

About the mobile technologies...

I feel a little uneasy to talk about mobile technologies as a way to access Internet because in many countries the big telecoms don't respect the 'net neutrality' legislation (which regulates that all the information that travels over their network should be treated the same way, navigating in the same speed to guarantee access to any information on the network). That means, they have more control over what users see, do and say online. I am not sure that these companies' motivations are purely information control because the devices themselves (the smartphones) in essence are not intended to do certain types of work over the Internet such write an essay, edit an magazine, coding, install a new OS and start coding, etc. Anyways, these limitations in the access of any content raised some debates around big telecoms offering smartphones to create a new digital divide. There is an interesting article talking about that at: [http://colorlines.com/archives/2011/12/the\\_new\\_digital\\_divide\\_two\\_separate\\_but\\_un\\_equal\\_internets.html](http://colorlines.com/archives/2011/12/the_new_digital_divide_two_separate_but_un_equal_internets.html).

One of the points that this article makes is that in US smartphone usage is up amongst group that are traditionally, for economic reasons, in the other side of the digital divide, and in this case, the Latino and the African American population.

Another point is that in essence, there are two Internets emerging in US. *'The first is the one that's driven innovation and commerce for the past two decades: traditional Internet hookups such as broadband that connect wires to desktop computers and allow users to work, play and explore from the comfort of their home. That Internet is regulated—loosely, but regulated—by the federal government, which has issued rules that prohibit Internet service providers from interfering with their users' online access. Those rules exist as an implicit acknowledgement that the Internet isn't just fun and games, but rather the central communication platform of the 21st century, an essential medium for everything from commerce to elections. Meanwhile, mobile wireless is quickly taking shape as a second Internet, one in which people of color and users with little income are entirely dependent upon cell phone companies for access. That Internet is unregulated. Companies are free to do as they please with customers—they can control what users see, do and say online. And as the country grows more dependent on high speed Internet, the handful of companies who own its mobile version are steadily working to consolidate their power. Whether and how policy makers allow that to happen may determine who gets a voice in our 21st century economy, and who's left as its prey'.*