



Text Message Petition Blog Entries

SMS Innovator Gets Behind Text Messaging Petition



By **Mehan Jayasuriya** on October 31, 2008 - 2:08pm

If you've been paying close attention to the [issue of wireless carriers blocking text messages](#) in order to quell speech and stifle competition, you'll likely remember Nathan Martin, the CEO and President of Pittsburgh-based startup [DeepLocal](#). Back in July, [Martin delivered an impassioned speech at an FCC en banc hearing in Pittsburgh](#), wherein he described the confusing and prohibitively expensive process that a small company must submit itself to, in order to acquire an SMS short code.

While there's little doubt that Martin's testimony turned a few heads in Pittsburgh, it was delivered at a hearing that [dealt almost exclusively with issues relating to fixed broadband](#). So we're glad to see that Martin has decided to [file a written copy of his July testimony with the FCC \(PDF link\)](#), in a show of support for our [text messaging petition](#).

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [TXT/SMS](#)

Share A row of social media sharing icons: a small square icon, a Twitter bird, a Facebook 'f', a LinkedIn 'in', a YouTube play button, and a Google+ 'g'.

Verizon to Increase Fees For SMS Delivery, Discourage Innovation (Updated)



By **Mehan Jayasuriya** on October 10, 2008 - 4:17pm

[1 comment](#)

Back in July, I briefly mentioned Nathan Martin, the CEO and Co-Founder of an

innovative mobile startup called [deepLocal](#). Martin and his colleagues develop location-based services that deliver content to users via SMS messages--a method that allows owners of all sorts of mobile devices, not just smartphones, to use deepLocal's services. At an FCC *En Banc* hearing in Pittsburgh, Martin railed against the carriers for maintaining high barriers to entry for companies hoping to develop SMS-based applications. "Why was I able to do for free in a matter of days three years ago what today will take me half a year of approvals and cost me tens of thousands of dollars a month?" Martin asked, referring to the fact that he had once delivered messages using a homemade SMS gateway before deciding to go legit. "You own the channel, now let me compete!" Martin's story is a compelling one and you would think that the wireless carriers would heed his call, thereby encouraging developers to create innovative services that would, in turn, encourage SMS use. Instead, at least one major carrier, Verizon Wireless, has decided to make life even *more* difficult for SMS service providers like deepLocal, further discouraging innovation in the SMS services market in the process.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [TXT/SMS](#)

Share 

Don't Believe the Hype: Carriers Hide Behind Spam to Protect their "Corporate Values" From Your Speech

By [Jef Pearlman](#) on October 2, 2008 - 3:29pm



Remember how we filed a [petition](#) to the [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) asking them to make sure that carriers are nondiscriminatory when it comes to text messages? While we haven't posted about it much lately, work on the issue has been chugging quietly along behind the scenes. Today, all of the parties of the [original petition](#) filed a follow-up [letter](#) at the Commission dealing with some of the arguments which have been raised, primarily by [Verizon Wireless](#) and [CTIA](#) (the industry group for wireless carriers). The short version is that carriers claim they won't be able to stop spam if they can't also pick and choose who is allowed to text with you. Needless to say, we disagree.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [FCC](#) [TXT/SMS](#) [Information Policy](#)

Share       

A Little Reminder Why The PK Petition On Mobile Texting And Short Codes Matters



By [Harold Feld](#) on August 13, 2008 - 5:00pm

[1 comment](#)

Today's NYT has [this op ed](#) on Obama's use of text messaging to announce his VP pick. It provides a nice reminder about the importance of the pending [Petition by PK and others](#) on text messaging. Not that Verizon or any other provider would be so foolish as to deny the Obama or McCain campaigns short codes or block their messages. I'm not even worried about independent candidates like Barr and Nader. No, I'm worried about us ordinary schlubs or unpopular folks who can't count on getting a front page story on the NYT if something happens.

To quickly review the [NARAL flap](#) that prompted the filing of the Petition.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [FCC](#) [TXT/SMS](#) [Information Policy](#)

Share       

Feed the Animals: the FCC Holds Court in Pittsburgh



By [Mehan Jayasuriya](#) on July 23, 2008 - 6:24pm

[Girl Talk](#) a.k.a. Pittsburgh-based mashup artist Greg Gillis, has been making waves in both the electronic/dance and indie rock communities for a few years now. Specializing in sample-based DJ mixes, Gillis creates music that is dense, tirelessly referential and thoroughly postmodern. His breakthrough album, 2006's *Night Ripper*, proved that a well-executed mashup can have a life beyond the Internet and his latest release, the pay-what-you-want, Creative Commons licensed [Feed the Animals](#), seems poised to push even further into the mainstream. Gillis has become quite the hot topic as of late and his name often pops up in the virtual pages of publications like [Pitchfork](#) and [Stereogum](#), as DJs in clubs around the country shamelessly try to imitate his style. One place where you might not expect

to hear Gillis mentioned, however, is in the corridors of power on Capitol Hill. Despite this fact, not only did Gillis' name pop up twice this week during Congressional and FCC hearings but on both occasions he was held up as exemplifying a new breed of creative professional. Welcome to yet another week in the increasingly scattershot world of D.C. tech policy.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [TXT/SMS](#)

Share 

Text Messaging FUD Busting (Part I)



By [Jef Pearlman](#) on May 13, 2008 - 11:18am

[1 comment](#)

Following the lead taken in [Alex's blog post](#) yesterday, I'm going to address some FUD which is making the rounds about text messaging and spam. This weekend, the *New York Times* ran an [article](#) talking about cell phone spam. Spam – or rather, the threat of spam – is a key argument used by the carriers who oppose our [petition](#) asking the [FCC](#) to clarify that carriers may not discriminate in providing text messaging services. But don't be fooled – the FUD thrown around in this article is irrelevant to the issues raised in the petition.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Network Neutrality](#) [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [TXT/SMS](#)

Share 

Maybe The FCC Can Handle The Truth



By [Art Brodsky](#) on April 23, 2008 - 4:23pm

Maybe the FCC can handle the truth.

A couple of days ago, we asked the [question](#) whether the Federal Communications

Commission was up for confronting the reality of Comcast's blocking and throttling of peer-to-peer traffic and, if so, what the Commission would do about it.

Just as Jack Nicholson's character, Col. Nathan Jessep, was arrested at the end of the movie, "A Few Good Men" after telling Tom Cruise's character Lt. Daniel Kaffee the truth, it looks as if the Commission is preparing to take some action against Comcast.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin made his announcement in dramatic fashion at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing. He wasn't on the original agenda to testify. Martin's staff contacted the Committee the afternoon before the April 22 hearing and asked if he could testify. Martin wanted to a big forum for a big announcement, and he made the most of it.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Network Neutrality](#) [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [FCC](#) [Net Neutrality](#)

Share       

The Boy Who Cried "Spam"



By [Harold Feld](#) on April 23, 2008 - 3:56pm

[3 comments](#)

I have a nifty little service I buy from my telephone provider called "teleblock." It blocks calls originating from certain types of phone calls unless I affirmatively allow them. Thanks to this nifty service, I am once again able to sleep late on Sundays.

I bring this up because if there is a common carriage service left in the telecom world, it's plain old telephone service (POTS). My POTS landline is absolutely regulated as a "Title II" common carrier telephone service. But despite being a common carrier Title II telecom service, my POTS provider can offer me a very useful tool for limiting annoying calls.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Broadband](#) [Network Neutrality](#) [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [FCC](#) [Net Neutrality](#) [TXT/SMS](#) [Information Policy](#)

Share       

Mobile carriers argue, “Problem Solved” and “Trust Us.” Public Knowledge replies, “No” and “No.”



By **Jef Pearlman** on April 15, 2008 - 5:22pm

You may recall that last month we filed [comments](#) in the FCC’s [proceeding](#) on our [text messaging petition](#). We were joined by numerous other parties, including the [American Civil Liberties Union](#), [Rebtel](#), [Congressmen](#), and over 200 concerned individuals. On the other side of the debate, [a number of the carriers](#) weighed in as well. The carriers’ main arguments? That the problem is solved, and that consumers are actually better off when the carriers get to decide who speaks and who doesn’t over text messages. Yesterday, we filed [reply comments](#) addressing these arguments, and making it clear to the FCC that the problem has not been solved, and that it is unacceptable to have mobile carriers act as editors passing judgment on the content of text messages.

[Continue reading »](#)

Issues [Text Message Petition](#)

Tags [TXT/SMS](#)

Share A row of small, square icons for social media sharing: a black square, a blue square, a red square, a blue square with a white 'f', a blue square with a white 'G', a red square with a white 'Y', and a green square with a white speech bubble.

Wireless Companies Say that they Can Censor Your Speech--Tell the FCC They Can't!



By **Gigi Sohn** on April 9, 2008 - 2:16pm

This Monday, April 14, is the deadline for submitting reply comments to the FCC on the issue of whether wireless phone companies should be able to block text messages based on their source or content. Several months ago, Public Knowledge, Free Press and a number of other organizations filed a [petition](#) asking the FCC to declare such practices to be illegal. The petition arose out of two incidents involving wireless companies: 1) Verizon refused to give a “short code” to the National Abortion Rights Action League to disseminate an action alert text message its members asked to receive, but which Verizon determined to be too controversial; and 2) Verizon, T-Mobile and Alltel refused to carry the text messages of competitive Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers.

[Continue reading »](#)

Tags [FCC](#) [Open Standards](#) [TXT/SMS](#)

Share       

1 [2](#) [next >](#) [last »](#)