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Class of Works: 3, 4, and 5

General arguments/statement:

Jailbreaking allows consumers the ability to make use of the hardware that they have purchased in the manner they see fit. Jailbreaking does not equal piracy.

Making innovative use of hardware is quintessentially “American” and is the heart and soul of most consumer oriented open source projects.

Refusing to allow users to modify their own devices is akin to telling people that can't underline their books, “pimp” their cars, etc. There is no real difference between modifying your car to suit your personality and modifying your game console, phone, tablet, etc. The only difference that really exists is that now the device manufacturers can hide behind the DMCA provisions.

Console:

Years ago, I had jailbroken my original Xbox and turned it into a power home media entertainment center using the popular Xbox Media Center open source project. I used this very happily for years until HD media became the norm and the Xbox hardware was no longer up to the job. Without the ability to jailbreak the hardware that I purchased, I am trapped in a walled garden with changing rules that effects the ability of me to use my own purchases.

iPhone:

My iPhone is my work business device. I have it jailbroken and it has provided me numerous benefits. For example, the notification system in iPhones was very poor for years. If I received an important text message and then a few application alerts, I would only see the most recent notification. Someone thought they could do better and wrote an improved alert notification system. For reasons unknown to me, Apple wouldn't approve that in their walled garden App Store so the only way to be able to improve the functionality of the phone was to Jailbreak it and download the application through Cydia. A year or so later Apple ended up including most of this functionality into the base product and I strongly suspect the fact that lots of people were modifying their phones to work that was served as a reason for them.

I am an IT professional and my job requires me to be able to access our organizations servers to perform emergency maintenance. To perform maintenance, I need to establish a “VPN connection” (secure connection) over the Internet to our work which then allows me to securely access our systems. I typically do this via a laptop, but it is not always practical to keep one with me. Our VPN system has a VPN client that is available to work on iPhones. For reasons that are also unknown to me, Apple won't approve the application so once again, I need to have a jailbroken device.