

DMCA class 5

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow these comments to be added to the discussion surrounding the extension of the exemption to the DMCA for “jailbreaking” smartphone and tablet devices.

As a savvy user of these devices since they first hit the market, I have always been disappointed by one feature or another. With the advent of ingenious programmers who enable the device to be opened to a point whereby I can extend the functionality to my liking, a panacea of sorts was born. No longer do I feel constrained by a manufacturer’s whim nor their back-room agreements that cause certain features to be unavailable. A great example of this is Apple’s locking of the user interface (UI) and not allowing things like notifications in the title bar other than what the system puts there.

Since jailbreaking began on the iPhone, I have found the ability to add these little tweaks invaluable making life easier and more productive.

On the flip side, it is this same community of jailbreaking programmers that enable features such as enhanced security (firewall software for example) and find holes in the core product that further enhance security once the manufacturer repairs them.

I urge you strongly to consider making this exemption a full-time one. After all, the community has demonstrated over the last few years that they respect copyright and ownership aspects of the OEM and create their works without violating those copyrights or restricted works.

Thank you in advance,
Peet Dale