

To Copyright Office:

January 26, 2012

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to you in support of renewing and making permanent, the exemption to the DMCA and the proposal by the Software Freedom Law Center for “jailbreaking” or “rooting” smartphones, tablets, and personal computing devices (Classes 4 and 5). I am an instructor at Boston University – Metropolitan College where I teach a class on mobile computing. The name of the class is “Mobile Application Development”. The class teaches students the methods, tools, and practice to develop mobile apps. It covers Android primarily but also iOS also. In order to effectively understand how to develop for these devices, students sometimes need to “jailbreak” or “root” them. This gives them access to see the inner workings of these computers and how they can write effective and efficient apps. Without this insight and ability students would be missing a significant and important area of understanding how these computers operate. It’s analogous to automotive engineering without ever looking under the hood. Yes, they will know how to drive and how to make cars look pretty but they’ll never understand how they work. Without the ability to see “under the hood” of mobile devices how will we in the United States train the next generation of engineers to develop the next generation of devices? Imagine if Bill Gates or Steve Jobs never cracked open a computer!

Please renew, or better yet, make permanent the exemption to jailbreak these devices and please include tablets!

Respectfully yours,

Ronald Czik