

A note to congress from a citizen...

The business of the internet is about a lot more than just a new method of communications. Had a big communications company developed and patented this they would have certain rights regarding it's use.

They did not!

Only at this late date are they trying to usurp the freedom we have gained by ourselves to be modeled by them for profit. We already provide the terminal equipment and pay access fees. That should be enough.

I heard that the telcos' lobby is claiming that it is Google which will gain an advantage over them. No, this is not reality. It is "we the people" who will benefit. They conveniently ignore the facts to make it sound like they are being swept aside by unfair competition but it just isn't so.

I live in a small town 65 miles East of downtown San Diego. There is no CATV here. Why? Because no company could make a profit considering the sparsely populated area. I am also denied DSL even though I live less than three miles from where the local telephone loop converts to fibre optic cable. No one will spend any money here because they cannot make sufficient profits.

This last paragraph is part and parcel of the problem that arises when any big business gets control. The profit motive takes over and some of us are left out in the cold. This is the way it will be if they win the day as gatekeepers. They would begin to regulate us in every way they could and, instead of having free and unlimited access to the world we would be barraged with a never ending litany of "anytime minutes" and "download limits".

The above are just a preview of the many reasons the internet must remain in the public domain, unfettered by the profit motive. Surely no one can doubt that when a corporation is willing to spend money to get something they are certain that the rewards will be even greater. The rewards to who I ask? Remember they did not come up with this internet idea in the first place. They have no rights in the matter.

A last point please. The software operating systems which are recognized by the big companies are, almost without exception, Microsoft or Apple. Why not Linux? Many of use this free and wonderfully powerful system which exists in the free public domain. We demand here equal rights of access with MS and Apple if you please. This must be mandated by law or it will never be given us again,

because of profit motive.

It is the specter of proprietary software that counters the spirit of freedom because with it's use freedom is mitigated by desire for profit. When the Wright brothers developed the airfoil necessary for flight, in wings and propellers, they could have patented it but they wanted everyone to share equally the new technology so they licensed it as public. Imagine what we have faced had they not?

There are certain aspects of life which must be free of the repressive hand of business. Compare our telecommunications systems to those of Europe and see the difference in cell phones for example. Take a look at internet access in Japan. Broadband is available to everyone in the country and it is much much faster than anything available here. You see, competition does not necessarily mean better service.

Please do not listen to those who tell you otherwise. We are a decision point now and freedom is at stake. The big companies are attempting nothing less than a coup and the citizens will lose if they win the day.

Thanks,

JP Simmons  
Boulevard, CA.

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.