About the cover:
The issue of net neutrality—networks that are “neutral” when delivering content regardless of destination or application—is the source of an increasingly heated debate. Two telecommunications bills before Congress have the potential to change the way business is conducted on the Internet. Proponents of the concept argue that such neutrality is vital to foster healthy competition among carriers, to promote educational research and distribution of knowledge to all citizens, and to ensure that all Internet users have equal access to the best available services. Those who oppose net neutrality maintain that not only are such claims exaggerated, but that companies can fairly ask users to pay higher fees for premium service.

Although the telecommunications bills are currently stalled, the eventual Congressional stance on net neutrality could affect Virginians in a number of ways. This issue of Virginia Issues & Answers features point-counterpoint articles by opponents to and proponents of net neutrality—“Joining the snake: A balanced and pragmatic approach to network neutrality” and “Neutrality matters,” respectively—beginning on page 10. (Cover photo illustration by Michael Kiernan, Josh Armstrong, and David Stanley.)