The middle class represents the largest consumer group in the United States. Through many years, we have been able to be informed on world issues through Newspaper, Magazine, Radio, and Television media outlets. It has been protected by several laws, including “Freedom of the Press”.

A newer outlet to the game is the internet and viewing rights called “Net Neutrality”. In its most simplistic form, net neutrality is the right to the data that passes through an Internet Service Providers network. The consumers, people who pay the internet provider, are the ones who read or consume that data, whereas the provider may filter out some of that content and the consumer will no longer receive it (ABC). On December 14, 2017, the FCC voted to repeal the strong net neutrality rules that were preserving an open, fair, and competitive internet for all users (Public).

One of the misconceptions is that this issue is about data rights, it aligns more with money, power, and big business. The ISP can block content, provide premium features to large corporations, and cut out the small businesses and startups (Forbes). The problem is that when the big businesses of today were small, they would have never become big if the large corporation of thirty years ago was able to cut them out. So, the real issue becomes: Can the data be censored? Should your internet speed be cut, in favor of large corporations? Will small companies be denied data content because large companies are paying ISP millions to cut them out? This affects all of us.

Forbes - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2018/01/19/net-neutrality-two-sides-to-the-story-and-considerations-for-small-businesses/2/#356abeee29ba>

Public - <https://www.publicknowledge.org/issues/net-neutrality>

ABC - http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/net-neutrality/story?id=48596615