

Corporate Piracy of Internet Same as Public Theft

Allowing corporations to interfere for profit with the operation of the internet is equal to allowing them to insert their own charges and preferences into the use of materials from public libraries. In my view this is traitorous to the concept of education in America. Some things are public and should remain that way for the good of the many versus the profit of a few. Not everything in America can or should be for sale to the highest bidder.

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 crude and greedy internet grab will be detrimental to both pre- and post-secondary public education as it will have the effect of limiting student access to all sites available on a given subject.

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. It would also irreparably damage my ability to be an effective educator in an Internet age.

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.