**Individual Contribution Report - Luka Hickey**

It was a pleasure working with Harry, Sam, Michael and Rory, 4 truly spiffing lads. We all did our general research separately, but also assigned an aspect to focus on. We then met up and pooled our knowledge together to brainstorm the structure and points we were going to make in our presentation of Net Neutrality. We then each wrote our respective segments of the presentation, and chose the appropriate slides. My individual research focused on the *arguments for net neutrality.* I found that a lot of people were strongly exaggerating their points which undermined their arguments a bit for me, but I still felt that most of their points were valid, such as the fact that ISP’s in the US have been known to throttle internet speeds unfairly in the past, and that without Net Neutrality they are very likely to do so again. Another argument that stood out was the necessity to protect freedom of speech, as there is reasonable speculation that suggests Net Neutrality does. Coming close the day of presentation, I worked with Rory and Samuel to refine our powerpoint and practice our delivery until it was near perfection and within 5 minutes. I find it difficult detailing all the individual things I did for the group, probably because we did nearly everything as a team, and I guess that worked out for us in the end because we won.

The point from our pitch that I am going to elaborate on is the point that power should *not* be given to the Internet Service Providers, as they simply can’t be trusted. There are several proven instances where ISP’s such as comcast and verizon have been caught red handed throttling their speeds to make other content seem more favourable, what better reason than that do we need to prove that they cannot be trusted? I think none, but there is indeed more. At least one of these ISP’s (Verizon) has its own streaming platform. It would make a lot of sense, especially in light of these companies previous offenses to Net Neutrality, that Verizon would favour its own platform as opposed to a 3rd party’s. It could do this by offering its own service for free, or by simply slowing down any competitors, either way it’s safe to say that without Net Neutrality this would almost certainly happen in some way, shape or form.