

I would like to continue to be able to use personal electronic devices to their full capabilities. I like to treat my Samsung Galaxy Nexus Android smartphone as a hobby. I've enabled Google Wallet (which was disabled on Verizon devices to stifle competition against Verizon's own NFC payment system), improved my privacy settings, and improved my battery life. All of these things would not be possible without a rooted device.

My biggest concern is privacy. The bundled software provided by most carriers gathers information on my phone usage and by extension me. I do not use it, and I do not willingly consent to have it on my phone. Computer manufacturers have packaged bloatware on desktops and laptops for years. That's OK, you could always uninstall it. Cellphone carriers prevent users from uninstalling bloatware and that bloatware can spy on you to an unprecedented degree if it's installed on a location aware device that you carry with you at all times. **Root access is the only way to remove this prepackaged spyware.**

My other concern is being able to do cool stuff with my phone. I use an application called Tasker to create custom conditions on my phone. For example, I can have it automatically set volume and ring tones to certain levels if connected to my home network, or I can have it disable LTE network access unless it is plugged into a power source. That isn't possible without root access. Even better, I can use Tasker and an SSH tunnel application to force all of my internet traffic through a secure tunnel to my web host if I'm connected to an unfamiliar/untrusted Wifi network, preventing network password sniffers from snagging my email/Facebook credentials. That is also not possible without root access. This is a service many users may pay for if given the opportunity, but the carriers have repeatedly shown that their customers' privacy is not their concern.

The argument that it can be used to circumvent DRM is specious. I can use my car to commit a bank robbery or to run down a pedestrian. We do not ban cars because they can be used in crimes. We prosecute the crime.