

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.

When phone and cable companies can dictate who can or cannot appear on the internet, they will essentially hobble free enterprise, education, and job search engines, the latter I and millions of unemployed folks depend upon to find employment, to name a few. It would be purely criminal and, I believe, unconstitutional for the FCC to allow these two industries to literally control the "comings and goings" of the internet. It would be no different than giving them complete, unfettered control of all other media outlets, thus shutting down the Web site and user by requiring the Site to pay an extra "access" fee. Users will suffer from the loss of web sites as well, with access to once easily found information and opportunities atrophying and dying. Is this really your intention? The internet does not need this interference with the free flow of (lawful) ideas and business.

Furthermore, I expect that if the FCC were to "cave in" on this issue, the end users, such as myself, would also be under attack and required to pay more and higher fees sometime later on this slippery slope.

Please keep the internet and Net Neutrality from the grimy hands of these industries. Allowing the Cable and Phone companies to take further control of this, the public's basic free-speech rights (by tying up our free and open flow of business and ideas) is not in anyone's but the Cable and Phone Companies' interest and will be viewed by the public at large, as an undemocratic act.

Perhaps you should also be thinking about how this move could affect the FCC as well as other federal and state agencies, our legislators and our courts, when you and your colleagues are trying to use the internet and can't access a site you may have once used because you've handed over control to these monster conglomerates. Don't you think it's enough that these folks control massive quantities of the print, broadcast media and telephone airways?

Oh, yes, the telephone companies--those are the folks spying on Americans for this administration aren't they? And they want to now be able to tell our Web sites to pay more for what....???

DO NOT GIVE THEM ANY MORE ACCESS TO ANYTHING.

They ALL need to be told in no uncertain terms:

"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! NO MORE!
MAKE DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE".

Please remember this country's Constitution. Please remember that this is where your FIRST ALLEGIANCE is supposed to be placed, not with big business.