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The government sanctioned monopoly that allowed cable companies to exist as they are today threatens the the internet as a whole. These companies don't directly compete due to the geographical territories that are separated. Of course there are certain drug cartels that agree to stay out of each other's territory. I digress, the point is that these companies have no business merging given the state of affairs with internet speeds in the US. In the great United States the citizens pay more on average than any other country in the world for internet speed that is ranked beneath Estonia on average speed. Cable companies need to be required to open up their wired networks to other companies as AT&T was and still is required to do with phone lines. In that respect open competition can occur that would drive the inflated price of internet down and the average speed of internet up. It would benefit the consumers, the internet as a whole and the American economy as small and medium size internet providers would be able to exist and compete with behemoths like Comcast and Time Warner. The hegemony needs to have it's back broken in order to protect the internet and society as a whole.