

Dear FCC,

My name is Zack Anderson and I live in Austin, TX.

Net neutrality, the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) treat all data that travels over their networks equally, is important to me because without it users may have fewer options and a less diverse Internet.

A pay-to-play Internet worries me because new, innovative services that can't afford expensive fees for better service will be less likely to succeed.

I'm urging all of you to prohibit ISPs from charging customers to get their sites to load quickly and throttling their bandwidth if they do not pay.

I'm a young web developer. I'm self-taught. I wanted a better job, and I also dreamed of using the web as a medium for art. It took me years of work in my free time to acquire the skills I now have. In a world without net neutrality, enterprising, self-driven activity like this is likely to yield little fruit, a profoundly un-American situation.

I work at a small company, as do most developers. Such companies are often operated on small budgets, and can't afford to pay exorbitant fees to ISPs. Without net neutrality, many will fail in the marketplace as their applications load too slowly, driving their potential audience to large corporate competitors. Two studies have shown that even small increases in loading time result in massive abandonment of a website (see <http://blog.kissmetrics.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/loading-time-1rg.jpg>). This will leave many people like myself out of work, and damage one of the most thriving sectors of our economy.

My prospects as an artist on the web are even worse. Without a large audience, I have no hope of generating the funds needed to pay off ISPs. If my pieces load too slowly, I'll struggle to build an audience at all, no matter how good my work is.

Unless the Committee moves to protect equal Internet access, our economy will rigidify. Already-successful businesses on the web will become even wealthier, while innovative new competitors flounder. Creative individuals and small nonprofits will struggle to be heard at all. Our economy and our culture will be damaged just to please a handful of large corporations. It's against the essence of what this nation and its government are supposed to stand for.

Preserve an equal Internet: prohibit ISPs from charging for faster access times.

Sincerely,

Zack Anderson