

## Everything you need to know about network neutrality

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Internet's early years?

- 7. Is the Internet a big truck?
- 8. What was the 2010 Open Internet Order?
- 9. Why did an appeals court rule the FCC's network neutrality rules illegal in 2014?
- 10. What's the FCC's next move after its loss in court?
- 11. Does Chairman Wheeler's new proposal mean the end of

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### Has network neutrality been violated in the past?

Generally speaking, network neutrality violations have been rare, but a few controversies have occurred over the last decade.

In 2005, a small North Carolina telephone company called Madison River Communications began blocking voice-over-IP services that competed with its own telephone service. The FCC investigated, leading to a **\$15,000 fine**.

In 2007, Comcast interfered with users' peer-to-peer file sharing applications by sending fake reset packets that tricked each side of the connection into believing the other had hung up. When the FCC tried to punish Comcast for the infraction in 2008, the cable company sued, arguing that the FCC needed to go through a formal rule-making process before net neutrality rules could be legally binding. The court **sided with Comcast** in 2010.

Wireless carriers' efforts to conserve bandwidth have sparked net neutrality controversies. In 2009, Apple **limited Skype calls to wifi networks** to save bandwidth on cellular networks. In 2012, AT&T **banned the use of FaceTime**, Apple's bandwidth-hungry video chat service for the iPhone, on its wireless networks. Again, users were free to use the app on wifi networks. AT&T **gradually relaxed** the restriction. Because the FCC's then-current **network neutrality rules** largely exempted wireless networks, this did not trigger FCC scrutiny.

Some critics accused Comcast of violating net neutrality in 2012 when the cable company announced that traffic generated by its own video streaming app **wouldn't count** against customers' bandwidth caps. That could give consumers an incentive to sign up for Comcast's service rather than high-bandwidth competitors such as Netflix or Amazon Instant Video.

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