

# Meleen reasonable speed. as sarah morris and emily

Government



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PerisonJCCENG 153026January 2018 NetNeutrality Aslong as the internet has existed, there has been debates about how to regulate it. Should it be highly regulated to protect consumers, or should the government only loosely control the web? Recently, the Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal the net neutrality guidelines that were set in 2015. Net neutrality is a heavy handed regulation of internet service providers that prevents them from slowing down, speeding up, and blocking lawful content. It also requires these companies to disclose to the public what their network policies are. Many people have been angered over Ajit Pai's undoing of these regulations, which they say keeps the internet free and open.

Others say the FCC should not have made these laws in the first place. However, net neutrality was beneficial to consumers and should not have been repealed. Net neutrality is beneficial to consumers and web users. This is mainly because net neutrality makes the internet open and free for everyone. Imagine having to wait a ridiculous amount of time for your favorite website to load, or even being unable to access it because your internet service provider has blocked or slowed it. Under net neutrality rules, this was illegal. With the repeal of these regulations it's possible that internet service providers will be able to slow down loading speeds for any website they want.

Consumers generally find this an unfavorable outcome. After all, what if they rely on certain web services for their job or education? It's beneficial to just about everyone if all lawful websites can be accessed at a reasonable

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speed. As Sarah Morris and Emily Hong say in their article “ Net Neutrality Opponents Have No Argument, “ In the simplest of terms, the FCC rules mean no fast and slow lanes on the internet, no blocking of content, and no provider throttling your streaming video just because it can.” Throttling refers to slowing of content.

With the old FCC regulations which were just repealed, your provider can't slow down or block content. With the repeal of these net neutrality regulations, internet service providers can now throttle content as much as they want. This is concerning. Although this is by no means a guarantee that every provider will do this, it's likely that some will use this new privilege to their advantage in order to make more money and promote their own services. An analogy often used to describe net neutrality and the internet is a highway. Without net neutrality, there could be slow and fast lanes on this “ highway” that websites are placed into based on the ISP's attitude towards them or how much money they pay.