

Protect Freedom of Speech!

I feel the Internet has contributed greatly to the many ways people communicate and express themselves. The Internet is a means of communication, just like newspapers or books or speaking publicly. So in that sense, the Internet is a vehicle for free speech and should be protected by the First Amendment.

But then one could say that AT&T, Verizon, and Comcast are only trying to 'control' what is on the Internet so as to 'make it more efficient and more relevant for our customers.' So, suppose they really did take control of the Internet: there would certainly come into existence an 'underground' Internet that would seek to circumvent the policies of those companies. Would those people trying to simply communicate to one another (albeit without letters, newspapers, public meetings) via the Internet be credited with committing a crime? Simply by communicating on the Internet (or 'underground' Internet) should they be criminalized?

So the issue becomes: should it be legal to express yourself on the Internet?