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— Friedrich Nietzsche

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**December 13, 2017**

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**Washington Post**  
[This poll gave Americans a detailed case for and against the FCC's net neutrality plan. The reaction among Republicans was striking](#)

**Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**  
[Inventors of the internet plead to stop net neutrality repeal](#)

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
[FCC's net neutrality record is plagued by bots, bogus comments, and a reporter's home address](#)

AT&T has started trials in Georgia state and a non-U.S. location to deliver high-speed internet over power lines, the No. 2 wireless carrier said on Wednesday, marking its latest push to offer faster broadband service to more customers.

AT&T aims to eventually deliver speeds faster than the 1 gigabit per second consumers can currently



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get through fiber internet service using high-frequency airwaves that travel along power lines. While the Georgia trial is in a rural area, the service could potentially be deployed in suburbs and cities, the company said in a

statement. "We think this product is eventually one that could actually serve anywhere near a power line," said Marachel Knight, AT&T's senior vice president of wireless network architecture and design, in an interview. She added that AT&T chose an international trial location in part because the market opportunity extends beyond the United States.

AT&T said it had no timeline for commercial deployment and that it would look to expand trials as it develops the technology. "Potentially, it can be a really big deal," said Roger Entner, an analyst at Recon Analytics. "You need the power company to play ball with you. That's the downside." AT&T and Verizon Communications Inc, the largest U.S. wireless carrier, have also been testing 5G internet services in which the last leg of the connection is delivered via a radio signal to homes using high-frequency airwaves known as millimeter wave spectrum. Verizon said in November it would launch the faster broadband service in three to five U.S. markets in 2018. — **Reuters**

**USA Today**  
opposing  
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[End net  
neutrality.  
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[Protests](#) to preserve net neutrality, or rules that ensure equal access to the internet, migrated online on Tuesday, with numerous online companies posting calls on their sites for action to stop a vote later this week.

Reddit, Etsy and Kickstarter were among the sites warning that the proposal at the Federal Communications Commission to roll back so-called net neutrality rules would fundamentally change the way the internet is experienced. Kickstarter, the crowdfunding site, cleared its entire home screen for a sparse white screen reading "Defend Net Neutrality" in large letters. Reddit, the popular online message board, pushed in multiple ways on its site for keeping the rules, including a pop-up box on its home screen.

But the online protests also highlighted how the biggest tech companies, such as Facebook and Google, have taken a back seat in the debate about protecting net neutrality, rules that prohibit internet service providers like AT&T and Comcast from blocking or slowing sites or for charging people or companies for faster speeds of particular sites. For the most part, the large tech companies did not engage in the protest on Tuesday. In the past, the companies have played a leading role in supporting the rules.

Harold Feld, a senior vice president at [Public Knowledge](#), a nonprofit group that supports net neutrality, said the biggest tech companies were less vocal because they were facing more regulatory battles than in past years. Social media sites have been criticized for allowing foreign actors to interfere in the presidential election of 2016. The biggest tech companies also face complaints from some lawmakers that they have become too large and powerful. "First, the major tech companies are very aware that Washington has turned hostile," Mr. Feld said. "In this environment, the big tech companies try to keep a low profile and play defense rather than take positions that draw attention. "So with the dangers of standing up in D.C. greater, their existential concerns about net neutrality reduced because of their own massive size and a desire not to spook investors, it is unsurprising that Silicon Valley giants have melted into the background and have preferred to work through their trade associations," he said.

There also does not appear to be much chance of their winning the debate right now. The three Republican members of the F.C.C., who make up a majority of commissioners at the agency, have committed to roll back the landmark broadband rules created during the Obama administration. But consumers and the start-ups that participated in protests on Tuesday say they are gearing up for a long fight. They expect lawsuits to challenge the change, and plan to push Congress to pass a law ensuring an open internet.

Here is how several of the biggest companies have handled the issue in recent months. Google has kept a pretty low profile in the recent net neutrality debate. The company issued a statement last month when the proposed changes were announced, saying that the current rules were "working well" and that it was "disappointed" by the new proposal. But for the most part, the company has been working within [the Internet Association](#), an industry group that includes Facebook, Amazon and other large online companies.

It's a restrained approach compared with Google's aggressive lobbying campaign in 2006 when Sergey Brin, one of the company's co-founders, went to Capitol Hill to argue for the importance of net neutrality. In 2010, Google teamed up with Verizon to lay out a vision for how net neutrality could work, advocating against allowing internet service providers to provide fast lanes to people who pay more. However, the proposal was criticized by advocates of an open internet because it excluded wireless connectivity and new services from broadband providers.

Apple is a newcomer to the net neutrality debate. It made its first filing to the F.C.C. on the issue in August. It espoused a position largely in line with other internet giants, arguing against the creation of fast lanes and emphasizing the importance of an open internet. Apple's public opposition to the proposed changes also reflects the growing network of services on offer from the company including Apple Music, a streaming music service that also offers video content, and potentially an internet video service to rival Netflix. Timothy D. Cook, Apple's chief executive, said in a statement that all internet service providers should treat all data on the internet equally. "Equal treatment is critical to innovation in a digital economy and to democracy," he said. "If the F.C.C. doesn't provide this basic protection, we urge Congress to intervene."

During the last day of online protest in support of the rules this past summer, Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's leaders, posted defiant statements to their personal Facebook pages. But the executives have been pretty quiet on the issue in recent months. The company's focus in Washington has been more concentrated on fallout from its handling of Russian-linked propaganda used during the 2016 presidential election.

This week, Facebook offered a statement from Erin Egan, a policy spokeswoman, about the F.C.C. plans: "Facebook has always supported the kind of strong net neutrality protections that will ensure the internet remains open for everyone," Ms. Egan said. "We are disappointed by the F.C.C.'s decision to remove these protections, and we stand ready to work with policymakers on a framework that will protect a free and open internet."

Microsoft [sent a 23-page letter](#) to the commission later in July outlining the company's argument that the commission should not change its stance on net neutrality. "Now is not the time for the commission to abandon 15 years of progress toward protecting the economic future of our country," the letter said. "Now is not the time for the commission to abandon its open internet rules." The company has otherwise kept a relatively low profile on the issue. On Nov. 28, Brad Smith, Microsoft's president and chief legal officer, [tweeted](#) that "Microsoft believes in preserving the open internet & opposes weakening net neutrality protections."

Amazon representatives have been lobbying F.C.C. commissioners and staff in person, with visits on Nov. 29 and last Wednesday. The latter included a meeting between Ajit Pai, the F.C.C. chairman, and Darren Achord, an Amazon senior public policy manager. "During the meetings, we stated that Amazon has long supported net neutrality protections to ensure our customers can enjoy an open internet, and we emphasized that the company remains committed to that position," Gerard Waldron, a lawyer who represents Amazon and participated in the meeting, wrote in an account filed with the F.C.C. "We stressed the need for enforceable, bright-line rules to protect the open internet and guard against anti-consumer and anti-competitive activities," he wrote, adding that Amazon opposed the commission's proposed change.

Netflix, once among the most vocal of net neutrality boosters, is perhaps the most conspicuous in its relative silence. In recent months, the company's chief executive, [Reed Hastings, has said](#) net neutrality is no longer the company's "primary battle," partly because Netflix is now large enough that it can secure the deals it needs with internet access providers to ensure its service is delivered smoothly to customers.

On Nov. 21, the company [posted a note](#) on its primary Twitter account in support of net neutrality. – *New York Times*

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Senate Democratic Caucus members announced a Wednesday press conference in which they will pledge to back embattled Lt. Gov. Mike Stack. "In a display of unity and strength, members and leaders of the Senate Democratic Caucus will gather in Harrisburg on Wednesday to announce support for Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack's re-election," the release said.

Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa and Mr. Stack are the only two people named in the release. The lieutenant governor presides over the Senate; Mr. Stack, of Philadelphia, was a state senator for 14 years. Mr. Stack already has a slate of challengers, including Braddock Mayor John Fetterman. And he does not have the backing of his boss, Gov. Tom Wolf.

Mr. Stack and his wife, Tonya Stack, came under scrutiny earlier this year after Mr. Wolf directed his Inspector General to launch an inquiry into whether they verbally abused the state employees who work for them. In Pennsylvania, lieutenant governors and their families traditionally receive State Police protection and live in a residence outside Harrisburg that is staffed with a cook, housekeeper, groundskeepers and others. The governor also took the extraordinary step of stripping the Stacks of their State Police protection, and scaled back staffing at the residence as the investigation unfolded. The press conference is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the State Capitol Rotunda. – *Pennlive*

