

Brief chronological history of FCC's attempt to regulate the Internet

1. The ARPAnet is constructed as a robust, content blind, end to end user controlled, data delivery network.
2. Deregulation between 1974 and 1985 released broadband resources needed for the Internet.
3. Congressional [statute](#) declares the Internet a competitive free market that is unfettered by Federal or State regulation.
4. The Free Press Lobby, its fonder Robert McChesney, and [Tim Wu](#) begin lobbying the FCC for a government operated Internet.
5. Internet providers are aware of the lobbying but unsure how seriously to take the effort, particularly given that federal law directs the FCC to treat the Internet as a competitive free market.
6. BitTorrent and Comcast were involved in a [dispute](#), which became a marketing nightmare for Comcast. No business wants a reputation of putting speed limits on its customers.
7. The dispute ended with an [agreement](#) between Comcast and BitTorrent
8. The FCC asserted [control](#) over Comcast and the Internet in spite of the competitive market forces at work.
9. Comcast challenged the FCC rulemaking in court.
10. Senators and Representatives of both parties publicly [opposed](#) the FCC action.
11. A three-judge appeals court panel unanimously [overturned](#) the FCC for lack of Congressional authority for the action.
12. [Polls](#) show only 21% of Likely Voters want the FCC to regulate the Internet and 72% of Mainstream voters believe FCC regulations would be used to promote a political agenda.
13. The FCC then doubled down, ignored the court, and [reclassified](#) broadband as a monopoly telephone service.
14. Verizon and MetroPCS filed [lawsuits](#) to overturn the FCC even before the takeover is published in the Federal Register.
15. The House introduces HJ37 in order to conduct oversight of the FCC use of delegated rulemaking authority.
16. The FCC extends its monopoly control to wireless.
17. The house of Representatives adopts HJ37.

John in Oregon (April 2011)