



# Digital Entrepreneur Project

## PRESERVING THE INTERNET FOR DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURS

Thanks to the Internet, launching a small business, creating content, selling products and services, and growing an audience has never been easier.

Unfortunately, when many policymakers think about changing Internet policy, they consider the impact on a handful of companies and people who run them. In reality, everyone who uses the Internet—especially those who run a business online—has a stake in Internet policy debates, especially as policymakers consider changes that could inadvertently make it harder for digital entrepreneurs to make, sell, and share their content online.



### What's happening?

The Internet runs on “user-generated content.” Everyday, people around the world create and share millions of videos, stories, pieces of art, podcasts, listings for handmade products or opinions without needing a TV network, radio station, art gallery, or magazine column.

Thanks to current legal frameworks, Internet companies that host those videos, stories, and listings, can do so without sifting through it, meaning they can host more content. If a website had to review everything you post before it published, it would not only slow online posts to a crawl, but Internet companies simply wouldn't be able to provide a platform for as many digital entrepreneurs. These companies can also host content without facing constant lawsuits if one user is unhappy about another user's content. If Internet companies had to vet everything they host or worry about getting sued, they would host far less content and create far fewer opportunities for digital entrepreneurs to launch their businesses and reach their audiences.

All of that gets missed in the current debates playing out in Congress. While lawmakers focus on specific actions from a handful of large companies, they talk about changing legal frameworks that support the whole ecosystem of digital entrepreneurs.



### Want to help?

Policymakers in DC can quickly lose sight of the fact that real people use the Internet every day to make money by telling stories, sharing art, selling products and services, and more.

Share your story and help remind Washington that any changes to Internet policy shouldn't hurt digital entrepreneurs.



### Get Smart

#### **The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)**

applies to copyrighted material, like writing, music, and video. Websites aren't legally liable for copyrighted material posted on their sites as long as they take down content that they know is infringing—for example if a copyright holder submits a complaint.

#### **Communications Decency Act: Section 230**

prevents companies from being sued over user-generated content, which encourages companies to host content and incentivizes them to moderate content in ways that make the most sense for their user communities.

