Net Neutrality

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What is Net Neutrality

* The idea, principle, or requirement that Internet service providers (ISP) should or must treat all Internet

Major ISPs

* Verizon
* AT&T
* Comcast (XFINITY)
* Spectrum (Formerly Time Warner Cable)

Origins of Net Neutrality

* Based on from revisions to the Telecommunications Act of 1996
* Represented “a bipartisan consensus that advances in technology, as well as the success of regulatory models based on competition rather than
* Tim Wi, a professor at Columbia Law School, who penned the term Net Neutrality
* Publicly criticized the handling of the Internet and the access to it.
* Strongly believed that any dismantling of Neutrality

Along the Years

* 2005 – The FCC fights and wins against Madison River Communications Corp, a North Carolina based telephone company accused of blocking ability of their consumers to use VOI calling services.
* 2008 – A California man attempted to sue Comcast for throttling BitTorrent, claiming their tagline “Download at Crazy fast Speeds” was false and misleading.
* After several reports, the FCC votes 3-2
* 2009 – Apple were caught blocking Skype calls on their devices under the influence of AT&T. After immense backlash, both companies folded and re-opened access.
* 2013 – AT&T also were implicated in the blocking of FaceTime on Apple devices, depending on the plan that the user had.

Fight For Neutrality

* The Former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler announced regulations proposed by then President Barack Obama.
* Regulations that would ensure that “the rights of internet users to go where the rights of internet users to go where they want, when they want, and the right of innovators to introduce new products without asking anyone’s permission.”
* ISPs
* Gives more power to the FCC when dealing with ISPs.
* Promotes competition which allows makes for more reasonable prices.
* Allows for better privacy for the customers.
* Also involves protection of mobile phones.

The Three Forbidden Acts

* Blocking – Any technical method used the restrict access to information
* Throttling – intentional slowing of internet service by an Internet Service Provider
* Giving Preference – giving a company or any individual an unfair advantage.

The End

* In December 2017, the current FCC Chairman Ajit Pai (former Verizon Associate General Council) lead a vote to repeal net neutrality.
* The result was 3-2 in favor of the repeal

What happens now?

* As of July 11th, 2018, ISPs were free to block, slow and prioritize without legal repercussions.
* This is only if they disclose it to the public first (either directly or to the FCC)
* You might receive discounts on Internet Service for access to your data.
* There are not given situations since most ISPs claim they do not want your information.

The Aftermath

* Verizon was accused of throttling the data of a Santa Clara Fire department during the California wildfires.
* The Department had to pay to lift the throttling, accusing Verizon of “risking harm to public safety”
* Verizon responding by stating that the plan the department acquired

Still Fighting

* The state of California tried to incorporate their own net neutrality laws
* The state was immediately sued by the Government, who stated that these Laws were “illegal” and “subverting the Federal Government’s deregulatory approach to the internet”

Questions

* How do you think the following would/ would not benefit from the repeal of Net Neutrality?
  + ISPs
  + Companies (Google, Facebook, Netflix, new businesses)
  + Internet Users