

Re: Jailbreaking, circumvention, etc.

To whom it may concern:

I was hoping to chime in on the conversation regarding the “**Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies,**” and it's looming expiration. As a student in computer engineering I will be designing computer hardware, and could very well be making the phones, tablets, and so on of the future.

In general, when it comes to jailbreaking, or gaining root or administrative access over your phone or other computer device, this should be a non-issue. Phones these days are full fledged computers. Would you expect to go to a store and buy a laptop and not be provided full control over what software and settings are on your computer? The practice of locking phones, tablets, or any other computer (game consoles, et cetera) is a shady, anti-competitive practice pushed almost exclusively by wireless communication companies and affiliates. It shouldn't be condoned or allowed under the DMCA.

The bottom line is that gaining full access to a computer is not the same thing as circumventing copyright protection. Is it a crime to upgrade or modify your car? It may be circumventing general access control, but the truth is if you bought the hardware – the physical device itself – modifying it's function goes with the territory. That's not to say there aren't some instances where people purposefully are trying to avoid or hinder copyright control technologies, but in general having administrative access to a computer doesn't share that goal.

Having a reasonable amount of control over our personal technologies has many rewards. I for one work on trying to innovate software, and couldn't do that without this exemption on many devices. Others are content just having the ability to customize an extra setting. Either way it's our computers we paid for that we modify, and it's certainly not to compromise copyright.

Thanks for your attention,

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