

THE UNITED STATES OF AT&T WANTS SATELLITES NOW, TOO

Well, here's another reason AT&T is so desperate for retroactive immunity. It'd suck to have their bid to acquire a satellite TV company derailed as consumers realized AT&T is using that technology to spy on them, huh?

AT&T has been consulting lawyers in Washington about how long it would take to get government approval to purchase either EchoStar Communications Corp. or DirecTV Group Inc., people familiar with the matter said. If it does make a bid for one of the satellite providers, **AT&T could unveil the offer before year's end in hopes of getting federal antitrust officials to approve the combination before a new administration takes over,** these people say. [my emphasis]

Yeah, I'm sure AT&T would like to get such a move approved before the end of the year. You know, while they still had their former lawyer in charge of DOJ and still had one of their big lobbyists running the oval office?