

The open internet is my one and only source for journalism and information. I don't watch tv, read magazine or read newspapers. My mind requires that I constantly inundate it with new things so that I stay engaged in the world. The idea that any private company can decide what I have access to, what is censored and what I can read is horrifying. Do paper companies decide what is printed on newspapers? Does Radioshack decide what channels their tv antennae will pick up? Do oil companies decide what kind of cars people have to drive to use their products? These seem like silly questions but the truth is that paper companies shouldn't be in the business of censoring print media, Radioshack shouldn't be in the business of censoring broadcast media and oil companies shouldn't be deciding what kind of vehicles we should be driving. This is clearly something that is in the FCC's realm. Comcast will inevitably decide that I shouldn't have access to free tv shows whether they be on hulu, youtube or elsewhere simply because it competes with their cable tv business. AT&T shouldn't be able to mess with VOIP phone calls simply because it competes with their telephone services. BP shouldn't be able to decide I can't use their oil to lubricate an electric car simply because electric cars compete their business of selling gasoline. All are relevant analogies because each expands the scope of control that a private institution has to violate citizen rights to privacy, free speech, education, free choice and the pursuit of happiness. Free access to information makes me happy and harms no one. Private companies, interfering with new things inappropriately due to perceived competition, stifle innovation, harm people, cause ridiculous amounts of unintended consequences and take away things we already have. Private companies must evolve their businesses to survive. Using the force of law to quash innovation is unethical. Any individual org!

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I but it doesn't mean it should be able to do so without regulation. People's rights must be protected, first and foremost, over corporate entitlements. The internet is humanity's greatest hope of lifting ourselves out of a world of ignorance and misunderstanding to truly being an informed and responsible planet. It is the most important communication tool ever invented. Our very survival as a species and as a living planet depends upon fostering a greater understanding amongst everyone worldwide. I can easily see how controversial subjects such as climate change, war, the economy, political scandals and environmental catastrophes could all be censored so that dissent is minimized and consent is manufactured. **THAT IS NOT PROGRESS!** Each cable carrying packets is a bridge; we pay the toll to use the bridge but we don't allow the troll that lives under it to control who gets to use the bridge. The FCC must act now to protect net neutrality otherwise this hope starved wo!

orld of despair will become that much darker and the new world humanity carries in its heart will be set back even further. Thanks.