

Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality

Call for Papers 2016

Enforcement, Specialised Services & Zero Rating

Background:

The year 2015 and the beginning of 2016 have witnessed major development in the network neutrality debate. Particularly, in the U.S. the Federal Communications Commission has adopted Open Internet rules, while in Europe the E.U. Telecom Single Market regulation has laid down open Internet provisions, followed by the Council of Europe's guidelines for network neutrality. India also recently took a bold decision, prohibiting discriminatory tariffs for data services, after an intense public consultation. In the meantime, countries such as Brazil and Peru are focusing on the draft of administrative regulations aimed at specifying the terms of net neutrality laws already included into their national legislation.

Although we can witness a general trend towards the adoption of net neutrality regulatory instruments, the definition of exceptions to the non-discriminatory treatment mandated by the net neutrality principle — and, in particular, the extent to which specific traffic management practices can be deemed as reasonable — is now at the heart of the net neutrality debate. In such context, a clear and shared definition of specialised services still has to be reached, while the compatibility of price discrimination offerings with the net neutrality principle remains hotly debated.

The IGF Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality seeks to trigger discussion around the definitions of legitimate data management practices, through the analysis of case studies, concerning “specialised services” and “zero rating” with a view to foster the elaboration of concrete policy proposals to regulate these practices. The 2016 Report of the Dynamic Coalition will gather a series of contributions on these topics to be discussed at the 11th United Nations Internet Governance Forum.

Call:

The Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality, established under the auspices of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, invites researchers and practitioners to submit position papers analysing the issues of specialised services and zero rating and their compatibility with the net neutrality principle.

Suggested topics include analyses of, *inter alia*:

- Case studies of zero-rating practices in developing countries

- Price discrimination schemes in developed countries
- Specialised service models
- Policy proposals with regard to specialised services
- Frameworks aimed at assessing the compatibility of zero-rating or specialised services with net neutrality
- Examples of successful enforcement of net neutrality regulation (Guidelines, rulings, individual enforcement actions, civil claims, technical standards, empirical evidence of effect)

Submission Guidelines:

Research papers, including analytical and theoretical papers, position papers, or case studies will be considered for inclusion in the report, even if they have been previously published. The length of the submissions should be between 2500 and 5000 words. To facilitate the reviewing process, papers should not include author names or other information that would help identify the authors.

All paper shall be in English language. Citation should be in [APA 6 style](#) and authors shall use **footnotes** rather than endnotes.

Submissions are due on **20th June 2016**. They should include the following elements:

- Title
- Short abstract (250 words)
- Original contribution
- Author's name, affiliation and short bibliographical note (in the body of the email).

Submissions should be sent to **contact@networkneutrality.info**

Authors will be notified within approximately 10 days from the deadline as to the status of their contributions.

All submitted papers will be subject to a rigorous double-blind peer review, whereby each paper will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Every author submitting a paper will be asked to peer review another submission, which will be judged according to the novelty of the contribution, the theoretical soundness and the quality of presentation.

Authors will be given the opportunity to improve their contributions based on peer comments. Selected papers will be published into the Dynamic Coalition report, which will be published under Creative Commons licenses.

Some of the authors will also be invited (at their own expenses) to present their work at the annual DC meeting to be held at the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, in Autumn 2016, in Mexico.