

The truth about surfing.

In my Highschool where I graduated cum laude, I was a technician's aide... Meaning I had system administrator access to the entirety of my school's computer system. I used my powers for good every day, being called from class to fix some problem or another somewhere. Most ironically however the thing that caused the most problems was a security measure. Miami Dade County public schools had invested in a protective hardware filtering system known as X-Stop. They invested thousands im sure, did it stop students from surfing prohibited content? Sometimes, but in my own senior year it stopped me from legitimate work. In AP Biology, I was doing a project on metastasizing breast cancer... You'd think a tech savvy student like myself would have internet at home to do the reseach there. You'd guess wrong, and because of filtering and limiting systems ignorant enough to think that the only reason a student would search for Breast, is for Carmen Electra. Now why have I rambled on about a perfectly legitimate form of protecting students? Because this is precisely what AT&T, Verizon and the rest could one day achieve. Limiting expression is a slippery and intoxicating slope. In highschool, I made petitions on 4 separate ocasions to have the search filter more carefull programmed because it abridged my rights. According to the Dadeschools.net site, the internet in the schools exists for

I. Resources Available on the Internet

Students and employees of the District have access to the following resources:

- A. Electronic mail communication throughout the world;
- B. Local, national and world-wide information and news;
- C. Correspondence with scientists at research institutions;
- D. Access to public domain software of all types;
- E. Collaboration with peers on projects and problem solving strategies;
- F. Science Learning Network (SLN), Library of Congress, Educational Resource and Information Center (ERIC), Smithsonian Museums, and many university library catalogs.

Amusingly enough, the only two of those a student could do without checking with someone like me first were B and F. All non-stall E-mail was blocked... Some ingenious student eventually figured out that going to the french versions or chinese versions of the webmail providers escaped the blocks. Correspondance digitally was impossible then for the aforementioned reason. D, yea no; students didn't have the access to install programs. At all. And finally Collaboration, implies communication which was prohibited.

I challenge the FCC to protect net neutrality and to fine bodies like the Miami-Dade public school system for violating their own ontology.

I fear the day when comcast begins to act as paternalistic as the Xstop filter. Not only does it encourage anti-competitive business practices but it puts us as americans at more of an intelectual disadvantage. I'll explain if the Fox News and AT&T sign a deal, then my desire to use and see BBC or CNN is being hampered by their deal. I can then not gain a different perspective on events, and that leaves me at a disadvantage when competing against other students from around the world in

whatever intellectual endeavour I choose to pursue. Please protect net neutrality, if not for yourselves; then for your children.