

Please Keep Network Neutrality

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Date: 7-7-2017

To Chairman Ajit Pai and the FCC Committee Reconsidering Title II:

I strongly encourage the FCC to keep the current Title II policies that ensure network neutrality. Network neutrality insures that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) must treat all traffic on their networks the same. ISPs are not allowed to give preferential treatment, slow down, or block content, as it should be.

By removing network neutrality, the FCC is giving ISPs free reign to regulate the content its customers consume. This kind of authority has great potential to be abused, and this is not so different from foreign governments who filter the content delivered to its citizens. This also amounts to filtered language and freedom of speech which is counter to the Constitution.

Don't forget that protection was given to U.S. citizens to communicate without interference by telecommunication service providers in the form of the Communications Act of 1934. Legal courts (e.g. 2015 & 2016) have recently reconfirmed the opinion that this same protection extends to current and future technology used to communicate. The bottom line is that U.S. citizens need to stay protected through Title II in our ability to communicate freely.

While I recognize the possibilities that commercial competition offers in the form of regulating speed services, the flipside is that ISPs could easily discriminate among those who can and cannot afford to pay higher prices for content delivered at higher speeds. Should prices go up instead of down for internet speed and quality, this would harm many small business owners as well as individuals and families.

In short, by removing the regulatory power granted by Title II, our society risks stagnation of innovation, discrimination between those who can and cannot afford higher priced internet services, unchecked ability of ISP to filter online content, and potentially limit our freedom of speech.

Thank you for your consideration and time,

John Repplinger