

CDT Statement on FCC's Vote to Adopt Internet Openness Rules

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Leslie Harris, CDT President

Washington--The Center for Democracy & Technology today released the following statement in response to the Federal Communications Commission vote to approve a set of "rules of the road" for preserving the open nature of the Internet.

"The Commission took a vital first step today by voting to adopt rules designed to sustain the open nature of the Internet," said CDT President Leslie Harris. "The Internet is and should remain a place where innovators and upstarts can experiment and thrive, without needing to seek permission or approval from established network operators," she said. "Today, after a long debate, the FCC affirms that it can and will play a crucial role in protecting that open environment."

"This is a big day, but the true test of these rules will depend on how they are implemented and interpreted over time," said CDT Senior Policy Counsel David Sohn. "It appears the rules will leave a number of important open questions, including how the FCC will approach openness for wireless. Ultimately, the kind of Internet users get should not depend on whether they happen to access it via a wireline or wireless connection."

"To be sure, there is more to be done," Harris said. "But this is how we make progress on policy, one step at a time, each step building on the one before it. This isn't the end of the Internet neutrality debate, it's just the end of the beginning."

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