

Ted Harrell |

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

August 1, 2018

Ted Harrell

To Whom It May Concern:

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

There is a problem with these companies that are collecting and selling data. I don't have any means of knowing what they are collecting, or who they are selling it to. It is my personal information and I should have a personal choice in deciding who should, or should not have it. If people don't know what is being collected, they can't give permission for it to be used or not.

I use Facebook and You Tube. While I do not use Google, I am pretty sure they get my information when I am searching the internet. I always read the complete terms and conditions for any apps I use. I doubt the average person does because they are long and tedious. People tend to get lost in the middle of it. Most people don't read it at all.

The companies use policies that are obscure and they don't follow their own rules because there is too much money to be made. Online ads are nearly instantaneous and sometimes they are completely irrelevant to what I am reading.

Companies like Google use dominance to keep out competitors. More competition would bring prices down and give consumers more choices. When there is a monopoly, they censor people they don't like. That leaves no place for opposing viewpoints to voice their opinions. By flagging political viewpoints they are silencing people online. This stops public discussions, you can't get other peoples opinions to know what they are thinking, this presents an echo chamber. You get organizations that make absolute false statements and no one can challenge them on their statements.

While most of the time I feel that a free app/data collection is a fair exchange; however, it isn't right that they make more money off the data they collect than they would have, had I paid for the app.

I was a victim of fraudulent use of my debit card. I don't know the company who put my data at risk. While my bank did reimburse me, I had to verify all my purchases for six months. This makes me angry.

Sincerely,

Ted Harrell