

Sherrie Geiger

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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

Large digital companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon have a near monopoly on their area of the digital world. Their dominance is so strong that I can't avoid those products without negatively affecting my life. They have begun abusing that dominance by stealing from consumers and squashing competition, so I am glad the FTC is taking a look at these questionable business practices.

I use Gmail, Facebook, Google Maps and Amazon, so of course I was required to "accept" their Terms and Conditions. The problem is that even when I attempted to read them, they are written so that no one can understand all that legal nonsense, and no one should need to, simply to go shopping or share on social media. These companies, however, claim that by clicking that box, they now have the right to collect any and all information about me and sell it! I should be able to approve what I actually want publicized and to whom. Google, for example was caught tracking customers through their Android phone even when their location option was turned off and the SIM card removed.

Google was also caught altering search results to squash competition. Their subsidiary, YouTube has engaged in censorship by removing conservative posts. I don't feel very safe knowing my phone is tracking me, or knowing of these other questionable business practices. It is obvious that these companies are out for their own gain, yet they have access to all my personal information.

We have been put at risk by all the recent online security breaches, and it is time to put an end to it. Recently, through a gas station in Florida, my debit card details were stolen and they got about a hundred dollars. To my delight, my bank notified me and then returned the money to me, but the experience left me feeling very upset. Maybe my work in the medical records department makes me more sensitive to this topic, but it is time to reign in these companies and demand they treat our personal information as personal.

I am very happy that the FTC is looking into putting rules into place that will limit what data they can collect, and ensure that they protect what they collect. I would like to see a requirement that they only collect information they need to complete my reason for being at their site. And also that they only share when they have *my specific agreement to share* a limited amount of that information with a certain receiving company. We need to do away with the idea of a blanket agreement that they can do whatever they want with my information.

Look at how these companies are out of control, and implement rules to fix it. Do not allow them to expect a blanket exchange of our data for using their sites. If they want to offer a free site or service, then it should be *free*. Consumers are being put at risk and we need your help to implement reasonable security measures and rules to promote healthy online competition.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Geiger