

Comment on Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies

I am writing to support the renewal of the exemption from “circumvention” rules of the process known as “jailbreaking”- modifying a consumer’s owned smartphone (class 5), tablet or other personal computing device (class 4) to allow installation of lawfully obtained software from any source, for the purpose of extending the functionality or interoperability of the device.

I have been using an Apple iPhone and “jailbroke” it so that I could install software that enhanced the lockscreen, showing me email, calendar appointments and other information not provided by Apple’s software. This greatly enhances the usability of the phone which I use to keep track of business appointments and email. There are other usability “tweaks” I have installed that make it easier to make adjustments on the phone, none of which are available from Apple.

I am also in favor of allowing consumers to “unlock” their mobile phones (classes 6A and 6B) so that they can be used on other carrier’s networks, with authorization of those networks. When I travel internationally, it is much more cost-effective to use a local carrier for communication rather than paying international roaming rates.

I strongly believe that consumers should have the ability to run whatever software they want on computing devices they own. This freedom should not be limited to smartphones but also extended to tablet computers, game boxes and other personal computing devices. I also support the ability to unlock phones for lawful use on any compatible carrier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Lionel