

To the FCC:

I am very concerned about Network Neutrality. I am worried that if Network Neutrality is not ensured then my access to the Internet will be adversely affected. Without a guarantee of Network Neutrality ISPs will extort money from small businesses and personal users. Large content providers and businesses will be better equipped to negotiate favorable terms, but in the end their costs will rise and consumers like myself will pay higher prices. New small businesses that provide innovative services such as Voice-over-IP will be most vulnerable to these tactics. ISPs such as Comcast or Verizon could charge third-party VOIP providers such as Vonage or Packet 8 inflated rates and undercut them with their own VOIP services.

Furthermore, without Network Neutrality, ISPs will have an incentive NOT to upgrade their lines to optical fiber or other new technologies. One of the central promises of the ISPs' tiered services is that the extra money that you pay ensures that when network congestion rises your data arrives. If they upgraded their networks to provide more bandwidth then congestion would decrease dramatically and their tiered services would not be as valuable.

I do not believe that there is sufficient competition to ensure that the market will provide me with high speed network neutral service. I am one of the lucky few customers that has three options for high speed Internet service: Comcast, RCN, and Verizon. Most customers, especially ones in rural areas, only have one or two choices for high bandwidth connections. All of the major ISPs have expressed a desire to end Network Neutrality. It is very unlikely that new ISPs will arise to provide network-neutral service because of the very high barriers to entry.

I have already paid for my Internet connection, the content providers have already paid for their connection, as a society we granted the ISPs public access rights and local monopolies, we should not have to pay yet again to continue to conduct business and recreation on the Internet.

