

Responder: Jay Wigley

Class of works: 4, all computing devices

I am a hobbyist and user of personal computing devices who supports the jail-breaking exemption for all smartphones, tablet computers like the iPad, and video game/home entertainment consoles like the Nintendo Wii or Apple TV.

I want to make sure that it remains legal to jailbreak all my devices that I have purchased. Jailbreaking the device is the moral right of someone who has purchased a device with legal tender. Furthermore, unless I jailbreak the device, I have no way to pursue my hobby of writing and installing personal use programs on such devices because the manufacturers do not enable such use. For example, the Nintendo Wii will execute only "signed" (approved) software from the manufacturer's approval process. Likewise my Apple iPhone will only allow me to install software via their App Store. Only after jail breaking these devices can I install and run software that they would have no interest in reviewing (because I do not intend to distribute it to anyone else) or approving.