<u>Regulating and Governing The Internet:</u>

<u>Pros & Cons of "Net Neutrality"</u>

<u>ITS343: Cyber Law and Ethics</u>

Very recently the topic of discussion across the internet has been about the regulation of the internet. Why in the name of Snuffoluphagus, would anyone want to regulate the internet? Well, it's not necessarily limited to the content that we are speaking about, but more so the Internet Service Providers that I am actually referring to. In order to understand the subject at hand, allow me to introduce to you what net neutrality is.

Now let's move on to a more detailed description of the topic; according to **ITPro** an internet newsletter by Dennis Publishing, *<u>net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all internet traffic fairly, rather than artificially slowing down or speeding up the delivery of certain websites and services over others. This is so that large ISPs don't use their market dominance to boost the speeds of services that they own or profit from (or charging users for fast delivery of their favourite websites) whilst slowing services of rivals.</u>* Based on the definition given, at first glance you would probably agree that this would be a grand idea, at least for the sake of internet usage and it's cost to allow faster speeds for everyone. Of course you think that to yourself.

Next, let's look into the actual Pros and Cons of net neutrality, and maybe this will assist you in making a more sound argument on the matter. In this situation, there

are so many variables, whether you're pro net neutrality or not, both sides of the coin are incredibly valid. For starters, allow me to give you an important piece of information on where it began; during the presidency of Obama. Ok, that's my information. Now, who was totally against net neutrality; during Trump's presidency, Ok, I'm done seriously. Also according to **ITPro**, it was stated that one of the biggest cons to net neutrality, was that it would impede on innovation, and become a burden for ISP's. However, the sole reason for net neutrality is to ensure that all traffic be treated fairly, without being penalized or causing havoc to publishers, and companies that dispense internet services.

Although net neutrality is a very political subject, it essentially has its perks. But it seems that there is no legislation to keep the ISP's in its place, many companies will capitalize on the deployment of broadband, to increase the notoriety and availability of their own, at the cost of smaller organizations.

This topic seems as if the country will almost never get the answer it needs to the use of the internet, by the ISP's delivery. In my personal opinion, just leave well enough alone. All you'd really have to look at, are the consumers and their reactions to what is going on today. Almost everyone complains about the price of something, and this is no different. My words are this: "If it ain't broke, then don't try to fix it".