

Net neutrality is critical for our future

Over the last few years, in all areas of society, we have unfortunately become accustomed to people with money gaining important access at the expense of the majority while more aspects of our lives have become dominated by large corporations. The Internet, however, is the great leveler. With net access, you have the same basic abilities to make use of its enormous capabilities as the next person. With little investment, you can communicate with anyone around the world, you can let others know your viewpoints, and you can use the resources available to you to spark creativity and innovation.

Until recently, I did not understand the huge importance of net neutrality. However, during my graduate studies, I have been reading a book called "The Future of Ideas" by Lawrence Lessig of Harvard University. It explains how the unique architecture of the Internet has allowed for unprecedented access and innovation to all who use it. He goes through example after example of how the system promoted some amazing changes to our lives, and how these would have been hindered if more control was exerted by service providers. I would highly recommend reading his works or speaking with this amazing thinker.

It is with this in mind that I strongly urge you protect net neutrality so that we can maintain such equal opportunity, economic innovation and, above all, free speech. Although bigwigs at phone and cable companies may genuinely profess that they do not have ulterior motives, the temptation to wield control in an indiscriminate manner will limit the freedoms the Internet has brought to our society as they become the Internet's gatekeepers and discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls. Don't these corporations already have enough control enough of our lives?

By not protecting net neutrality, the open Internet as we know it would cease to exist. In order to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy, I would have to conform to the specifications of these corporations, which may not share my values or beliefs, or may look to control opinions or activity that does not benefit them.

After careful consideration, I hope the FCC will stand up for the average American and ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination. Such action to protect net neutrality is critical to our future.

Sincerely,

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