

I fail to see why the law should be changed to legalize extortion for a special group of providers. If a company's existing infrastructure is not sufficient, then they should remedy that problem. If that requires raising service rates, so be it. But the ability to degrade service arbitrarily is not an acceptable option.

Imagine if a shipping company was permitted to delay packages from certain customers as a means to protect or influence the success of another division. UPS buys Cabela's, then obstructs or delays shipment of LL Bean merchandise, as an example. The fact that LL Bean has a choice of shipping providers is not enough to justify this kind of behavior. Imagine if a community postal office delayed or obstructed parcels destined for or originating in a certain region, in an effort to affect the success of business in a region. Imagine if FedEx delayed delivery of legal documents originating or destined for a competitor of their legal providers? Comcast degrading traffic that was destined to non-Comcast voice customers? I fail to see why permission to act in such a manner would be entertained.

Allowing a network platform provider to discriminate against traffic for whatever reason is counter to logic. There is no way to provide enough oversight to prevent abuse of any system that allows arbitrary traffic favoring. We'd eventually see a continuing string of abuses.

The way it is now, consumers and content providers are limited by the current cost of bandwidth. Additional fees assessed to providers of certain types of content provides no assurance that service would improve or the cost of bandwidth would decrease. To the contrary, it merely assures that bandwidth would get more expensive as every type of traffic would eventually be fee-based, adding overhead and equipment costs above and beyond what our service fees already cover.

At the end of the day, the network providers merely facilitate the movement of electrons. The assertion that some electrons cost them more money than other types is ludicrous. Again, if they need to build out their current infrastructure to accommodate modern consumer and business needs, then so be it. But let's put a stop to the blatant attempt to extort businesses that provide content the consumer wants.

A relevant issue is the fact that I don't think I care to imagine a future in which the kind of content I access via my internet connection is used to justify charging me a different rate than my neighbor.

The silly thing is that my demand for internet telephone service, for example, is going to depend on the ability of the network to carry that traffic effectively. If the network is not capable, I'm not going to be making internet telephone calls. It's a problem that solves itself. As traffic loads increase, customers will need to pay for increasing amounts of bandwidth. If they value the services delivered by their ISP, they will pay for the services, or avoid services that aren't supported by available bandwidth.

