

The Internet Let Me See the World

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.

The real beauty of the Internet is that anyone can put up whatever they want, even if it is esoteric, obscure, and only appealing to a small number of people, and still be able to find enough like-minded individuals to form a community. This allows people like me, with unconventional tastes and interests to find new friends, to expand my horizons, and to learn about things I didn't even know existed.

When the printing press was invented, it meant that for a relatively low start-up cost, anyone who could read was able to print and share their own ideas all across Europe and later America. This blossoming of new ideas and beliefs ignited the Renaissance, and later the Enlightenment. The Internet is destined to have a similar impact on the world, but only if it is not strangled in its crib by those who would seek to bend it's immense power to their own benefit at the detriment to the rest of us.