

To whom it may concern,

As long as consumers don't have freedom of choice, last-mile internet traffic discrimination should be per se illegal. We need net neutrality. Here is why:

When there is a structural reason consumers don't have freedom of choice, and the free market can't work, consumers need minimal protection from the government so that they don't get abused.

We need protection from the cable companies to keep the Internet fair and open.

I think that most people misunderstand the net neutrality issue; the Internet backbone isn't neutral anyway. But that's ok; there are multiple paths to traverse it.

This is not the case for the "last mile". Consumers often can only buy Internet access from a single provider; there is no choice. These providers would like to be able to make some traffic more equal than others and accept payment for it. This isn't allowed for voice, and it shouldn't be allowed for data.

The Internet has been the great bright spot in US innovation in the last decade. It's mostly been a free and open platform, where anyone can get something started. When the great companies start, they often look like very fragile projects. Any additional barriers, however small, could easily have stopped Google or Facebook from getting going.

I would love to see a world where the companies that own last-mile infrastructure are required to lease the lines to any ISP the end consumer wants; this would create a competitive market and mostly eliminate the problem.

Regards,

Matthew Eric Bassett

Thanks to Sam Altman (@sama) for the wording of this comment; I shameless stole it from him.