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The new rules governing the openness of the internet proposed by Chairman Wheeler eliminate net neutrality and endanger an open and free internet. By allowing Internet Service Providers to charge content providers for access to faster bandwidth, the FCC is creating a "pay-to-play" atmosphere that benefits well financed and connected content providers over those that are less so.

The repercussions extend to the media, where mainstream websites would load faster than alternative news sources. For instance, Fox News, a news source that is utilized by wealthy oil magnates such as the Koch brothers to downplay the environmental consequences of fossil fuel use, should not be able to pay its way to more bandwidth than treehugger.org. They could also extend to commerce, where large retailers or ecommerce websites could pay for faster speeds and greater access than could small businesses and non-profits.

The rules that Chairman Wheeler of the FCC propose mark the end the internet as we know it. The internet is perhaps the most democratic invention in history. However, rules are necessary to keep it open and fair. The new rules will transfer the tools to share, disseminate, and absorb information, goods, and services from the commons to powerful monopolies. It is time to go back to the drawing board and come up with new regulations that will protect this democratic institution.