

IEEE Internet Initiative Invitation to Discuss
Proposed IEEE Technology Policy White Paper
Network Neutrality As Technology Advances

There is universal agreement that the internet has been transformational to the worldwide economy, culture and politics, and that the transformation is now only in its early stages. There is much less agreement about the reasons behind the internet's transformative power, and therefore, about the ways to preserve it for current and future users. There is also increasing concern that the benefits from the transformation are unequally distributed, and that not all facets of the transformation may end up being beneficial to individuals and society.

A significant debate about the future of the internet focuses on network (or net) neutrality. As currently discussed, net neutrality requires Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to treat all data carried by their networks without undue differentiation in traffic depending on user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, mode of communication or volume. This extends to technical forms of differentiation such as blocking, throttling, or prioritization, as well as economic forms such as differential pricing.

Net neutrality regulations have caused acrimonious debate that pits platform and content providers against ISPs. However, there is a symbiotic relationship between applications and networks. Advances in applications, content and services cause expansion or modification of infrastructure, and new infrastructure leads to changes in existing applications, content and services and to the development of new ones. In other words, neither "the network" nor "the edges" (i.e., devices connected to the network, platforms, and applications) remain static over time or develop independently of each other.

Current net neutrality debates tend to reflect the underlying technology of the internet. However, innovation is taking place both in the network core and at the edges. IEEE would like to contribute to the debate by helping policy-makers understand technological progress and its implications so that regulations do not become outdated or inadvertently reduce progress toward the goals the regulations are meant to achieve.

Please log into Collabratec™ in order to join the discussion in the [Collabratec Internet Technology Policy Community](#).

- Offer your thoughts on the proposed draft Technology Policy White Paper.
- Contribute insights on new technologies that could affect net neutrality.
- Participate in the discussion about the interaction between technology and regulations.