

Name: **Kendall Hallett**

Proposed Classes: **5A:** Computer programs that enable wireless telephone handsets to execute lawfully obtained software applications, where circumvention is accomplished for the sole purpose of enabling interoperability of such applications with computer programs on the telephone handset.

Summary: **Verizon's practice of disabling my cell phone's ability to connect to a computer prevents me from using a variety of applications originally intended to work with my phone.**

Factual Support:

In January 2007, I purchased a Nokia 2366i phone from Verizon. The salesman assured me that I would be able to access and manage my contacts on my PC via their online phonebook backup feature. Specifically, I wanted to be able to both store and edit my contacts list on my desktop computer. I also hoped to be able to enter my contacts using a fully keyboard rather than having to enter them using the number/letter key scheme on the phone, a rather lengthy and cumbersome process. My ultimate goal was to have my contacts list backed up in a secure place.

It turns out that their phonebook backup feature is not supported on my phone. To make matters worse, I then bought the phone manufacturer's adapter cable and software to manage my contacts and numbers only to find that Verizon had disabled the phone's built in ability to connect to a computer. This disables a variety of applications originally intended to work with a PC by Nokia. Of course proving the salesman suggested Verizon's phonebook backup system would work with my phone would be like nailing jello to a wall. Can there be any reason for this kind of disabling except to stifle competition and/or to sell proprietary services that duplicate what software built into phones by manufacturers is intended to do? Verizon has refused to re-enable the built-in computer connectivity saying that it's proprietary software modifications are designed for the "convenience of its customers" and that the services it offers (for a monthly fee) duplicate the features otherwise available (which would be free without Verizon's disabling).

As a result of Verizon disabling the phone's built in ability to connect to a computer, I had to painstakingly enter my phone contacts using the number/letter key scheme on the phone. I have also had to keep my phone list backed up manually by writing down each contact's phone numbers and email addresses.

Notably, Nokia designed the phone not only with an 'address book' containing all vital numbers and addresses, but with calendaring, to-do list, and notes features that I had expected to be able to use in conjunction with a desktop computer with Nokia software and a cable designed for this phone. I had researched this before buying the phone, not realizing that the Verizon version of the phone would differ from the fully functional Nokia designed phone. Since computer connectivity is entirely disabled by Verizon software, none of these features have been available to me except by entering information on the phone itself.