Critical Analysis of an Article

*This worksheet will guide you through a critical reading of articles you find in the news.* *You must complete a worksheet for each source* *you use for an IT Ethics in the News analysis.*

**Initial Review**

In this section, we will determine whether we can use this article. Answer each question by marking “yes” or “no” with an “x” in the appropriate column.

| **Question** | **Yes** | **No** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does the article have a clear date of publication? | X |  |
| Is the date of publication within the past 30 days? | X |  |
| Is the article from a media source listed on the [*Interactive Media Bias Chart*](https://adfontesmedia.com/interactive-media-bias-chart/)? | X |  |

If the answer to **any** of the questions above is **no**, you cannot use the selected article. Stop your analysis and find another article.

**Metadata**

Metadata is simply “data about data.” Please review your selected article and fill out the chart below to the best of your ability.

| **Metadata Item** |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article Title | FCC to reintroduce rules protecting net neutrality |
| Date of Publication | September 26th, 2023 |
| Source of Article (e.g., “CNN.com”) | CNN.com |
| Author(s) | Brian Fung |
| URL to Article | https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/26/tech/fcc-net-neutrality-internet-providers/index.html |

If you cannot find a date of publication for the article, you cannot use the selected article. Stop your analysis and find another article.

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# Interactive Media Bias Chart:

Browse to <https://adfontesmedia.com/interactive-media-bias-chart/> - find the media source from which this article came (e.g., MSNBC) and take a screenshot clearly showing the rating for the media source (remember, the bias rating must be between -20 and +20 for any source, and the reliability rating of the source must be 24 or higher!). Paste the screenshot in the white space, below. Then, proceed to the next page.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

If you cannot find the source on the Interactive Media Bias Chart, you cannot use the selected article. Stop your analysis and find another article.

# Ethical Dilemma:

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| **1). Summarize the article.** |
| * The US government and FCC aims to restore regulation regarding Net Neutrality that was originally instated during the Obama administration and rolled back during the Trump administration. This proposal to have net neutrality reinstated is likely to trigger pushback from internet providers who have spent years fighting earlier versions of the rules in court. Other than their immediate impact to ISP’s, the draft proposed intends to directly help US telecom regulators address a range of known consumer issues in the longer run by allowing the FCC to bring its most powerful legal tools to bear, this would also allow the FCC to address robo-text, outages, high speed internet access and digital privacy. The FCC chairwomen Jessica Rosenworcel does wish to regulate ISP’s to the same degree as telephone companies as telephone companies cannot sell customer data, yet these same restrictions do not apply to ISP’s. Also stating, the proposed rules would promote the Biden administration’s agenda to blanket the country in fast, affordable broadband, allowing ISP’s the right to put their equipment on telephone poles. |
| **2). How is the issue outlined in the article an “ethical” dilemma – is it truly an ethical dilemma, or is it simply a dilemma?**  **Cross-reference and cite concepts discussed in assigned reading up to this point.**  **Note the specific dilemma(s) and how this issue falls within the constraints of the dilemma.** |
| * Ethical Principle, The dilemma detailed in this article involves the ethical principles of such as fairness, justice and common good. Net neutrality regulation would intend to ensure equal fair access to any online content or data. * Public Interest vs Private Interest, The ethical dilemma centers around rather the prioritizations of the public or private are more compelling for our country. The answer to this dilemma has varied based on the administration in power. With currently the side of the public being prioritized under Biden’s administration. |

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# Logic and Argument:

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| **1). What is the most important information in this article (i.e., what supporting evidence, facts, experience, or data do the authors provide to support their argument)?** |
| * The FCC intends to re-instate net neutrality to provide protections to consumers, with quotes provide by the FCC Chairwomen Jessica Rosenworcel detailing the intent behind these changes. * A statement by Rosenworcel detailing how net neutrality would assist in blanketing our entire country with fast, affordable broadband internet. * Detailing this push for the FCC to regulate ISPs under “Title II”, giving them more authority to impose rules against blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization of websites. |
| **2). What key concept(s) do we need to understand in this article (i.e., what important ideas do we need to understand to understand the authors’ line of reasoning)?** |
| * The FCC’s plan to reinstate Net Neutrality, which would make it against the regulation for an ISP to block, throttle or prioritize certain websites or data on the internet. * Net neutrality allows for the spread of faster, more affordable internet to cover our nation. * This implementation would also help the government lower the amount of robo-text, internet outages, and assist in stopping digital privacy. * This reclassification would allow for the updated cybersecurity policies, allowing for regulations to no longer let ISPs sell customer data. |
| **3). What main assumption(s) underly the author’s thinking (i.e., what is/are the author(s) taking for granted that might be questioned)?** |
| * Net neutrality benefits, the article assumes that these regulations are beneficial for customers and the internet. This assumption is based on the idea that it would ensure fair access to due to ISPs not being allowed to block any sites nor prioritize any of them. * ISP opposition, the article does assume that the interest of ISP’s in not wanting this to be passed and regulated is a result of self-interest. This is detailed in the article implying they would be against these regulations due to their ability to profit from consumers being stripped to a degree. * The importance of Net Neutrality, the article assumes that net neutrality is a critical issue with broad implications concerning digital privacy, internet access and cybersecurity. This is emphasized with the FCC chairwomen explaining how without regulation these are exposed to many issues. |
| **4). If we take the author’s line of reasoning seriously, what are the implications (i.e., the “so what” – why does the argument matter? Why should be care? What consequences are likely to follow if people take the author’s line of reasoning seriously)?** |
| * Protection provided to internet access, with net neutrality regulations being restored we can conclude that consumers will have equal access to the internet. Without these regulations the concern that ISPs could engage in practices that may be discriminatory to certain sites or online content would remain. * Cybersecurity and Privacy of Data, by restoring net neutrality rules the FCC gains more authority to incorporate updated standards for cybersecurity. This would allow for ISPs to no longer sell consumer data like restrictions imposed on telephone companies. * Expanding broadband access, the article suggest that net neutrality would assist in the Biden’s administration goal of expanding access to internet across the country |

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| **5). What are your reactions to the argument? Are you convinced? Why or why not?** |
| * I do disagree with the prominent focus on public safety over privacy. I feel the benefits of increased surveillance outweigh the cost of privacy being violated to a small degree. No elaboration was made on if the NYPD had oversight regarding the drones method of surveillance and I feel there is no reason to think the police would not have oversight of these new methods of surveillance. |
| **6). What questions do you have about this article? Do you need more information? Is part of the argument unclear? Is there something the author/authors hasn’t/haven’t considered? What would you ask the author(s) if you spoke to them?** |
| * How have ISPs responded to this plan to reinstate Net Neutrality regulations? Have they presented any concerns regarding this regulation being imposed? * Are there any potential downsides or consequences that consumers would see with this new regulation? |

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# Writing Style:

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| **1). How do the authors establish authority? (Think about whether the authors seem knowledgeable. Why or why not? What perspectives, biases, or values appear to have a role in the authors’ argument? Cite specific examples.)** |
| * Citing and quoting a majority of the reasonings provided by FCC chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. * Referencing the specific legal framework or in this case, the Title II framework. * Citing the intent and reasonings provided by the Biden Administration |
| **2). The key concept(s) we need to understand in the article are: (What important ideas do you need to understand in order to understand the authors’ line of reasoning?)** |
| * The FCC’s goal is to improve the internet for all American’s the step that is being made to take this is providing deeper regulations to ensure no websites are blocked, throttled or prioritized from American’s. * Biden Administration’s and FCC’s goal allowing a broader access to internet across the country. |
| **3). How do the authors get your interest? (Think about whether the authors try to get you to identify with them or to care about the subject. Do the authors seem to assume you have particular interests and/or values and use them as the basis for argument? How? Cite specific examples.)** |
| * Article’s appeal to the everyday American explaining how without this regulations they are affected by the lack of Net Neutrality. * Explaining the extremes of how this could affect people in a worst case scenario and what the intent of the regulation is meant for. |

# Opposing Viewpoint(s):

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| **1). What are some possible contrasting perspectives to the dilemma outlined in this article?** |
| * This article covers the downsides of not having Net Neutrality and the issues that come without it. An article supporting the contrasting perspective would be in support of the repeal and maybe include quotes from the most known government figure supporting the repeal of Net Neutrality “Ajit Pai” this person was the catalyst that originally pushed for the removal during the Trump Administration. |
| **2). Think back to question #1 in the “Writing Style” section. Based on the biases or values you identified, what contrasting view(s) do you need to find to get a contrasting perspective?** |
| - A contrasting perspective would be much more in favor of the repeal potentially feeling that Net Neutrality is unfair for businesses or not worthy of focus by the FCC. The article would more than likely appeal to businesses due to Net Neutrality not really having any downsides for consumer’s. |