

Please Do Not Reply To This Email.

Public Comments on Equipment Authorization and Electronic Labeling for Wireless Devices:=====

Title: Equipment Authorization and Electronic Labeling for Wireless Devices

FR Document Number: 2015-18402

RIN:

Publish Date: 8/6/2015 12:00:00 AM

Submitter Info:

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Jones

Mailing Address: 2393 Dusan St.

City: Simi Valley

Country: United States

State or Province: CA

ZIP/Postal Code: 93065

Email Address:

Organization Name:

Comment: I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed rule that would disallow the use of custom firmware on wireless enabled devices. As an amateur license holder, I understand that the obligation to operate within the FCC rules falls to the owner/operator of the radio device, and as such, so does the ability to experiment on that device while staying within the rules. A blanket ban on the use of experimental software on a radio device violates the spirit that has made amateur radio such a benefit to the communications world, and would greatly hamper the development of new and exciting technologies. Please leave the current rules in place, and continue to let the operator of radio devices bear the responsibility of operating legally.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed rule that would disallow the use of custom firmware on wireless enabled devices. As an amateur license holder, I understand that the obligation to operate within the FCC rules falls to the owner/operator of the radio device, and as such, so does the ability to experiment on that device while staying within the rules. A blanket ban on the use of experimental software on a radio device violates the spirit that has made amateur radio such a benefit to the communications world, and would greatly hamper the development of new and exciting technologies. Please leave the current rules in place, and continue to let the operator of radio devices bear the responsibility of operating legally.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Dan

Last Name: Bryant

Mailing Address: 21530 Pine Arbor Way

City: Cypress

Country: United States

State or Province: TX

ZIP/Postal Code: 77433

Email Address:

Organization Name:

Comment: Against regulating WIFI routers, endpoints, devices.

It is unconscionable that the FCC would consider this level of regulation. However well intended the agency may be, this regulation will put a regulatory burden on many devices unintentionally. This type of regulation can lead to ambiguity in the internet device market and will drive out innovation as some developers may choose to leave this space rather than need to comply with unnecessary regulation.

Stop now...

No need to regulate, dangerous to regulate.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Eric

Last Name: Driggs

Mailing Address: 21200 Kittridge Street

City: Canoga Park

Country: United States

State or Province: CA

ZIP/Postal Code: 91303

Email Address: edriggs@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Please do not prevent flashing of custom firmware onto routers.

The router software which comes by default on most routers is lacking both in functionality and security. A router is another type of computer. Preventing people from loading their own firmware on their router is like prevent people from installing their own operating system on their computer.

This is an especially bad law because it is proscribing a tool instead of prohibiting an action. If there are concerns about behavior in the 5ghz spectrum, simply make clear what rules have to obeyed. This would be consistent which the regulations the FCC has in place for other electronic devices.

Don't ban the tool. Regulate behavior.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Cohen

Mailing Address: 9800 Bridleridge Ct

City: Vienna

Country: United States

State or Province: VA

ZIP/Postal Code: 22181

Email Address: brian.cohen.88@gmail.com

Organization Name: Independent Contractor

Comment: I work with wireless technologies, and fear that the current version of this proposal would negatively affect innovation, as preventing modifying software carries with it great costs for the end-user, and limits the repurposing existing technologies. It would be extremely wasteful for hardware to die with the firmware it was installed with in a fast-paced world. And it won't be long until proof-carrying code checked by hardware makes it possible to accomplish the same goals as these proposed rules without the need of additional certification and explicit permission, which slows the process of experimentation to a halt.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Matthew

Last Name: Hirsch

Mailing Address: 18 Mansfield St. Apt. 2

City: Somerville

Country: United States

State or Province: MA

ZIP/Postal Code: 02143

Email Address: matthew.hirsch@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Please do not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices. I am the founder of a technology company, and creating additional barriers to innovation in a fast-paced field is bad for American interests, and bad for technological progress.

Wireless networking research depends on the ability of researchers to investigate and modify their devices. Americans need the ability to fix security holes in their devices when the manufacturer chooses to not do so. Users have in the past fixed serious bugs in their wifi drivers, which would be banned under the NPRM. Billions of dollars of commerce, such as secure wifi vendors, retail hotspot vendors, depends on the ability of users and companies to install the software of their choosing.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: John

Last Name: Pell

Mailing Address: PO Box 94047

City: Pasadena

Country: United States

State or Province: CA

ZIP/Postal Code: 91109

Email Address: John+FCC@gaelicWizard.net

Organization Name: gaelicWizard.llc

Comment: I strongly object to this proposal. I am an Information Technology administrator for several small/medium healthcare providers and I regularly install "modified" firmware on my WiFi devices at work and at home. The manufacturer-provided firmware is often sorely lacking in several dimensions, not least of which is security. By using open-source firmware, I can ensure that my businesses do not leak Patient Health Information through improper/unpatched security failures. Often, I seek to *reduce* the transmission power of my access points to improve interoperability within the facility. Banning firmware modification is short-sighted and quite-frankly unacceptable.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: george

Last Name: walton

Mailing Address: 29309 204th pl se

City: kent

Country: United States

State or Province: WA

ZIP/Postal Code: 98042

Email Address: georgeawalton@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Please do not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices.

Wireless networking research depends on the ability of researchers to investigate and modify their devices.

Americans need the ability to fix security holes in their devices when the manufacturer chooses to not do so.

Users have in the past fixed serious bugs in their wifi drivers, which would be banned under the NPRM.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Martin

Last Name: Fried

Mailing Address: 768 Duke Circle

City: Pleasant Hill

Country: United States

State or Province: CA

ZIP/Postal Code: 94523

Email Address: martinjfried@gmail.com

Organization Name: retired

Comment: I am writing to urge you not to take away my ability to use my wireless devices in the way I see fit, assuming I do not break any laws in doing so.

I personally use 3rd party firmware in my router now for a few reasons.

1. The router itself was a very good price, but the existing firmware was almost painful to use. Some pages would constantly refresh, causing information being entered to disappear, and making the page "flash" repeatedly. I have found that many time, a hardware manufacturer might make a fine piece of hardware, but fail at making good software for the device.
2. Some of the advertised features did not work very well.
3. For a while, there was a bug that allowed unauthorized third-party users to gain control of the device, and it took a while for the manufacturer to come out with a fix.

By installing open-source firmware (DD-WRT) on my router (TP-Link), I now have a very usable router rather than a big disappointment and waste of money. Please don't take this feature away from me.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Jonathan

Last Name: Younessian

Mailing Address: 1310 K Street S.E.

City: Washington

Country: United States

State or Province: DC

ZIP/Postal Code: 20003

Email Address: jon.youne@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Software defined radios are too vaguely defined. The concept of a wireless device is not limited to wireless internet access points.

Mobile ad hoc network seen in areas where governments have disrupted normal Wi-Fi and GSM communications rely on open hardware and software defined radios to restore communication.

Without these ad hoc mesh networks the disruption of free speech is just as simple as turning off the devices protected in this proposal.

Within the scope proposed I believe Equipment Authorization and Electronic Labeling for Wireless Devices will violate the First and Second Amendments of the US Constitution in even the lightest restrictions.

Our ability peacefully assemble, report on actions taken by governments, and communicate to our loved ones depend on protecting the use of software defined radios from US government restrictions.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Samiul

Last Name: Islam

Mailing Address: Fulbari Gate

City: Khulna

Country: Bangladesh

State or Province: Khulna

ZIP/Postal Code: 9203

Email Address: samikuet10@gmail.com

Organization Name: KUET

Comment: "I object this because security and privacy is *important* to me."

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Brooks

Last Name: Clemans

Mailing Address: 59 Peabody Drive

City: brentwood

Country: United States

State or Province: NH

ZIP/Postal Code: 03833

Email Address:

Organization Name:

Comment: I, Brooks Clemans, respectfully ask the FCC to not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices. Additionally:

Wireless networking research depends on the ability of researchers to investigate and modify their devices.

Americans need the ability to fix security holes in their devices when the manufacturer chooses to not do so.

Users have in the past fixed serious bugs in their wifi drivers, which would be banned under the NPRM.

Billions of dollars of commerce, such as secure wifi vendors, retail hotspot vendors, depends on the ability of users and companies to install the software of their choosing.

Thank you for your time.

I, Brooks Clemans, respectfully ask the FCC to not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices. Additionally:

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Submitter Info:

First Name: PAul

Last Name: Gupta

Mailing Address: 14081 big crest ln #004

City: woodbridge

Country: United States

State or Province: VA

ZIP/Postal Code: 22191

Email Address: paul.n.gupta@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Do not restrict the hardware that I purchase from being used as I see fit as a law abiding radio operator!

Do not restrict the hardware that I purchase from being used as I see fit as a law abiding radio operator!

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Griffin

Mailing Address: 5773 Oatfield

City: Farmington

Country: United States

State or Province: NY

ZIP/Postal Code: 14425

Email Address: hexatron@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Please do not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices.

Wireless networking research depends on the ability of researchers to investigate and modify their devices.

Americans need the ability to fix security holes in their devices when the manufacturer chooses to not do so.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Zimmermann

Mailing Address: 931 Apache Mountain Ln

City: Georgetown

Country: United States

State or Province: TX

ZIP/Postal Code: 78633

Email Address: michael@zimm3rmann.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Lacking evidence that open-source firmware has caused any more wireless interference than closed-source firmware, I would urge the FCC to not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices. I have installed open-source firmware on a number of my devices to expand their functionality and feel the freedom to modify software is important.

Lacking evidence that open-source firmware has caused any more wireless interference than closed-source firmware, I would urge the FCC to not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices. I have installed open-source firmware on a number of my devices to expand their functionality and feel the freedom to modify software is important.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Sascha

Last Name: Winter

Mailing Address: 123 Public Record Lane

City: San Francisco

Country: United States

State or Province: CA

ZIP/Postal Code: 94110

Email Address:

Organization Name:

Comment: I would like to ask the FCC not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices

In learning how to install linux on my router was one of the things that got me interested in computers in the first place. Adding restrictions to what software can be installed on WiFi access points is like adding a bandaid to a overflowing dam.

I understand the motivation in trying to stop people from using unauthorized frequencies. I just don't think it will help and will be destructive to the fabric of our society freedom of expression and the entrepreneuring spirit. Here are some additional reasons I have plagiarized:

- Wireless networking research depends on the ability of researchers to investigate and modify their devices.
- Americans need the ability to fix security holes in their devices when the manufacturer chooses to not do so.
- Users have in the past fixed serious bugs in their wifi drivers, which would be banned under the NPRM.
- Not fixing security holes either feeds cyberthreats or increases electronic waste.
- Billions of dollars of commerce, such as secure wifi vendors, retail hotspot vendors, depends on the ability of users and companies to install the software of their choosing.
- There is no evidence that open-source firmware has caused any more wireless interference than closed-source firmware.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sascha

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Klaus-M.

Last Name: Schremser

Mailing Address: Gonzagagasse 11/25

City: Vienna

Country: Austria

State or Province: Vienna

ZIP/Postal Code: 1010

Email Address: email@schremser.com

Organization Name:

Comment: Please do not implement your rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices.

Wireless networking research depends on the ability of researchers to investigate and modify their devices.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: John

Last Name: Saunders

Mailing Address: 1360 Apple Creek Rd.

City: Waynesville

Country: United States

State or Province: NC

ZIP/Postal Code: 28786

Email Address: john.saunders@gmail.com

Organization Name:

Comment: The proposed rules prohibiting new device firmware will have dire economic impact, the security implications would be extreme, and emergency preparedness would be greatly hindered by the proposed restrictions on router firmware.

The federal government, with its best intentions, is not prepared to govern this effectively. Please remember that "We the people" should empower the individual innovative abilities to strengthen our country rather than hindering unintentionally with arbitrary regulation forcing more vulnerabilities to be exposed as workarounds to enable basic safety and opportunity.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: Fred

Last Name: Brie

Mailing Address: 3497 Sunset Blvd

City: Chicago

Country: United States

State or Province: IL

ZIP/Postal Code: 32347

Email Address:

Organization Name:

Comment: Please don't make OpenWRT/DD WRT illegal!

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Submitter Info:

First Name: William

Last Name: Warren

Mailing Address: 324 West Postomac Street

City: Brunswick

Country: United States

State or Province: MD

ZIP/Postal Code: 21716

Email Address:

Organization Name:

Comment: This is going to have a highly detrimental effect to the ability for others to modify their gear how they wish in terms of firmware for either higher performance, security research, or fair use. Just do some quick research on router security and you will find that the RF characteristics are minor compared to the rampant security problems modern devices represent. The ability to update, replace, or modify the firmware with something else is vital to maintain our countrys security including home use. Many businesses are now run out of residences and securing them is enough of a challenge but taking away a vital security tool would make this industry more anti-consumer and anti-security than it already is. This rule would remove the market pressure on manufacturers to at least have a facade of maintaining security.

This rule could also make HAM radios unable to be modified as well. Considering that HAM radios work well and that the vast majority stay well under their band and radiation limits this would devastate the Amateur radio operators ability to research, modify, repair, and improve vast swaths of HAM gear. Considering how vital HAM operators where during various disasters including 9/11 and Katrina this would be a serious blow to the nations communication infrastructure. Due to the factors listed above I highly recommend to the FCC that this rule be tabled until more consultation with various experts can be properly performance. I would be happy to assist the FCC if requested.

Sincerely,

William Warren

Owner Emmanuel Technology Consulting

FCC Amateur radio callsign: KB3VVT

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Comment: As a Free Software user and advocate, I am very concerned by this proposed rulemaking. It has come to my attention that it could effectively prevent people from running their own software on their computers if these have SDR capabilities.

Although I am not a resident of the United States, these regulations would very likely affect meand everyone else in the worldbecause device manufacturers that want to sell their products in the United States are unlikely to make a version compliant with these new regulations exclusively for that market. Alas, not a single one of the devices with an antenna in my vicinity lacks FCC certification. Yet, almost all of them are running custom software, without which their usefulness would be severely crippled. The computer network setup I am using right now would be outright impossible if I were restricted to running only the original manufacturer software; not to mention the security threats I would be vulnerable to if I did.

As such, I ask you to reconsider the restrictions that would be applied to end users with these new regulations, to make sure they retain all the rights to use their software of choice on their own computers.

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