

MAKYO STUDIOS

29 January 2012

Hello and thank you for taking the time to consider my brief argument for protecting the ability to 'root' or 'jailbreak' consumer devices. My argument pertains specifically to a case for allowing it for smartphones and tablets (*class S*) but I believe the argument applies for any device that conveys potentially sensitive personal information.

Recently, the smart phone community discovered a third party application that secretly recorded any and all keystrokes input by the user. Fortunately, an independent party discovered this activity and reported it to the community at large.

The case is still being settled: <http://idealab.talkingpointsmemo.com/2012/01/lawmakers-call-for-carrier-iq-hearing.php>

There are two important points I'd like to make:

1. protecting the 'jailbreaking' of devices will make it easier for independent parties to be watchdogs for personal security
2. I believe public funds should be used to establish a watchdog agency, but by protecting the access listed in #1, I am sure public costs to do the same will be reduced

I am a private business owner and independent artist and my life is becoming more and more dependent on these devices for professional and personal use. It will be increasingly important as time goes on to keep an eye on the software installed on these devices. In the case above, it was the carriers installing the offending software. While the potential to misuse the information gathered is certainly there, it doesn't take much imagination to come up with parties who could do much much worse with the information.

Thanks again for your time. I hope you consider my points carefully as I believe this is as important of an issue as nearly any of our time.

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