

<< There's A Secret Reason Why The Government Has... | French Politician Wants Twitter To Help Censor... >>

# France Telecom Accused Of Holding YouTube Videos Hostage Unless It Gets More Money

from the *more-peering-disputes* dept

An interesting post from broadband news reporter Dave Burstein argues that anti-trust regulators in France may have basically **enabled France Telecom to hold YouTube videos hostage** unless Google backbone partner, Cogent, pays more money:

Broadband  
by Mike Masnick  
Fri, Jan 4th 2013  
9:36am



Filed Under:  
content, disputes,  
france, net  
neutrality,  
payment, peering,  
youtube  
Companies:  
cogent, france  
telecom, free,  
google, youtube

Permalink.

*Millions of French netizens discover their YouTube streams sputter and die or never begin in the first place. Other video services, including TF1, are also struggling. The effect varies, sometimes randomly and sometimes by time of day. Respected consumer organization UFC-Que Choisir found between 20% and 50% of users surveyed online had problems.*

*Again, the existing connection remains and much of the traffic gets through. But Net traffic always grows and without regularly adding additional capacity many - not all - streams are blocked. French networks, with France Telecom in the lead, are refusing to accept growing traffic from Cogent, a major backbone carrier that services Google. They demand payment to accept all the streams their customers request. The independent French competition authority (Autorite de la concurrence) on September 20 approved the charging plan, leaving no doubt this is neutrality dispute.*

The details suggest that this isn't so much a "neutrality" issue as a peering dispute. In fact, it actually sounds somewhat similar to the **Level 3 / Comcast dispute** from a few years back. In that case, Level 3 was providing service to Netflix, and Comcast worried about the big influx of traffic. Comcast (like France Telecom) demanded that Level 3 pay up for delivering it extra traffic. The bit that's interesting here is that French regulators got involved and said that this was legal in this case, though they're **worried about the lack of transparency**.

Of course all this does is show, yet again, how the internet's interconnectivity through peering arrangements is increasingly under pressure as certain broadband players **become more powerful**. And, unfortunately, the public (and their YouTube videos) may be at risk.

13 Comments | [Leave a Comment..](#)

Tweet { 51 } Like { 9 } 3 points



Insider technology finds.  
Gadgets, apps and



The authority on Android news.  
Visit our website »



New design, new approach  
Introducing ReadWrite

If you liked this post, you may also be interested in...

- [French Politician Wants Twitter To Help Censor Speech](#)
- [DailyDirt: Fly Me To The Moon...](#)
- [Google Competitors Spitting Mad About FTC Closing Case; Promise That Europe & Texas Will Get It Right](#)
- [Pakistan Briefly Raises Youtube Banhammer; Reinstates It Three Minutes Later](#)
- [No, The Major Labels Didn't Fake 2 Billion YouTube Views](#)

Reader Comments (rss)

(Flattened / Threaded)

Show All Comments

[read all >](#)

1. Michael, Jan 4th, 2013 @ 9:49am

insightful funny report

A word from our Sponsors...

5

A word from our Sponsors...

THE DEFINITIVE SITE  
FOR ANALYSIS OF  
**NEW**  
TECHNOLOGY  
PRODUCTS, EVENTS, & NEWS.  
- NEXTBLITZ

**readwrite**  
A SAY MEDIA PROPERTY

Follow Techdirt



Essential Reading

Hot Topics

- 7.2 [Dad Hires Digital Assassins To Murder His Son \(Digitally\)](#)
- 6.8 [There's A Secret Reason Why The Government Has To Keep It Secret How Many Americans It's Spying On Without A Warrant](#)
- 6.3 [DMCA Nonsense: Your Default Login Page Is A Ripoff Of Our Default Login Page!](#)

New To Techdirt?

Explore some core concepts:

[The Grand Unified Theory On The Economics Of Free](#)

[Saying You Can't Compete With Free Is Saying You Can't Compete Period](#)

[Perhaps It's Not The Entertainment Industry's Business Model That's Outdated](#)