Team: B2, Brendan’s Bois

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Net Neutrality – Individual Contribution

Personally, I contributed to this team doing general research on the topic. To be more particular, I read articles and watched videos about the fundamentals of what net neutrality was in order to give my team a better understanding as to what net neutrality is, which I think made it clearer to understand for our public. Secondly, I researched in particular the controversy of net neutrality in the United-States, in order to understand and be able to give information about the problems it has caused and is still causing. A few examples of this given in our talk are: The Internet service providers (ISPs) goals and reasons to repeal net neutrality, or their methods to make more profit even though the laws are still active.

Finally, I also contributed to this team by organising the meetings locations as well as taking the photos required for the one page document required.

I will now develop one of the points we made during our talk which can be easily described as ‘pay for access’. It is the fact that without net neutrality, internet service providers (ISPs) have the power to essentially control which websites and applications we use. This could be a lower internet speed for those services or even worse : blocking access to those websites. This could lead to ISPs charging its customers to have access to those websites and applications, leading to what we call ‘internet packages’. There would be a basic package which would be limited in every possible way (speeds, usage limit, websites limitations..) to which you could add extras such as unlimited usage for certain websites (or higher speeds) to the point where you could have to pay to access one single website.

This could even go beyond the consumer to the companies who provide internet services, where websites could be asked to pay in order to see their broadband to be faster and so, make it so that smaller startups wouldn’t even have a chance at succeeding as those would not have the resources to pay for those ‘privileges’. But, ultimately, this could lead to ISPs deciding what they want us to see on the internet, therefore the consequences could be immense : from deciding which politicians they prefer to blocking any negative press against their company.

To conclude this, I would like to add that, even though all of this is mostly speculative, I hope it shows enough reasons for the laws protecting net neutrality to be kept. As dropping those would ultimately lead to giving internet service providers to having all of the power they could dream of.