



Independent Women's Voice®

Net Neutrality

in 60 Seconds

What's at Stake:

The Internet has always been free and open. It developed independent of heavy-handed government regulations for decades with little or no evidence of anti-competitive, anti-consumer behavior.

Bad Solution: Net Neutrality regulations

In 2015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the *Open Internet Order*. It:

- Reclassified broadband Internet access service as a utility under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and shifted oversight authority from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to the FCC.
- Opened the door for new regulations to be imposed on Internet providers (Net Neutrality). Specifically, the Order prohibited companies from:
 - **Blocking** access to legal content, applications, and services;
 - **Throttling** or impairing lawful Internet traffic;
 - Offering **paid prioritization** or preferential treatment to their content or services (also known as “Internet fast lanes”).

Net Neutrality resulted in:

- **Stifled innovation** amid new regulatory burdens.
- **Reduced broadband expansion:** Building infrastructure to expand to rural areas is expensive and Net Neutrality made it more expensive.
 - Broadband network investment declined by \$3.6 billion— more than 5 percent, the first time investment declined outside of a recession.
 - Small providers **delayed or reduced** network expansion/services.

A Better Path Forward: No Net Neutrality Regulations

In 2017, the FCC passed the *Restoring Internet Freedom Order* to start repeal of Net Neutrality.

- U.S. Internet speeds **jumped** from 12th to 6th fastest in the world.
- **Download speeds** increased nearly 40 percent; upload speeds jumped over 20 percent.
- In one year, the number of Americans lacking basic high-speed connections **fell** over 25 percent, from 26.1 million to 19.4 million.

The Internet should be free, open and accessible to all, but Net Neutrality regulations run counter to this goal.

Addressing Concerns:

CONCERNS	RESPONSES
<p>Without Net Neutrality, companies will slow down Internet access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>The Washington Post</i> debunked this claim.■ After Net Neutrality, the user experience has only improved as speeds increased and millions more Americans gained access to high-speed Internet.
<p>Without Net Neutrality, there will be no oversight.</p>	<p>Today, there actually <i>two</i> federal agencies overseeing the Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Prior to Net Neutrality, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) had oversight to prevent anti-competitive or anti-consumer behaviors.■ The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) grabbed that authority through Net Neutrality regulations.■ The 2017 Net Neutrality repeal split oversight authority between the FTC and FCC.
<p>Net Neutrality protects free speech.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ It is Internet content creators (such as Facebook and Twitter), not Internet providers (like Comcast and Verizon) who face public scrutiny for censoring content on their platforms.■ Net Neutrality rules focused on Internet delivery, not editorial decisions about content.