Samuel Bailey

IDS-403

Milestone 2

Network Neutrality for the internet has been a discussion for around a decade. Ten years is a long time and a lot can happen. There’re many decisions that can happen throughout ten years of one topic. When we think about history, we look at the thought of not only what happened in the past but also why it happened. It wasn’t until in 2003 when a professor from Columbia University released a formal paper and used the term ‘network neutrality’. A way that this can relate to a social issue is that phone companies and internet providers can do just about anything they want to our connection and there is nothing we can do about it without network neutrality. Without it ISP’s can regulate certain things from being said either political or a social issue. Things can be manipulated in the news and on other platforms shifting the way we think or act. Historically through changing the way people think we can shift an entire culture to believe or not believe whatever issues we want. Through a history lens we can focus on three main things, social lens, political lens, and economic lens. Some people thing that the only thing that matters is politics, through this lens we can see how net neutrality makes a huge impact. This lens isn’t only about politicians and governments, but also about laws that have been passed and much more. Net neutrality is so important for the political lens since it can literally control what people can and cannot have access to. Let’s say in Portugal for example, their government charges them for certain forms of media and news. If those that can’t afford certain media or similar things, then they may not know how to think about certain situations that may happen in the world. Many people in North Korea don’t know about everything that was going on years ago since they were so restricted on everything.

Through the lens of humanities net neutrality, I would say has one of its larger effects. The humanities lens focuses on human culture, language, literature, arts, and philosophy. Although on surface level this may seem like it has no effect from net neutrality but it’s of the upmost importance to this specific lens. Human culture has been passed down from generation to generation. Some things that people learn and do are only from word of mouth before it gets documented. Let’s say information about a certain topic, maybe human rights and freedom of speech. If someone makes a post about what they believe in a forum and then there is a news article of the opposite of that post the government can slow the speed on the forum resulting in only loading of the news article. Although this isn’t directly against the freedom of speech it comes very close. Net neutrality also allows removal of the forum if it misaligns with certain beliefs. Which is directly against freedom of speech that shapes our human culture. The last few decades have shifted the entire culture to the forefront of what it is today. Without freedom of human culture there’s not telling what could be different. The next 40 years will not be the same.

Scola, N. (2019, April 24). *How U.S. net neutrality could be an international human rights fight*. The Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2014/12/10/how-net-neutrality-could-be-a-human-rights-issue/.

Stocker, V., & Knieps, G. (2018, September 1). *Network Neutrality Through the Lens of Network Economics*. De Gruyter. https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/rne-2019-0025/html.

Rael, P. (2004). *How to read a secondary source. In Reading, writing, and researching for history: A guide for college students*. Retrieved from <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/secondary.htm>

TG Taylor Gadsden Mar 10, & Gadsden, T. (2021, May 27). *Net Neutrality: What it is & what it means for you*. Allconnect. https://www.allconnect.com/blog/net-neutrality-explained.