

My name is Travis Bean. I am a hobbyist when it comes to Game Consoles and Smartphones / Tablets. It has come to my attention that the exemption for "Rooting" or "Jailbreaking" devices is coming to an end, and I wanted to voice my opinion on the matter.

I have been an avid user of Smartphones since they first came out. At first I was happy with the device as it was, but soon learned I could get much more functionality if I voided my warranty and installed custom Software and Firmware to my device. Most recently I have been an avid user of Android smartphones and tablets. Although the manufacturers do a great job at keeping up with devices, the Carriers (in particular AT&T) take too long to get the latest updates pushed out to their Phones. I understand the process they must follow, but the community can push these updates out faster, and with more quality then the carriers do. Also, by installing custom firmware to my phone I not only get the latest version of the Android software, I also get better options and more customization.

The best part about being able to "Root" my device is the ability to remove the "Bloatware" that carriers like AT&T and Verizon place on the phones and tablets. These applications take up valuable space that cannot be reclaimed because of the way it is installed to the device. The only way to remove the items I don't use is to Root my device and use third party tools to clean it up.

As for why I support the "Rooting" or "Jailbreaking" of game consoles, it all comes down to Community supported homebrew. I currently use a Nintendo Wii game console to not only play games, but I also set it up as a media hub so that I can access my collection of music from my TV to play through my home theater system. My kids also enjoy some of the simple homebrew games that I have installed for them.

Overall, I completely understand that by having the legal ability to Root or Jailbreak my devices, the Manufacturer has every right to void my warranty and refuse to support it in any way. I feel that device and game console owners need to have the right to make that decision themselves, not be treated like sheep. One only has to look to what current Android manufacturers like Motorola and HTC are doing with the bootloader unlocking they support right on their websites. HTC has setup support to unlock the bootloader for almost every Android smartphone they sell. As for community response to Jailbreaking and Rooting, look to the ultra-popular CyanogenMOD and MIUI ROMs that are maintained by large numbers of developers. Just last year CyanogenMOD reached over 1,000,000 unique installs on devices and that number continues to grow every day. This firmware continues to add the latest and greatest features into the Android platform, as well as push out security updates far faster than any carrier could hope to.

In closing I hope that you will take my opinion into consideration as you make your decision on these two important matters. As the owner of the devices in question, I feel that it is my right to decide what I want to do with them. No person or company should have the right to tell me what I can and cannot do with a device I have bought and paid for just so they can maximize profits by forcing me to buy a new device just to get the latest features. Thank you for your time.

Travis Bean