

August 11, 2018

Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite CC-5610 (Annex C)
Washington, DC 20580

Re: Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century Hearing, Project Number P181201

I consider it an invasion of my privacy when Google, Facebook, and other companies harvest my online data or electronically track my location and activities. I didn't read the terms and conditions when I signed up for these online services, but it wouldn't matter if I did because I wouldn't have been able to understand them anyway. It's not fair for these major media companies to be able to take and sell our personal data, and the fact that they are going to do it should be clearly stated, not lost in the confusing pages of the terms and conditions.

We need to have more competition among online sources so that the few digital companies we rely on can't get away with stealing and selling our data. As competition comes in, they will self-regulate. It will also be safer for us as consumers. I suppose I could stop using services like Facebook, but I really don't want to. Facebook is how we communicate with our family, and it would be hard to go without that. I'd much rather that companies stopped harvesting our data instead.

I've already been a victim of a data breach. Our information and Social Security numbers were stolen from our South Carolina taxes. It made me feel violated. I had to change things with my bank so that I have extra protection and monitoring. I pay for those services so that I can feel more secure knowing that even accepting my tax refund won't allow any information to get out.

I don't think companies like Google even follow their own rules. If they're going to steal people's data, they're going to be dishonest about everything else, too. I've also heard about conservative viewpoints being taken off of YouTube, which Google owns. That worries me. It would eliminate the freedoms of an entire group of people, and it discriminates against their religious beliefs, as well.

It's dishonest, immoral, and unfair to profit off my data. I'd like to see companies *protect* our information, not sell it to others. It's not right. They need to treat us as individuals, not products.

Best,

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