

Monopoly on optical cables



Overview

Monopoly watchdogs call for more regulation and minimum standards for residential connections. In its 14th Sector Report on Telecommunications, published on Tuesday, the Monopolkommission sounds the alarm and strongly warns against new monopolies. The transition from copper to fiber optics is a critical phase. This paper has benefitted from continuous suggestions. While global attention remains fixated on terrestrial and orbital tech rivalries, a handful of powerful corporations have been quietly fortifying their dominance over global communication systems—namely, through marine fiber optic cables, the backup circulatory system of the digital age. By contrast, DSL and cable modem access are subject to sharp capacity limitations which are. Does it make economic sense for different companies to dig up the same stretch of pavement and lay similar cables next to one another?

For many years the UK had one national fixed communication network that was owned by British Telecom (BT) – the traditional phone landline made from copper wire. Submarine optical cables are known as the "jewel in the crown" in the field of optical cables because of their technical difficulties.



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Stuck With One Internet Provider? The Secret Behind Internet

The costs associated with laying infrastructure such as fiber-optic cables can be exorbitant, deterring new entrants. Geographic and demographic factors also influence the decision-making process; in

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The UK's national fixed broadband network – wasteful

Is the fibre optic network a natural monopoly? Some people argue that the fixed communication network is an example of a natural monopoly – an

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How the cable industry became a monopoly

The cable industry, which now thinks of itself as the broadband industry (their annual convention was renamed the Internet and Television Expo),

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Fiber optics: Monopolkommission warns of return of old power

Monopoly watchdogs call for more regulation and minimum standards for residential connections. In its 14th Sector Report on Telecommunications, published on Tuesday, the

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Monopolies and Broadband Internet Access Millions of Americans still do not have a real choice when it comes to their Internet service. In urban areas, a relative majority can choose between two or more

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ELI5: My cable provider has a monopoly on service in my ...

ELI5: My cable provider has a monopoly on service in my neighborhood. This is the case throughout the US. How is this *not* anticompetitive behavior?

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How do the cable giants get away with their monopoly

Regulating the cable industry will be messy and controversial but it is worth the journey — for consumers and citizens.

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Fibre infrastructure is not a "natural monopoly"

Some people in the telecoms industry like to compare the copper or fibre lines transmitting data under our feet to railways. They are both natural

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Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom

The report explores the extent of monopoly control by the largest Internet Service Providers (ISPs) across the United States, and finds that most

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Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom

Monopoly ISPs expanded their Fiber-to-the-Home networks only in areas where they faced competition, and rural Americans were left behind as a result. Our 2020 report, Profiles of

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What Cable Monopoly?

Today, Crawford is warning of a looming cable monopoly. To be sure, DOCSIS 3.0 technology has given cable a relatively low-cost upgrade path while

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Regional fiber rollups may scream monopoly, but it's complicated

While monopolies often get the blame, part of the reason broadband costs are higher in the U.S. than in many parts of Europe and elsewhere is because of the financial considerations of

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56 These cable networks are much better at providing high-speed downloads than uploads, but speeds in both directions tend to be far greater than those available from DSL.

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The Looming Cable Monopoly | Yale Law & Policy Review

When broadcast, voice, cable, and even newspapers are just indistinguishable bits flowing over a single, monopoly-provided fat pipe to the home, how should public goals of affordability, ubiquity, access to

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Breaking the Monopoly: Addressing BT Openreach's

The issue with BT Openreach highlights a significant barrier in the UK telecommunications industry. Openreach, a BT subsidiary, controls most of the

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Towards An Integrated Communications Market: Overcoming The

This Article proposes a new policy approach to the problem of local monopoly in cable television. The proposal, in brief, is to cease treating cable television and telephone services as two different media

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Breaking the monopoly: Hengtong completes 5,000-meter deep

The success of the sea trial has broken the foreign monopoly, marking that Hengtong has the qualification to undertake international submarine optical cable projects worldwide.

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Breaking cable's broadband monopoly, one market at a time

The monopoly might be broken up, but it might have to happen one market at a time. That will take a while.

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Report: Most Americans Have No Real Choice in

The 2020 edition of ILSR's Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom report analyzes the latest data available from the Federal

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Natural Monopoly and Distorted Competition: Evidence from

Can regulation solve problems arising from a natural monopoly? This paper analyzes whether "unbundling," referring to regulations that enforce sharing of natural monopolistic infrastructure,

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Broadband Internet Access

FIGHTING MONOPOLY POWER Corporate control over our broadband — an essential public infrastructure — is leaving many of us disconnected,

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How to tackle the great American cable monopoly

Verizon's ambitious plans to roll out a high-speed fiber optic network have ground to a halt. For households that want high-capacity Internet access at the highest speeds, there is no

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Profiles of Monopoly: Big Telecom and Cable

Download Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom to read this report filled with maps that provide revealing visualizations about the status of broadband competition in the U.S.

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The U.S. Internet Monopoly Map: States and Cities With

The internet monopoly map pictured above shows which states have the most and least internet competition. The best states for internet competition

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Cable Television: An Unnatural Monopoly

Those who assert that cable television is a natural monopoly focus on its economies of scale; that is, its large fixed costs whose duplication by multiple companies would be inefficient and wasteful.

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Marine Monopolies: How Marine Fiber Optic Cable

Ownership of cable routes enables dominant players—especially hyperscale tech companies—to monetize global data flows, prioritize their

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The U.S. is investing in fiber-optic internet. Here's

We tour a North Carolina plant where melted glass is pulled into the hair-like strands that power fiber-optic cable.

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Internet Monopoly: How It Affects Your Choices & Bills

Understand how internet and cable monopolies limit provider choice, raise monthly bills, and reduce service quality for households and small businesses.

Feb 13, 2026

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