I get is coming out of a bucket somewhere. I've paid for a modem connection, Time Warner has placed a speed limit on that modem, and that should be enough. I could write further about the issue of marketed speeds vs. actual, but I understand that I'm using a consumer package, and the speed isn't guaranteed. The point of making it a speed limit rather than total transfer, is that the network capacity should be engineered based on the sums of the speeds (minus some percentage, again, because the speed isn't guaranteed).

Secondly, we already don't have competition within local markets. I have literally no other option but Time Warner cable. My parents have literally no other option but Comcast. Because today a provider must run their own cables out to you to provide a competing service, all of these companies get monopolies in the markets they serve. Time Warner and Comcast merging would exacerbate this problem by making Comcast the dominant company not only in every single one of the markets they serve, but the country as a whole.

I suggest that Time Warner and Comcast's merger be prevented, and to address the local market issue, I suggest implementing a system where the physical connections to the customers are no longer owned by a corporation, allowing anybody to come in and lease individual customers from the non-profit or whatever org controls the lines, or if they remain in control of the entity that placed them, that a reasonable rate be set, such that other providers may provide a competing service on the same physical wires.