

Quoted: For net neutrality, it's likely to be the same old, same old

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"Nothing happened before. It's hard to get diminished from zero."

— <u>Art Brodsky</u>, communications director for Public Knowledge, a digital rights group, on what the U.S. elections, which resulted in a shift from a Democratic-controlled House to one controlled by Republicans, will mean for net neutrality. The concept of equal, unfettered access to Internet traffic used to have bipartisan support, but lately has become split across party lines, according to <u>Hillicon Valley</u>, with Tea Party groups and others seeing attempts to keep broadband providers from selectively blocking Internet traffic as an issue of government control as opposed to one of free speech. The <u>FCC's hands seem to be tied</u>. And <u>Politico</u> notes that most Democratic legislators who signed a net-neutrality pledge lost in the elections. But it doesn't seem to matter either way. <u>CNet</u> quotes Jim Harper, an analyst at the Cato Institute, who echoes Brodsky's sentiment above: "Net neutrality regulation, which was going nowhere before the election, will go nowhere."

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