

# **Net Neutrality and the Future of the Internet**

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# What is Net Neutrality?

"a principle that advocates government regulation of Internet service providers,<sup>[1]</sup> preventing ISPs from restricting consumers' access to networks that participate in the Internet. Specifically, network neutrality would prevent restrictions on content, sites, platforms, types of equipment that may be attached, and modes of communication. Network owners can't interfere with content, applications, services, and devices of users' choice and remains open to all users and uses."

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network\\_neutrality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality)

# Charging Content Providers Differently?

- Can "good" content provider be supported by the regulator so that they have faster access speed?
- How about "bad" provider -- can they be put into a slower lane?
- What if companies can pay for having the fast lane?
- Who decides?

# Pros and Cons

- We can filter out "good" from "bad" content.
- More efficient use of the bandwidth
- Less spam
- Newspaper can edit its own content, so ISP's should be able to do the same.
- We feel that everyone on the Net is equal.
- Who is to judge which content is "good" or "bad"?
- Better technology to filter out spam from the receiver's end

# Pros and Cons

- "...network neutrality rules allow third parties to "physically invade broadband networks with their electronic signals and permanently occupy portions of network capacity."
- But then if the network provider can control the content moving in their networks, then what about the people's right to know?
- Info will be tightly controlled.

# Content and Channel

- What would happen if same organization owns both content and channel -- software and hardware?
- What if TV channels and ISP's merge together?
- They can give preferences to their own content, so their websites load faster, so you are locked in.
- Scary picture of one corporation owning all the information.

# Future of Internet

- More like TV broadcasting?
- More like telephone?
- More open?
- More closed?
- More free?
- Less free?
- Depending on what?