

NAVIGATING NET NEUTRALITY

THEIR WAY OR THE HIGHWAY



NET NEUTRALITY IS THE IDEA THAT INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS SHOULD BE EQUAL



IN THE ACCESS THAT THEY GIVE CONSUMERS DEALING WITH ALL LEGAL CONTENT AND APPLICATIONS



WITHOUT FAVORING SOME SOURCES OR BLOCKING OTHERS

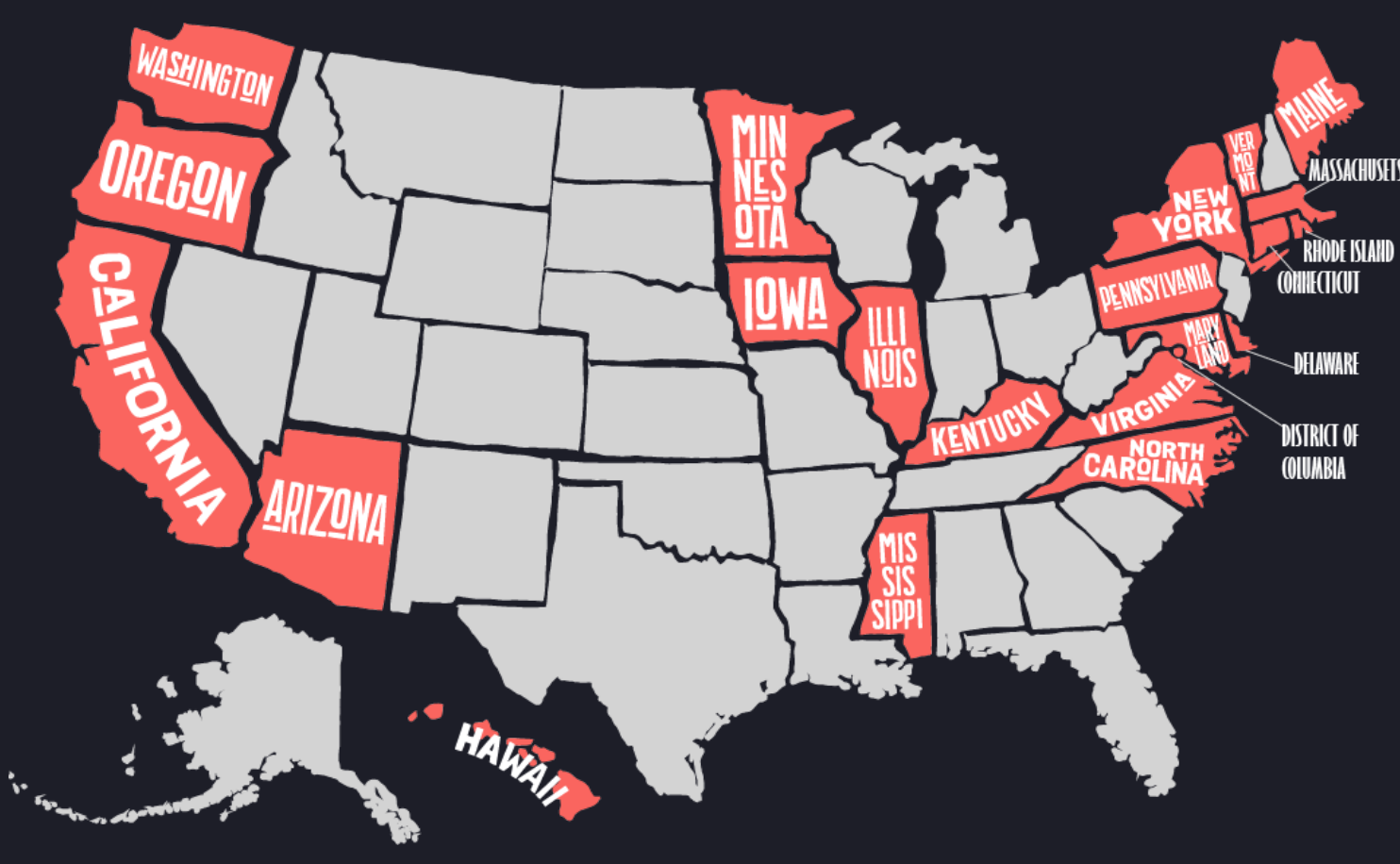


IN DECEMBER 2017, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) VOTED TO REVERSE ITS 2015 ORDER, REVOKING NET NEUTRALITY RULES

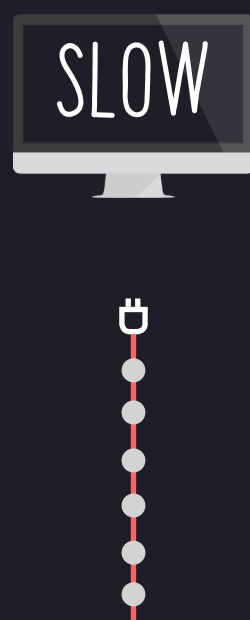
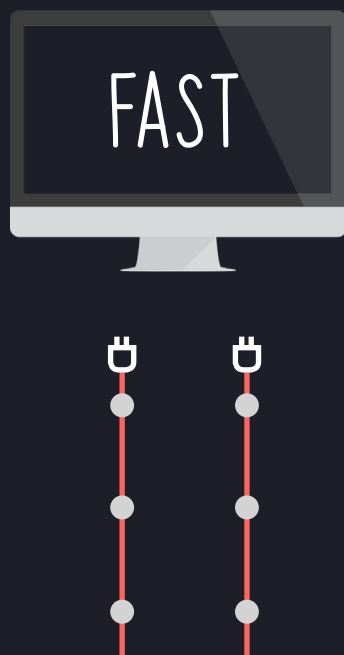
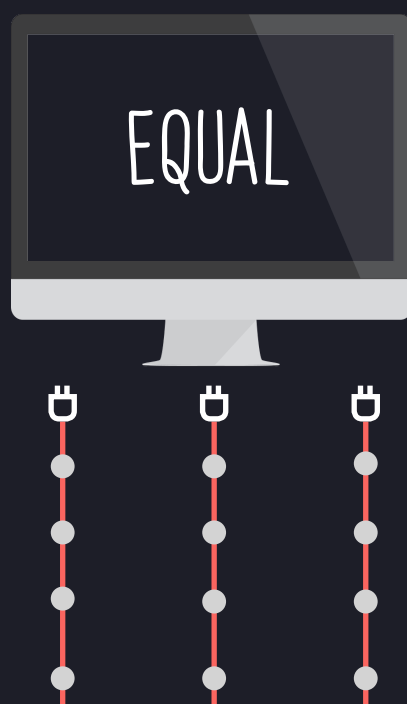


WHICH PROHIBITED BLOCKING OF LAWFUL INTERNET CONTENT AND APPLICATIONS, THROTTLING OR DEGRADING LAWFUL INTERNET TRAFFIC, AND PAID PRIORITIZATION OF CERTAIN TRAFFIC

THE REVOKING OF THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED NET NEUTRALITY RULES HAVE FUELED THE ONGOING STATE LAWSUITS. THE COLORED STATES BELOW REPRESENT THOSE CURRENTLY SUING THE FCC.



FREE VS. CONTROLLED



PAYMENTS



IMPACT

Because digital payments services depend on low-costs, having to pay more for a better connection is going to make it especially difficult for startups that are trying to grow in the digital payments arena. Low costs allow for speedy and reliable internet connections, so higher costs are problematic for digital payments startups when their aim is to compete with more established payments players by offering cheaper services.

COMPANIES ARE SPEAKING OUT

VISA

Representatives from Bank of America, Visa, UPS and Ford have all met with the FCC and commented that they want the agency to regulate the internet so that all ISPs will be forced to treat all digital content equally.

DWOLLA

Dwolla, a platform that connects businesses to the banking system, warned US regulators that allowing this sort of discrimination from internet service providers will hurt attempts to improve financial services.

stripe

Stripe recently said it's difficult to understand the rationale for a policy that will harm consumers, civil society, and the most dynamic parts of our economy.

OVERALL INDUSTRY IMPACT

FINTECH



Emerging fintech companies may be out matched against more established businesses who can easily pay for higher internet speeds. This may stagnate the fintech market, further slowing innovation.

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Financial firms, who rely on up to date market information will be forced to purchase premium tier internet service, surrendering all power to the pricing providers of the internet service providers.

P2P

PLATFORM

Peer to Peer payment platforms could also fall victim; competing applications could be forced to purchase premium service or risk losing significant portions of their user base.



RETAIL

Smaller online retailers may not be able to afford premium internet speeds, and thus their customers will be relegated to the "slow lane."

