



## Media Minutes

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### TRANSCRIPT

#### Net Neutrality Rocks Washington

**Julius Genachowski:** *I am convinced that there are few goals more essential in the communications landscape than preserving and maintaining an open and robust Internet.*

The future of an open Internet got a whole lot brighter this week. On Monday, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski delivered a landmark speech in which he called for new rules to protect Net Neutrality, the long-standing principle that bars Internet service providers from blocking or slowing any lawful content on the Web.

**Julius Genachowski:** *Some have argued that the FCC should not take affirmative steps to protect the Internet's openness. Let me be clear about what this is about, and what it isn't. The fundamental goal of what I've outlined today is preserving the openness and freedom of the Internet. We have an obligation to ensure that the Internet is an enduring engine for U.S. economic growth, and a foundation for democracy in the 21st century. We have an obligation to ensure that the Internet remains a vast landscape of innovation and opportunity. This is not about government regulation of the Internet. It's about fair rules of the road for companies that control access to the Internet.*

While open Internet advocates cheered the move, Internet service providers immediately spoke out against the idea. Verizon's vice president of regulatory affairs, David Young, voiced his company's concerns in a panel at the Brookings Institution that immediately followed the chairman's speech.

**David Young:** *The concern is that these are regulations that would apply to the Internet now for the very first time. The FCC has studiously avoided regulating ISPs in any way, shape or form since the inception of the Internet, and this would represent the first rules ever written to apply to the Internet and I think there's a concern that there could be unintended consequences of doing that.*

Also on the panel was Ben Scott, policy director of Free Press, who disagreed with Young's assessment.

**Ben01:** *This notion that the Internet has no regulations in and around the market is total nonsense. Spam is regulated, interconnection rules are regulated, prices in the special access market are regulated, there is a proposal to put universal service underneath broadband – that is a massive regulatory system. The Internet is becoming an infrastructure, it is inevitably going to have a regulatory structure around it. What we're deciding is not "will it have a regulatory structure" what we are deciding is "what is it going to look like, what is its purpose, and what will its outcomes be and whose interest's will they serve."*

Commissioners Mignon Clyburn and Michael Copps have also endorsed Genachowski's plan, giving him a majority at the FCC. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi immediately released a statement of support, followed by many other prominent members of Congress. And at a speech in Troy, NY, President Obama weighed in as well:

**Barack Obama:** *Another key to strengthening education, entrepreneurship, and innovation in communities like Troy is to harness the full power of the internet. That means faster and more widely available broadband– as well as rules to ensure that we preserve the fairness and openness that led to the flourishing of the internet in the first place. Today, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski is announcing a set of principles to preserve an open internet in which all Americans can participate and benefit. I am pleased that he is taking this step. That's an important role that we can play.*

Monday's announcement came on the heels of a bill in Congress – the Internet Freedom Preservation Act – that was introduced earlier this year by Massachusetts' Representative Edward Markey and California's Anna Eshoo. Misty Perez Truedson is a campaign coordinator at Free Press and SaveTheInternet.com. With the proceeding opening at the FCC and a bill moving forward in Congress, Perez Truedson says the phone and cable industry will be gearing up for the fight of their lives.

**Misty Perez Truedson:** *This is a chance for us to preserve and protect an open Internet once and for all, and the telcos see a closed Internet as a way for them to increase their profits and a way for them to gain lockdown and control over the Internet, so absolutely they are going to be scrambling to do everything they can to not only defeat the rulemaking at the FCC, but also to defeat the legislation in Congress, which is why we need more than ever for the public to stand up and demand an open Internet through Net Neutrality protections at the FCC and through the Internet Freedom Preservation Act in Congress.*

But if Genachowski's speech on Monday is any indication, Washington may finally be recognizing that the Internet's open architecture is at the heart of its role in spurring economic growth, free speech and innovation.

**Julius Genachowski:** *We are here because 40 years ago, a bunch of researchers in a lab changed the way computers interact and, as a result, changed the world. We are here because those Internet pioneers had unique insights about the power of open networks to*

*transform lives for the better, and they did something about it. Our work now is to preserve the brilliance of what they contributed to our country and the world.*