

I urge you to oppose the FCC plans to repeal net neutrality. Net neutrality is the idea that all data sent over the Internet be treated equally. This means that Internet Service Providers (ISP) can't block websites, throttle services or charge premiums to reach certain online content (ensuring that all content providers are treated equally and that the playing field is level).

Net neutrality ensures that every website is accessible at the same speed. Netflix can't pay to load faster than Hulu. ISPs like Spectrum, Verizon, AT&T and Comcast can't block specific sites or make subscribers pay more to access web sites like YouTube.

Without net neutrality, ISPs can create tiers of service to access different sites. Big established companies like Netflix, FaceBook and Google may be able to afford to pay for higher tier service. But this will hurt small companies and startups that typically do not have the cash to for premium access.

Without net neutrality ISPs will be able to run their internet service like they run their cable services. Think tiered access packages, uncompetitive prices and very limited innovation.

As Vint Cerf, an early Internet pioneer (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vint_Cerf), has stated: "Enshrining a rule that broadly permits network operators to discriminate in favor of certain kinds of services and to potentially interfere with others would place broadband operators in control of online activity. Allowing broadband providers to segment their IP offerings and reserve huge amounts of bandwidth for their own services will not give consumers the broadband Internet our country and economy need. Many people will have little or no choice among broadband operators for the foreseeable future, implying that such operators will have the power to exercise a great deal of control over any applications placed on the network. As we move to a broadband environment and eliminate century-old non-discrimination requirements, a lightweight but enforceable neutrality rule is needed to ensure that the Internet continues to thrive. Telephone companies cannot tell consumers who they can call; network operators should not dictate what people can do online." See <http://fortune.com/2010/08/10/vint-cerf-comments-on-googles-net-neutrality-proposal/>.