

Donna Thorne

August 9th, 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 use several digital services, including Amazon, Google Search, Yahoo!, and AOL. It bothers me to know that nearly everything I do online is generating data that the companies are collecting and selling. That's infringing on my right to privacy. The average person doesn't take the time to read the terms and conditions of these sites; I know I don't read them. It's not fair that these companies say we are consenting to our data being sold by clicking Accept. There should be a much clearer disclosure on what data is being collected and how it is being used.

I have read articles that make it clear that companies like Google are using their own rules when it comes to our data. I am uncomfortable that Google and Android phones are following us wherever we go due to pervasive location tracking. Google was also caught altering results on its search engine to promote its own product. It would be better for there to be more competition because it would get prices down and provide better service. Basically, if there is no competition, these companies don't care about their customers.

Additionally, certain political viewpoints are being censored online, as has occurred when YouTube, which is owned by Google, removed and flagged accounts with conservative positions. I feel very strongly that YouTube should not be eliminating users with conservative views. The left is silencing people on the right, and that is concerning.

It is unfair that these companies are making so much money from our data. I'm tired of everybody else profiting off of me while I'm just barely scraping by. The government needs to step in and do something about this infringement of our privacy. It's not fair that these companies are using our data just because they provide their services for free. Nobody, whether we are paying or not, has the right to use our data.

Sincerely,

Donna Thorne