

To,
Mr. A. Robert J. Ravi, Advisor (QOS)
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Subject: Re: Pre- Consultation Paper on Net Neutrality

Dear Sir,

As a concerned Indian citizen and Internet user, I'd like to respond to TRAI's consultation paper on Net Neutrality. Please publish my response after removing my email address and last name from the submission. I've made this submission after going through the consultation paper.

I'm happy TRAI wants to know what individual citizens think about Net Neutrality, but I am concerned why despite the fact that 1.2 million Indians had sent in their responses to TRAI's earlier Consultation Paper on OTT Services earlier this year should be proof of the fact that India deserves a truly open and free Internet, not one controlled by vested interests, whether they are telecom operators or (as they claim) telco-agnostic platforms. Such platforms will give a competitive advantage to companies with lots of funding, and allow these platforms to influence consumer choice through gatekeeping.

Questions:

1) What should be regarded as the core principles of net neutrality in the Indian context? What are the key issues that are required to be considered so that the principles of net neutrality are ensured?

Answer - Net Neutrality is about free and uncontrolled (in terms of data speed, throttling, blocking etc) internet which therefore can healthily serve towards the prosperity of knowledge sharing and freedom of speech. It is not regional related topic so we should think what it means for India because it's meaning is already universal. However, if there are any framework and infrastructure limitations then we should try to lay down policies to minimize them and lay foundation of a better infrastructure for tomorrow instead of lowering our standards to accommodate our TSPs poor services and unjust excuses

2) What are the reasonable traffic management practices that may need to be followed by TSPs while providing Internet access services and in what manner could these be misused? Are there any other current or potential practices in India that may give rise to concerns about net neutrality?

Answer - as I have replied against first question our aim should be to improve our services and higher our benchmark instead of bending on knees to TSP (who btw don't provide us services for free and earning revenue). Traffic management is again a loophole which if granted to TSPs will allow them to exploit speed, throttling websites and charge unfairly to either customer or web content provider. In any case only TSP will be at winning side. So instead of focusing of TSP centric Traffic Management TRAI should focus on asking TSPs to better equip themselves to support the requirement, Underplaying in terms quality of service should not be tolerated

3) What should be India's policy and/or regulatory approach in dealing with issues relating to net neutrality? Please comment with justifications.

Answer -

Points as I have highlighted before

1. instead of focusing of TSP centric Traffic Management TRAI should focus on asking TSPs to better equip themselves to support the requirement, Underplaying in terms quality of service should not be tolerated

2. if there are any framework and infrastructure limitations then we should try to lay down policies to minimize them and lay foundation of a better infrastructure for tomorrow instead of lowering our standards to accommodate our TSPs poor services and unjust excuses

4) What precautions must be taken with respect to the activities of TSPs and content providers to ensure that national security interests are preserved? Please comment with justification.

Answer - I understand that there are already laws to the effect like in riots internet services are suspended temporarily so further discussion on this would be redundant

5) What precautions must be taken with respect to the activities of TSPs and content providers to maintain customer privacy? Please comment with justification.

Answer - service providers should not be allowed used to create/maintain customer profile in terms surfing history, browsing habits for a simple reason they are service providers and should act like one instead of being a watchdog. For example no one would like to pay rent to live in house knowing that every room has CCTV and your landlord stalk or watches your activities all the times. I understand that Constitution provides us opportunity to live our personal life freely therefore same should be maintained by TSP and other stakeholders

6) What further issues should be considered for a comprehensive policy framework for defining the relationship between TSPs and OTT content providers?

Answer - Internet's beauty is in its freedom and that should not be compromised in any manner to promote agendas that conflict with Internet users ability to express, share and enjoy internet.

Best Regards,

Anchit