

Computers and Society
CSC 301
Spring 2018
Professor Rosenthal
Assignment 11
Answer Key

All questions are 10 points unless otherwise indicated

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File Name: LastName_FirstName_Ax.docx where x is the assignment number

3.7 Internet service inconsistent with net neutrality.

T-Mobile binge.

Sprint offers access to a few sites such as Facebook and Twitter with lower charges.

Free Basics, provided by Facebook, brings hundreds of apps to poor people around the world, but no video.

3.30 Exceptions to net neutrality.

- Emergency notifications
- Emergency police/fire traffic
- Military high priority traffic
- Blocking spam
- Blocking pornography
- Blocking terrorist sites

Additional questions.

1. What does net neutrality mean?

Net Neutrality says that all Internet traffic should be treated exactly the same.

2. Why is the Telecommunications Act of 1996 inconsistent with net neutrality?

“It is the policy of the U.S. ... to preserve the vibrant and competitive free market that presently exists for the Internet and other computer services, unfettered by Federal or State regulation”

3. Give three reasons for supporting net neutrality.

- These extra costs for "fast lanes" are problematic because they can make the services more expensive for Internet users and also may prevent small companies from receiving the network bandwidth and speed necessary to compete with the big companies who have the budget to reach agreements with ISPs.
- Net neutrality avoids discrimination among users ensuring similar access to information for people of different socio-economic status.
- Telecoms that are also content providers can bias networks in their favor

- Without neutrality, high-speed Internet for entertainment could be prioritized over education.
- ISPs could change premium fees (“pay-to-play”) to enjoy special access to public libraries, benefiting the richest people.
- Network neutrality helps to promote freedom of choice, as ISPs cannot obstruct or incentivize particular contents or sites over others
- Anti-blocking and anti-discrimination rules prevent the ISPs from arbitrarily deciding to limit access or promote some type of content.
- Net neutrality promotes a level playing field for competing companies.
- There is not enough competition available in the network provider industry to avoid the temptations and abuses of near monopolies

4. List three reasons for opposing net neutrality.

- Regulation imposing net neutrality would limit new business ideas and concepts and could be considered contrary to free market rules.
- Sponsored content and “pay-to-play” schemes may go against the net neutrality spirit, but they can help companies improve the overall service they offer.
- Heavier Internet users may be charged more.
- With that extra money ISPs could increase the bandwidth for all Internet users.
- Thanks to sponsorships some mobile telecom operators may offer free Internet Access to some contents.
- Regulation for net neutrality may limit the tools of governments and ISPs to fight against online “piracy”.
 - Material infringing copyright laws will be easily shared using P2P software. ISPs or governments won't be able to block or filter these types of content, if net neutrality is fully respected.
 - Net neutrality rules make it more difficult to monitor and control controversial adult content.
- Some defenders of net neutrality question government intervention. For them it should emerge organically or naturally but not imposed through laws.