

As an internet user in the United States, and as someone who has already rejected cable because of the lack of options in my area, I am deeply concerned about the proposed Time Warner/Comcast merger. If Comcast and TWC were to merge, they would be at a size to raise some serious anti-trust concerns when there is already precious little competition in the cable industry. Neither organization has anywhere close to acceptable customer service, with techs keeping customers on hold past closing hours, and refusing to uphold previously agreed-to commitments unless there is recorded evidence supporting the initial agreement. Various news outlets have reported on multiple incidents of this in the past few weeks, and I do not want a larger company in existence that will take advantage of me as these consumers have been taken advantage of.

Both of these companies offer internet service as well, but just like cable, there is very little internet competition as well. With the aforementioned companies exploring data caps and additional ways to exploit their customers for more money, and making the ridiculous claim that mobile data is competition (which it most certainly is not, unless you want to pay over \$1200 to stream all of Breaking Bad in a month), a merger of these two companies would be disastrous for the American consumer, especially as internet becomes increasingly critical to daily function. Additionally, Comcast has a history of anticompetitive behavior in advocating for state laws that block municipal broadband projects. When American broadband pales in comparison to other developed nations in South America, Europe, and Asia, we have a problem with our current providers, and need more options, not fewer.

Lastly, Comcast is not only a cable provider or ISP. It functions as both, but also is a content provider. If they so choose, they can control access to the cloud or streaming content, which means they can potentially lock out potential competitors, like Netflix, or can charge those companies more money in order to access Comcast subscribers. This has already happened in the case of Netflix, when Comcast throttled their speeds until Netflix paid them more money to reach their subscribers. This leverage in content ownership also gives Comcast the ability to keep content exclusively on networks they own (e.g. the Olympics, regional sports programming), or to charge an absurdly high rate to other providers for access to that content.

I do not want this merger to go through. If possible, I would like stricter anti-trust restrictions to be placed on both parties of the merger, especially Comcast, and would like both companies to be required to maintain net neutrality according to Title II classification with no exceptions. As a consumer, I don't trust Comcast, and if this merger goes through, the results could be devastating to the American consumer.