

The broadcast paradigm is collapsing. The oligarchical, plutocratic, system, which has for so long held its viewers captive is falling apart at the seams. This is for the best, as we have seen how this system has corrupted so many parts of our society, especially our political process. The internet has the ability, in and of itself, to be a great equalizer, to break down the importance of raising massive funds for advertisements, which need so often corrupts our politicians by compelling them to take money from special interest groups simply to be heard. We are at the cusp of true democracy, we have the ability, and now these corporate ass faces are trying to throw a wrench in the works. They're trying desperately to hold on to that old, lucrative paradigm. In the end they will fail. The internet is like the printing press, except vastly more powerful. The world is going to change drastically, in ways we can neither anticipate nor control. We can either try !
to swim with the tide or be drowned in it. Yet this damming of the net, this seizure of the major thoroughfares could serve to slow this progress, just as it will slow the speeds of the majority of websites to relegate bandwidth to the very same fat cats who want to keep making money off an outdated and manifestly flawed paradigm.

This new potential deal between Google and Verizon must be stopped. Google has made several admirable moves over the years. Despite Google's incredible size and might, I believe they have lived up to their motto: don't be evil. This deal with Verizon, however; smells pretty evil to me. It would essentially create a hierarchical structure on the internet, one not based on the value of one's content, or even its popularity, but rather on the depth of one's pockets. The deal will allow those with the resources to outpace those who do not.

We have made great strides to shake off the broadcast paradigm. Google has been instrumental in the process of the P2P cultural revolution. Yet this deal will ensure that people will expect lightning fast speeds from those old, established bastions of information and media, reinforcing their strangle hold on the minds and imaginations of the people. The blogger, the artist, the activist, the musician, these people for whom the free and open internet was once a great equalizer, will once again be relegated to the side, restricted in their speed, not by the power of their server, or their upload limit, but by the internet itself.

Shame, I say.

Shame, once more

Shame.

Please don't do it.

-max