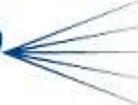




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New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman invited the public on Sunday to test the speed of their Internet and submit the results online as part of an ongoing probe into whether large providers may be short-changing customers with slower-than-advertised speeds.

The office launched an investigation into Verizon Communications Inc, Cablevision Systems Corp and Time Warner Cable Inc in October over the issue. Schneiderman's office sent the three companies letters asking for a variety of information, including copies of any tests they have done on Internet speeds and copies of the disclosures they have made to their customers.

On Sunday, Schneiderman said he wanted feedback from the public to assist with the investigation. He announced his office has created a new online broadband test on a site called Internethealthtest.org that will capture a customer's "throughput" - or the speed at which customers actually access Internet content. After the test is completed, he said he wants customers to submit a screenshot of the results and fill out an online form. "New Yorkers should get the Internet speeds they pay for. Too many of us may be paying for one thing, and getting another," Schneiderman said in a statement.

The ongoing investigation is particularly focused on so-called interconnection arrangements, or contractual deals that Internet service providers strike with other networks for the mutual exchange of data. In the October letters, Schneiderman's office said it was concerned that customers paying a premium for higher speeds may be experiencing a disruption in their service due to technical problems and business disputes over interconnection agreements. All three companies have previously said they are confident in their Internet speeds and will work with the attorney general's office to provide the information requested and assist in the investigation. — *Reuters*

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A state Public Service Commission ruling that Internet provider Frontier Communications must lease part of its broadband service to rival Citynet could boost competition for high-speed Internet service in West Virginia.

Last week, the panel upheld most of an administrative law judge's decision that requires Frontier to lease unused fiber-optic cable to Citynet in several rural

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communities, including Philippi, Buckhannon and Elkins, [\*The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported.\*](#) Citynet filed a complaint with the PSC in August 2014 accusing Frontier of trying to shut out competition for high-speed Internet service by not honoring prior agreements and stifling competition.

The PSC concluded that Frontier could lease at least two strands of fiber to Citynet without compromising service to its own customers. Citynet CEO Jim Martin praised the ruling. "The Public Service Commission has taken a tremendously positive step for improving telecommunication services in the rural markets throughout the state, which is desperately needed," Martin said. "We feel vindicated by (the commission's action)."

Frontier had appealed the judge's July decision in favor of Citynet, arguing that the Federal Communications Commission's "net neutrality" order doesn't require the company to lease fiber to competitors that plan it for high-speed broadband services. The state commission, however, said the FCC should sort out those matters. Frontier spokesman Andy Malinoski said the company already leases unused fiber-optic cable to other telecommunications providers across the state.

In a separate case, Frontier agreed last week to spend \$150 million to upgrade its Internet network in West Virginia after a settlement with Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's office. Morrisey said his office received numerous complaints about Frontier's slow Internet speeds. – *Associated Press*

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The Seattle City Council on Monday approved a new 10-year cable-television franchise agreement for Comcast. The nonexclusive deal — Seattle also has agreements with CenturyLink and Wave — will allow Comcast to continue installing equipment and providing services along the city's public rights of way.

The council initially planned to vote on Comcast's new agreement a week earlier. But Mayor Ed Murray and Councilmember Bruce Harrell balked a few days before that when Philadelphia struck a better deal with the cable company than Seattle officials had negotiated. Murray and Harrell complained to Comcast, which returned to the negotiating table, ultimately delaying the vote. The result was some additional public benefits for Seattle. – *Seattle Times*



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