

Commenter's Name: Ross Vandegrift

Proposed Class: 5A - Fred von Lohmann, Jennifer S. Granick, Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Proposed Class Description: 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.

Summary of Argument: Nokia 6650's block against unsigned applications prevents customers from fixing design flaws in the phone.

Argument: I recently received a Nokia 6650 Smartphone as a warranty replacement for my Nokia N75. Both smart phones run the Symbian S60 platform.

The 6650 has a button immediately above the "2" key which automatically opens AT&T's proprietary, subscription-only GPS application. There's no physical divider between the "2" key and the GPS button, so it is far too easy to press the button press accidentally. Slightly missing the "2" key interrupts whatever I'm working on. A typo makes me lose my place when I'm reading or writing, and it also costs me precious time on a daily basis. I don't even subscribe to the AT&T GPS service, and the phone software provides no way to disable it.

I found a key remapping application online that can solve this problem. The application would allow me to disable the GPS key to prevent accidental nudges from interrupting my daily use of the smartphone. Unfortunately, this application is unsigned, and Nokia's 6650 blocks unsigned applications.

If I could jailbreak my smartphone, I could easily restore the same functionality I had with my N75. Nokia would rather I wait for them to fix the problem or buy a new phone.