

The proposal to abandon Net Neutrality on the internet in favor of a multi-tiered content-biased system is deeply flawed. It would:

1. create a system that inhibits technical innovation by allowing ISPs to choose which technologies their customers can access.
2. create a system that protects entrenched companies while penalizing the start-ups that have been the life blood of the internet.
3. limit access of non-profit organizations that cannot afford "fast-lane" fees.
4. penalize media companies that do not directly own cable or satellite access to consumers.

Furthermore, distributed computing projects held at universities across the nation would be penalized without net neutrality. I contribute to several such projects; one of which is SETI@home. While SETI@home is run by staff at UC Berkeley, the project itself is distributed world wide. It is a non-profit organization that allows users to contribute from around the world to utilize individual computers to analyze data; then upload the results back to the SETI@home staff at UC Berkeley. Other distributed computing projects that would be adversely affected by the loss of net neutrality include those that study diseases to find cures for malaria, AIDS, and more. WorldCommunityGrid.org is one such collection of projects. Study of the stars via Einstein@Home would most likely be lost if net neutrality is not maintained in its current form. These are only some of the scientific research projects that would be negatively impacted by the loss of net neutrality.

The Internet has flourished under the de facto common carrier ISPs held until recently. It is time for the FCC to declare that ISPs are Common Carriers and hold them to that status.