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 | “Utter waste of Time”: Former FCC Chair Rips Into Plans to Reintroduce ‘Net Neutrality’ Regulations |
| Date of Publication | September 26th, 2023 |
| Source of Article (e.g., “CNN.com”) | DailyWire.com |
| Author(s) | Leif Le Mahieu |
| URL to Article | https://www.dailywire.com/news/utter-waste-of-time-former-fcc-chair-rips-into-plans-to-reintroduce-net-neutrality-regulations |

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.** |
| This article is detailing the reinstatement by the Biden administration of net neutrality, this comes after a repeal by the Trump Administration that was heavily marketed by Agit Pai (Former chairmen of the FCC). Ajit Pai sent a statement to The Daily Wire detailing this repeal was prompted by leftist activist and Big Tech companies. This decision was made a few weeks after the senate voted to confirm Anna Gomez (Biden appointed) to the FCC. This now gives Democrats a 3-2 majority in the FCC. They do intend to hold this vote next month. Alongside this the article details the concern that was expressed in 2017 due to the end of net neutrality, mentioning a CNN title stating “Vote to end net neutrality would ‘end the internet as we know it’.” |
| **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.** |
| * Internet Access and Equality, the ethical aspect of equal access to the internet is the central concept covering this topic. With supporters of net neutrality arguing that these regulations are needed to ensure all individuals have equal access to online information along with services. Critics of net neutrality feel these regulations deter Internet Service Providers (ISP’s) from investing in expanding access. * Freedom vs Regulation, this is a core ethical dilemma presented in the article. On one side of the dilemma advocates of Net Neutrality can argue that it is essential to ensure ISP’s do not throttle, block, or prioritize online content, as this would restrict the freedom of information instead allowing it to be placed behind a paywall. While the other side of this issue would argue that government regulation on ISP’s violate their freedom to operate without government intervention. |

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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)?** |
| * Ajit Pai’s dissatisfaction with the Biden’s administration’s wish to have Net Neutrality reintroduced. * This repeal to reinstate net neutrality being pushed by “Leftist Activist and Big Tech companies” * Net neutrality regulations being considered necessary to avoid ISP’s throttling websites. * Ajit Pai’s criticism towards the FCC for being focused on net neutrality rather than improving broadband availability or decreasing robocalls. |
| **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)?** |
| * Ajit Pai’s feeling that focusing on net neutrality is an “utter waste of time.” * The feeling the government is being given too much power over the internet. * Consumer’s currently seeing higher broadband speeds than ever, along with more internet access than ever. * More options in service providers along with better prices. |
| **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)?** |
| * The assumption the higher speeds and internet access is a result of the removal of net neutrality rather than seeing this is due to the government’s push for broader internet access during covid and innovations in technology. * The assumption the better prices and wealth of service providers are a product of net neutrality. * The assumption that repealing net neutrality is a complete waste of time, ignoring the amount of consumer’s in direct contest of this decision. |
| **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)?** |
| * The impact on internet freedom, taking the line of reasoning presented in the article seriously would lead to a reduction in government regulation over internet service providers. This would allow ISP’s to manage their services without government interference, potentially leading to user’s no longer being allowed to visit certain websites without buying a more expansive bundle with their internet. * Consumer impact, the implications of this argument would have the greatest effect on service providers and consumer’s of these services. Consumer’s may experience different levels of access to services based off the practices of their service providers. |

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| **5). What are your reactions to the argument? Are you convinced? Why or why not?** |
| - I do feel net neutrality is an amazing regulation presented by the government. I am biased in this situation, as I am completely in support of Net Neutrality and feel the response presented by Ajit Pai showcased his disconnect concerning the feelings of an everyday consumer. As I am biased I will admit I was extremely against his perspective but I do feel all of his stated reasonings were very weak and not at all compelling. |
| **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?** |
| * Why would reconsidering net neutrality be an utter waste of time even though a majority of consumers where adamantly against it? * Why would only “left-wing Beltway activist, Big Tech, and a few (alleged) comedians” care about net neutrality being implemented when it affects every user of the internet in America? * Why does the article insinuate that the government is not focused on providing broader availability of internet when we saw the biggest government backed push during Covid? |

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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.)** |
| * The article does not provide any stats and most of the assumptions such as only the left wing and Big Tech being concerned about net neutrality are not backed by any reasoning. * The article is extremely supportive of the repeal of net neutrality, it does not state any of the concerns of consumers nor their justifications regarding this regulation being removed and states many of the arguments of the primary person who originally advocated for its removal in 2017. |
| **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?)** |
| * Government regulation takes freedom away from companies to pursue business how they see fit. * The new (Biden appointed) FCC commissioner feels the repeal of net neutrality by the “(Ajit) Pai-led FCC was extreme” and “on the wrong side of history”. * Ajit Pai feels the FCC should be focused on improving broadband availability or decreasing robocalls rather than focusing on reinstating net neutrality considering it an “utter waste of time”. * Concern sprouted when net neutrality was originally repealed in 2017 and |
| **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.)** |
| * The article is good at expressing Ajit Pai’s extreme disgust with this new direction proposed by the FCC in re-implementing net neutrality. * Providing a timeline to readers explaining how he was the largest influence in this change of regulation in 2017, as he is directly related to this subject his perspective is extremely valued and attention grabbing. * Discussing fear of too much government control of the potential issues this could cause everyday American’s, and primarily companies. |

# Opposing Viewpoint(s):

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| **1). What are some possible contrasting perspectives to the dilemma outlined in this article?** |
| * The primary opposing viewpoint in the article would be in support of the implementation of net neutrality. This perspective would feel the regulation is completely justified and would more than likely attempt to appeal more to the everyday American rather than companies and their freedom of choice on how to run their company. |
| **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?** |
| * An article biased in support of net neutrality, this article would feel the regulation is needed out of fear of the potential issues this could cause people, especially those who would be unable to afford a spike in ISP bills as these would be the main concern regarding net neutrality causing a “Digital Serfdom” as this article mentioned (this was to make fun of a CNN headline). |