

I wanted to let it be known that I am concerned with the current consideration to eliminate the so-called "network neutrality" rules. I have been an Internet user since the early 1990's via a BBS system, before Microsoft even had a web presence. I was a network admin at two separate local Internet providers, and lost my job with both due to industry consolidation. Since then, I have witnessed a gradual deterioration in Internet freedoms. Of course some of these have been a good thing, like rooting out child porn etc. Things like that are up to law enforcement to control, and net neutrality is irrelevant to weeding out these things.

Net neutrality was a given necessity back in the days of local ISPs, but in the consolidated era it must be mandated and regulated. Removing neutrality will undoubtedly result in a severed Internet and the end of real competition for content providers. The Internet connection providers will lock in and provide better quality of service for their preferred content providers, while leaving everyone else at a clear competitive disadvantage. This could have real effects on large U.S. tech companies.

I also have issues with deep-packet inspecting, filtering, and targeted bandwidth throttling by service providers. But that is another issue. In short, if you want to promote the American free-enterprise way of life, you need to uphold net neutrality. It is just as much about protecting the big guys as it is the little guys!