

Hello. My name is Tim Holowachuk, I'm a 17-year-old high school student in Saskatchewan, Canada. I have a love of electronic devices and a knack to making them run the way I want them to, with no small amount of talent (if I may boast in this). Some would look at the things I can do and call me a hacker, and others would speak of me as a nerd or a geek. I am neither. I am a young man who is so in love with the digital frontier that there are no bounds to the determination and work ethic I have towards my pursuit of knowledge in this area. I am a guy who is called upon by his friends to fix any and every issue that may arise with their computers or other electronic devices. I am a product of my spiritual forefathers, who laid the groundwork for the internet, wireless communication, portable computers, handheld devices to speak to people around the globe, and countless other examples of innovation. This heritage is what give me the chance to do what I do--I have a home business fixing mobile electronics. I fix them both in hardware and software, with the software, or jailbreaking, being the most widely needed service. And the software aspect is where I truly love it. The ins and outs of code make me giddy, to be able to speak in the tongues of computers. And the great part of it is also that by doing something I love, I am making enough money to go to college. I would not have had that chance without having this business. So I say to you--jailbreaking, rooting, cracking phones--these things, in and of themselves, are not evil, detrimental to society, or in any way bad. As a mainstream view in philosophy states, nothing is good or evil in itself. It is other forces who use it for their own personal desires which sway it one way or another. I cannot think of a better way to explain my position than that. I know that these things have been a great boon to my life, to let me go to college, to let me buy a car, to let me enjoy the life I am blessed to live. If you should choose to de-legalise such things as these, I know that my children will never know a life with freedoms as to be able to change the font on their phone, to remove crappy apps they don't like, to explore root files and mess something up so that they can fix it again. My children will not know what I speak of when I tell them stories of my teenage life. You see, the thing about freedom is that whether you have complete and undeniably restricting rules or you have absolute choice in anything you do, you are still constricted by your mind. The worldview you hold, the ethics and morals you choose to accept, are what guide your choices to do evil or good. Rules cannot stop or promote good or evil. It is only by reasoning, logic, truth that they are effective. By changing a person's worldview to what is right, you eliminate the need for rules. Therefore, I implore you--do not do this to the community of men and women who love to change their devices, to explore new boundaries with their minds. Instead, work to change the worldview of children. Teach them that pirating software is wrong. make sure they understand why we pay money for music. Give them a strong moral base to stand upon. Then you will have need for no more rules. Humanity will stand for itself.