

As we enter Week 2, the theme for this week is the impact of technology on our lives, digital footprints or tattoos and net neutrality. This week's learning was an eye-opener for me being that my understanding of net neutrality was deepened and clarified. Therefore, I will begin my reflection on the learning that I got out of week 2.

Technology is in every aspect of our lives today. It is there in the morning when we use either the clock on our cell phone or a standalone alarm clock. It is there for those who use an electric toothbrush or razor. It is there when we arrive at work. Literally, the advancement of technology has truly affected everything. Technology is so powerful in the fact that entire cities, states, and regions literally shut down if technology is not working. Life as we currently know it becomes frozen in time and the frustration levels for everyone involved severely increases until it is back up running.

A digital footprint or tattoo is an electronic copy of what you have done with technology. Whether that technology is your cell phone, computer, or any other device used to advance your work or do anything on the Internet. There are two types of digital footprints or tattoos. They are an intentional digital footprint and an unintentional digital footprint. An intentional digital footprint or tattoo is one where you intentionally inputted information into a form that has been completed online. Another instance where one would leave an intentional digital footprint or tattoo is completing profile on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and any other social media applications. An unintentional digital footprint or tattoo is when you visit a website, when you open some software, and anything of the sort where the information stored is not something that the user intentionally left to be tracked. Cookies, which is a method websites use to track your movements, is an example of an unintentional digital footprint or tattoo.

Net neutrality is a concept that whoever is your internet service provider should treat all content flowing through their cables and cell towers equally. What that boils down to is that the internet service provider should not discriminate against the material that is flowing. Another way to look at it is that an internet service provider should not be able to block the content or slow down how a webpage loads just because they may not agree with their content. There are pros and cons of net neutrality. Some pros are equal treatment no matter the importance of the user or the money that may be involved, freedom of viewing or downloading any and everything that may be possible, the guarantee that everything on the internet is available to absolutely everyone and no additional cost for content. Some cons are that no one pays for the data (only the service), offensive, dangerous, and illegal content is available to everyone, if the internet service provider cannot charge more for their services, then they cannot invest in improving their infrastructure, and there is a lot of regulations on the internet service provider.

Week 2 was an eye opener when it comes to net neutrality. I have always thought that net neutrality was only for the user to have complete openness to use the internet in any way they see fit. I have learned that it is way more than that. Also, with that, the pros and cons make complete sense. This week has been enlightening.