

“Jailbreaking” and “rooting” (gaining administrative access) to devices such as smartphones and tablets should remain the right of those that own said hardware. It is important to me as both a software enthusiast and a developer that the exception to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act continues as it was introduced last year. I not only constantly tinker with my Android phone by installing new custom firmwares, different community-developed kernels, and freeware written by independent developers, but also support doing the same for tablets to add increased functionality and the deepest level of user customization. I’ve seen too many applications rejected from Apple’s iOS App Store on mostly ridiculous means, and I and many thousands of others like me want there to be an alternate source for developers to go to when their perfectly functional and useful software is not allowed into the walled garden of official application sources.

My current cell phone is an older and unsupported model, but turning to the community, I can easily find ways to overclock, install current versions of Android, and do many other useful things with my phone that make it more useful to me.

You should renew this exception because it’s clear that many users love the increased functionality from administrative access. This is, after all, hardware that we the consumers pay for. It’s wrong to not grant us full use of this hardware as we please. This is basic, necessary functionality that we are granted on our desktop and laptop computers: what would you do if Windows didn’t allow you to install an alternate web browser, or a different word processor?

Extend the exception. Give us what is rightfully ours.