

## Discussion 5

**Article:** SpaceX wants to beam Internet down to Earth. Here's how it will start.

**Link:** [Washington Post](#)

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Synopsis:

The dependency on internet is growing exponentially every day. And SpaceX wants to take the internet and distribute it through satellites, with a vast network of low earth orbit satellites. Doing this can bear a lot of benefits. It could grant internet access to areas that faced a network breakdown or a natural disaster. Providing key contact points in case of emergency. Of course these are extreme examples, but there are more than half of the people on Earth without an internet connection (according to United Nations in 2017). Most of them being in Asia and Africa.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had approved OneWeb's (a SpaceX competitor) request for testing their satellites for broadband connection. Current chairman of FCC was also urging his 4 colleagues to give support to SpaceX for a similar strategy.

There are some experiments run by Google and Facebook, who benefit the most for a worldwide coverage of internet. Google's Project Loon uses large balloons equipped with communication devices for providing internet access. Facebook is using large drones for the same.

SpaceX plans to launch around 12,000 satellites for this mission. With these many satellites in orbit, there is a concern of space pollution. With so much debris already floating in low earth orbit adding more will increase the already huge concern. Collision with debris as small as 10 cm could catastrophically damage the satellite. Also, with each calamity it will cause more debris and more calamity.

Pros:

- Worldwide coverage.
- Tectonic calamities resistant.

Cons:

- Space pollution