

As people who draw your salaries from our tax dollars (as opposed to the profits of huge corporations who, in many cases, pay no taxes at all), I would implore you to ask yourselves exactly who the DMCA helps, and if its very existence is in the best interest of the citizenry which employs you.

As an American, I expect to enjoy the liberties of a free society. These liberties especially and specifically include property ownership. Put simply, once I purchase any given tangible object, that object is my sole property to do with what I please. Period. If you do not renew the circumvention exemptions, and furthermore do everything in your power to repeal the DMCA and all similar legislation, who are you serving? You certainly are not serving me. Are you serving the best interests of society at large? I think not. I submit that, unless you renew the exemptions to the DMCA for circumvention of ANY electronic device purchased and solely owned by an individual, that you are serving corporate interests in opposition to the best interests of the people whom you are supposed to serve.

Let me be very clear. My property is mine to do with whatever I please with no regard whatsoever to the wishes of the seller. This is not necessarily true for property that is leased, borrowed, co-owned, or rented. That being said, I will run whatever software I want to run on my own personal devices, and I will make whatever hardware modifications I please to those devices simply because they are my personal property and NO SELLER can tell me what I may or may not do with my property once they have sold it to me. Allowing a seller to control my actions and limit what I can do with my own personal property is a violation of my personal freedom and is antithetical to the very definition of a free society.

I have modified virtually every piece of hardware I have ever owned, and your renewal of these exemptions will help me continue to do so as a free and law-abiding citizen. Please do not believe anyone who tries to tell you that 'copy protection' or 'access control' software works. It does not. Copy protection *cannot* work because if the data can be used (i.e. read), it can be copied. Period. 'Access control' software does not work on a device I personally own because I personally own it. These kinds of software are only impediments to me using these devices to the maximum extent of their capabilities and/or to suit my individual purposes.

Finally, ask yourself this question when you collect taxpayer money in the form of every paycheck you receive: "Whom do I serve?"