

Net Neut- enhance democracy, not corporate control

Dear FCC –

We citizens, and community residents, and workers, pay the big corporations like Verizon ATT Comcast for building and managing the Internet pipes, by whatever technology, wireless or not, and “connecting” us to them. These corporate bullies, who have been buying politicians and even writing the laws, themselves, in their own self-interests and against our citizens' interests, have NOTHING to do with making the Internet the vital expressive tool for substantive content, ---- truly diverse ideas and open learning, ---- for democratic participation, ---- for civic, community and spiritual projects, --- - and for innovative small business ideas, among many other things.

All these citizens' expressions are CONTENT, and "net neutrality" is a matter of equal financial and practical access to UPLOADING our own diverse contents -- not just passive consumer downloading. Browsing access is critical, but obviously what's available to browse and download is decayed by corporate channeling and control over what we can upload in the first place!

There is no threat to consumer choice in net neutrality, and no enhancement to consumer choice that is prevented by internet neutrality. The corporations are lying with “consumer opportunity” bells, whistles, smokes, mirrors and many kitchen sinks, and with imposter Astroturf groups and websites -- - because they can afford to, endlessly --- and who's strong enough to beat them, if you are not, in the exercise of our democracy - in actual practice, please. It's your role, which we ask you to perform -- and things are getting really urgent.

These big bullies do NOT OWN the content, have no right to channel content based on the financial power or nature of the content creators, and there is NO FREE RIDE for the real creators of the internet, ie, the internet content. Again we pay them for the services of physical infrastructure. These corporations do NOT OWN the internet, because the internet IS its content, and IS how its channels affect that content. The internet is not the channels themselves, which we already are paying the corporations to provide.

Since these big bullies have NOTHING to DO with making the content of the Internet open and vital, any "content" they "provide" (bundling subsidiaries of themselves and god knows what else) would be co-optation and gross control over our minds. These corporations, gutted of personhood, would seek, while throwing in a public interest sop or two, to limit our citizens' options to their most dumbed-down and thus most profitable marketing - appealing to, and continually recreating, lowest common denominator and animal motivations in people. Of course, they would offer plenty of space and speed to the wealthy corporate consumers !

You, the FCC, represent US, the US citizens, and real people. Please help reverse, at long last, the massive corporate decaying of our culture, and please, as mature adults with education, FULFILL YOUR DEMOCRATIC, PUBLIC INTEREST ROLES. Please effectively protect, and enhance, internet neutrality.

Thus I ask you, please DO NOT enshrine, and a first step in a fraudulent scheme, any seemingly “not so corporate” regulatory principles that later, with the additions of another step or two, corporations can use to decimate our shared powers to continue creating the vitality of the internet, and control it in their own narrow interests. Don’t set it up, so that you can merely say – for PR’s sake – “hey, the corporations didn’t get everything they wanted, thanks to citizen pressure.” [right now – but, heh heh -- they’ll get it later ...you know, a two-stepper, or a three-stepper...]

THIS ISSUE MATTERS. THIS ISSUE MATTERS. THIS ISSUE MATTERS. THIS ISSUE MATTERS
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A free country, and any technology supposed to improve life, must enhance the privacy, autonomy, insight and expressiveness of the individual, and enhance the possibilities for palpable community, equity and democratic co-responsibility (deep civic participation) amongst all individuals.

Sincerely, Hatch Sterrett, 12 Boardman St. Apt. 202, Cambridge, MA 02139.