

Name: Lars Teppo, Modified Smartphone User

Class of Works: 5 – Executing independent software on smartphones and tablets

I am writing in support of installing independent software on smartphones and tablets. I am a user that enjoys tinkering with technology. I bought my wife a new smartphone for Christmas, and instead of discarding her old phone, I use it in a number of ways as a media player and portable computer. The currently allowed operating systems for the phone are made for newer devices and make the old phones slow and nearly useless. By modifying the operating system I can extend the useful life of the device for several years, keeping another piece of electronics out of the landfills.

I also enjoy the freedom to enhance the device with small improvements that mean a lot to me, like a customized lock screen that shows me the weather, reprogramming the buttons to start and stop music with a single press, and shortcuts to my favorite apps. These are possible through open source programs that are not allowed by the device manufacturer. I have also been thinking about developing my own applications, and I would like the freedom to install and test them on my own device without going through the manufacturer's store.

Thank you for your consideration.