Open Inter-Networking:
getting the fundamentals right

Net Neutrality and the Quest for Sustainable Internet (ANCOM/ApTI conference)

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Internet Society

Context

Issues around net neutrality stem from the very **success of the Internet.**

In just a few decades, the Internet has become a major driver for **economic growth and innovation.**

The Internet has also become a key platform for many of our fundamental rights such as **freedom of expression.**

More than **two billion** Internet users today; Internet will be **four times bigger in 2016**.

The **pressure on connectivity** not likely to diminish anytime soon.

Context

This pressure on network capacity has led network operators to deploy **management tools and techniques** to manage traffic congestion.

Capacity to treat packets of information in differentiated way has raised **concerns for the open and end-to-end architecture** that has guided Internet development.

" *The Internet was designed with no gatekeepers over new content and services. (Vint Cerf)*

Best-effort Internet: good-faith effort on the part of network operators to achieve best transmission possible of traffic.

Net neutrality in policy discussions

Net neutrality has come to the foreground of **policy and regulatory discussions** about the Internet.

Europe:

- **Netherlands:** on 8 May 2012, the Netherlands adopted **first net neutrality law** in Europe.

- **BEREC: Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications:** open consultations on various aspects of net neutrality (transparency, quality of service, competition issues, IP interconnection).

Open inter-networking

Which key principles could guide policymakers?

Open inter-networking

User perspective: you are **in control of what you do** and **where you go online. No discrimination of content** based on its source, ownership or destination.

ISOC believes that the proper focus in this discussion should be on the desired outcome: continuation of ***open inter-networking.***

An inter-network means **a network of network.**

- The Internet consists of many different and independent networks held together through open inter-networking and using the Internet Protocol (IP).

Key principle: Openness

Decentralized control and shared global ownership:

- No one owns or controls the Internet, cross-border nature, empowerment at the edges, innovation without permission.

Open Internet Standards:

- Interoperable standards, open and community-based processes (IETF).

Collaborative and multi-stakeholder engagement models:

- WSIS legacy, better policies through inclusive decision-process, complex challenges require multiple inputs.

Key Enablers: Access, Choice and Transparency

Access

- Access to Internet services, applications, sites and content.

Choice

- Choice and control by users over their online activities, including providers, services and applications, recognizing that there are legal and technical limitations.

Transparency

- About bandwidth and network management policies, informed choices.

Conclusion

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- Encouraging a diversity of **competitive service** and network offerings that are **transparent** and enable the user to make an informed choice of provider.

- Comprehensive **information as to service limitations**, network and traffic restrictions that the subscriber is subject to.

- **Reasonable network management** (not anti-competitive or harmful to the user's experience, application-agnostic).

- Need **best-effort Internet**, not least effort Internet. Essential for a sustainable Internet.

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Thank you

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