

I wanted to voice my support of this exemption for Smartphones and Tablet devices. As a smartphone user and software developer I enjoyed almost 2 years of support from my manufacturer before it was deemed that my hardware was too out-dated to warrant further support. At this time I was pleased to discover that I had options! With a little tinkering I was able to update my device and obtain vital security updates that help to protect me when I use it. I also received enhanced functionality that made my experience with the device that much more enjoyable. My purpose in circumventing the copyright protection systems was not to violate the terms of use of the device or of my carrier, but to gain the benefit of updated software and better configuration options and user interface elements that my device was, in fact, capable of supporting. The flexibility and control that is afforded to developers who choose to circumvent this protection had led to innovations that were adopted into sanctioned releases and benefitted the users of many other devices. One example is the notification system in Android. One popular alternative build developed a way to selectively acknowledge notifications. This same concept has now been incorporated into the default Android build and will bring this innovative functionality to all future Android-based devices.

I know that my manufacturer spent a great deal of time and effort validating the software they released for stability and the best user experience. However, when the manufacturer no longer chooses to support a device, I believe that it is my right, as the owner of that device, to make modifications to enable me to use it to the fullest extent possible. It should also be noted that modifying software in this way does not violate the rights of the manufacturer or allow it's proprietary information to be used for profit. It is merely allowing the user to have a choice. Please support user choice and extend this exemption to Smartphone and Tablet devices.

Corey Pendleton