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Class: "Computer programs that enable wireless telephone handsets to execute lawfully obtained software applications, where circumvention is accomplished for the sole purpose of enabling interoperability of such applications with computer programs on the telephone handset."

Classnumber: 5A

I write to provide factual support for proposed class number 5A. As the developer of the iRealSMS application, I know first-hand that Apple's restrictions on iPhone applications are impeding competition in SMS software and denying iPhone owners the ability to use more advanced SMS applications than those currently approved by Apple.

Reasons for jailbreaking

A list with reasons for jailbreaking the Apple iPhone was compiled for users once and contains several apps that are not available in a similar form at the App Store. One reason on this list is enhanced SMS which is my particular business.

I am the developer of iRealSMS which is in my eyes and the eyes of many thousands of customers the most advanced SMS app for the iPhone. It offers many basic SMS functions which Apple's own app lacks for unknown reasons. There are simple things like Forward or structural designs like an inbox/outbox view. Most functions are supported by every far less powerful cell phone on the market like drafts and templates. Apple intended to reach business customers with the firmware 2.0 but the SMS app definitely lacks basic functions everyone who wants to use it with business contacts will need. Then there are functions which are more advanced and iPhone related for example the possibility to run the app in background to prevent loading times or a Quick Reply function which enables you to reply from within another app e.g. Safari without leaving it.

All those functions would not be possible to be released in the App Store because Apple's policy is to restrict any apps which use API functions not intended to be used by 3rd party developers which of course includes all SMS functions. Even if Apple decided to allow those functions to be used this would not enable me to provide the more advanced functions mentioned above. To make Quick Reply and "run in background" possible I need to hook functions deep in the user interface of the iPhone. Apple of course doesn't even provide a technology to do so...

So to sum it up iRealSMS would not be possible without jailbreaking and many customers (the majority from the united states) would have to use a SMS app without the most basic features every stock cell phone offers.