

Who's in the net, AYY?

In Otaniemi, students have gigabit internet up and down.

This has been a good and stable maximum for about 15 years, and has brought significant appreciation and admiration to Otaniemi from around Finland and the world.

But not anymore, because AYY has announced that it will kill Trinet and the 1/1 G, i.e. 1000 M up, 1000 M down symmetrical internet connection, replacing it with a much worse commercial, possibly 100 M / ? connection. This is a ten times worse connection, at least 5 times if the 200 M / ? connection is realised, and this is only when talking about the speed downwards. The speed upwards will probably be at least 20 times worse in both cases. It's so good for a student to send a w*rk search video in a hurry now.

The decision is significant, and very bad. It takes Otaniemi back almost 30 years, all the way to the 90s, without any benefit to anyone. Yes, according to what the student union leadership told the representative council directly at the meeting, the rents will not decrease, meaning you will pay the same rent as now, but you will get a massively worse service.

The benefit to AYY itself is also zero, as the decision will not affect AYY's finances in any way, as it is directly paid for through rent.

And that's not all: in addition to AYY's ~2500 apartments, this decision also directly affects the internet of the residents of Otaniemi Hoas, so in total this decision significantly impairs the lives of about 4000 students, without any benefit to them and only significantly worsening the situation for everyone. Only the big commercial providers laugh at the stupidity of the students on their way to the bank.

With the Student Union trying to conceal its activities and the executive director saying that he will resign if this decision is not made as he wants, one can only wonder whether this ship is being driven by sea captains who are pursuing the interests of the Student Union, or by completely unsuitable individuals who are only interested in their own prestige, and once the matter has been decided, the student union peasants will have nothing more to say about it.

AYY must not turn into just an office bureaucracy. It is not okay for all activities that support student work to be sacrificed on the altar of organizational efficiency.

Nowadays, this 1/1 G gold standard straight to Funet backbone network costs students around €1.5 - €2.5/month in real terms. I think this price of less than one student meal per month is such that it can be considered a good and reasonable common choice, although AYY apparently did not consider this when considering our best student life.

It is true that in the future you could then buy a 1000 M / ? connection yourself (or even faster, for the ka-ching caesars). But you would then pay about 20 € / month in real terms. It is difficult to understand how, during this time of student financial hardship, AYY is even thinking about such a thing, where a common good is being destroyed, and then smiling and telling you that you can buy what you lost back, but at a premium. In addition, the service level will deteriorate, because a large commercial ISP will not be able to serve you like the one nearby. This also causes problems for exchange students and other non-Finns.

In the case of our own internet, Trinet, this is a significant issue. It can even be considered a cultural heritage. It has enabled the learning and creation of thousands of students, as well as the activities and activities of dozens of associations.

Although AYY can destroy this significant cultural heritage and replace it with a cold commercial product, there is also a significant legal and financial risk in the matter, as AYY lease agreements state that 1/1 G internet is included in the rent. This is also with Hoas at least partially.

Because of this, AYY is taking an annual risk of around 0,5 M€ by killing its own internet, as AYY cannot unilaterally terminate old lease agreements or change them. The Student Union cannot afford such a risk, not to mention that the best life for students is definitely not a calculation based on the recall issue of car manufacturers.

AYY has acted badly in every way regarding the matter, including illegally, starting with the joint administration of the law in state-supported rental buildings, completely ignoring the required possibilities to give statements and to negotiate, and now ending with the retroactive unilateral change of existing agreements, i.e. possibly large-scale falsification, and thus also possible fraud. And of course, also simply with the office and the board not communicating anything to the representative body until it's much harder to influence the decision.

It's certainly a great use of power to do things in a way that even the representative council doesn't have a proper opportunity to influence decisions.

Still: it is important that we try to prevent this madness.

trinet.fi