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Net neutrality and the EU electronic communications regulatory framework

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Abstract

For the most part, the current Internet is open, the whole Internet is available to anyone who connects to it. The reason for this openness is that

the network itself is designed to be dumb, in that its job is to route packets to their destination only. This design feature is slowly changing as more and more intelligence is built into the network itself. The principle of Net neutrality refers to the ability of network operators to tamper with users' connections, prioritising some traffic over others. Such an action would be against the Net neutrality principle.

This article looks at the European Union's regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services and how this relates to the net neutrality debate. It seeks to discover if the provisions which are in place following the recent updating of the regime are capable of protecting the current neutral Internet.

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