

I never ceases to amaze me the way that the internet has moved over the last fifteen years. When I first started subscribing to dial-up internet in the mid-nineties, there were plenty of companies that i could choose from. When I began subscribing to DSL about 4 years later, there were still plenty of companies to choose from and the speeds I was receiving were the best that could be offered. Since that time, the small business internet service provider has been completely pushed out of any market that I have found myself. Nationally, the large service providers have bought each other out. Today, I find myself only able to get one DSL company at my home. That company is AT&T. They give me extremely poor performance for their base package and have force me to enter a tier 4 service. I would never have dreamed that a company could possibly have the audacity to have four tiers of service for internet - and of course the cost increases with each tier. It's sad to! say it but I don't even get the advertised speed of 6Mbps for longer than seconds at a time. I don't even know how that is legal. Unfortunately, I am beholden to any of their whims as they hold a monopoly over my wired internet access.

Now that these companies have made themselves the only links between us and the internet, they wish to decide what we can and cannot have access to when we log into their services. Not only will this destroy the free exchange of information and ideas that the internet has proven it can provide, it will destroy the very revolution that the internet created. This century has the potential of becoming the great information age. Information spurs technological advances and this age can propel human existence faster than any of the great ages that have come before it. Do not let the internet service providers of the United States place the US at the back end of this age. Do not let them take away our ability to freely move about the internet.

Opponents of net neutrality state that regulation by the FCC will hurt small business and innovation. Anyone remotely familiar with the internet industry knows that millions of small businesses have begun to reach out to consumers through this medium. Allowing internet service providers to charge websites for getting to consumers will hurt these companies an real and substantive ways. It is not hard to predict that small business website will shut down in large numbers if the internet service providers are allowed to have their way. I have read on how these companies wish to do exactly that, charge websites for access to consumers. I have also read on how these companies have lobbied congress almost since the beginning of the internet for greater control over the way it functions. Please put in place safeguards that will help to prevent these companies from taking control of my browsing habits and taking small business off the internet.

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