

Hello, I'm a young computer hobbyist and maybe one day, a developer. I'm currently in school deciding what I want to do. I believe that jailbreaking/rooting of our devices should remain legal, whether it's a game console, tablet, phone, or computer. Jailbreaking should be permanently declared legal. It is my belief that failing to do so will have a negative impact on the economy, our society, and the future of our world in general.

Why should jailbreaking stay legal? Because there's nothing morally wrong with it! Jailbreaking is simply running other pieces of software on your devices, something that the manufacturer didn't write. Whether you write it for a school project, a friend is beta testing his new app, or the homebrew community innovates a new way to do something. Why should that be illegal! Before on our computers, we never needed "permission" to do what we like with our computers! We just did! Now today, we have a touchscreen instead of a mouse. But it's fundamentally the same thing! Why do I need "permission" now to do what I please with my technology! Jailbreaking isn't violating any laws! We're not distributing somebody else's copyrighted information to anyone! It's about doing what you want with the device YOU paid good money for! To customize the way you want! To unlock its FULL potential! Imagine the ridiculousness of the fact of knowing, that you committed a crime, just by changing the theme on your device! In this situation, you are trapped in the position of purchasing a great mobile device, and only using it the way the manufacturer wants you to, the way they think is best. This sounds a bit like parents and children, unfortunately I'M NOT a kid anymore.

I firmly believe jailbreaking is important on the road to bringing up young developers! Isn't that how we learn, by playing around with your toys to see what makes them tick? I know this is how I learned! First you start off by changing a button's name to something more descriptive, or make a sharp looking theme. Later you dive into programming, and before you know it, you have an app on Cydia. This is how the young developers learn. Big companies even hire the best from homebrew community, look at Comex and his new employment at Apple. It's inside the homebrewing community that the geniuses grow. This is where the REAL innovation occurs! Without jailbreaking, developers will be hindered greatly, limiting their possibility to the wrong side of the Spring Board. Some simply won't make it, not being able to afford the high cost to be included into "official" development community. What a waste, knowing that the genius of tomorrow won't be, because of a \$100. I believe it is important, in order to bring up a stronger next generation in the computer industry that we continue to allow jailbreaking.

It is said that competition helps build quality products at reasonable prices, but why are we allowing corporations to build their own little monopoly? Every iPhone has an App Store, Xbox, a Xbox store, and an Android tablet, a market. That store is directly controlled by their host; they pick what goes in, and what doesn't. They have total control! Some companies have used this control for good, censoring apps that support pornography, piracy, and other felonies and immoral acts. Some companies abuse that control. Why? BECAUSE WE LET THEM! Apple is one, censoring apps like "iPhone Story" from the App Store, simply because it tells the "truth" about how, and where, your iPhone was manufactured. It puts into light the problems of the working environments and human treatment in third world countries. A political problem! What's worse is Apple accused the app developers of breaking store rules, to justify their actions, that the app clearly doesn't break. This isn't the only app in the App Store that's been pulled. iTeather's life in the App Store was short, about an hour. The app is filled with bugs, a common problem among 1.0 apps. Unfortunately, the customers that paid \$9 for the app will never see version 2, because Apple pulled the app since it competed with the carrier's own services. Users were never issued refunds. What gave Apple the power to choose what applications get into the hands of US citizens? Why do they get complete control!

A picture can speak a thousand words, how many words could an app like iPhone Story say. How much awareness could it have built about the problems in other countries? Already, Apple, Amazon, and many other corporations have been accused of price fixing eBooks. Why? Because they have dominant control over their devices and what gets sold! The manufacturers can price however much they want, because there isn't another option! Jailbreaking and their associate stores are a way to balance and competition in this market. It gives a second chance to apps that the corporations tried to stop, like iPhone Story. It means anyone can write an app and get the opportunity to

showcase it anywhere, because of the free and open nature of the development community. There's no price fixing, no politics, no unlawful censoring. We need this! The development community helps to remind the manufactures of their obligation to the consumer. To show them where the line is!

People are using new and innovative ways to affect the world. This will only help corporate growth, by creating competition and innovation, while preventing problem like censorship to push political agendas. Today, companies are trying so hard to stop the use of jailbreaking/rooting software. Why, because it's in their own best interest. Will making jailbreaking illegal be in the best interest of the people? This is after all, the United States of America. It is my personal believe, that the homebrew communities have a positive effect on our world, in ways we don't even know. Not only do they drive the industry of tomorrow, they affect our social and business structure in a positive way. This is the 21st century, and we are moving forward with new ways of expressing ourselves. Applications can be a new form of free speech! A way of presenting an idea to the end user that could have never been done before, limited only to the imagination of the developer. Developing a new interface, a mod, or new themes on our devices are a new way to express ourselves artistically! Unlocking our creativity! Themes and modding are only possible through gaining root access to your device. Shouldn't we do what we can to protect this? Sure, there are times when going through the official channels are appropriate, and their will always be a place for it. But this is not one size fits all. The open nature of homebrew must remain an option!

Through the barrage of attacks on the homebrew community, jailbreaking and rooting apps continue to roll out. Whether you call it jailbreaking, rooting, developing, homebrew, it doesn't matter. Whether it's on your iPhone, Android, Xbox, Playstation, or your Windows 8 tablet, it doesn't make a difference. The community is continuing to imagine, create, innovate, learn, change and customize. The community continues to grow and prevail! This tells you a little bit of the resolve of the people on the importance of jailbreaking. The US is a leader here, this decision will effect more than just inside the US border. It's time to step up and do the right thing! I have taken time out of my busy schedule to write this (no small trick) because I believe very passionately about this (a lazy student wrote a 1300+ word letter by choice). It's time, this year, to make a decision about the future of the technology industry, and the shaping of our society in general! Make jailbreaking permanently legal!

Sincerely,

Shawn Miller