

Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies

Attachment Submitted by:

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Regarding Jailbreaking and Rooting Electronics Devices

Pertaining to classes of works: 3,4,5

Summary and Argument

I am an academic and researcher in the field of political science and also a Mac software developer.

I am writing in support of a continuation of the exemption related to jailbreaking / rooting smartphones, and any expansion to any other electronic devices including gaming consoles (which I don't personally use).

While there are numerous valid reasons that individuals should be allowed to jailbreak these devices, including that they allow consumers to use their purchased equipment to their full potential and customize them according their preferences, here I want to make only one key point.

Jailbreaking devices allows knowledgeable end users to relatively easily and quickly fix problems with their devices. On numerous occasions something has gone wrong with an application or part of the operating system on my iPhone/iOS devices (I've owned several). By googling for more information, it has often turned out to be the case that one can simply delete or replace a problematic or corrupted file, and solve the problem. This process takes minutes with root access to the file system. If the device were locked down (not jailbroken), the solution usually requires a massively time consuming complete restore to factory defaults. If the device is loaded with legally purchased applications and personal data, and settings are customized to some degree, a restore process which involves putting everything back to the status quo ante condition can easily take many, many hours to complete. Needless to say, that's an utter waste of time.

For that reason alone, consumers should have full access to the file systems of their devices. In fact, in my opinion, they should always have this access out of the box. It should be illegal for computer and device manufacturers to restrict legitimate purchasers of their product access to the file systems of their devices in any way.

Regards,

Dr. Loren Ryter, Ph.D.

PS:

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