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I am a struggling college student. My parents are in the middle of a divorce, while also struggling to pay for my education. Needless to say, money is a bit tight. In the midst of all of this, my mother pays well over \$100 per month to Comcast for an internet, cable TV, and home-phone bundle. We don't even own a home phone, but she apparently gets this bundle because she believes it's cheaper than getting internet and cable TV only. I've tried to convince her to drop the home phone and cable tv for Netflix, as this would cut the bill in half and provide a better service. But for some reason, she delays.

Now, let me go over why Cable TV is an outdated and exploitative. You do not get to choose which channels you have access to; you buy a pre-defined "package" where "good" channels are locked behind higher price-gates, and "junk" channels are thrown into the cheaper levels to make them seem more valuable. On top of this, almost all channels (except for a few locked behind those pay gates I mentioned) fill up at 1/3-1/2 of their broadcast time with ads. So, not only does the consumer not get to choose what part of the service they're paying for, they also have their paid service cluttered up with time-wasting ads. It's like going to an opera and having the curtain-calls intentionally dragged out so that you have to stare at a picture of Mickey Mouse telling you to take a trip to Disney World. It may have been fine in the past, but there are cheaper and better services now.

Now, this brings us to Netflix. For one (low) price, the consumer has access to everything Netflix has to offer, on their own time (with the exclusion of things that need to be shipped out), with no commercials. That's all well and good for the consumers, but for Comcast, it means competition, which is something that they mostly haven't had to deal with for years thanks to their arrangements with Time Warner.

Thanks to this, Comcast and companies like it have a lot to gain from the eradication of net neutrality. With this "two-lane" approach, Comcast can circumvent a need to innovate and provide better services to stay competitive. They can simply build "insurance" against any losses they might receive from consumers switching over to netflix by forcing netflix (and any consumers who want to have decent internet speeds) to pay the difference. It creates a win-win situation for Comcast, and a lose-lose situation for everyone else; if Netflix can't pay, people will be forced to return to Comcast's exploitative cable TV service, due to Netflix's slow speeds (or even going out of business!), but if Netflix can pay, Comcast can rake in the cash without needing to make any extra effort (while the consumers have to make up the difference!).

The scary part about this is that Comcast has already started doing this to Netflix (against the law I imagine)! Cable companies do not need to have legal backing in order to push their weight around and make things worse for everyone else. They will do this whether the laws are in place or not, but forming these laws will crush any hope of giving those they exploit legal protection or a chance at fairness. If internet usage is really a threat to cable companies, they can charge consumers more for internet access; they don't have to set up these ridiculous pay-walls that they have for cable TV services to restrict consumers in what has been a largely restriction-free service!

One last thing... just about every business uses the internet for some purpose or another. The local farm that I went apple-picking at this fall had a website with their prices and hours of operation; without that website, and other "business review" sites, I never wouldn't have gone apple picking there, if at all. Artists and craftsmen depend on personal websites, or sites like etsy.com to reach their customers and make a living. Fabric-selling websites are practically the only competition that JoAnne's fabrics has for sewing supplies. It goes without saying that large businesses of all sorts also depend on the internet to reach customers. It seems like a very bad move to put the fate of all of these companies in the hands of the ISP's (whom already face little to no competition, and could demand basically anything they wanted). I hope you will not make such a mistake.