

I strongly urge the FCC to approve rules in favor of Net Neutrality.

In the nearly 20 years since the World Wide Web brought the Internet to a mass audience, it has become a burgeoning space for debate, entrepreneurship and immense creativity on many levels. While it can be argued that the market helped support this growth by providing the infrastructure, the Internet, especially in this country, should be looked at as one of a public trust such as the various radio and TV broadcast spectrums. Media companies (many of whom also now own the large ISPs) have made vast fortunes off the public trust by providing that very infrastructure while still (in theory) following governmental guidelines to allow free access to receive those transmissions. While there still exists a barrier to entry for these airwaves, it is incredibly low to view major network broadcasts.

the Internet is slightly different in that far more people have the ability to get their creations in front of a mass audience. My personal belief is that Net Neutrality allows more competition to those major media conglomerates. Such competition is healthy as it allows for great things to rise from the masses themselves. A number of the media corporations have found new ideas from the Internet and seem to have no difficulty finding ways to adapt them in order to generate revenue. With the constant threats to public funding of creative endeavors, it is ever so more important that creators have a venue in which to display their works as they see fit without interference. If those against Net Neutrality truly favored a market-based approach and had no fear of creative competition, instead of making huge efforts to simply create protectionist standards which favor only the few who have already succeeded, then allowing a neutral playing field is going to be the best way to do it.

Is Net Neutrality perfect? Of course not, but freedom is not an instant utopia. We'll never get rid of all the pornography... and we shouldn't (insofar as not to be violating a person's right to free expression). Nor should we advocate a lawless virtual existence, where anything goes. But to be able to stimulate people's imaginations and need for creative expression -- something this country has been neglecting rather heavily for decades -- is something that we should instead strive for. Our ability to create and innovate is what put this nation at the forefront of the world in a lot of fields for a number of years. Now that the world is catching up, in some cases surpassing us, we need an outlet to turn that innovation into a global export and allow multicultural collaboration.

Once again, I state for the record that I believe Net Neutrality can be a great thing, if done right, and I urge the FCC to approve regulations favoring such a thing.