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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this as an avid electronics hobbyist. I have been following this exemption with keen interest due to this hobby. Since I purchased my first electronics device, a Palm Pilot, I have been tinkering and modifying these marvels to better suit my needs. I have never changed the inherent programming; I just unlock the potential the device has. Making this exemption permanent is, in my opinion, something that should be done for all devices. When I lay down my hard-earned money to purchase a device, it is mine to do with as I see fit. It is analogous to anything in a free market society that you purchase. You do with it as you see fit, as long as it is safe.

I am an ardent support of the freedoms that we have in this great country of ours. The ability to make choices without being coerced or forced into something by a person, company, or agency, is one of the greatest freedoms we have. This should extend to what we do with our electronic devices, be they phone, PDA, Tablet, or gaming console. Modifying these things cause no harm to the companies that sell them and in fact can only help them. In short, I support the "jailbreaking" of all devices that are purchased for the personal use of the consumer.

SMARTPHONES/TABLETS

The first smartphone I owned and modified was a Samsung Moment SPH-900. I purchased the phone due to the open source nature of its operating system, which implied a great deal of freedom to do with it as I wished. The main reason for doing so to increase the poor battery life that it had due to the amount of unnecessary background programs that running at any given time. After rooting the device and removing the offending software, which could NOT be removed without the root procedure, I saw an almost 200% increase in battery life. This made the device so much more usable for day to day things. I have done this same procedure to all of the Android devices I have purchased since that time and that number is approaching seven since Jan 2010.

GAMING CONSOLES

Many of the corporations feel that the idea of having their consoles "jailbroken" as a detriment to their software sales. They feel that people are just doing it to be able to play pirated games on their consoles, thus stealing from them. A majority of gamers, myself included, only wish to be able to use the console as we see fit, much like the smartphones and tablets. Sony's PlayStation 3 offered an option that allowed an outside operating system to be installed on their device. This option basically allowed the owner of the device to use their high-powered gaming console as a personal computer which in turned opened it up to the possibilities of being used in the IT world. This option was removed by Sony with no explanation. Myself, I have "jailbroken" my Sony PlayStation Portable so I can play backed up games for PSP and PlayStation 1 without having to carry the cartridges around and also the ability to adjust the systems processing power for greater battery longevity.

CONCLUSION

As you can see from my previous statements, "jailbreaking" personal, consumer electronic devices is something that should be allowed and even encouraged by the companies that make and sell these devices. Since I know that an Android phone from HTC or Samsung can be "rooted", I will continue to purchase these devices. Many of my friends and colleagues in the information technologies field are of the same mindset. Allowing this exemption to expire would be a travesty. The EU never saw fit to place expiration on EU Directive 2009/24/EC of 23 April 2009, so why should the US?

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