

The Day the Internet Died

Net Neutrality is currently being totally under-estimated. Most people consider either the advantages or the disadvantages of how a tiered-internet would work, but nobody seems to consider the alternative.

Suppose Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were allowed to limit or censor any web sites or web traffic they wanted to, we'd be no better off than the very Godless regimes we fight against in the way they censor information from their people.

Furthermore, if a tiered internet is created, who regulates what is allowed to be censored or not - imagine how you would feel if all ISPs decided to block your political party and any media or blogs from your particular viewpoint. Wouldn't you feel somewhat betrayed? Wouldn't you feel alone?

I don't see net neutrality as being something that should be debated at all - as you can plainly see the principles at stake are dealing with concepts laid out in the constitution and I'm not entirely sure the FCC has the authority to change that. Such ISPs who wish to create a tiered internet have hearts that oppose the freedoms and achievements of the free world as we know it and their desires are dangerous to the integrity of that free world.

I recently read about Comcast blocking all torrent downloads, supposedly to limit piracy. While this is ridiculous because piracy can happen on any protocol, the victim of this reduction was an Ubuntu Linux mirror, who promotes the free spreading of Linux, which is open-source and legally free to use and redistribute.

Comcast blocking torrent downloads with little more than an invalid excuse shows how quickly and how corruptly ISPs can make their decisions.

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.