EG 2401/a Engineering Professionalism

Additional Notes I (Professionalism & Ethics Issues ---

Possible Decisions on the Technology of the Internet)

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"Another example on how even truly great minds can/will reach different decisions…let alone lesser mere mortals…" ☺☺

... engineers [need to] realize how their technical work has far reaching impacts on society. The work of engineers can affect public health and safety and can influence business practices and even politics. ...

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155 COMMENTS

Angela Merkel argues against net neutrality, calls for special access fast lane

By Dante D'Orazio on December 6, 2014 11:22 pm   Email   @dantedorazio

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German Chancellor Angela Merkel has laid out her vision for the future of the internet, and net neutrality proponents won't be pleased. In comments on Thursday in Berlin, Merkel argued for a two-lane internet. One lane for "special," high priority service, and another that's meant to resemble the internet as it exists today.

While supporters of net neutrality argue that it is key to the continued growth of the internet, Merkel believes just the opposite. She argues that fast lanes are necessary for the development of new, advanced uses of the internet, like telemedicine or driverless cars. According to Merkel, without guaranteed, fast-access internet connections, such innovations won't come to market.

It's not clear how such a two-lane system would be implemented or regulated. For instance, it's unknown if there would be limits on what sort of companies could pay for access to fast-lane internet. A report from *Frankfurter Allgemeine* cites sources inside the German government who say that on-demand internet video streaming services would be among the companies that would be able to pay for access for high-speed service.

CAN YOU HAVE A FAST LANE AND MAINTAIN NET NEUTRALITY?

The European Union currently mandates true net neutrality, though discussions have been underway for the future of internet regulation. Merkel believes that her position is a middle ground, but the idea that the general traffic lane will operate under net neutrality depends entirely on how much bandwidth it receives from internet providers. If the main traffic lane isn't fast, and any company can opt for fast-lane access, companies will likely find it necessary to pay up for

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President Obama wants the FCC to abandon plans for tiered 'net neutrality'

by Terrence O'Brien | @terrenceobrien | October 10th 2014 at 10:23 am

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President Obama found a place in the heart of many techies during his first campaign thanks to his staunch support of net neutrality. Six years later the debate still rages on, but Obama's position hasn't changed. During a Q&A in California on Thursday the President reiterated his support for the principle saying:

"I made a commitment very early on that I am unequivocally committed to Net Neutrality... Tom Wheeler, knows my position. I can't-now that he's there-I can't just call him up and tell him exactly what to do. But what I've been clear about, what the White House has been clear about, is that we expect that whatever final rules to emerge, to make sure that we're not creating two or three or four tiers of Internet."

That statement seems to stand in opposition to the current proposal sitting in front of the FCC which leaves plenty of wiggle room and loopholes for creating tiered service. Of course, he stopped shy of calling for broadband to be reclassified as a Title II service, which critics have said is essential for preserving true net neutrality. Reclassifying broadband under Title II would allow the FCC to regulate it as a "common carrier" like telephone lines, and would demand that ISPs act in "the public interest."

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