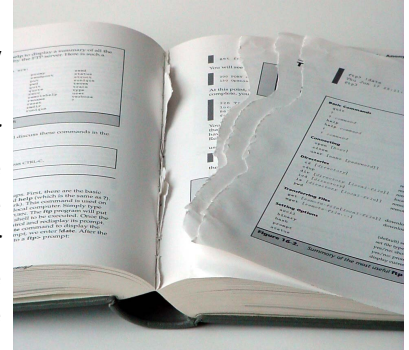


## The AECE Group: Miscellany #14

*Allow us to paint a picture, with apologies to other passionately inspired authors who might select more compelling analogies!!*

You buy a book and you pay for it . . . the book now “belongs” to you. Not likely to be much dispute there. Right?

Oh, the store that sold it to you? Depending on what’s in the book, they reserve the right to provide you with only a few pages at a time . . . or depending on the publisher of the book, may require you to pay more than for other similar books of similar currency and popularity, by the same author, simply to take the book home with you when you leave the store.



Not a sufficiently compelling analogy? How about the post office engaging in the same type of practice? Depending on what’s in that letter your son wrote to you, they may deliver it today or tomorrow or whenever they get around to it. They reserve the right to determine delivery times by inspecting what’s in the envelope. We’re not talking about additional fees for premium or desirable service or delivery obstacles like distance . . . rather, service characteristics based entirely on the content of the envelope or package. Or based on who is sending the envelope to you . . . you get bills delivered to you faster than that Thank You note from your granddaughter.

### **NET NEUTRALITY / INTERNET FREEDOM: ISN'T THAT HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE?**

*“The FCC’s 2015 Open Internet Order established the legal framework to enforce what’s known as “net neutrality,” a term that refers to a core principle of the internet: that Internet Service Providers (ISP) treat all data delivered to customers equally. That means Comcast (or any other ISP) can’t slow down Netflix in an attempt to get you to use their own streaming service instead, for example.”*

Excerpted from the Daily Dot

In a departure from the usual presentations on these pages, we are suggesting a personal research project for you, to better understand the headlines making news on this question of Net Neutrality. Let Google (or any other favorite search engine) help you become familiar with:

## **The FCC and FTC . .**

what do they deal with? how do the commission members on each, get appointed?

## **Public Utilities . .**

what is a public utility and how is it regulated?

## **Title II of the Communications Act (1934) . .**

to what does that apply?

## **Common Carrier . .**

what are they and why does it matter?

## **Broadband Services . .**

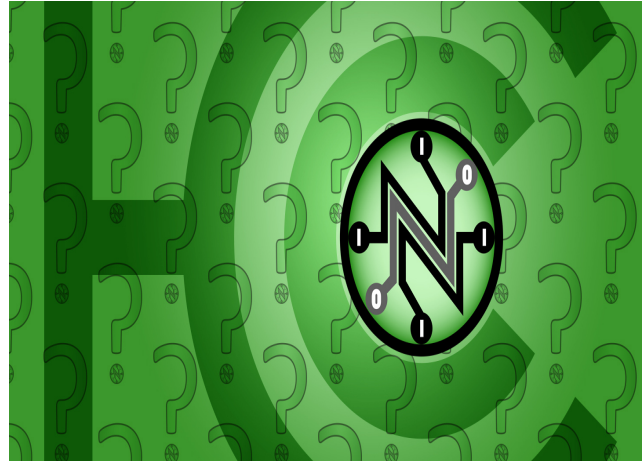
what are they and how are they regulated?

## **Paid Prioritization . .**

what is that?

## **Internet “Fast Lane” . .**

what is that?



*Graphic courtesy of DailyDot.com*

## **The 2015 “Open Internet Order” . .**

what does “Open Internet” mean, and what did this Obama-era regulation attempt to do?

## **The “Restoring Internet Freedom Act” . .**

what does this proposal aim to accomplish?

## **The Telecommunications Act of 1996 . .**

what does that cover and why was it enacted?

## **Ajit Varadaraj Pai . .**

who is FCC Chairman Pai and why does it matter? who is in the “cast of characters”?

## **Internet Freedom . .**

for whom? and for what purposes?

## **The Internet of Things (IOT) . .**

what is that? how does that affect me?

*(Editorial note: Do be aware that in a number of cases, proponents on both sides of the fundamental issues use the same or similar nomenclature but ascribe different meanings to the terms as they employ them to make their cases, like the key word “freedom”. In a strange reality twist, just knowing the “words” may not be enough for a reader to understand the debate and the stances taken by various individuals and groups. You may wish to ask critically, how is the author/speaker intending the term being used?)*

Would you care to read the actual proposal? Be aware that it is 125 pages long with about 75 pages of content, but if you have the patience and the interest, perhaps the first two pages will give you a sufficient sense of it to satisfy your curiosity . . .

Go to [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-60A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-60A1.pdf)

If you feel strongly enough to publically comment, you have until August 17 and can do so through a specially designated website at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>

## ***Care to predict the future?***

And with that, we leave off on your homework assignment. Later this year, we hope to hear from an expert on this and encompassing issues, who will lead a discussion for the Aberdeen East Computer Group as you formulate your own opinion. Stay tuned.

**The Aberdeen East Computer and Electronics Users Group**