

Hello,

I am writing in favor of extending the circumvention allowance for mobile phones permanently, as well as bringing other portable electronic devices such as tablets, PMPs, and game consoles into the same fold. These devices are very tied to uses on a very personal level, and are legally considered private property in every. Allowing device makers to exert undue control over private property which has been sold is unethical and stifles creativity, personal choice, and advancements in technology. There are numerous accounts of private software enthusiasts and “modders” who have advanced the mobile space through their contributions – often giving ideas to or eventually being hired by major device manufacturers. In a similar vein, game consoles are essentially home appliances, and are personal entertainment devices as well. Legally outlawing using purchased hardware for one’s personal, otherwise legal, means is also unethical.

For mobile devices, networks, manufacturers, and content providers suffer little to no financial damage due to custom software and hardware modification activities. In fact, many devices (such as the Nook Color) have been propelled to popularity because of the ease with which they are opened for greater use by the software community and private users. Individuals who prefer to use custom software also rarely rely on pay-for-use network bundled software in the first place, meaning carriers and device manufacturers are not losing any revenue streams by the removal of these software elements or services from their devices.

In the end it boils down to this – individuals buy a device, and they should be able to count on the extremely reasonable expectation that they can use their bought devices as they wish.

Thank you for your time,

Andrew Finkenbinder