

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to encourage you to keep an open mind and to keep the jailbreaking of electronic devices legal. I am a hobbyist and without the ability to jailbreak my Iphone I would be extremely limited in my ability to use the full potential of the device. While I understand a manufacturer's right to install software that limits a device's capability, I also believe that users have the right to do what they wish with that device, circumventing the limitations placed on that device in order to enhance their experience. Simply put, without a jailbroken device, I would not be using one as the limitations placed on my iphone are so great that they greatly reduce the value of the phone. The creativity put into the tweaks and mods of my phone by programmers and developers is a fine example of capitalistic ingenuity. By making jailbreaking illegal, it will tie the hands of many great minds and many great products that create revenue which is especially important with an economy in such a massive downturn. There is flip side of the copyright argument that says that money is removed from the hands of app developers. But I do not believe that is the reason most people jailbreak their device. It is because people want freedom. They want the freedom to use their device as they choose, to customize it and use it to its full potential. There are people who will always find a way of circumventing copyright but the masses should not be punished for the actions of the few. While people can circumvent copyright with a jailbroken device, it is not the jailbreaking itself which is inherently wrong. It is the same idea that caused so many people to make a stand against ACTA and SOPA. Making jailbreaking illegal would be a blanket policy for a wide range of uses, stifling innovation and effectively only removing the users who are not in the first place infringing on copyright. We will be left with only people who are willing to break the law anyway and with laws that are completely unrealistic. The law would be unenforceable and would cost much more money than what is estimated to be lost by copyright infringement of jailbroken devices.

I hope you consider extending the exemption and also declaring that jailbreaking tablets, video game consoles, smartphones, and personal computing devices is legal.

Thank You,

Kyan Baird