

Free Market Undermines Free Knowledge

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. Its current openness undercuts the pernicious effect of knowledge being accessible because the source from which it comes is the most used. Diversity in a population insures the population's survival as conditions change. This is also true with information. The more diverse the information field, the more likely the needed information will be there as conditions change. This is why libraries should not archive based on popularity. The same should be true of the internet. The "best" sources of information for current and future conditions may not be those sources willing and able to pay for prominent and faster sites. Please do not let the cable and phone companies "dumb down" the internet by creating tiers of access.