

INTERNET FREEDOM

Is a Civil Rights Issue

Who should control the Internet — a small handful of giant corporations, or the people who use it? The answer to this question will determine whether we protect free speech online, close the digital divide, and bring a greater diversity of voices to this transformative medium.

FACT: Big Internet and Cable Companies Want to Discriminate on the Web.

The companies like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon that provide your Internet service want to control what you see and how you get it. While the big corporate sites, especially the ones owned by these companies, get a spot in the fast lane, everyone else — small businesses, independent publications, community groups — will be stuck on the slow road to irrelevance.

FACT: The Internet is an Opportunity to Build a More Equitable Media System.

Communities of color and other under-represented groups have long fought for a more diverse and inclusive media system. Discrimination and segregation prevented people of color from obtaining radio or TV licenses when these mediums were first created. During the 1970s, cable promised to be a real alternative for communities of color, but it didn't happen. The Web provides all Americans with the potential to speak for themselves without having to convince large media conglomerates their voices are worthy of being heard. Yet many of these very same companies now want to prevent Internet users from accessing diverse online content of their choice.

FACT: There Is No Economic Reason We Can't Connect Everyone to the Internet.

Companies like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon claim that unless they can erect new online toll roads and filters, they won't be able to invest in building out networks into minority and disenfranchised communities. This is simply ridiculous. These companies already make billions from monthly subscription fees and access rates paid by content producers to get onto their networks. Getting rid of Net Neutrality is just their attempt to undercut their competition without investing in infrastructure and services that can deliver the vast social and economic benefits of a high-speed connection to all Americans. If the phone and cable companies invested a fraction of the billions they've received in public subsidies and tax breaks, we could already deliver super-high-speed broadband to every home in America.

FACT: You Can Make a Difference in the Fight to Save the Internet

The SavetheInternet.com Coalition is a grassroots, nonpartisan alliance of hundreds of groups, thousands of bloggers, and nearly two million concerned Americans who have joined together to protect Internet freedom and Net Neutrality. No corporation or political party funds the coalition.

Use the Internet to save the Internet at SavetheInternet.com

SAVE THE
INTERNET
.com