

Hello,

I recently moved to Chicago for graduate school. When I looked at my options for internet providers, Comcast was the only option available. This is the case throughout most of Chicago. I learned recently that the reason behind this is that large internet providers like Comcast and Time Warner go to great lengths to not infringe on one another's customer base. Basically, they are setting up their own independent monopolies in order to make the argument "If Comcast buys Time Warner, there will be no loss of competition." However, when the internet was first released to the public, it was done so through phone service providers (despite the fact that this was known to not be the most efficient way to provide internet service at the time). This was done to fuel competition and spur innovation in the burgeoning tech market. So, we went from intentionally slowing our internet connectivity through inefficient means of connection (dial up) to spur competition, to allowing providers to circumvent competition completely, which has led to this legislation that would allow them to intentionally slow our internet connectivity regardless of the efficiency of the means by which we connect (broadband, wifi, etc). When did the goal shift from spurring competition so the general public can receive the best service at the lowest price, to allowing companies to provide the same or worse service for the same or higher prices? This shift represents Washington's loss of interest in the general public in favor of a more monetarily motivated interest in corporate giants. It also represents Congress's poor use of legislation and regulation as a means to create and solve a problem that never before plagued anyone. (to be fair, I am in favor of regulation, but not like this). It is wrong, and I think damn near everyone knows that. Focus on the real issue, the loss of that competition we cared so much about in the early 90's.