

As a long-time user of jailbroken software, I want to speak out firmly against the idea of outlawing it. Jailbreaking was never about piracy or using a device for illegal purposes - it's about freedom. Freedom to change a device that I have purchased and owned as I see fit, to customize it to be both more visually appealing and functional. From my understanding of the law in question, outlawing jailbreaking is merely a side-effect, and not the main intention of the law. If this is the case, then criminalizing a perfectly acceptable use of personal property is not logical, and the exemption should be granted.

I use jailbroken software to extend the functionality of iOS, and add features that it is missing. With this modification, I can do anything from change the color of UI elements to make the phone easier to use at night, to enable haptic feedback on key presses, to so much more - all features that iOS was lacking before. This limitless customization is why I have always used jailbroken phones. While I could switch to another platform (e.g. Android), I choose not to for reasons including a long-standing history with Apple and their other products, as well as iOS being the closest product to the experience that I want. I like having iOS-unique functions such as iMessage that simply aren't present on Android/Windows/etc devices.

Jailbreaking also allows me to write my own code and run it on my device, which not only allows me to improve functionality of my device, but also gives me an incredible learning experience - this exposure to software and coding was a major part of my decision to learn more about Computer Science and Engineering, and ultimately to choose it as a career path. Without the learning experience that I had from exploring the technology that made my phone work, I don't think I would have kindled the same interest in programming and development.

So please, grant the exception for jailbreaking. Jailbreaking is not and never will be about piracy, stealing or anything illegal. Jailbreaking is about the freedom to explore, customize and improve the technology that I own, and hopefully learn some useful skills along the way.