

I have to say something quick as the deadline approaches on this matter regarding net-neutrality.

The broadband providers (ISPs) are getting massively wealthy from providing multiple services that they, and they alone, control. They profit from it directly and share no profit with anyone else.

Case in point, Skype. They come up with a unique way to use the internet to deliver voice communications called Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). Comcast now provides that service, too. Comcast could, theoretically, use Quality of Service bits (QoS) on their service, thus slowing the delivery and receipt of Skype data, even to a Comcast Internet-only subscriber.

If you were a Skype customer paying for access to the internet, your ISP only has to 'throttle' your service by applying QoS tags to packets of data on services that only they provide, and it's at their own whim.

Personally, I think that the United States stinks when it comes to broadband penetration.

Japan and South Korea have better, faster, and cheaper access to the internet than we do. I thought this was some great country. Didn't we go to the moon first?? Why are we described as the 'broadband backwater' of the world? I'll tell you why.

This type of data-filtering, applying special status to certain data types is despicable. It only smacks of slowing overall penetration and allows these ISPs to slow construction on newer, faster technologies like fiber-optic while overcharging for antiquated lines already saturated with traffic.

If any part of a network-neutrality bill needs to be drafted, it's the 'truth in speed' and 'truth in data-transfer' clause. One ISP notorious for not telling their users they are near their 'monthly limit' is Comcast.

In fact, they advertise UNLIMITED broadband, however there have been numerous cases where they have cut paying users off for 'exceeding' a monthly data-transfer limit. This is despicable, too.

Upload and Download speeds need to be clearly defined. More people are using video in boardrooms to small businesses, playing online games, and using bittorrent for legal purposes, like seeding Linux distros, thus reducing overall, individual server load.

These ISPs clearly have much to gain if no network neutrality exists.

They have a lot of money to gain. I've got a sneaky suspicion they are going to try to ink lucrative deals with select content providers like FOX and BMG that guarantee speedy delivery of their content at the cost of cutting or slowing delivery of other companies' data that do the same, like Apple's iTunes Music Store.

I say that if this country doesn't place the internet on a higher pedestal of importance, it is likely to

lose what importance it has now. It has finally become the tool to communicate and share information it was promised to be.

Don't lose sight of the future this once-great nation had. We need the internet to save this world through communication, not just watch reruns of "The Simpsons" from FOX via Comcast while paying through the nose for both.

Make and support a bill that stops these ISPs from shutting out small retailers and content providers. Don't forget, 'content' is news, too, not just entertainment.

Respectfully,

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