

I am Bill Davidsen, resident of Schenectady NY 12305. I am a user of smartphone and tablet devices, and employed since 1968 in the computer industry providing programming, system administration for workstations and servers, project leadership, network designer, administrator, and security analyst. I have worked as an employee or consultant for GE, Prodigy, IBM, SBC and AT&T. I am the author of numerous technical presentations at national conferences and published in national magazines. I continue part time consulting, and writing blogs, technical papers, and novels.

Most of my tablet and smartphone devices were shipped with preinstalled commercial software applications for unused services, such as Blockbuster, Tunewiki, Facebook, and several other services of unknown purpose. These applications can neither be removed or even stopped from running, nor can their source code be obtained to determine what information they are sending and where. They take memory space, storage, CPU time, and send significant volumes of data off to some untraceable server. These applications regularly update themselves and I can't prevent that, either.

Verizon will not remove these, and their solution to high battery use and network volume is to offer to sell a larger battery and more expensive data plans.

I believe that having any unknown and unwanted application taking data from my devices and sending it to untraceable sites poses a significant security risk to me regarding identity theft. Since I have held both DOD and DOE clearance in the past, that information could be used to apply for reinstatement of my clearance. I believe you need to proactively authorize jailbreaking of all similar devices, to allow users to remove these unwanted applications.

Bill Davidsen 01/26/2012