

I am writing in support for the exemption allowing owners to modify their smartphones, I am also writing to have tablets and video game consoles added to that list. I am an avid user of all three technologies and while I currently do not have any plans to modify them, I want to reserve the right to modify them in anyway I see fit.

Specifically, I want to be able to modify/"jailbreak" any item I purchase and own. For leased items I could understand that any kind of modification could change the value for the owner of the product. However, for any item I legally purchase, I should be allowed to modify it in any fashion.

A simple example of how absurd this argument is:

If you own a car, you are allowed to do anything you want to that car, you can change out the engine, change the interior, lights, etc. Imagine a world where the car manufacturers were able to sue or otherwise prevent you from working/modifying/upgrading your own car. The only exception to this example is that if I want to drive my modified car on the road, and for it to be "legal" it has to meet certain safety standards. This however doesn't change the fact that if I want to completely tear down my car, rebuild it into a toaster, I'm legally able to do so, even if I keep the logo of the car on the front of the toaster. I am also allowed to document the steps I used to convert my car into a toaster, sell those steps, give them away, and/or develop tools that allow the car-to-toaster conversion to happen at a faster and more efficient rate or automatically.

These products that we purchase and for all intents and purposes have the right to immediately 'set on fire' or otherwise destroy with zero penalties have ceased to be in anyway shape or from the property of the manufacture at the moment of purchase. The current sole owner has the legal right to do anything they want to their own property so long as it doesn't harm anyone else.

In closing I would like to sell you plans on how to convert your car into a toaster. The question you should ask yourself is if that statement would still have been legal if "car" was replaced by "smartphone" and "toaster" by "linux based port-scanner"?

Thank you for your consideration.

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