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As a college student, funds are always at a minimum for me. Often I like to take my music on the go. I could be driving to class, or in the library late at night studying, and the only way to really have my music with me is on an mp3 player. In the past I have had to use small mp3 players, whatever Wal-Mart or some other big-box retailer had on sale, which meant constantly having to shuffle music between my computer and my player.

A short time ago a friend of mine upgraded her iPhone to the new iPhone 4, switching her service from AT&T to Verizon. This left her with her old iPhone 3gs that was incompatible with her new network; it was useless for even a back-up phone for her in case something happened to her new phone. Knowing I wanted a good mp3 player but lacked the money to buy a decent one, she offered me her old iPhone.

I do have cellular service, but it is not with AT&T, so I could not use the device as a phone and had no way to activate it. I did not wish to do so anyways, I'm very happy with my current provider and when it comes to phones I'm actually a fan of the Android OS. It was only through unlocking the phone software, "jail breaking," that I was able to use the iPhone as an mp3 player. I now have what amounts to an over spec'ed iPod Touch that serves exactly the purposes I need it to.

As for my cell phone, I have an Android based cell phone that is an older model. The Android OS itself is open source, but the only way to decide what version

of the software I have on my phone is through rooting it. My phone service provider has rolled out a couple of software updates to my phone but I was not satisfied with the results. The only way I can change this is by either spending more money on a new phone (which as I stated before, I do not have), or by rooting my phone and selecting what software I choose to run on my phone.

When it comes to personal computers, the user has the choice of what software to run and what version of that software. I own a Mac Book Pro that currently runs OS X Snow Leopard. I could very easily upgrade to Lion, but I do not wish to, and I have the option to make that decision. When Windows Vista was released, many users were very dissatisfied with the software and made the choice to downgrade to Windows XP. They had the choice to do so. With cell phones however, this choice is only available if you jail break or root your device. Why shouldn't consumers who pay for the devices, either through paying direct retail price or through a two-year contract, be given the choice of what software to run on their device?

If this continuance of the current rules is not passed then I will not be able to legally listen to my music, and I will be stuck on a version of Android that does not work as well on my phone as the version I currently have installed. How I use my devices is not unethical, nor is it immoral in any way. It does not damage to anyone, so why should it be made illegal?