Net neutrality is the act of providing equal amounts of data to everyone and not discriminating against anyone by changing the quality or amount of data people get. There shouldn't be different prices for different amounts of data. There also shouldn't be any discrimination against websites or applications and they should all get the same amounts and quality of data. Essentially it is freedom to use the internet.

There are many reasons to keep net neutrality around, both ethical and practical. In the *ACM Code of Ethics* section 1.4 it says, "Be fair and take action to not discriminate". This makes net neutrality able to be considered ethical and this is a good thing because it allows everyone to equally use the internet. An example of discriminatory behavior is in an article by Bret Swanson called *Google and the Problem with 'Net Neutrality'.* In the article Swanson states, "But Google Voice does not connect all calls. It blocks access, for example, to some rural areas and conferencing services that would impose heavier interconnection fees on Google." Google discriminates against these areas because of the cost it takes in order to distribute calls to them, even though Google Voice is supposed to connect everyone over the web through a call. Google does this because "Google thinks net neutrality should regulate only traditional phone and cable companies." Another reason that net neutrality should be able to stay is because it allows people to access the sites they want. It helps spread information truthfully and equally with anyone on the internet by not blocking websites.

There are some reasons that net neutrality should be repealed as well though. Net neutrality subjects ISPs to "rate-of-return" regulations, which is what the ISP gets back from sending data for customers to use. The ISPs can't charge too much for their data so they can't make a huge profit off of it, however this also applies to websites and streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu. The regulation makes it so that while an ISP is making a profit, in order to

make everything affordable for customers, streaming services need to make less of a profit.
Another possibility according to Peter Doren and Thomas Firey in the article *Why 'Net Neutrality' is a Problem* is that the regulations "...<u>hurt consumers much more than it helped them</u>, forcing on consumers too many bad providers with high prices and poor quality." if both the ISPs and streaming services charged more. This is unfair to customers and goes against the *IEEE Code of Ethics* section 2 where it says "...to avoid hurting others." Under this section it says harm classifies as damaging property, reputation, or employment with false or malicious actions.

      In my opinion net neutrality is not a bad thing even though it can have its downfalls. The freedom over the internet and non discriminatory nature of net neutrality outway the possibility of overpriced ISPs and streaming services, which happen even without net neutrality.