

Commenter's name: Scott Alexander Baldwin

Includes an identification of a particular class of works to which the reply comment is responsive: 5

Numbers each particular class of works being addressed in the reply comment: 1

In response to the impending expiration of the exemption which has allowed the "Rooting" of Android phones, I urge that an extension be granted, or that the exemption be made permanent, which will allow developers to make improvements to Android smartphones.

With today's technologies, the Android smartphone, and others like it, are pretty much an everyday tool. That said, once a manufacturer develops a phone, and provides that phone to a carrier, said carrier then has the rights by license to modify the operating system even further by installing "bloatware"; unneeded software which in many cases can degrade hardware performance, lead to poor battery life, and take up memory that could be used by the user for software they really want.

Because the carrier does not provide for a means to opt-out or to remove this bloatware, that job is then left to developers, who go about a process which has an end result of a purely functional operating system minus the bloatware. The Android system, being open sourced, is then able to be further modified for a more exceptional performing smartphone.

While it is true that rooting or jailbreaking may allow the criminally-minded individual to install hacked software, the same hold true for the home PC. Where the average everyday user can download software that has a premium price, yet they don't pay for a license and yet they are still able to fully use the product. Hence, jailbreaking or rooting should not be prohibited solely out of fear by a software company or a cell carrier.

Another benefit of rooting and jailbreaking is that it provides us the ability to remove questionable software. CarrierIQ is one such example. When a mobile provider can install software on your device that's designed to violate your privacy, and they willfully do this without your knowledge, what can we as users do once we discover this? Wait for the provider to hopefully release a patch to fix this? Or to allow the rooting community the right to do this for the populous?

Again I urge you to continue the exemption. Or to make the exemption permanent. Allow us the right to remove software from a phone that we do not want, or do not use.