

Michael Wharam

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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

Like many others, I use websites like Google Search and Google Maps, and I sometimes shop on Amazon. I believe consumers should have more control over their personal information and how these types of digital services use it. It's my personal information out there, and I feel like I'm being played. In fact, I prefer my data not be collected, period.

When you sign up for these sites and services, the terms and conditions are too long, and they are not something the average person can really understand. They use the terms to say "we'll use your data if you use our app or you can't use our app," and that's not fair. I have a feeling they do whatever they want with our data, even though we have signed the terms. The terms should be to the point, shorter, and free of jargon.

It also worries me that Google subsidiary YouTube has been removing conservatives from its platform. As consumers and citizens, we could use our voice to affect change. When one side is censored, it gives a one-sided argument and promotes one agenda. That means we are not getting all the information because it is biased.

I understand that some Android phone users had found their phones were tracking them even when they had disabled them. That makes me feel like we are being played. If I wanted them to know where I was, then I would allow that, but if I turn it off, it should be under my control, not theirs. It is as if Big Brother is always watching.

Google has been found guilty of promoting its own products when people search for smartphones. That's not good for consumers. We're supposed to be protected when it comes to anti-competitive things like that. Sometimes companies get too big and they monopolize things. It would be a good idea to stop this anti-competitive behavior. It's always better to have more competition

The people running the media companies say it's only fair that they use our data because they provide their services for free. However, it is not a fair exchange because the advertising is what pays for it. They don't need our data, too. If they're going to continue making billions off of my data, I should be getting paid.

Sincerely,



Michael Wharam