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I recognize that you probably receive tremendous amount of comments, and I am grateful that you have taken the time to read mine.

I am a citizen of the great state of New York. As I am not old enough to vote, I exercise my right to petition the government whenever topics arise that deeply concern me. I am not a multinational corporation nor am I a person who wields great political influence. I am a 17 year aspiring web developer who is passionate about this issue.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding Net Neutrality recently, yet at its core the issue comes down to a simple question. Is the Internet a utility?

Several years ago this question would have an easy answer. Utility referred to our monthly gas, water and electricity bill. Items that were the required as part of standard living. Yet, as the World Wide Web has now turned 25 the answer is no longer as easy.

As a student I am issued an email address by the school, which I must use to receive and upload homework as well as logging into my school system. As a young adult, I have an email address. This will follow me throughout my life. I give this out before other contact information.

The Internet is the backbone of email. The various protocols such as POP, IMAP, SMTP and MAPI are responsible for hundreds of billions of emails per day. However, this simple function of email, a tool we use everyday is essential to the the world we both live in. And yet it is just a small part of the Internet as a whole.

There are many other utilities that the Internet replaces, such as landline telephones (via VoIP). However I believe that the internet is much more than just an upgrade on old utilities.

The Internet is a special thing, something we have never had before in our history.

As a developer I work with a few small business, and brought them online. Although they were hesitant to join the web at first, they immediately noticed the effect of bringing their businesses online, and embraced it. I also teach code to other kids at my school. My greatest pleasure is to see their reaction when something they have created comes to life for the first time. When something that was only an idea, materializes in front of them. That look of amazement and pleasure is one that I truly treasure.

The Internet is a special thing, something we have never had before in our history.

For the first time I can search through billions of documents in less than a second, I can see and speak to friends who live thousands of miles away, I can share my interests with people from around the world. The Internet is more than just a network of networks, it is a network of people sharing information.

Please protect this. Protect it for the businesses across America that rely on the Internet to get new customers, increase sales, and create jobs. Protect it for the parent that uses video chat to say goodnight to their children while away on a trip. Protect it for the kids, using its vast array of resources to learn and be inspired to create the next great advancement in human history. Protect it for the future generations, who deserve access to this network of information. And lastly, protect it for me, a kid who uses it to learn, to work, to socialize, and to live.

Say the following two sentences out loud. The Internet is a utility. The Internet is a privilege. Which one of those two comes out more naturally?

For me it is the first one.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and hope that you fight for true Net Neutrality and classify the Internet as a utility.