

Net Neutrality: What is it and what can I do?

Compiled by the Oregon Library Association's Library Development and Legislation Committee
October 2014

OLA Statement- Net Neutrality

What Can I Do?

Learn More

Overview

Net Neutrality

Adopted August 21, 2014

The Oregon Library Association believes that preserving an open Internet is essential to our nation's freedom of speech, educational achievement, and economic growth. Oregon libraries are leaders in providing Internet access within their communities and are committed to ensuring people who use the Internet have equal access to online information and services. Allowing commercial entities to prioritize some Internet traffic and/or block other traffic based on commercial interest is not in the public interest. The Oregon Library Association strongly supports the FCC's adoption of enforceable policies based on the [Net Neutrality Principles](#) provided by the American Library Association and other organizations. These include:

- **Protect Against Unreasonable Discrimination:** Every person in the United States should be able to access legal content, applications, and services over the Internet.
- **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.
- **Provide Transparency:** Public broadband network operators and ISPs should disclose network management practices publicly.
- **Adopt Enforceable Policies:** Policies and rules to enforce these principles should be clearly stated and transparent.

The Oregon Library Association supports these and the other principles of net neutrality because an open Internet is essential for an informed public and a healthy democracy.

What Can I Do?

Submit a public comment to the FCC sharing your views on net neutrality

- <https://dearfcc.org/> (made possible by the Electronic Frontier Foundation)
- http://act.freepress.net/sign/internet_fcc_nprm_oliver/?source=website_topic_list (made possible by FreePress)
- openinternet@fcc.gov (dedicated email address to FCC for net neutrality comments)
- www.fcc.gov/comments (official FCC page for submitting comments through the Electronic Comment Filing System)

Submit a comment to pressure the FCC to hold public hearings

- http://act.freepress.net/sign/fcc_visit_nn/ (made possible by FreePress)

Write your member of Congress

Find your legislators:

- <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

Senators:

- Ron Wyden
<http://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact>
- Jeff Merkley
<http://www.merkley.senate.gov/contact>

Representatives:

- Suzanne Bonamici (1st District)
<https://bonamici.house.gov/contact-me>
- Greg Walden (2nd District)

- <https://walden.house.gov/e-mail-greg>
- Earl Blumenauer (3rd District)
https://forms.house.gov/blumenauer/webforms/issue_subscribe.html
- Peter DeFazio (4th District)
<http://defazio.house.gov/contact/contact-peter>
- Kurt Schrader (5th District)
<http://schrader.house.gov/contact/>

Write a letter to the Oregonian or other local newspaper

- Oregonian:
www.oregonianmediagroup.com/contact/contact-news-team
- List of Oregon newspapers (last updated 7/14/14):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_newspapers

Tips and Tricks: <http://www.freepress.net/sites/default/files/resources/letter-to-the-editor.pdf>

Other general guides
Free Press – Take Action
www.savetheinternet.com/what-can-i-do

Learn More

In support of net neutrality

- Free Press
www.savetheinternet.com/net-neutrality
www.savetheinternet.com/net-neutrality-what-you-need-know-now
- Public Knowledge
www.publicknowledge.org/issues/net-neutrality
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
www.eff.org/issues/net-neutrality
- ACLU
www.aclu.org/net-neutrality
- Ron Wyden – Senator for Oregon
www.wyden.senate.gov/net-neutrality
- Consumer Reports
www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/05/fcc-should-support-an-open-internet/index.htm

Dissenting views of net neutrality

- Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Robert M. McDowell regarding the FCC’s December 2010 “Report and Order” establishing net neutrality rules
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-201A4.pdf
- Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker regarding the FCC’s December 2010 “Report and Order” establishing net neutrality rules
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-201A6.pdf
- Digital Liberty http://www.digitalliberty.net/files/files/DigitalLiberty_NetNeutrality.pdf
<http://www.digitalliberty.net/net-neutrality-toolkit-a23>
- Report: “Net Neutrality: Impact on the Consumer and Economic Growth” by Stratecast, Frost & Sullivan (May 2010)
http://internetinnovation.org/files/special-reports/Impact_of_Net_Neutrality_on_Consumers_and_Economic_Growth.pdf

- Senate Republican leaders' statement to FCC Chair Tom Wheeler (May 2014)
http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=47e3104d-29ad-4079-b45c-062e06884117
- WSJ Opinion: The Case Against Net Neutrality (November 2014)
http://www.wsj.com/video/opinion-the-case-against-net-neutrality/040E9501-8673-457C-AA20-7A6EC2EF53E3.html#/video/opinion-a-third-intifada-in-israel/569577DC-113B-4115-A8C4-F0C84E321F1C.html?&_suid=141582507210406179681596888842

Other net neutrality information

- FCC blog post pertaining to net neutrality (September 22, 2014)
www.fcc.gov/blog/exploring-new-ideas-protecting-and-promoting-open-internet
- FCC blog post pertaining to public comments on net neutrality (September 17, 2014)
<https://www.fcc.gov/blog/update-volume-open-internet-comments-submitted-fcc>

Overview of the Issue

In December 2010, the FCC responded to concerns about anti-competitive practices by broadband providers by adopting the Open Internet Order, which prohibited broadband access providers from blocking or discriminating among Internet traffic on their networks. It did so based on the limited authority that Congress provided to regulate information services under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Court Filing (Federal Communications Commission): "Report and Order" In the Matter of Preserving the Open Internet

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-201A1.pdf

Verizon challenged the Open Internet regulations in court. In January 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia found that the FCC did have authority to regulate broadband access, but struck down the Open Internet regulations on the grounds that they went beyond the FCC's authority under Section 706.

Ruling and Opinion (US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia): "On Petition for Review and Notice of Appeal of an Order of the Federal Communications Commission"

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-325156A1.pdf

In May 2014, the FCC Chairman published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to begin the process of adopting new Open Internet rules consistent with the Court's decision, including the possibility of using its authority to regulate common carriage services under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit blocking and "paid prioritization" content delivery schemes.

The FCC has received hundreds of thousands of public comments. The formal comment period closed on September 15, but the FCC will continue to accept additional public comments as it deliberates.

It is expected that the FCC will propose new regulations by the end of 2014.

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Please contact the Oregon Library Association with questions.