

Institute for Policy Integrity
New York University School of Law

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GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROTECT OPEN INTERNET, STUDY FINDS

Regulation will safeguard economic benefit, avoid uncertainty on the Web.

New York City, September 22—An open Internet allows anyone with an idea and a domain name to add content to the web for all to use. It's a system that most believe works very well, generating billions in economic benefits for the American public every year.

But [a report](#) released today by the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law (Policy Integrity) analyzes the economic uncertainties of weakening our current, open Internet, also known as net neutrality, and sees potential trouble ahead if it is not preserved.

The conclusion finds that removing net neutrality could endanger the economic benefits that now flow to Internet users. It advises federal policymakers to proceed with its proposed rules that would maintain net neutrality as the law of the land.

Michael Livermore, Policy Integrity's executive director said, "We can take a cautious approach by protecting net neutrality. The government should move forward with their plan to keep net neutrality in place in order to preserve the open Internet we have come to rely on and the economic benefit we gain from it."

The analysis further found that movement away from net neutrality could be irreversible. The report shows that a failure to defend the rules of an open Internet now may not be easy to reverse later. However, insistence on net neutrality today could be relaxed down the road if more attractive alternatives present themselves.

Economist and Policy Integrity Fellow, Scott Holladay said, "Internet Service Providers like Verizon and Time Warner hope the government will fail to act—potentially boosting their bottom line at the expense of users. Doing nothing could have irreversible effects on the nature of the Web and might come with harmful economic outcomes for the majority of Internet users. We have a system that works and it should be protected."

The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think-tank that works with advocacy organizations and governments to use economics and law to protect the environment, public health, and consumers. Policy Integrity projects bring economics to bear on issues like climate change and net neutrality.

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To read the full analysis, [click here](#).

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