

COMCAST 'IMPERSONATED USER PCs': LAWSUIT

P2PNET.net

July 22, 2008

Comcast has been hit with three class actions accusing it of "surreptitiously" impersonating the computers of P2P users, and of using misleading advertising.

Bell Canada is the largest ISP here with Comcast filling the same role in the US.

Both companies were caught red-handed trying to screw their users by throttling bandwidth, and Bell customers who live in Ontario can join with their Quebec counterparts in a class action, P2PNET posted yesterday.

Now, Comcast, "deceived and misled consumers with regard to the company's advertised promise to provide both 'the fastest Internet connection' and 'unfettered access to all the content, services, and applications that the Internet has to offer'," according to Gilbert Randolph which, with SimmonsCooper, Hanly Conroy Bierstein Sheridan Fisher & Hayes, and Monzo Catanese, lodged the actions.

The claims, filed concurrently in California, Illinois, and New Jersey, state

These representations are allegedly false because Comcast intentionally blocks or otherwise impedes its customers' access to peer-to-peer file-sharing and other Internet applications.

According to the Complaints, Comcast surreptitiously impersonates the computers of users attempting to share files and sends "reset packets" that instruct the transmitting computers to stop sending data. Thus, high-speed Internet users are denied access to the Internet despite paying for a service that Comcast promises is "unfettered." The lawsuits seek damages on behalf of all Comcast high-speed Internet users under the consumer protection statutes of California, Illinois and New Jersey. A lawsuit with similar allegations was filed by Gilbert Randolph LLP in the District of Columbia in February.

Stay tuned.