

(c) Protect Against Unreasonable Discrimination: Every person should be able to access legal content, applications, and services over the Internet, without “unreasonable discrimination” by the owners and operators of public broadband networks and ISPs. This will ensure that ISPs do not give favorable transmission to their affiliated content providers or discriminate against particular Internet services based on the identity of the user, the content of the information, or the type of service being provided.

(d) Prohibit Paid Prioritization: Public broadband providers and ISPs should not be permitted to sell prioritized transmission to certain content, applications, and service providers over other Internet traffic sharing the same network facilities. Prioritizing certain Internet traffic inherently disadvantages other content, applications, and service providers—including those from higher education and libraries that serve vital public interests.

(e) Prevent Degradation: Public broadband providers and ISPs should not be permitted to degrade the transmission of Internet content, applications, or service providers, either intentionally or by failing to invest in adequate broadband capacity to accommodate reasonable traffic growth.

(f) Enable Reasonable Network Management: Public broadband network operators and ISPs should be able to engage in reasonable network management to address issues such as congestion, viruses, and spam as long as such actions are consistent with these principles. Policies and procedures should ensure that legal network traffic is managed in a content-neutral manner.

(g) Provide Transparency: Public broadband network operators and ISPs should disclose network management practices publicly and in a manner that- (1) allows users as well as content, application, and service providers to make informed choices; and (2) allows policy-makers to determine whether the practices are consistent with these network neutrality principles. This rule does not require disclosure of essential proprietary information or information that jeopardizes network security.

(h) Continue Capacity-Based Pricing of Broadband Internet Access Connections: Public broadband providers and ISPs may continue to charge consumers and content, application, and service providers for their broadband connections to the Internet, and may receive greater compensation for greater capacity chosen by the consumer or content, application, and service provider.

(i) Adopt Enforceable Policies: Policies and rules to enforce these principles should be clearly stated and transparent. Any public broadband provider or ISP that is found to have violated these policies or rules should be subject to penalties, after being adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.

(j) Accommodate Public Safety: Reasonable accommodations to these principles can be made based on evidence that such accommodations are necessary for public safety, health, law enforcement, national security, or emergency situations.

(k) Maintain the Status Quo on Private Networks: Owners and operators of private networks that are not openly available to the general public should continue to operate according to the long-standing principle and practice that private networks are not subject to regulation. End users (such as households, companies, coffee shops, schools, or libraries) should be free to decide how they use the broadband services they obtain from network operators and ISPs.

6. Benefits of Achieving Net Neutrality

(a) No discrimination: Net neutrality is the principle that all types of content and all senders and recipients of information are treated equally. This principle upholds the right of freedom of expression. The freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds. Without Net Neutrality, Internet access providers would become gatekeepers of the access to content on the Internet, with the power to decide what we can read and write and whom we are allowed to communicate.

(b) Free Expression: The history of Internet shows very clearly that Net Neutrality encourages creative expression. The ability to publish content and to express opinions online does not depend on financial or social status and is not restricted to an elite. There is a huge trend towards people sharing information and expenses online. This means that individuals, small businesses, traditional news sources and large businesses can all create content that is available to everybody. Net Neutrality enables information to travel through the network without being restricted or blocked, thereby enabling a vibrant digital environment, full of ideas and innovation.

(c) Privacy: Measures to undermine Net Neutrality can have a direct impact on our privacy. For example- The private company providers access to the internet and increasingly uses Deep Packet Inspection(DPI) and police their user’s connections to block access to certain websites so that, the users can’t access the data from another website, which is violation of Net Neutrality.

(d) Access to Information: Net Neutrality is also the catalyst for the creation of diverse and abundant online content. Non-profit projects like Wikipedia, blogs and user-generated content in general have the same conditions to access and publish information as large, commercial Internet players. Without Net Neutrality, we would have a two-tier internet where only those who can pay would be able to access information or get content delivered faster than others.

(e) Democratic Process: Net Neutrality improves the quality of democracy by ensuring that the Internet remains an open forum in which all voices are treated equally. It ensures that the ability to voice opinions and place content online does not depend on one’s financial capacity or social status. It is therefore a powerful tool in facilitating democracy, enabling diverse ideas to be expressed and heard.

(f) Tool against censorship: Without Net Neutrality, network operators can block or throttle not only services, but also content. The fundamental shift in information communications technologies over the last 10 years has facilitated revolutions and it offers the possibility of greater social reforms through greater transparency and the free flow of information.

(g) Consumer choice: Net Neutrality ensures access to content and offers greater consumer choice by allowing more players to enter the marketplace. Therefore, the amount of online information is vast and growing, leading to intellectual and cultural interaction that was scarcely imaginable twenty years ago. Without a neutral net, access providers can prioritise applications or services, thereby creating “walled gardens” in which consumer choice is limited.

(h) Innovation and Competition: Net Neutrality continues to foster innovation, as individuals and companies alike can create content and provide new services with the online world as their audience. Any individual can upload content at relatively little cost. An unrestricted Internet gives market access to small and medium enterprises to small and medium enterprises or start-ups that might not otherwise have a competitive edge against larger corporations. Without Net Neutrality however, access providers are allowed to restrict access needed by innovators that seek to develop online services. Innovators would have a smaller and less predictable marketplace for their services.

(i) Digital Signal Market: Net Neutrality is a cornerstone for the completion of the Digital Signal Market. It removes barriers and allow users freely communicate, fully express themselves, access information and participate in the public debate- without unnecessary interference by gatekeepers or middlemen. By contrast, a non-neutral internet contributes to the fragmentation of the Digital Signal Market.

(j) Protecting a global Internet: As soon as access providers start making use of traffic discrimination tools interfere in global communications for their own commercial benefit, governments will be tempted to use the technology for public policy goals. In fact, governments are more and more often asking providers to restrict certain types to traffic, and to filter and monitor the Internet to enforce the law.

7. The Following are the Points to Safeguard Net Neutrality

- a) The Internet must be kept neutral and open.
- b) Accessibility between all endpoints connected to the Internet without any form of restriction must continue to be upheld.
- c) All forms of discriminatory traffic management, such as blocking or throttling should be prohibited, unless as part of objectively necessary traffic management measures.
- d) Traffic management should only be allowed as a narrowly targeted deviation from the rule. It must be either necessary, proportionate and legally required, or required to address a transient network management problem which cannot be dealt with otherwise.

e) Legal clarity must be established to determine what types of traffic management are legitimate under which circumstances.

f) Access providers have to indicate in their contracts and advertisements a guaranteed minimum bandwidth, maximum latency and quality measures for the connection.

g) We need to establish a clear set of obligations for access providers regarding the neutrality and best effort of the Internet broadband services on the one hand, and for specialized services that are not transported via the Internet on the other.

h) By default, only header information should be used for traffic management. The use of Deep Packet Inspection(DPI) should be reviewed by national Data Protection Authorities.

i) End-users should be able to report violations of the points above to an authority defined by the government. This authority must have the necessary resources to enforce the above conditions.

8. Conclusion

Net Neutrality is the principle that every point on the network can connect to any other point on the network, without discrimination on the basis of origin, destination, or type of data. This principle is the central reason for the success of the Internet. Net Neutrality is crucial for innovation, competition and for the free flow of information. Most importantly, Net Neutrality gives the Internet its ability to generate new means of exercising civil rights such as the freedom of expression and the right to receive and impart information.

Restricting the access to the Internet won't encourage innovations and due to lack of competition the standard of the Internet will come down. Hence, we need the Open Internet to foster job growth, competition and innovation. Competition leads to innovation which intern leads in quality of service.

Therefore Internet Service Providers and governments should treat all data on the Internet equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or mode of communication

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