

I raised the Internet and seen it grow

OPEN LETTER TO THE FCC by Andrew Stergiou May 25, 2007

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America, in actuality the internet was never neutral, but contrived as the child that evolved in time to become what it is today. What neutrality that exists has to be protected and affirmed in the most strongest of measures.

Congress and the nation has regularly recognized the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs to the economy, in those economic contributions to the national economy, in small business's production of new jobs, ideas and development but often Congress has not appropriately act in a manner commensurate by proportionate means.

Often Congress has acted unfairly and erred in giveaways to large corporations when those large corporations contributed nothing of real value to the economy besides the paper profits contrived in board rooms and their back offices.

I for one have not appreciated how the internet has developed as from the start it was an elitist endeavor many couldn't afford, couldn't understand, nor could manage and as a natural resource it should not be like that. As far as I am concerned the internet could have remained the product of government development as it once was major corporations already have their own way of communicating that is not an issue.

What is at issue is weither the government will allow big business corporations to monopolize the internet, and I predict that such efforts as they propose will not only destroy the internet as we know it but reduce it as a source of economic development.

The practices of corporate big business can already be seen as degenerate sources of every major problem with the internet, the spoofing, the phishing, fraud, and crime as they have not show appropriate interest commensurate to the problems that currently pervade and once did not exist.

The practices of corporate big business on the internet has been based on greed to maximize their profits at the expense of the public, what they are currently asking for is the right to monopolize the internet that should be stopped.

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. The effect of those tolls would have a dramatic

effect on the outsourcing of technology to those countries which will have a user friendly environment. If there is none one will development as the technology already exists.

Generally many who started and grew with the internet avoid it as it has become the object of gross vulgar commercial akin to what Time Square used to be depicted by Porn Movie Theatres, drugs, and crime.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it, it will eliminate it as it once existed as the product of independent geeky entrepreneurs. It would not merely damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy, but that of the entire country. Whereas Eisenhower built the national highway system that democratized travel, the internet also similarly democratized communication and the development of new technologies

that today is at risk in what will abuse the public which today should be protected and not threatened as it is.

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.