Net Neutrality is the concept ensuring that all data that travels over the internet must be treated the same by Internet service providers. In order to guarantee that there is no discrimination of data exchange based on users, platforms, content, or any other way to differentiate quality of service, there is government regulation involved to oversee the network operators. However, the internet is a global decentralized network that provides for the free flow of content between billions of people and abundant platforms to exercise the freedom of expression and it should stay that way. The internet had naturally developed on its own to be neutral in order to benefit both the user and the service providers and in many ways, net neutrality actually hinders the development of the internet. (ReasonTV 2010) Therefore, in order to protect the growth of the internet, its free form for expression, and privacy, it is important to not regulate the internet with net neutrality policies.

Net Neutrality seeks to eliminate monopolies when in actuality it is giving the largest monopoly, the U.S. government, even more control over a network that was supposed to be free and driven by innovators and competition. With government regulation, competition would stop because there is no room to gauge supply and demand and provide incentives. Therefore, even though it seems like net neutrality would prevent excessive growth of power hungry companies already at the top, it would actually prevent entrepreneurs from ever competing with them. (Steimle 2014) Competition not only initiates the grow of companies, but also the growth of broadband, and the spread of it, to make it more affordable to a larger number of people. So, offering higher speeds for higher prices will actually “increase overall levels of bandwidth availability and consumption” and therefore, this “bandwidth differentiation also might make service cheaper by reducing the amount of capital investment required to expand infrastructure” (Mueller 2007, pg. 4) Essentially, the ability to grow infrastructure emphasizes the need for competition and differing service prices so that more internet options can join the free market.

Contrary to the belief that Net Neutrality will increase broadband for everyone equally and increase network security, the government regulation it requires will actually slow down internet traffic and hinder security efforts. As Steimle points out, the government is slow moving to protect our freedom to react and prevent complete control. Putting a system like this in charge of regulating a fast moving network would hinder the quality and service and not to mention defeat the purpose of the internet being decentralized. (2014) In addition, this regulation would damage network security because network operators monitor packets of transmitted data to catch any threats like viruses or spyware, while net neutrality prevents this in depth discrimination and wants all packets to be equal. This could harm the safety of the internet as a whole and also prevents companies from protecting their customers and providing them with the best possible service. (Peha 2007, pg. 7)

Finally, net neutrality gives the government even more power and essentially aggravates the already heated debate on increased security and surveillance and the violation of privacy. The internet is an opportunistic platform for the freedom of expression in its free form as it is decentralized and global. However, allowing government regulation provides a chance for further data collection and surveillance that could give the government more power in censoring the internet and also prevent people from wanting to practice their rights over the internet in fear of being watched. In fact this abuse of power is happening in China where the internet has national blocks to certain content, imposed by the government. (ReasonTV 2010) As a democracy created for the freedom of people, it is important not let the increased regulation, brought about by net neutrality, to impede free expression and flow of content like what is occurring in China.

The internet was created without net neutrality and naturally came to function freely and fair. Users have a lot more influence than they know. If a provider is unfair to certain content, the user can choose another service. However, the network providers are aware of this relationship and therefore offer services that fit the needs of each user instead of a standard service that net neutrality establishes. This is the most efficient and frugal way to provide a developing network that is not hindered by regulation or lack of competition and security.

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