



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 9, 2004

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:
David Fiske (202) 418-0513
Richard Diamond (202) 418-0506

Powell Urges Industry to Adopt "Net Freedom" Principles

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael K. Powell issued a challenge to high-speed Internet providers yesterday in a speech at the Silicon Flatirons Conference in Boulder, Colorado. Powell urged adoption of voluntary "Net Freedom" principles and urged consumers to challenge their own providers to ensure their expectations are being met.

"As we continue to promote competition among high-speed platforms, we must preserve the freedom of use broadband consumers have come to expect," said Powell. "Thus, I challenge the broadband network industry to preserve the following 'Internet Freedoms:'"

- *Freedom to Access Content.* Consumers should have access to their choice of legal content.
- *Freedom to Use Applications.* Consumers should be able to run applications of their choice.
- *Freedom to Attach Personal Devices.* Consumers should be permitted to attach any devices they choose to the connection in their homes.
- *Freedom to Obtain Service Plan Information.* Consumers should receive meaningful information regarding their service plans.

"I would emphasize that consumers also have a role in this challenge to preserve 'Net Freedom,'" said Powell. "I encourage consumers to challenge their broadband providers to live up to these standards and to let the Commission know how the industry is doing."

The full text of Chairman Powell's speech is available at www.fcc.gov.

-FCC-