

[3 - Game Consoles]

This is an extremely vital part of both my work and personal life. During the debut of the Sony Playstation 3, SCEA announced that the device would double as Linux computer if desired by the owner. This functionality was fantastic, and lead me to setup cheap, affordable, and powerful servers both in my home and workplace. This functionality was what convinced me to make this purchase to begin with. But in a bait-and-switch style, SCEA introduced a non-reversible update that removed the function entirely from the system, and did not allow it to be restored. This also effectively wiped, and deleted all data that was built up on these servers. Shortly thereafter, an internet hacker by the name of GeoHot spent countless hours working to restore this feature for people like me all around the globe. After some time, he was successful, and I was able to restore my devices to proper working servers. However, Sony later brought charges against him, and though the case should have been immediately dismissed by the judge, he ended up signing an agreement stating he would no longer work to modify the software or hardware of Sony's gaming systems. This kind of action needs to be prevented in the future to ensure that devices owned by consumers are in fact, the possession of the consumer, and not merely a rental device from a major corporation. If we pay for it, the legal right belongs to the owner for how they choose to modify it.

[5 - Cell Phones and Tablets]

This item directly relates to my entire livelihood and my job would unquestionably be in jeopardy if the ability to "jailbreak" and modify phones became a criminal act. The company I work with is constantly buying new devices in which to test our in-house software with. However, many of these devices (particularly those sold by AT&T and Verizon Wireless) remove the ability for the user to upload applications to the device that have not first passed through the Android Market. This causes several issues, the largest of which would be an influx of "beta", "alpha" and other "testing" versions of applications into software stores by software developers like myself if they were unable to load applications immediately to a phone or tablet. This would cause major credibility issues for the likes of Google, Apple, and Microsoft. It would also irreversibly harm the normal end user, who would not immediately understand the difference between applications and could possibly damage the reputation of the software companies or developers because of it.

Please take the time to consider the people, companies, and jobs that it would affect by not allowing for users to modify the devices that they legally paid for and they themselves own. This is something that needs to be the right of all users, for every type of electronic device that they own.