

Imagine a world where your landline or cellular phone provider gets to pick and choose who you get to call. Want to order a pizza? You can only call Domino's since they have now partnered with Cingular, leaving all other pizza delivery companies to suffer. How about calling your favorite electrician to come install a new phone jack in your bedroom only to find the static on the line is so bad that you can't even understand each other. This may be due to the fact that your phone company offers the same service using their own technicians and calls to them have been given preferential treatment. How about your phone company deciding that you can now only make outgoing calls using your "residential" phone line unless you pay more for the privilege via a "business" line to receive calls?

The above scenarios would not be allowed to take place in the phone system because there are regulations in place to prevent such abuse. These exact scenarios are what some ISPs want to implement on their networks. Some ISPs are beginning to block P2P traffic, claiming legal concerns, even though there is plenty of legitimate use for such traffic. Some ISPs are throttling or even outright blocking Voice over IP services such as Vonage because they offer their own competing product and want their service to be given priority over the others. Many, if not most, ISPs do not allow people to run servers from their connection, which effectively limits them to making outgoing connections only.

Net Neutrality is aiming to level the playing grounds for all networks, essentially making the ISPs behave like the traditional telecom companies. They would have to provide equal priorities for all traffic across their networks, no matter who they are destined to communicate with and for whatever purpose they are intended.

Please take these scenarios into consideration when ruling on Net Neutrality regulations. If ISPs are allowed to control the traffic on their network to the point that they are requesting, the openness and spirit of the Internet as we know it will wither and die. Imagine how useless the phone network would be today if phone companies were allowed to do these exact same things.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hall