Online Banking - There is no longer a need to constantly go to a bank as the increased availability and development of Online Banking has been integrated into our daily lives.

Hi Jeremy,

Great post. I can’t believe that I forgot to include online banking in the economic/financial impact section of my initial DQ. Online banking is amazing, isn’t it? I can probably count the number of times I have actually set foot inside a bank in the past 2 years on one hand. We can pretty much do everything from a computer or smart phone with Internet access except to physically withdraw cash. I especially like the deposit feature where you can simply take a picture of a check with my iPhone. Since I own rental property, I used to deposit them through my bank’s ATM, but ever since my bank added this feature, my only physical interaction with a bank is withdrawing cash from the ATM.

Regards,

Emanuel

Hello Emanuel,

That was an interesting post on Net Neutrality. You stated that "I tend to agree with those that favor a more hands-off approach to handling this perceived problem.....I would err on the side of exercising caution and restraint".

I want to add to your point because the Federal Trade Commission recommended against additional regulation of high-speed Internet traffic. Policy makers should proceed cautiously on the issue of “net neutrality,” which is the notion that all online traffic should be treated equally by Internet service providers. FTC also maintained that without evidence of market failure or demonstrated consumer harm, policy makers should be particularly hesitant to enact new regulation in this area (Wyatt 2014).

As a matter of fact, Supporters of net neutrality rules, including consumer groups and content providers like Google, are concerned that Internet access providers could slow or block content in the absence of such rules, particularly as Internet providers offer their own services (Wyatt 2014).

Reference:

WYATT, E., 2014-last update, F.C.C. Backs Opening Net Neutrality Rules for Debate [Homepage of FCC], [Online]. Available: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/16/technology/fcc-road-map-to-net-neutrality.html> [May 19th, 2014].

Hi Albert,

Thank you for taking the time to read my post and for your comments. It’s good to hear that the FTC favors a more free market approach, and are calling for the supporters of net neutrality to provide hard evidence of “consumer harm”. In the article you cited, it looks like the FCC is willing to compromise by not allowing ISPs to slow service down, but to also provide faster service to those with more money.

Regards,

Emanuel

“Currently social responses to privacy in social networks do not tend to deal with the potential misuse of personal information. Instead the response is based on the protection of children against predators, which is only one aspect of the privacy paradox. Similarly, a legal response has been the proposal of a bill to protect underage children.”

Hi Amir,

Thank you for taking the time to read my initial post and for your lengthy response. Even though I don’t have kids, I’m aware that misuse of social networking websites presents even more challenges for parents today. Friends are always telling me stories of how their children spend way too much time on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. They usually follow guidelines in setting household rules regarding their children’s Internet use. The ones I find most important are:

* Exercising caution when strangers attempt to make contact.
* Not disclosing too much personal information on the Internet.
* Treat people as if you were interacting face to face.

(Microsoft, n.d.)

Regards,

Emanuel

Reference:

Microsoft (n.d.) *How To Help Your Kids Use Social Websites More Safely* [Online]. Available from: <http://www.microsoft.com/security/family-safety/kids-social.aspx> (Accessed: 20 May 2014)

Hi Emanuel

A provocative response.

May I comment on "sacrificing a certain amount of privacy"  and the problem of Facebook and Lyft.

Many users, me included, use different identities for different online services and with several accounts on Facebook and other social media. I do have a presence on the Social Media, but you may not easily find me.

Multiple email addresses are readily available and Credit cards, PayPal, WorldPay etc all help hide payment sources.

So far as I am aware the only services that can demand your real identity are the Tax and Revenue and in the UK, the National Health service. You can lie to everyone else.

But do remember your details. I had a problem with a errant payment on a credit card and when I rang, they said "Can you confirm your date of birth?" Now what had I declared.... ???

 best wishes

frank

Hi Frank,

Thanks for the response. I actually thought of creating another Facebook account just so that I could use the services that require them, but ultimately decided that it just wasn’t worth the trouble. That and Lyft promises that they will “never post anything to Facebook” (Facebook, n.d). To help maintain my email privacy and to lessen the amount of spam in my inbox, I’ve created multiple aliases which all belong to the same email account. I’ve set up rules which direct mail to certain folders, depending on the email alias it is sent to. But then again, going through all this trouble does seem to be somewhat of an inconvenience, which I willingly go through.

Regards,

Emanuel

Reference

Facebook (n.d.) *Lyft* [Online]. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/appcenter/lyftapp> (Accessed: 20 May 2014)

“Additionally, the increase of internet usage is making the shift to mobile a more expensive competition in which to function, as not every organizations are mobile friendly & using mobile app due to cost & security concerns.”

Hi Rony,

Thanks for your comments. Where I live, there appears to be a high demand for mobile software engineers. I entered the terms “software engineer” and “mobile”, and received 867 hits (Indeed, 2014). I can add mobile programming to the list of “hot” job skills that I do not possess. Perhaps when I am finished with this program (I also do not have any experience with web programming), I should make an effort to learn these skills.

Regards,

Emanuel

Reference:

Indeed (2014) *Indeed, One Search, All Jobs* [Online]. Available from: <http://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=%22software+engineer%22+mobile&l=San+Francisco%2C+CA> (Accessed: 20 May 2014)

“The government or other competitive organizations could use the internet as a platform to manipulate the masses with wrong or diluted information. The internet shouldn’t be enforced it should be a platform for fair competition, allowing users view what they want to view, how they want to view it and when they want to view it with no limitation what so ever.”

Hi Olatunde,

Thank you for your comments. I must respectfully disagree. You mentioned that net neutrality is necessary to ensure fairness because “The government or other competitive organizations could use the internet as a platform to manipulate the masses with wrong or diluted information.” Unfortunately, the entity that will be enforcing net neutrality is the government itself.

I see the following unintended consequences of net neutrality:

* ISP’s quality of service goes down because equal service must be provided to all customers. Thus, the incentive to offer better service is gone.
* Rates for Internet access will rise for the average customer. Currently, companies like Netflix pay more because they use more. Likewise for its customers. With net neutrality, tiered-pricing and service are prohibited; therefore the costs will be passed on to other customers. It is not fair that customers that do not use as much bandwidth are paying the same as those that are not.
* Content providers will stop providing applications that require a lot of bandwidth. Say goodbye to streaming high-quality video.
* ISPs stop investing in new technologies because there is no longer an incentive “expand and enhance their networks” (Litan and Singer, 2006).

Kind regards,

Emanuel

Reference:

Litan, R., & Singer, H. (2006) 'Unintended Consequences of Net Neutrality Regulation [article]', *Journal On Telecommunications & High Technology Law*, 3, p. 533, HeinOnline, EBSCOhost, (Accessed: 21 May 2014)

Hi Jeremy,

I’m not so sure that treating ISPs as public utilities is a good idea. Public utility companies aren’t known for innovating and stellar customer service. Reclassifying ISPs as public utilities also does not guarantee that “prioritization deals” would be prohibited, which is main purpose of net neutrality (Suderman, 2014). I still maintain what I said in my initial DQ that the fact that the Internet is largely unregulated is a major reason for its rapid growth.

Regards,

Emanuel

Reference:

Suderman, P. (2014) ‘Is the Internet a Public Utility?’ *Reason.com*[Online]. Available from: <http://reason.com/blog/2014/05/15/is-the-internet-a-public-utility> (Accessed: 21 May 2014)

“Net neutrality also encourages innovation, which is a key requirement to keep up with the increasing demand for broadband connectivity and the quest for excellent and efficient service. As broadband traffic grows, innovation will improve on the quality of the services delivered and will foster competition amongst service providers which will also impact positively on customer satisfaction”

Hi Alex,

I actually see the opposite happening. Since net neutrality would make tiered service illegal, everyone gets the same service. Customers and content providers cannot simply pay more if they want to use more bandwidth. Thus, they will put their effort into providing and receiving content that does not require as Litan and Singer have stated “quality-needy service” (2006). A likely consequence of this is that there is no incentive to create even faster and better technology. After all, why would an ISP want to do this if there is no financial incentive?

Regards,

Emanuel

Reference:

Litan, R., & Singer, H. (2006) 'Unintended Consequences of Net Neutrality Regulation [article]', *Journal On Telecommunications & High Technology Law*, 3, p. 533, HeinOnline, EBSCOhost, (Accessed: 21 May 2014)

Hi Ala and Jeremy,

I also agree with you guys that this is intrusive. There has to be a better way than simply having a law that says an ISP must cancel customers’ accounts that they believe is involved in illegal activity.

“I agree that people who conduct illegal activities over the Internet should be punished but it needs to be handled the right way.”

I think that this can be handled without the creation of new laws. At least in the United States, there are already laws that protect intellectual property, and child pornography is already illegal, so these laws are enough to punish those in violation.

Regards,

Emanuel

“I personally feel that internet banking to be a great innovation; I have this concern as I wish to be a security analyst sometime in the future probably for a bank. I also realise that there is real risk in using internet banking if you are not well informed or know what to look out for. How do you guys feel about this? Do you think the advantages outweigh the risks? My opinion is that all banks should first educate all their clients on the potential risks involved and what out look out for before allowing them to make use of internet banking.”

Hi Zubair,

I personally feel that the advantages outweigh the risks. Bank of America, which is my banking institution, required that I select a site key, so whenever I attempt to login, that particular site key is supposed to be displayed. The customers are instructed not to continue the login process if they do not see the site key. Another safeguard I practice is that I do not login if I am connected to a network that I do not trust. Lastly, I have a subscription service to Lifelock, which is a company that protects its customers against identity theft (Lifelock, 2014).

Reference:

Lifelock (2014) *Lifelock* [Online]. Available from: <http://www.lifelock.com/> (Accessed: 21 May 2014)