

COMMENT

To: FCC
From: Emily Düwel
Date: 11/30/17
Subject: Net Neutrality

Dear Members of the FCC:

A Supreme Court ruling a number of years against Microsoft found that company guilty of monopolization by dint of the fact that, in controlling the flow of data between hardware and software it thought it had the right to control research/development of both ends. It did not.

Comcast and friends are trying a similar gambit in regard to the Web. The Web is a means of transmitting information. Occupying the membrane that exists between content developers and end users, those who would overturn Net Neutrality protections are trying to exercise a similar level of control over content and its availability or accessibility.

What Comcast and friends are attempting is a form of extortion.

Internet providers already were allowed to take advantage of (and derive great wealth from) a system whose invention and infrastructure were paid for by the American people. What they are now attempting conflicts with their only required purpose—to facilitate exchange, not stymie or hijack or abort or re-shape or pervert that exchange.

No one gave them the crown and the scepter. Aristophanes wrote a play called “The Birds” about this very same middle-man chicanery in 400 BC. Stick new feathers on it, it is still the same incorrigibly corrupt beast.

It would be a sad legacy to understand in a few years time that through your efforts you helped to fell one of the greatest mechanisms of democracy by undoing the principle of Net Neutrality.

Sincerely,

Emily Düwel