

AT&T's Commitment to an Open Internet

A Free & Open Internet

An open internet is critical for ensuring **freedom of expression** and a **free flow of ideas and commerce** in the United States and around the world.

People should be **free to use the internet** as they like — free to access lawful content and applications, free to use the devices they like, and more.

Service providers should be **free to innovate** and invest, and free to compete to serve customers in the internet ecosystem.

AT&T Open Internet Commitment

AT&T provides broadband service and operates our network in an open and transparent way, and **we will always do so.**

We will not block websites, we will not censor online content, we will not throttle or degrade internet traffic based on content, and we will not unfairly discriminate in our treatment of internet traffic. We have and will continue to make these promises public on AT&T's main website, where we also publish information about the reasonable network management practices we use to maintain our network and serve our customers.

AT&T is proud of our commitment to an open internet, and we stand by our enforceable commitments to make sure the internet will continue to work for everyone.

Protecting an Open Internet

AT&T has long supported calibrated government oversight for protecting consumers in the internet ecosystem. We thus call for federal legislation to ensure that the consumer internet freedoms outlined above are followed by all internet companies — whether they be ISPs, app providers or edge players — and that the consumer internet experience is protected across platforms, applications and devices.

Today's broadband market is **highly competitive** with multiple wireless and wireline providers using a variety of technology platforms to offer consumers a steady stream of innovative services. Surging demand for **more devices**, more applications, **faster speeds**, and more data usage means **service providers need incentives to invest even more.** Independent analysts project a coming explosion in the number of devices through the Internet of Things (IoT) — more than 13.2 networked devices for every person by 2021.¹ **This growth will strain today's networks.** Likewise, migrating to 5G will require massive levels of private investment — an estimated \$275 billion over the next seven years.²

Increasing demand on the network will thus require massive new investment, and legislation establishing strong and permanent rules across the internet ecosystem will help create the stable regulatory environment necessary to encourage AT&T to continue investing and delivering the innovative services and networks of the future.



Citations

1. Cisco, Inc., VNI Complete Forecast Highlights, United States – 2021 Forecast Highlights (June 2017) (projecting 13.2 networked devices per capita in the United States by 2021); AT&T Policy Forum, Innovation Driving Consumer On-Line Activity, pg. 1 (2017) (presenting Cisco data to show surge in networked devices in the United States and worldwide by the year 2020).
2. Accenture Strategy, Smart Cities: How 5G Can Help Municipalities Become Vibrant Smart Cities (Jan. 2017) (estimating deployment costs for 5G in the United States) (available at newsroom.accenture.com/news/new-research-from-accenture-strategy-highlights-economic-and-societal-impact-of-investing-in-5g-infrastructure.htm).

