

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my support for consumers of personal computing devices to be allowed to continue to gain root access to their devices. There are several reasons this fundamental freedom should not be condemned. It is also apparent that to allow manufacturers of these devices to dictate the specific boundaries in which these products can be used is a violation of personal freedom and sets a dangerous precedent for exactly how far into our personal lives their reach can go.

First I would like to point out how unnecessary such a regulation would be. Some have argued that “hacking” the root programming opens the device up to be used for illegal and illicit activities. While it is possible that such things may occur, it is hardly necessary to create more laws against something that there are already laws against. Piracy and copyright infringement, for example, are already illegal and do not require yet another law to reinforce that notion. Furthermore, a completely stock device, un-rooted and un-tampered, is equally capable of being used in criminal activities. A devices use for illegal activities has nothing to do with the device and everything to do with the individual using it.

A personal computing device, once sold, is not the property of the manufacturer. Although the manufacturer may retain intellectual rights to the software, they forfeit the right to control what you do with it once the transference of property and money take place. Their rights to protect their intellectual and physical properties remain firmly intact, as should be the rights of the consumer and their physical property. The manufacturer is at no risk by allowing the consumer to do as they wish. The consumer is not competing against them, nor are they distributing their products, licenses, or endangering their business in any manner. In contrast, these are the same people providing them with revenue, and without whom they would have no business.

Finally, I would like to discuss the most troublesome factor of this potential regulation. By allowing corporations this kind of reach into consumer’s private lives, what are we opening ourselves up to? Not only are we erasing a well-established line; we have no means to redraw it. This would be a leap in a disturbing trend of loss of rights for the American people. Although so rights have been forfeited in the past for the sake of national security, this is hardly the case here. In fact, the vast majority of the companies that will have this control over Americans are not even American companies. It is time to say enough is enough.

In conclusion, I would like to just point out one thing. If this is so necessary to protect these companies by not allowing consumers root access to the devices they purchased, then why is it, during the last 2 years, while it has NOT been illegal to do so, that these very companies, such as Apple, have posted RECORD sales and profits? Does this make it seem that such regulation is indeed necessary? If we are to further restrict to rights of the American people, don’t you think that there needs to be a slightly more tangible threat?

-Jason Sorgman, American and Jailbroken iPhone user

