

Brandon Lacher Class #4 (jail breaking personal computer devices)

By jail breaking our devices, we enable them to have extra features and enhancements not permitted by the manufacturing company. These features may be rejected only because they are not in the best economic interest, or they may not see a need. However these added features and enhancements improve the experience we have.

I mainly jailbreak iOS based devices. In doing so I gain the ability to delete built in apps that I don't find useful, select which services I want or need to run so that I have more system resources for other apps, such as games. One of my favorite enhancements allows for the fast app switching to be easier to use. In short it improves something that was weak in the platform. Without the ability to jailbreak, I cannot do any of these things and I am stuck with whatever features allowed by Apple and whatever software they choose to allow.

I also see an gain in jailbreaking video game systems. In doing so we can gain the ability to play homebrew games, use videos in formats that are not supported, and enhance, fix areas of weakness for the built in OS and backup legally owned games to the hard drive or memory cards. This is beneficial in portable systems, such as PSP, as it allows us to carry our games on a memory stick instead of carrying the UMDs. Not only do we save bulk but we can avoid damaging the fragile game discs. However, I do not believe in acquiring content and using it without paying for it. I only want to see and use this privilege on games that I have payed for.

Not everybody sees jail breaking a viable option. Not everybody wants or needs the freedom it provides. However, the legal ability should be there for those who want functions that the manufacturer doesn't want to add, maybe only in economic interest. I do not want to see stealing of paid content as it causes prices to rise and selection to be limited for those who purchase their content legally.