

SURFING SCHEDULE

SIPA high school students explain how they use the internet in their freetime



OLIVER CANOSA

"I browse websites such as Reddit and other blogs like CNN and Fox News."



MICHAELA KELLY

"I just like to Google stuff and look at cat pictures and go through social media."



BUZZY STATEN

"I really like VSCO because I take photos and share them with people; I think VSCO is the best platform for that."



GRACE SULLIVAN

"I spend a lot of it researching current event issues; I'm very interested in that, and I like to be educated in what I argue in all my classes."

UTILIZING THE WEB

many had heated opinions concerning the idea of a neutral web through government regulations

When sophomore Chloe Neal posted her "beauty blogger" videos to YouTube, she used the internet as a platform for expression. She believed "we would be living in an almost-communist environment without being able to reach other people's ideas via the internet," and she feared that without net neutrality, that would become reality.

"In my mind, if they take net neutrality, people are paying for everything that they try to use on the internet," Neal said. "Your voice would definitely be inhibited because people would have to pay to hear your voice or hear your side of things or view whatever you're putting on there online. They can't get rid of net neutrality laws — the whole world would go up in flames."

Senior Colin Meis disagreed with the sentiment and argued that net neutrality inhibited expression, advocating for its repeal because of the economic implications. "It's affecting laissez-faire capitalism, and realistically, it's a step toward the loss of rights," Meis said. "We live in a society where, if we don't have luxury, we do something about it or just put up with it." Amanda Stiglbauer, program director for the SC Council on Economic Education, agreed with Meis. She argued that although internet prices should be lowered to promote greater general access, this would not be achieved with government regulation by net neutrality.

While checking a customer with a card reader that's plugged into her phone, studiopi owner, Heather Wright explains the importance of online banking. "It absolutely helps my business. If I couldn't take credit cards, I'd only do two-thirds of my business. Not everybody carries cash these days," Wright said.

(Photos: Robert Brook)

"The place more so for the government is to ensure there is fair competition," Stiglbauer said. "Until we have some incentive to lower the price, i.e. more competition, some people are still going to be left out and it's still going to be considered a luxury. When we see more competition, that lowers the price of goods, and it increases the quality that companies have to provide."

While net neutrality classified internet as a utility, a necessity like water or electricity, Stiglbauer argued that it depended on the region. "If you're thinking the Columbia area, I think it is very much more toward a utility, but we have places in our state where they certainly consider it a luxury, like the schools in the I-95 corridor, very rural schools. I think it is still considered a luxury based on their geographic area and their socioeconomic status," Stiglbauer said.

Although junior Courtney Thorpe considered it a utility, she opposed net neutrality. "You can use the internet to learn anything you don't learn in school. It's like my life, man. It's a thing that everyone in this day needs to have, just like water," Thorpe said. "I don't like net neutrality. I don't like the government controlling the internet because that's dangerous for the people, and I don't like being uninformed. Screw net neutrality; I know you're listening, government."

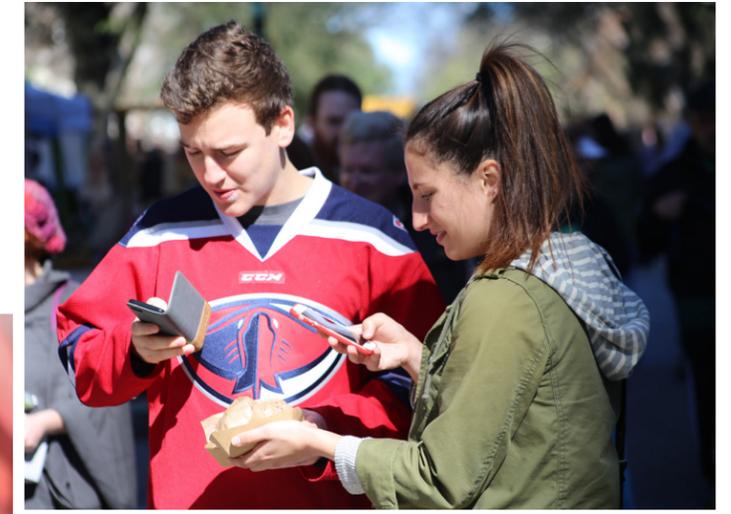
"SCREW NET NEUTRALITY; I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING, GOVERNMENT."

- COURTNEY THORPE



CHARGE FOR WHAT?

SIPA students tell if they use the internet more than other conventional entertainment



Running towards goal, senior Keyerra Anderson cradles the ball with her stick. "I tried to make sure my cradle was tight so that it wouldn't get knocked out by an opponent," Anderson said. (Photos: Kate Baker)

Surrounded on the crowded sidewalks of Main Street, junior Greyson Brown and his girlfriend compare their pictures of Soda City food to pick which one to post. "I'm pretty much on the internet 24/7, whether it's for school or for social media. It's possible to spread information immediately, ideas and feelings about things," Brown said. (Photos: Kate Baker)

MORE DATA FOR YOUR DOLLAR

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