

It is much too early in the life of the internet to give so much control over so many users as the TW/AOL merger would create.

Until other broadband sources are widely available this merger should be denied.

On almost a weekly basis in my area, Central Florida, Time Warner Roadrunner experiences bandwidth depletion or complete failure.

TW Roadrunner also has no backup procedures for users to obtain email during these outages.

It is not uncommon to be routed to Canada or some other remote location when attempting to secure phone support.

I have personally been asked by a Canadian HelpDesk person

"Why are you calling Canada for a Florida access problem".

I express my concern again. This is much too much clout to give one ISP at this time in the life of the internet.

It is also beginning to appear that Road Runner is actively trying to get rid of anyone who regularly posts political, social, or any other comment to USENET or IRC, and that Road Runner is attempting to convert the internet from a way to express views to a service where they can sell their other Time Warner offerings. This is not what the internet is supposed to be.

I am not making this comment at the urging of any company or organization. Regular users of USENET and IRC have become extremely concerned that the merger of AOL and Time Warner will result in the disappearance of USENET and IRC, and I would like to see some insurance that this cannot happen. If the merger takes place, the merged company will be in a position where they can effectively remove both USENET and IRC as viable components of the internet, at least for users with high-speed access.

Please, for the benefit of internet users who do use the internet for purposes of speaking out rather than purchasing interactive cartoons or games from Time Warner, if you approve the merger between Time Warner and AOL merger, include some protection for USENET and IRC users so that these valuable internet functions cannot be eliminated from the internet by the new company.

Thank you for your time, Mike Whitehurst