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The FCC needs to enshrine in process, and Congress needs to enshrine in law that the Internet is and will remain equal and neutral. The Internet is the last bastion of free market ideals. It is only by remaining neutral that the United States can hope to maintain its position of technological and economic dominance.

The neutrality allows a start up company in a garage in Ohio to take on a huge, multinational corporation in a variety of fields. If the incumbent could provide service faster at a TCP/IP level because they paid ISPs large sums of money, they have an artificial advantage. The start up would fail. Consumers and business alike would then have fewer options in the market segment.

Changing the Internet to have a two-tiered or n-tiered system will result in other economic disadvantages to the US. Comcast is expanding into multiple new markets. One such market is home security. If they can slow their competition down, Comcast will artificially put a stumbling block in front of existing companies. At the same time, they can cause harm to the user of the other security service. It is not difficult to see where Comcast is growing and how it intends to leverage regulatory capture of the n-tiered system to stifle competition and innovation.

Finally, we've seen the large ISPs fail to compete. The United States does not rank in the top 10 nations for service speed. Even when one takes into account population density as a limiting factor, the ISPs fail to provide the best service/dollar. If they can then charge more for less service (the "slow lane"), they will do so. Making the n-tiered system will further the poor service experienced by most users.