

#savenetneutrality

What is Net Neutrality?

Net Neutrality is the principle that internet service providers (ISPs) must treat all information and communication on the internet equally. It was a policy that helped to ensure that ISPs do not discriminate between or charge more money for different websites, content providers, or users. It was a set of rules that was introduced during the Obama presidency.



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What happens when it is gone?

If net neutrality is repealed, then ISPs will be able to discriminate against certain types of content. Without it, we could see that ISPs start to charge users more money to view certain websites or may charge the content providers (like Facebook and Netflix) more money to show their content to everyday users. We could also see that the ISPs start to favor websites or content that they own and would make money from which would lead to the cable-ization of the internet. Something that isn't fun for anyone BUT the ISPs.

Why does it affect you?

If net neutrality is gone, I would then be forced to pay extra for certain services, certain services may be slower or of worse quality, and/or I would not be able to get certain services at all. Especially since everything is basically on the internet, needing to pay more or not being able to have the internet at all is not appealing to any consumer. The point of net neutrality was to give the consumer equal access to any service they wanted and limiting the services would retract all those freedoms of equal access and make it harder for those in certain areas to have access to the internet or certain services.



Who doesn't want it? The Internet Service Providers

Consumers and businesses want net neutrality. Consumers do not want to pay for certain access to certain services and if the consumer is of low income, they would have to choose between paying extra or having no internet at all. Businesses like Netflix and Facebook can benefit from net neutrality because it is cheaper for everything to be sent at the same price and they do not need to pay more for a "faster track." Also, small businesses benefit from net neutrality as some businesses have innovative ideas but will be blocked since ISP will have control of whether or not they can show the small businesses. They would also struggle with having to pay so much to be put on a "fast track lane." ISP is benefiting from the repeal of net neutrality because they are able to make more profit by charging other companies more and blocking their competitors.

