Hello,

As a long-time computer user and hobbyist, I've tinkered on computers I've owned, installing different operating systems, such as Linux, and customizing things to my liking. Every computer today allows you administrator access, so that you can install and do whatever you like to the computer you own.

I'm very excited about the future of smartphones and tablets. I have an Android phone, the Galaxy Nexus, and an Android tablet, the Motorola Xoom. These devices are quickly becoming the next generation of computers. However, there's a big problem today with these devices. You buy them either at retail, or through a carrier-subsidized price. If the price is subsidized, you're making up the rest of the cost by signing a 2-year agreement. Either way, you own the device, but you are locked out of them from the start by most manufacturers and carriers who deny administrator access (= root access, the device being "jailbroken"). You are unable to install custom software and, more importantly to me, not having administrator access means that you cannot take control of the software you have. I like having this access so that I can use certain programs. Backing up my data and having complete control over that is very important to me. I can't do this without root access.

I understand that arguments against this are safety and security concerns. I do not believe this should be an issue. A choice should be given to users when setting up their phone, whether or not they want (or are technologically savvy enough to use) administrator access. This should be mandatory on devices that we purchase and own. I can't believe it isn't, and I can't believe that we have to jump through hoops and legal-grey-areas to get this kind of access on our devices.

Additionally, with regard to updates, carriers and manufacturers have a large device catalog to update, and it takes them a great deal of time. Sometimes there are critical security patches that need to be installed, but even these may take a lot of time. There is a thriving development community behind many smartphones and tablets on the market today, and patches and other operating system updates are available much, much faster through this community than you could ever get them from the manufacturer.

Void my warranty—that is fine. But I bought the device, and I should have administrator access to it to do as I please.

Thank you,
Matthew Ohlsen