

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ryan Morgan and I am writing to express my concerns about the expiration of the Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies. As a user and hobbyist of these technologies, I support exemptions for Android and Windows mobile telephones, Android and Windows tablet PCs, and Microsoft, Sony, and Nintendo game consoles. I would like to continue to enjoy the legal right to “jailbreak” these devices. My motivations are three-fold.

Firstly, I want the right to “jailbreak” my devices based on principal. I paid my money to buy these devices and I should be able to tinker with the things I own without fear of civil or criminal punishment. If I break the device or render it unusable that is my problem and I will have to bear the burden of fixing it or replacing it. I should be able to take that chance legally.

Secondly, “jailbreaking” devices gives me the freedom to uninstall software whose deletion may be restricted without the “jailbreak.” Much of the software that comes preloaded on retail devices are useless to me and bog down an otherwise speedy machine. However, I am restricted from natively removing that software by the manufacturer or mobile provider. An example of this kind of software would be the movie streaming services installed by mobile providers. “Jailbreaking” allows me to remove the restricted software and enhance the usefulness of the device.

Lastly, “jailbreaking” my devices allows me to install software that may be restricted by the manufacturer or mobile provider. Much of the software that is restricted is done so for good reason, but many restricted applications are very useful; be they for utility, such as file exploring applications, or for tweaking, such as changing the background color of menus. “Jailbreaking” allows me to install the software I want to install to enhance my device and customize it to my liking.

As a user and hobbyist of these kinds of devices, I have enjoyed the freedom to use them how I see fit. If the exemptions are removed, I would be losing a major part of why I buy these devices. Everyday the electronics surrounding us are becoming more than a single-use item. They have added value beyond their intended purpose. If I want to make my tablet PC a remote control for my television, I can. If I want to make my game console a distributed computing box, I can. There are many things we can do with the powerful electronics we own, but if we are punished for using them as we see fit, we are missing out on their potential to be something more than what is indented and missing out on our potential to be something more than passive consumers.