We have been talking a lot about freedom of speech, Net neutrality is the internet’s guiding principle to preserve our right to communicate freely online. It gives rise to the concept of open internet where people can tell their stories, launch their businesses, create market etc. It treats all data same over the net and not discriminating based on the user, website or content. The Internet Service Providers should not block any content that ride over the internet, it’s basically that your phone company doesn’t interfere as to whom to call and what to talk about. An advocacy group argues in US congress saying “The heart of the Internet protocol is the agreement that all data packets will be passed through without regard to which application created them or what's inside of them. This reliable, uniform treatment of packets is precisely what has made the Internet a marketplace of innovation so critical to our economy.” (Mueller, 2007) Supporting it, no company should be given the right to control the internet or interfere with open marketplace. However, possession, production and publication of illegal content should be punished to avoid online crimes. Major e-commerce providers such as eBay and Google are already linking Net Neutrality concepts to trade norms and perceiving it as a global governance issue.

If Net Neutrality is absent:

* Internet without net neutrality is not an internet. It hinders the way to innovation and will give rise to closed-down network.
* The cable and phone companies will be in charge to decide what content to be published on the website or block applications that compete with their own offerings.
* Also, it will carve the internet into fast and slow lanes and ISPs will then charge companies that could pay for giving them preference over others.
* Freedom of Speech will be taken away and affect many activists and movements that fight for equality.

To protect net neutrality, it is essential to define a balanced policy that should limit discriminatory practices that allows several network operators to exploit market and it should not interfere with the network operators’ ability to use discrimination that benefits users as discrimination can be used to improve to increase quality of service, to allocate resources to those who need them the most, to prevent starvation, and to decrease total infrastructure costs. (PEHA1, 2007) It should be essential for the policymakers to pay attention to any attempts to protect legacy services (or to extract oligopoly rents from upstream markets.

**References:**

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