

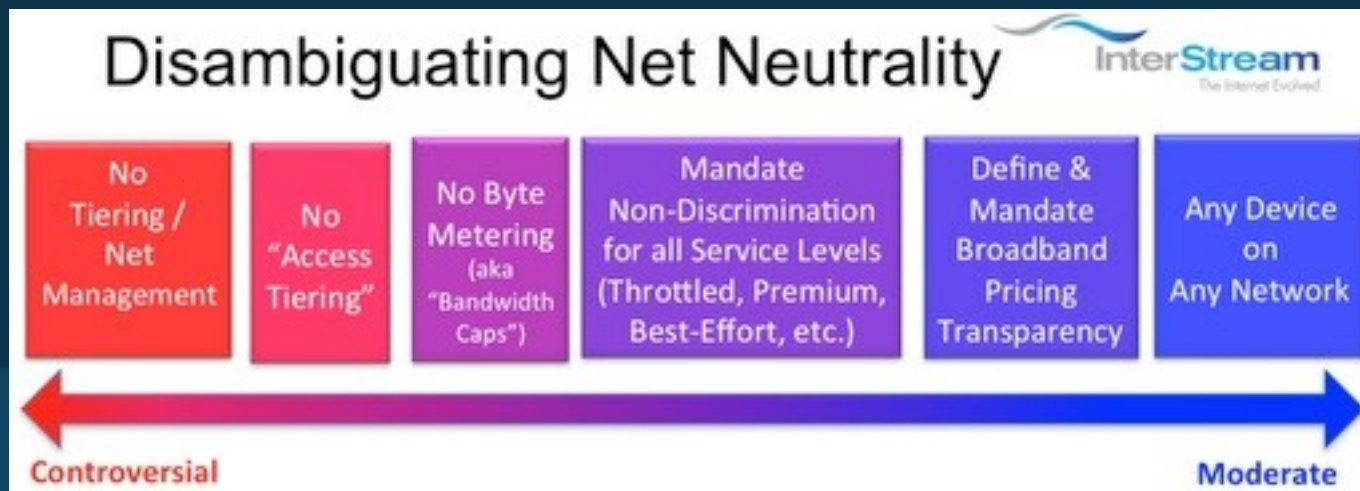
Net Neutrality

Content Providers
vs. ISP
vs. Consumers

Blake Wright

Definition

No restrictions by Internet Service Providers or governments on content, sites, or platforms, on the kinds of equipment that may be attached, and on the modes of communication allowed₂



Background

Telegraph Legislation

- 1860

...messages received from any individual, company, or corporation, or from any telegraph lines connecting with this line at either of its termini, shall be impartially transmitted in the order of their reception, excepting that the dispatches of the government shall have priority ...

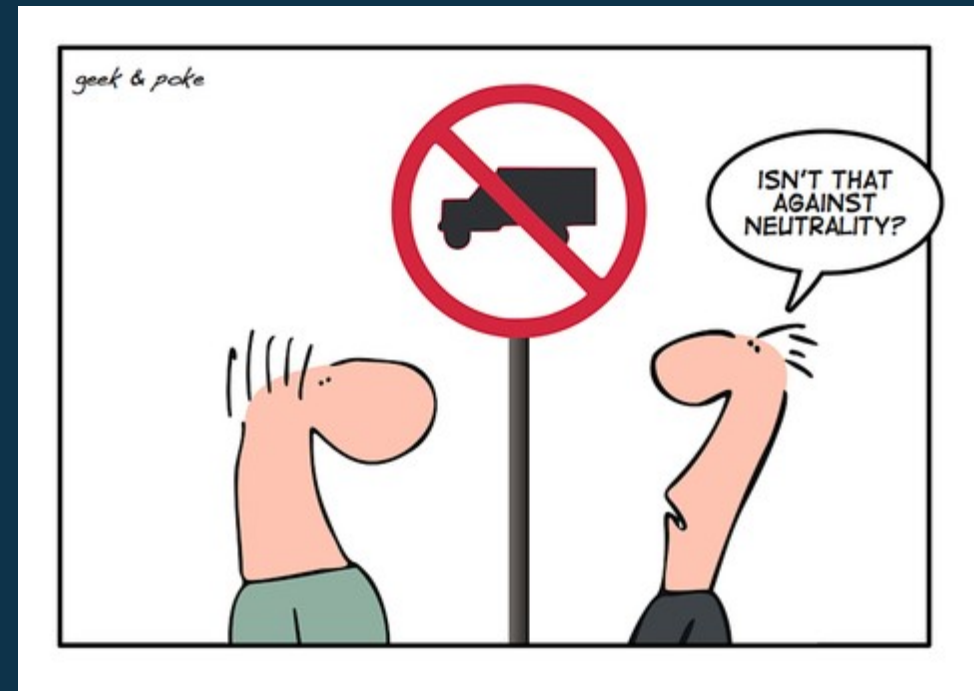
- *Pacific Telegraph Act of 1861*

- 1860



Proponents

- Google
- Yahoo!
- Vonage
- Ebay
- Amazon
- Microsoft
- Christian Coalition
- Gun Owners of America
- AARP
- Tim Berners-Lee
- Robert W. McChesney
- Moby
- Steve Wozniak



Arguments for

- **Control of data**
 - Cable and internet company must allow ISPs free access to their networks and should not screening or filtering of data
- **Digital rights and freedoms**
 - Ensures that the Internet remains a free and open technology
- **Competition and Innovation**
 - Preserving Internet standardsEnd-to-end principle

Opponents

- Competitive Enterprise Institute
- National Association of Manufacturers
- FreedomWorks Foundation
- Americans for Tax Reform
- Goldwater Institute
- Cato Institute
- Comcast



Arguments Against

- Innovation and investment
- Counterweight to server-side non-neutrality
- Bandwidth availability
- Opposition to legislation
- Spam, Virus

Current Development in US

- 2005
 - FCC statement supporting net neutrality
- 2006
 - Senate committee approves Telecommunication reform act but fails to pass both houses
- 2007
 - FTC urges restraint against net neutrality
 - Comcast caught blocking or delaying BitTorrent uploads
- 2008
 - FCC's Kevin Martin want to prevent broadband ISPs from interfering with access
 - FCC rules Comcast slowed down some users video files
 - Time Warner proposes "consumption based billing"
- 2010
 - FCC drops efforts to enforce Net Neutrality

More

- Cox Cable and ATT warned customers that using Wi-Fi was home networking was "Theft of Service"
- Need more access options
- Cable under FCC is considered an "information service" not a "communication service". DSL had been considered a "communication service" so fell under "Common Carrier" regulation, until 2005 when the FCC reclassified it and thus gave itself less authority to regulate DSL.

Debunking Myths

Myth: “Net Neutrality is a solution in search of a problem.”

Reality: ISPs claim that Net Neutrality is a “solution in search of a problem,” but they also say they need to violate the principles of the open Internet to reap profits from new discriminatory business models. Now the technology that enables discrimination is finally available to ISPs.

Myth: “This will be the first time the government has regulated the Internet.”

Reality: The open Internet as we know it would not exist if not for regulation. More than 40 years ago, the FCC helped to create an environment where the Internet could flourish by preventing phone companies from interfering with traffic flowing over their networks.

Myth: “Net Neutrality rules will discourage investment.”

Reality: Without Net Neutrality, ISPs will actually have an incentive to delay investment and profit by selling access at a premium to artificially scarce bandwidth.

Myth: “Net Neutrality would prevent ISPs from effectively managing Web congestion from video streaming and other bandwidth-intensive activities that are clogging up the Web.”

Reality: Nothing in the proposed FCC open Internet rules, or in congressional legislation, would prevent an ISP from using reasonable network management techniques to deal with congestion.

“Net Neutrality rules will preserve the free flow of information, spur investment and promote choice,” Turner said. “We cannot allow the future of the open Internet to be sabotaged by these long-discredited myths.”

- *Free Press*

Conclusion



References:

1. **The Pacific Telegraph Act (1860)** http://cpr.org/Museum/Pacific_Telegraph_Act_1860.html
2. **Network Neutrality** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality
3. **Network neutrality in the United States** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality_in_the_United_States
4. **Free Press** <http://www.freepress.net>
5. **SaveTheInternet.com** <http://www.SaveTheInternet.com>
6. **Washington Post** 04/08/2010 www.washingtonpost.com