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First thought I had when I heard about this was: "No way, how dare they try to infringe on the open internet, it will be a human tragedy".

Then I started thinking, well maybe Comcast has a point. Out of the goodness of their hearts I'm sure they're only trying to make the point that (for example) Netflix accounts for a substantial amount of traffic so it's overloading our infrastructure. We absolutely need to charge Netflix in order to counteract the negative effects of all that traffic hitting our network.

Then finally I realized. Consumers already pay for the bandwidth. End of story. If Comcast can't support the bandwidth their customers are paying for then essentially they're admitting to false advertising. The payment model has always been that the consumer pays for how much bandwidth they want, no matter what they want to do with that bandwidth (as long as it's legal of course).

If Comcast is having difficulty controlling the influx of Netflix data, then maybe they should either beef up their infrastructure or lower the bandwidth on the packages for consumers. Or raise prices on the bandwidth.

This is one of the reasons so many people are cynical about government and how it operates. Because it's obvious to the rest of us that Comcast and its brethren are simply looking for loopholes to accumulate more wealth without additional work. They're looking for ways to rotate the earth's axis to ensure that money flows into their bank accounts. For the rest of us it takes work to create wealth. Why doesn't Comcast have to play by the same rules?