



## Cato: Glenn Beck 'mistaken' about net neutrality

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Glenn Beck appears to be 'mistaken' about what net neutrality entails as he works to undermine the policy, a Cato Institute research fellow said this week.

Though Cato is a libertarian think tank opposed to net-neutrality regulations, research fellow Julian Sanchez said that Beck appears to be confused about the substance of the debate over Internet line rules.

"There are plenty of reasons to worry that neutrality rules might ultimately be bad for consumers in ways the advocates for regulation don't anticipate or intend, but [Glenn Beck's] objection is pure fantasy," Sanchez said [in comments to](#) Media Matters, a liberal advocacy group.

Beck has made strong statements in opposition to net neutrality, warning of the possibility that the government will censor the Web and replace the Fox News website with The Huffington Post.

However, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) net-neutrality effort has not aspired to touch or toy with Internet content and applications — sometimes to the chagrin of companies like AT&T and Verizon who think search engines should be subject to whatever non-discrimination regulations they are sacked with.

Sanchez made it clear in his comments that altering Web content is not an aim of net-neutrality policies.

"Net neutrality has nothing to do with requiring sites to carry any particular content," Sanchez said, adding that "nobody is pushing for the kind of 'Internet Fairness Doctrine' regime Beck appears to be imagining."

Mainstream arguments against net neutrality include that new regulations are unnecessary, could stifle investment and might prevent broadband providers from exploring innovative new business models.

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