

William Porter

August 6, 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 am a retired United States Navy Senior Chief. I believe that America is based on privacy. As an American, I shouldn't have to be concerned about who is getting my information and what they are doing with it. However, these things **are** a concern, because media companies like Google and Facebook are harvesting our personal information without our consent and then turning around and selling it.

It troubles me to know that nearly everything we do online generates data that a few companies are collecting and selling. People should be able to approve whether or not we want that information shared. When I think about the pervasive location tracking by Google and its Android phones, I feel like I'm being followed.

It is also a concern that Google was found to be altering results on its search engine to promote its own products, rather than including their competition. I feel we should have many choices in these matters, not just one or two. Only then can we choose the option that works for us, which is something that we need to be able to do.

Additionally, Google subsidiary YouTube has been flagging, and even deleting, user accounts with conservative positions. If people can use YouTube for anything else, then they should be able to use it for that, too. When these users are silenced, only one side is heard, and the people never get to listen to the other side that is against it.

The way I see it, if the internet media companies are going to treat me as a product and make money off of me, then I should be paid too! Otherwise, they not only need to get our consent to gather that data, but they also need to tell us what they're doing with it. We should be the ones giving the "yea" or "nay" on these companies doing this.

Sincerely,

William Porter