

The arrogance of companies like AT&T Inc., which wants to own DirecTV, Comcast which wants to own Time Warner Cable and Verizon Communications is telling:

These companies have created an exploitative racket. It's all a sham. With their monopoly control over the market they want to make the open Web which has thrived because of open access into a closed one way system like pay TV. The only difference is while in pay TV service providers have to pay content providers for carriage the service providers want to charge content providers for carriage.

The Web was built on open standards using taxpayer funded money and in fact these corporations were given lavish taxpayer subsidies to build out their networks. Instead they chose to use them on lavish bonuses and executive compensation – special perks for their CEOs. Instead of infrastructure investments in their networks they give out bonuses to their executives. Then when people want to actually use the Web for streaming media or heavy downloads they say we don't have the bandwidth. Then they give unlimited data the axe and say we can't afford to let users have it anymore.

They create an artificial scarcity – the amount of data we can use technically speaking is still unlimited but they institute caps. If they cannot afford to keep up with our use they should not be in business or they should be forced to make infrastructure investments.

Now their latest scam force Netflix and other web companies to pay for their infrastructure. AT&T won't invest its own profits back into its infrastructure they want Netflix to pay for AT&T infrastructure etc. Don't get me started on exempting certain traffic from data caps a form of prioritization.

Startups are the lifeblood of our economy and small businesses spark creativity, competition to established giants (incumbents), with innovations. Like the end user they too have to pay for an Internet connection from their ISP which is a monthly subscription.

In addition they have to pay hosting fees to a web hosting provider offering affordable service. The only other option would be to get a server and pay for your own hosting but server maintenance for startups could prove expensive. Once the interconnection fee racket starts they have to pay not just 1 ISP but every ISP and equal and open access to the Internet becomes a thing of the past. Please defend Net Neutrality and put it on strong legal ground by reclassifying broadband under Title II the way it was pre 2002.