

Tech investors eye AOL-Google talks

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The financial community is keeping a close eye on a reported plan by Google and Comcast to acquire a stake in America Online.

There has been no official word from the parties involved; however, Wall Street sent shares of Comcast and Google down slightly early Thursday while AOL's parent, Time Warner, was up slightly.

The reported deal would create a joint venture among the venerable AOL ISP, Google's search engine and Comcast's sprawling cable network. The new company would then have a top-to-bottom infrastructure for online entertainment products.

A similar theory led Time Warner to acquire AOL in 2001 in a deal that resulted in red ink that continues to irk some of Time Warner's major investors.

The recent surge in high-speed Internet access and services such as text messaging and podcasts has altered the financial landscape since 2001.

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