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Support for installation and execution of software on personal computing devices, smartphones, and tablets

Classes: 4, 5

Support for Document 4 filed by Software Freedom Foundation and Document 5 filed by Electronic Frontier Foundation

Summary: Criminalizing research would increase the possibility of our devices being used against us and eliminate our ability to protect ourselves.

Statement: As a researcher in Cyberspace Security I am concerned about the criminalization of the study and circumvention of software and hardware blocks that prevent using non-approved software on personal computing devices, including computers, phones and tablets; i.e., “jailbreaking.” I personally do not purchase a device unless it can be jailbroken. This is for reasons of innovation, protection, and utilization. I routinely use software rejected from the official app store. It is often rejected for violating design policies or because the manufacturer has an interest in the same area. I have seen this happen repeatedly, so that the only outlet for the software is unofficial channels. I purchased the devices to help me; I can determine what tools I want to use on them. Research into finding and closing security holes in our personal devices is essential. It is often the case that patches are available in unofficial sources long before official ones. Criminalizing research would increase the possibility of our devices being used against us and eliminate our ability to protect ourselves.