

As a software engineer, I recognize that the phenomenal growth of the Internet of the past 3 decades is due mainly to the fact that all packets on the Internet are treated equally. No company's traffic is given special treatment, nor is any protocol on the Internet given special treatment, or banned from use. I work for a relatively small company, and have developed many applications that work over the Internet. For technical reasons, they use many custom protocols to talk over the Internet. In a non-neutral Internet, these applications and protocols may be hindered, or not even feasible. The power of the Internet comes from the endpoints being able to make the decisions about what goes over the Internet, and how it is sent. This has allowed a wide range of applications, from email and the web, to peer to peer file sharing and voice over IP. But these protocols and applications only succeed if the ISP's and backbone providers treat all the data equally. If the future is to hold advancements that will change the world as much as these, the Internet must remain neutral.