

My Net Neutrality Saga of 2006

For the past 10 years, I have made my living thanks to the internet; I've worked as a software developer for web applications. I fear that, should net neutrality disappear, my livelihood would likewise vanish.

Once I was made aware of the stakes early in 2006, I worked right away at keeping the internet a neutral medium, and spent much of 2006 working on the issue. Much of this saga is chronicled at the website of a group I'm involved with -- Chicago Media Action, online at www.chicagomediaaction.org (and if you preserve net neutrality, it'll stay that way). But to provide an abbreviated summary of what I did, I:

- * Gave presentations throughout Chicago.
- * Discussed the issue repeatedly on my weekly Chicago radio show.
- * Proposed the idea for, and helped organize, a national series of rallies in San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, and New York City -- all timed on May 24, 2006, and termed the "National Day of Outrage".
- * Wrote a very widely resyndicated web essay entitled "The Death of the Blogosphere" -- discussing how the abolition of net neutrality, which lead to an even-more-widely syndicated podcast interview with me about the issue.
- * Helped create coverage of the issue on the Chicago Independent Media Center (chicago.indymedia.org), which directly lead to an appearance on Chicago's WCIU television.
- * Inspired a number of other activists to write a very detailed webpage and create their own films about the issue -- which were later rebroadcast on a TV show I help produce.

As you can see, it is an issue I care very deeply about and have devoted a serious amount of my time in 2006 working on, because I value the internet so much, and do not wish to see it become a vast wasteland like much of the rest of American media.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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