

According the to the ACLU, Net Neutrality means “applying well-established “common carrier” rules to the internet in order to **preserve its freedom and openness.**

Common carriage prohibits the owner of a network that holds itself out to all-comers from discriminating against information by halting, slowing, or otherwise tampering with the transfer of any data (except for legitimate network management purposes such as easing congestion or blocking spam).”



The ideas underlying net neutrality have been present in telecommunications practice and regulation since we first using technology to communicate.

Telegrams and the phone network have been considered common carriers under U.S. law since the Mann–Elkins Act of 1910; they were and are considered public utilities and specifically forbidden to give preferential treatment.

The Communications Act of 1934 created the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to regulate the industry and ensure fair pricing + access. **In the late 1980s the Internet became legally available for commercial use, but public access was limited. so the Internet was viewed more as a commercial service than a domestic and societal system.**

It is 2018.

We can all agree that the internet is a societal system; many job applications are online, often the easiest way to reach social services is online, and most education has an online component.

Things change.
Laws should too.

Verizon’s lawyers have specifically stated otherwise in a court of law. During oral arguments in Verizon v. FCC in 2013, judges asked whether the phone giant would favor some preferred services, content or sites over others if the court overruled the agency’s existing open internet rules. Verizon counsel Helgi Walker had this to say:

“I’m authorized to state from my client today that but for these rules we would be exploring those types of arrangements.”

*Internet Service Providers **are only** allowed to transfer the information sent over the internet, rather than analyze, control or otherwise influence it.*

Being business services, cable modem Internet access and high-speed data links, which make up the Internet's core, had always since their creation been categorized under U.S. law as an information service, unlike telephone services, and not as a telecommunications service, and thus had not been subject to common carrier regulations, as upheld in National Cable & Telecommunications Association v. Brand X Internet Services. However, by the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Internet started to become common in households and wider society.

ISPs are consistently trying to reassure the public that they would not have any interest in throttling access, censoring content or otherwise infringing on consumer rights

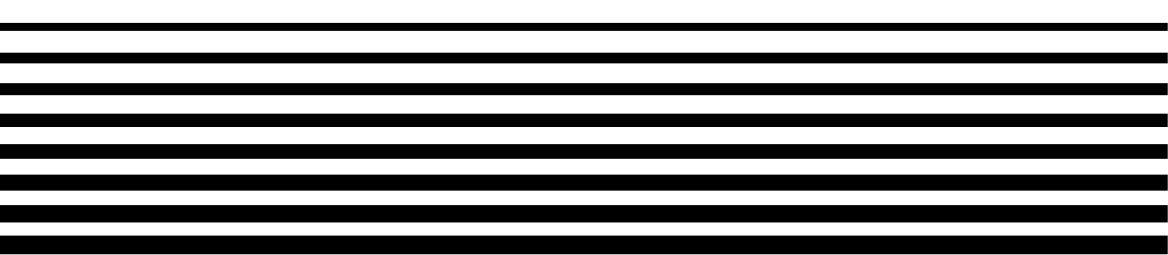
what would motivate ISPs to throttle

- + disagreeing with a political statement
- + advertising for a competing service
- + skew news about topics that affect their business
- + reduce access to services that threaten partnerships

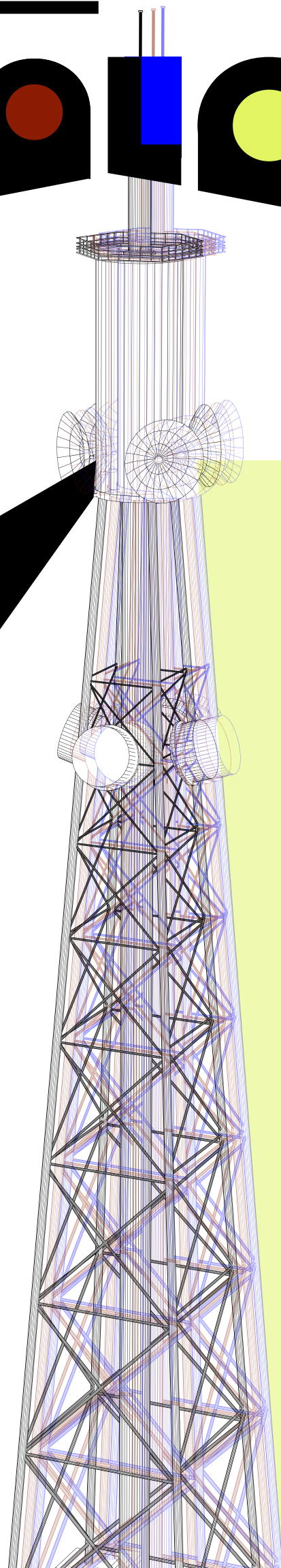
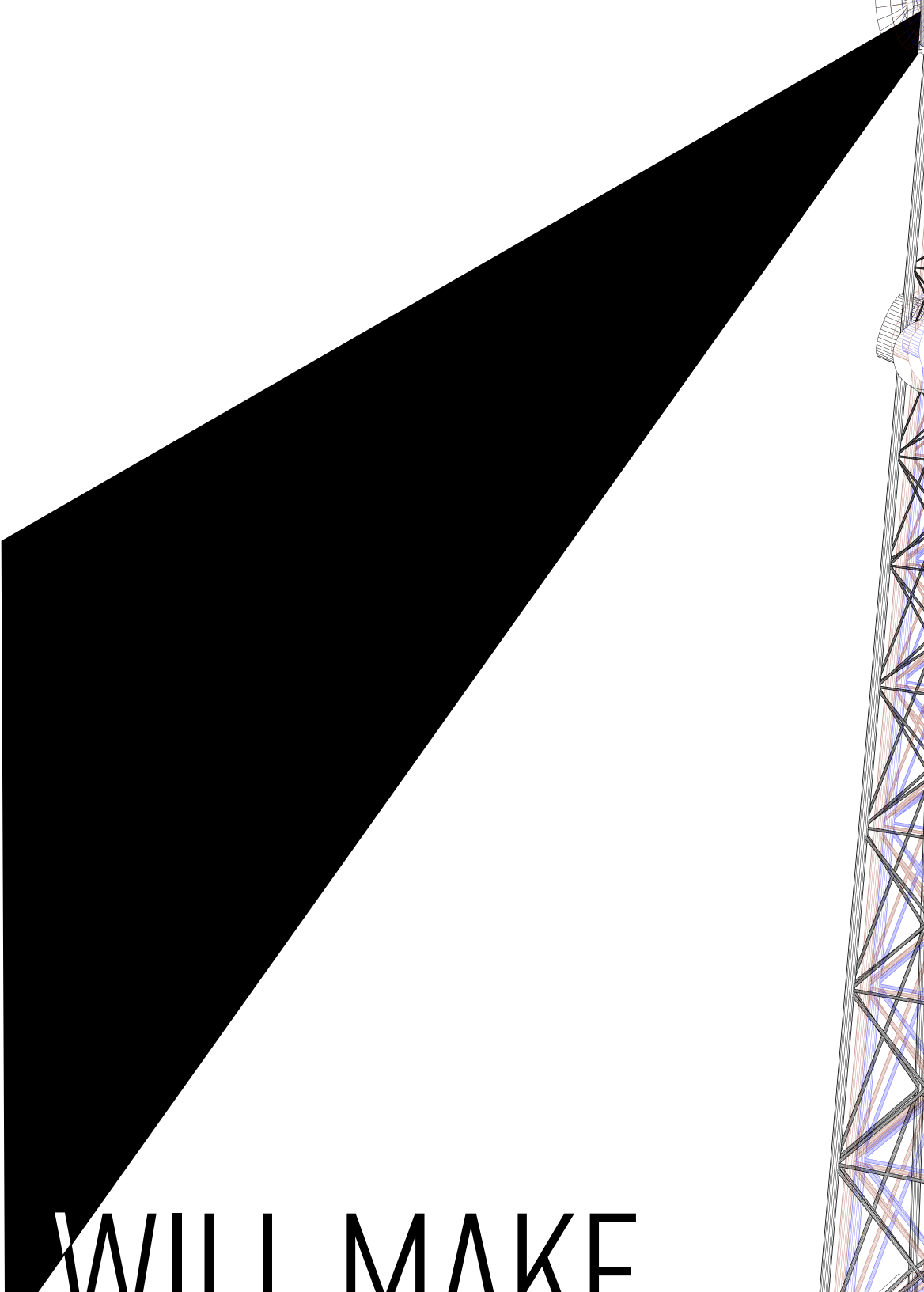
A 2012 report from the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications found that violations of Net Neutrality affected at least one in five users in Europe. The report found that blocked or slowed connections to services like VOIP, peer-to-peer technologies, gaming applications and email were commonplace.

SOURCES

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/internet-speech/what-net-neutrality>



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