

The best part of the Open Internet is it enables creativity and competition. The Web is a public commons built on open standards and interoperability meaning **MUSICIANS CAN DISTRIBUTE THEIR OWN MUSIC**. This way they can actually earn a decent living from the sale of their music.

For most musicians signed with corporate record labels they were being exploited unfairly. The sad truth is digital music stores like Apple iTunes have for these musicians only perpetuated this exploitation. The artist is only paid peanuts compared to the label. For a song which sells for 99 cents on iTunes an artist only makes 11 cents of the sale the rest is split between the record label,, Apple and the credit card processing companies. The Internet enables artists to distribute their own music though and many independent artists have better deals even in the physical marketplace than the corporate signed artists. Most musicians are not rich like Madonna or Lady Gaga.

Self-published authors also benefit from an Open Web. Whereas before they had to depend on big publishing companies to print their books and were also underpaid they can self-publish thanks to digital booksellers like Amazon which is also fighting to keep the prices of e-books reasonable while the big publishers wanting to protect their outdated print business seek to artificially inflate the cost of an e-book top the same amount as the print book although e-books are cheaper to produce with no paper to print and are better for the environment.

I urge the Department of Justice Antitrust Division to block anti-competitive mergers like Comcast TWC, AT&T DirecTV and a possible Sprint T-Mobile takeover that would undermine the Open Web. I also urge the FCC to put Net Neutrality on firm legal footing with Title II reclassification