With the rapid development of internet as an open platform for information sharing, entertainment or communication, the role of network infrastructure owners has shifted to an essential gatekeeper position in the information society. Therefore, the public and politicians alike are concerned about how Internet service provider (ISPs) are going to monetize access and usage of the networks in the future. This leads to debate of Net Neutrality. What Net Neutrality does is “It prohibits Internet service providers from speeding up, slowing down or blocking Internet traffic based on its source, ownership or destination” i.e. the charges for one WhatsApp message or an email or downloading an episode of a famous series, every activity over the internet should be treated as equal and should reach us with the same speed. In other terms, Net Neutrality is treated as “First Amendment of Internet”.

I am strictly against the notion of repealing Net Neutrality. One of the major reason for the repealing of Net Neutrality in USA is that in United States there are monopolies in telecom providers. The giants like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon they own many competing services like Comcast has HULU and USA Network whereas AT&T provide service to HBO.

As per Peha in her article, the ways in which the decline of Net Neutrality will affect us is. Once the network providers have sufficient market power they can “stifle Free speech for fun or profit”. This case has significant importance in political spheres or elections given the increasing role of Internet in raising campaigning donations or mobilizing volunteers. Once Network operators get the power they can limit the access to websites that are valuable to the opponent’s party. Hence, they are spending less on this act “Campaign contributions” as use to do earlier, thus, leading to discrimination act. [2]

As per the statistics given in the following article: https://www.emarketer.com/Article/First-Time-More-Than-Half-of-Americans-Will-Watch-Streaming-TV/1013543: “Per eMarketer’s latest forecast of digital video consumption, 2016 will be the first time more than half of the US population will watch TV shows online at least once a month. In 2016, 164.5 million Americans will watch digital TV—50.8% of the US population. In fact, by 2017, more than two-thirds of Americans will watch digital video at least once a month. Millennials are the biggest consumers of digital video. This year, 93.7% of millennial internet users will watch streaming video, with that figure climbing to 94.1% by 2019. More specifically, 96.5% of internet users between 18 and 24 will watch streaming video this year—reaching a near-saturation point.” [3] Now since video streaming over the Internet is becoming increasingly popular, a policy that allows a network operator to charge much more for this application will harm companies that distribute video and consumers who enjoy their content thus impacting more than 50% of America’s population

To conclude, technology should be used to make people’s lives easier and better. It should never be used to discriminate. Discrimination among network traffic should be used to improve security, to increase quality of service and make this world a better place. We should have a more balanced net neutrality policy in place that benefits most the population and stakeholders involved.

[1] Kramer, J., Wiewiorra, L., & Weinhardt, C., 2013. [Net neutrality: A progress report.](https://blackboard.syr.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-299613-dt-content-rid-991691_1/xid-991691_1) Telecommunications Policy, 37 9, 794-813

[2] Peha, J.M. 2007 [The Benefits and Risks of Mandating Network Neutrality, and the Quest for a Balanced Policy.](https://blackboard.syr.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-299613-dt-content-rid-991703_1/xid-991703_1)International Journal of Communications 1. 644-668

[3] For the First Time, More Than Half of Americans Will Watch Streaming TV. Retrieved from <https://www.emarketer.com/Article/First-Time-More-Than-Half-of-Americans-Will-Watch-Streaming-TV/1013543>