

## The Internet Needs to Stay Free (Little else is)

The reason why the Internet is as important today as it is, is largely because the world is given a fairly equal voice across it. China (and a few other countries) filter the content to prevent people from seeing whatever they don't want to be seen, but for the most part, you've got as much of a chance of being heard on the Internet as anyone else out there.

This is all going to change for the worse if the Big telecom companies get to choose what traffic gets priority. We all pay for a certain amount of bandwidth, and no matter what that bandwidth is used for, it is ours to choose. Freedom of speech is at stake.

You might not think it's a big deal. Let them choose what goes over their lines, it's THEIR lines after all, right? Well, I'm already paying for the right to use those lines, and there should not be any more restrictions placed on how I use it other than a max bandwidth usage limit (which is already in place).

Let's say that I want to make a video for my mother who has failing eyesight. Should I be forced to make it very small because the telecom companies think that video traffic isn't as important as email or their own video service? This is likely how they plan on using those limits too: Allow greater access to their own services while limiting the access to competitors services.

I don't know what country YOU were raised in but I was raised in a country where the best companies could succeed without harmful business practices hindering the competition (you know, stuff like buying a web browser and then packing it in with the operating system for free so that your competitor won't be able to compete and you'll have a larger market share... that sort of thing).

Seriously, when then world looks to America, they're going to see something other than the "Land of the Free, Home of the Brave". They're going to see "Land of the Fee, Home of the Payment plan". It's bad enough how we're viewed by the world now, what with George Bush removing freedoms and raping the constitution. How much more are we expected to tolerate?

So honestly, you've got to do what you can to keep these big companies from trying to run the show. I know they're probably waving money at you and a bunch of other politicians, but the fact of the matter is, a change from net neutrality would change more than just how I use the internet to upload or download files. It would change how I think about online spending.

How can I buy from amazon if my isp wants me to look at THEIR store first? What happens to the prices when my isp decides to extort money from newegg in return for allowing their customers to see their site? How much money will YOU have left when you get done paying all these extra fees just to access the same web we've had for these past 13 or so years?

Maybe you don't care, but I sure as hell do, and I do not want to see the Internet change if it means losing freedom. Losing net neutrality would be a tremendous change for the worse for the internet.

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.