

The internet was instituted on the simple yet compelling fact that, even though you may have to pay a provider for access to the internet, the provider does not get to access or influence your web searches.

This dispute over net neutrality only began once FCC was defeated by Comcast in the trials against net neutrality. We know the high level meaning of net neutrality, let's look at this in a way that everyone can understand. We all pay our utility bill every month and are charged a certain amount for the electricity consumed to use our refrigerators, TV's, microwaves etc. Now, it would sound ridiculous if the company asks you to pay a separate amount just to charge your inverter. Similarly, if charged a certain amount to use data, we should be able to access anything in the world, with no additional charges for making VoIP calls or accessing certain websites or blocked content. (Bhasin, K, 2015)

As an individual who has been living in the United States for a while now, I support the net neutrality movement strongly. There are a number of reasons I champion this.

The most important one would be Freedom of speech. The internet is popular only because a user situated in any part of the globe, can express his feelings, create news or indulge in conversations with anyone across the globe. All these open communication platforms help us innovate without having to obtain consent from any company or the government. Thus, we can say that an attack on net neutrality means an attack on freedom of speech. (McSherry, C. 2017)

Leading companies like Netflix, are not troubled by the concept of net neutrality. We think net neutrality is incredibly important," Netflix said, but "not narrowly important to us because we're big enough to get the deals we want." (Smith, C, 2017)

This is not the kind of abusive power we would like to grant to these giants.

We have seen the tremendous amount of personal participation we received over the last two elections. It felt like everyone's voices were heard. All citizens have involved themselves in giving their views about local, state or national politics. We saw the support that both Obama and Hillary Clinton received over the last two elections. We are currently seeing the criticism or the acceptance of people towards President Donald Trump's policies. We have organizations like Center for Responsive Politics which solely use the internet to open up government actions to public scrutiny.

This wave of digital empowerment is the only path for a healthier democracy. It completely depends on the open and accessible internet platform that has been made affordable to all, regardless of age, color, race, sex or geographic location. Net neutrality assures that each and every individual gets to play an equal role. (Karr, T., 2009)

As Pool says, the trends in communication technology have led to the flux of use for self expression, human interactions and recording of knowledge. This abundance of electronic devices puts the capability to change the world into each and every person's hand. Unlike the past, where all the people had was the printing press, we have the ability to give our opinions and views on every single matter, sitting in any corner of the world. (De Sola Pool, 1984)

The world's greatest strength lies in Net neutrality. The Internet Freedom Preservation Act will protect the basic rights of our digital democracy. Only by obtaining net neutrality, every individual's voice can be heard, whether he/she is a little known blogger or a huge corporation. (Karr, T. , 2009). There have been movements organized by a few groups and immense support has been obtained from so many Americans for Net neutrality, from when it was brought up a few years ago. This fight has caused more than 1.6 million Americans to pick up their phone, sign petitions, write letters to Congress members, post their views on social media or even speak out publicly in support of this. (Karr, T. , 2009). Let's not give up, this is the best chance for us to beat them back once and for all.

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