

The Internet, now, acts as an open forum for our world. Currently, it is being used to track worldwide events (such as the recent riots in Iran and Myanmar), provide news coverage independent of corporate influence (propublica.org), and act as a watchdog for governments all over the world (wikileaks.org). It is no surprise that corporate providers of content, which also provide internet access, would love to have better control of the bandwidth. This would allow them to push the less technically savvy towards entertainment they provide and away from independent artists and journalists. This is not the real danger however. Currently, all of the public benefits I listed above are provided solely through the Internet; should the US or any other government wish to, the government could simply make it in AT&T or Comcasts best economic interest to make those sites or types of information so slow as to be unusable or simply have them blocked altogether, once it becomes legal for the corporations to throttle content.

If I went to a library and paid the librarian to find glowing books by Democrats immediately while also asking her to delay any requests for weeks in finding books by Republicans, most of us would agree that this was a form of censorship. A lack of "net neutrality" will allow this except, it will be hidden behind the term "non-premium content." Certainly if I was a candidate that could always count on a fund raising advantage, this would be a boon, but that is not the case for either party. The simple reasons above only count what we will currently lose and what can currently be manipulated unless net neutrality is ensured. In the future we may be getting more of our education online and will find that being censored as well. Whether it is wealthier private schools paying to steal students from public institutions, or local politics pressuring service providers to slow delivery of educational content they do not agree with, the fight for minds will become a fight with dollars. Even this is only a possible abuse of the near future, we will never know what avenues of creativity become closed if we allow corporations to control the availability of content. Already we have seen the death of the radio DJ, he has been replaced by popularity determined playlists. Rarely, do new ideas make it into mainstream cinema, tv, and music. It is very clear what corporations will do to the Internet over the next decades if allowed. I ask you please do not allow this. Under no circumstances let be destroyed the greatest instrument of creativity, culture, equality, and oversight the world has ever seen. Thank You