

The idea of creating two levels of Internet Service, however it is phrased, is a decidedly negative action.

The current internet service is pretty bad already. Our household is using high speed Comcast Cable, and for most of the time it is pretty good. But not always.

We get nasty hiccups, like Domain Names that won't resolve [but work just fine outside of the Comcast Realm. We get web sites which just refuse to render, but work just fine in another country - like Vietnam. Oh, the site is hosted in St Louis Missouri, so where lies the problem? We get excellent download speeds most of the time, in fact this would be the really high point of Comcast Service. But sometimes, it is faster to do the same download in Australia on a limited speed Telstra Service, with a lower speed rating than Comcast. Again, the source of the download is again in St Louis, Missouri.

There are an endless number of such examples. The existing internet structure is gradually slowing. In contrast, the internet service in Vietnam is mostly getting faster and faster and lower and lower prices.

An interesting difference. In Centennial we have a choice of two services, Comcast and Century Link. Century Link provides Fiber to the Node and Comcast Provides Cable. Century link offers speeds up to 40Mbps. Comcast offers speeds up to 150Mbps [Download] and 20 Mbps upload. And the prices are staggering.

In Vietnam suburban areas, there are 5 providers in pretty much any location. ALL of the services provide Fiber to the Home [similar to Century Link Fiber to the Node]. Speeds vary considerably, but typically up to a limit of 80Mbps [Upload and Download <http://www.fpt.vn/en/ftth/ftth.html>], but this upper limit is being constantly raised. In-country service is Excellent. Competition works.

The US could do with a healthy dose of competition also. Google is doing this in a piecemeal fashion and where they have implemented, the service levels are an order of magnitude greater than the prior competition. But if we wait for this to happen across the country, one would have to live to the ripe old age of 755 years!

The current trends of "consolidation" are eliminating what is left of competition and we can see the results in the staggering increase in prices of service, and the almost total lack of innovation and improvement of services. Sure there are "token" improvements, but nothing to match the vision of say Google, or what is done in Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, and pretty much anywhere else in the world.

By providing the Normal Lane and the Fast Lane is to guarantee the death of innovation. Already we have seen Comcast embroiled in arguments over equality. Legalistic moves have always made Comcast look like a hero. If the new FCC rules are invoked, it will only get worse, but it will be "legal", the public be damned. But it won't just be Comcast. Whatever other providers remain, they will all work within the same regulations and the consumers will be further out of pocket, further isolated, and basically further and further behind the world. And the world will be using US technology and advances that are denied to those in the US. Wonderful!

What is really needed is a "Man On The Moon" vision. Provide the incentives for the providers to outbid each other in providing service to the people. Foster competition. Penalize those who maintain the status quo. Google is doing it, and proving it can be done. But it is a drop in the bucket of what should be the framework and guidelines of the FCC.

The Fast Lane/Slow Lane [using whatever double-talk is in vogue] is absolutely the WRONG APPROACH.

Scrap entirely this line of reasoning. Ignore the rulings from the Courts. Create a vision for the future. Create the enabling framework and then JUST DO IT.

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The courts have already decided what cannot be done. The courts have already suggested what should be done [and it is not Fast Lane Slow Lane]. Now grab the opportunity and bring the US not up to the rest of the world, but back to a leadership position which it so rightfully deserves.

John