

## Save the net

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. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.

Over the last two years my Internet service provider began censoring traffic. When I attempted to download legal content my service was degraded based on the type of traffic. My ISP had been threatened by the Recording Industry Association of America and was attempting to save money by artificially reducing bandwidth.

Another Internet Service Provider did more than just degrade certain types of traffic. One service I use allows me to make phone calls over the Internet, it is called Voice Over Internet Protocol. When my ISP started selling a similar service they blocked traffic to other VOIP services. As a result I was no longer able to use this service.

In another case my ISP signed up for a SPAM filtering service. That service included a list of IP addresses of spammers, but they also included IP addresses of hacker sites. As a result of their setup I was unable to access web sites that would have allowed me to develop software to address the security issues. What my ISP did was nothing more than cover up the fact the problem exists and those attacking my system can continue to do so with ease.

Please pass legislation to force ISPs to route traffic without discrimination or censorship. The Internet can and should not be regulated. Regulation forces companies and tax dollars off-shore and does nothing to solve real problems. In most cases those involved in irritating practices (such as spamming) are unaffected by legal actions. A few may be punished severely, but it does nothing to positively effect the problem. Punishing a few severely is unfair to those being punished when everybody (the majority) continue to act. Spam is an annoyance - but it comes with the territory of the Internet. If you don't want spam don't use email or learn how to protect yourself.

The Internet is not a safe place and we cannot ever make it a safe place. The Internet should be free and those occupying it will only ever be safe if they take the time to understand and learn the technical workings of it. Unfortunately we have taken irrational legal steps to protect ourselves that

will never work.