

14-28 Net Neutrality

Online traffic is through groups of packets of bits just as automobile highway traffic is packets of passengers or parcels in cars, buses or trucks. A group of electronic packets is like a caravan of cars, buses or trucks. More cars, buses or trucks in a caravan carry more passengers or parcels. On the electronic highway, a group of packets to make up a simple one page posting is much smaller than a group of packets to view a movie.

We know that vehicles have different registration fees and use different amounts of fuel. The automobile use fee differences are based in part on weight and axils of the vehicle. A car with one passenger who weighs 150 pounds will consume less fuel than a vehicle with 6 passengers with a combined weight 900 pounds. A truck hauling 90,000 pounds will consume more fuel than the passenger car. The registration of that passenger car is less expensive than the registration of a truck. To go through a booth on a toll road cost less for a two axil car than the fee for a three or four axil truck. People who chose to use a toll road pay a fee for a faster path to their destination. People who don't chose to use toll roads pay the price of later arrival time.

The reason fees are different for cars and trucks is because of cost to deliver and maintain the automobile highway. The same applies to the need for different fees for larger groups of packets on the electronic highway. All individual packets of the same size or specification can be treated equally. However; because of volume differences, all groups of packets are not equal. Real Net Neutrality is for each packet to be equal in that it pays it own way on the path the user chose.