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Federal regulators side with Comcast against the FCC

By: News 8 Austin Staff

Federal regulators were in Austin Wednesday to support a decision to allow Comcast to regulate the speed of Internet traffic.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in favor of the cable company last Tuesday in a lawsuit against the Federal Communication Commission. The lawsuit regards the commission's requirement that all Internet content be treated equally.



Comcast sued the FCC after the commission ruled that Comcast violated federal policy when it blocked Internet traffic for some of its subscribers. The FCC had ordered the company to stop cutting off transfers of large data files among customers who use a special type of file-sharing software.

The new ruling, however, allows Comcast to push smaller Internet content through at a higher speed than larger content. The ruling applies to all cable companies.

Some FCC commissioners, such as Robert McDowell, are in favor of the court's decision and said it's an indication of liberty.

"If you look across the globe, you'll see that countries that regulate the Internet more tend to be less free, and countries that regulate the Internet less tend to more free," McDowell said.

McDowell also said he doesn't see a problem with the Internet right now that the FCC needs to fix.

However, the FCC as a group could appeal the ruling.

The ultimate outcome would affect News 8's parent company, Time Warner Cable.

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