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U.S. Copyright Office
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Comments responding to the Proposed Classes of Works

In regards to Classes 4 and 5: Recent development by the Microsoft Corporation will require device manufacturers who install a Microsoft operating system (OS) on ARM-based hardware to implement a protected boot mode. This boot mode requires a cryptographically secure signature. This blocks the owner of said hardware from ever installing any OS other than the Microsoft one. This same policy is already in effect on many Android based mobile phones and the Apple iPhone (both of which are more computer than phone.) Apple has already implemented a closed market system that prevents a user from installing any application software that has not been approved by them. They claim this is for the safety of the user, but it also results in a guaranteed stream of revenue by locking users into a single source of application software. A user is not even able to write their own custom software for use on their own device. There are many ways around these protection mechanisms, but at the core, they all run into a single problem: It requires the user to bypass a copyrighted protected piece of code. Removing the “jailbreaking” exemption already in place would kill all means of using hardware outside of any intended purpose chosen solely by the manufacturer. In the virtual world this does not seem to be problem, but in the physical world it would be like Ford deciding you could only use a certain brand or type of tires, and then suing you for not using their chosen brand. Please do not let the manufacturers of hardware decide what I should or should not be using my legally purchased hardware for.

Sincerely,
Sean Cox
IT Manager