



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 5, 2005

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Mark Wigfield, 202-418-0253
Email: mark.wigfield@fcc.gov

FCC Adopts Policy Statement

New Principles Preserve and Promote the Open and Interconnected Nature of Public Internet

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a policy statement that outlines four principles to encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of public Internet: (1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; (2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement; (3) consumers are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network; and (4) consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers. Although the Commission did not adopt rules in this regard, it will incorporate these principles into its ongoing policymaking activities. All of these principles are subject to reasonable network management.

-FCC-

News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found
on the Commission's web site www.fcc.gov.



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2005

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Catherine Bohigian at (202) 418-1000

CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN COMMENTS ON COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT

I have long believed that consumers should be able to use their broadband internet access service to access any content on the internet.¹ Consumers have demanded this ability, and cable and telephone companies have delivered it. In a competitive marketplace, providers must do so. They provide a service that consumers want, or they do not succeed. The steps we take today to place all broadband internet access providers on a level playing field will make this marketplace only more competitive, further strengthening the forces that best deliver choice, affordability, innovation, and quality to consumers.

The policy statement we adopt today lists four principles that are based on this fundamental ability to access any website available to the public. While policy statements do not establish rules nor are they enforceable documents, today's statement does reflect core beliefs that each member of this Commission holds regarding how broadband internet access should function.

Cable and telephone companies have led the way in bringing broadband to millions of Americans. The evidence today is that their internet access consumers have the ability to reach any internet content. Indeed, cable and telephone companies' practices already track well the internet principles we endorse today. I remain confident that the marketplace will continue to ensure that these principles are maintained. I also am confident, therefore, that regulation is not, nor will be, required.

¹ Subject, of course, to the bandwidth limits and quality of service terms of the particular Internet access service plan that they have chosen to purchase.