

January 27, 2012

Library of Congress  
Copyright Office  
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

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

I support a permanent exemption to the access control prohibition for all devices, including smartphones/tablets and video game consoles. I believe that computing devices are tools and that the manufacturer of these tools should not be allowed to control how the tools is used. What if manufacturers of traditional tools could decide what could be built with their products?

My background is as a hobbyist, having learned to program at the age of 12. I understand that a well-written program can be tens or even hundreds of times faster than another. From my perspective, the ability to jailbreak a device allows three things:

1. Remove Bloatware. Often, manufacturers will add a suite of applications that can slow down or even reduce battery life. The ability to remove unneeded applications to increase performance should be the right of the owner of the device.
2. Add Applications Not Otherwise Available. Some devices are constrained in the ability to add applications, requiring that only the manufacturers facility be used. This is a restraint of trade that, despite claims of the need to control the users "experience", is really aimed at preserving the manufacturers profit margins. This is similar to the charges of lock-in that Microsoft was charged with in the past.
3. Experiment. It is important to allow independent developers to experiment with new ideas. Allowing this to be curtailed is not in the public interest.

I believe in our free enterprise system however we should not allow government to participate in the protection of companies' income streams beyond what basic Copyright and Patent law already provide. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

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encl: None