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Comment Response on the Subject of "Jailbreaking"

To whom it may concern,

My name is Melvin DeJesus and I am writing in to voice my support to keep *jailbreaking* on mobile phones and tablets legal. I am also in full support for the legality of *jailbreaking* to be expanded to video game consoles also. I am not a developer of mobile applications by any means but instead, am an avid user of independent apps, themes and tweaks. I use a jailbroken iPhone 4 daily and it is by my side from the moment I wake until the moment I sleep. I have never used an Android phone or a Windows phone but I am in full support of those devices also being able to be jailbroken legally along with any other mobile OS. I will list my main reasons on why I feel *jailbreaking* should remain legal.

1. I love being able to theme and tweak certain parts of the mobile OS. Companies such as Apple restrict their users from this ability and I do not agree with it. These mobile operating systems are either on par or even better when compared to desktop OS but locked down worse. If I can change aspects of my desktop OS to suit my liking or my style, why shouldn't I be able to do so with my mobile phone either? I enjoy being able to theme my phone every other week or month to my liking, or change the color of the font in my notification center, or place folders wherever I want on my springboard and my personal favorite tweak, having the ability to add an extra app onto the dock.
2. Mobile companies add their own applications, which by most are considered to be bloat ware, and we, the consumer, are given the option to delete these applications. Jailbreaking allows us to decide what we want installed on our own system.
3. Jailbreaking allows security flaws to be discovered within the mobile OS. In the case of the iPhone, when the PDF exploit was discovered by none other than jailbreak creators, it was considered to be a dangerous hole in the operating system even for those with non jailbroken phones. This hole, if discovered, could have been used by a nefarious hacker to gain control of someone's system whether on a stock OS or jailbroken OS and steal their personal pictures, data and contacts. Once the exploit had been revealed, Apple released a fix right away.
4. Another pivotal point I would like to express is that if weren't able to jailbreak our phones, normal users would have never discovered nor been informed on the "Carrier IQ" software that was tracking our locations, recording our SMS keystrokes and using our data for many unknown reasons. This as a customer and regular mobile user is sickening to hear about. There is no mention of these types of software in the contracts we sign or any indication menus in the mobile OS when the phone is first started. We as the consumer are not given the option to turn this setting of and are left clueless as to what our personal data is being used for. If it wasn't for jailbreaking, this despicable company would have never been

brought forth into the media spotlight and they could have gone on for years collecting data on millions of individuals.

5. Jailbreaking brings forth new ideas that companies such as Apple and Google could not come up with. For instance, the ability to double tap the home button and launch the camera application right from the lock screen was created long before Apple decided to incorporate it into their iOS 5. Tweaks such as the one mentioned, wifi sync, and notification center are all ideas previously created by the jailbreak community. If jailbreaking becomes illegal, this could hinder innovation.

As a final word, I would like to state that I am in full support of keeping the ability to jailbreak legal. Phones/tablets are supposed to be portable personal computers and if that is the case, the consumer should have the ability to decide what applications or OS can be installed or removed on their machine. If a person doesn't want to conform to Apple or Microsoft's ecosystem, they should have the ability to do so. Jailbreaking allows the freedom to liberate someone from using Apple's OS, Android OS or Window's OS. If a person decides they want to install Linux onto their machine, it should not be illegal to do so. What if a person who worked on automobiles as a hobby wasn't allowed to install whatever engine or tires he wanted? This is, in comparison, the same principle. If we shell out our hard earned money to buy the hardware, we should not be forced to use a company's software. Please keep jailbreaking legal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melvin DeJesus.