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The internet has become, through these few short years, the highway through which our lives have changed. Communication, socialization, work, entertainment, research, education; all of these things have changed to allow more people access to data that improves their lives and can make the efficiency of these actions far greater. The breadth of the internet and our dependency on its services has grown exponentially, as such there are those who wish to capitalize on this need. There is not a desire to make money by offering a superior product however but to dispense these services as they see fit through a general shakedown.

Through careful manipulation internet providers have positioned themselves to near monopolies offering the minimum of what will keep their customers placated. In my area, and elsewhere from what I understand, home broadband is offered by the same companies as cable television service. As more and more consumers find alternative ways to enjoy media from channels directly cable subscriptions are falling. This decline is making internet / cable providers scramble to find a way to compensate. Enter the tier system. It is known that consumers are at a breaking point with the price to service ratio so the only other source of income would have to be the providers of online content. This is the equivalent of my milkman charging the cow because he wants to increase his profits and I won't be paying any extra for my milk.

Beyond corporate greed, ending the open internet will surely create a stagnant environment out of something that has up to now had worldwide reach with near unlimited possibilities. Thousands of new internet businesses are opening their doors every year. In a climate where those companies are in competition with others who have not only established themselves but have a priority over bandwidth they are bound to fail. With this advantage it's initially confusing that large companies such as Amazon, eBay, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Netflix, Twitter, and Yahoo are also for an open internet. Of course they don't want to pay for bandwidth, but alternatively they see precedence for exploitation in the future and the aforementioned stagnation.

And what of those who aren't selling a thing but are attempting to make the world a better place? There are several projects through sites like World Community Grid that utilize user cpu cycles and bandwidth to cure cancer and find alternatives to fossil fuels. Are we proposing to charge them for the large packets sent and received to make wonderful strides in technology? This is innovation that will make the U.S. a leader in all areas.

Please consider these things carefully when making your decision. It will be a much longer road back to where we are now if you make the wrong choice and we find the need to return to an open internet.