

Please Do Not Reply To This Email.

Public Comments on Equipment Authorizations:=====

Title: Equipment Authorizations
FR Document Number: 2015-21634
RIN:
Publish Date: 9/1/2015 12:00:00 AM

Submitter Info:

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Last Name: Meacham
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ZIP/Postal Code: 78748
Email Address: bmeacham01@aol.com
Organization Name:
Comment: OPPOSE proposed rule Equipment Authorization and Electronic Labeling for Wireless Devices.

Please not implement rules that take away the ability of users to install the software of their choosing on their computing devices. I ask this for the following reasons:

- * 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 practice would be banned under this proposed rule.
- * Failure to fix security holes either feeds cyberthreats or increases electronic waste.
- * Billions of dollars of commerce, such as secure wifi vendors, retail hotspot vendors, depend on the ability of users and companies to install the software of their choosing.

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Submitter Info:

First Name: James
Last Name: Overall
Mailing Address: Sterkoviste
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State or Province: Zlin
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Email Address: joverall@email.cz
Organization Name: null
Comment: I wish to add my voice to those opposing it.

My fundamental objection lies in the effective removal of the right to fair use of a possession. It is arguable that the owner of a device should be allowed to modify it to make improvements, permit customization, extend its effective lifetime or increase functionality. Of course, such modifications should not cause risk or loss of any sort to others.

Restricting devices so they are solely permitted to run authorized firmware from manufacturers gives rise to issues such as premature obsolescence and security vulnerabilities. Consequently, undesirable environmental damage would ensue due to related increase in electronic waste, as the only choice would be to scrap functioning devices once manufacturers ceased supporting them. It is in the interests of manufacturers to generate turnover by creating conditions for premature obsolescence, but clearly not in the interests of consumers.

As a user of an Asus router running DD-WRT (third-party firmware), computers utilizing the Linux operating system and Android smart-phones, the proposal would seriously limit the control I can wield over my own possessions. DD-WRT allows for continuous updates to the router over the long-term. Linux means my PCs run fast, lean and securely and utilize safe, open-source software. Android allows me to customize my phone as I wish.

I shall relate a good example of how having the option to modify a device is wholly positive. A high-end smart-phone of mine that is no longer supported by the manufacturer has recently taken on a new lease of life after I installed third-party firmware on it. As a result, the most obvious benefit is that I do not have to replace the item at great financial cost. Other welcome advantages include the latest version of Android, continuous security updates, an incredible boost in battery life and further customization options.

Please do not hinder progress by only restricting firmware on devices with wireless radio technology to merely authorized systems implemented by manufacturers. This would not only negatively impact the choices in technology individuals could make, but also be more economically and environmentally detrimental.

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Submitter Info:
First Name: Brad
Last Name: Tissi
Mailing Address: 2829 High Ridge Boulevard #934
City: High Ridge
Country: United States
State or Province: MO
ZIP/Postal Code: 63049
Email Address:
Organization Name:

Comment: Please cease this attempt to lock down devices of any sort. Many technology markets wouldn't be even half as advanced if it weren't for the collective of individuals that continue to innovate well after manufacturers have stopped caring. The amount of work and dedication needed to continue development isn't fiscally feasible for a company to invest, but a single open-source developer runs on passion and only stops when they have to or feel like they've done all that they can.

Do not stifle this market with needless restrictions.

Thank you,
Brad

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Public Comments on Enable Railroad Police Officers to Access Public Safety Interoperability and Mutual Aid Channels:=====

Title: Enable Railroad Police Officers to Access Public Safety Interoperability and Mutual Aid Channels

FR Document Number: 2015-24441

RIN:

Publish Date: 9/29/2015 12:00:00 AM

Submitter Info:

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Email Address: sewhgfnf@guerrillamail.biz

Organization Name:

Comment: It is hard to understand why this is considered a good idea. I can think of no other instance where a private industry is given such access to government resources as proposed here.

Railroad "police" represent a dangerous grey area where traditional law enforcement activities are allowed by a private industry. Oversight of the activities of these people is limited at best. Allowing them even greater access to government resources without greater accountability is only making a serious problem all the worse.

There are documented instances of misconduct and criminal activity by these people, such as the car chase and shootout with Chicago police officers by a BNSF "police" officer in 2005. No reasonable person can think that allowing individuals such as this enhanced access to police communications is a good idea.

Whatever limited need there would be for a railroad "police" officer to communicate with conventional police agencies can be handled by a simple 911 phone call as any other private citizen would do. These "officers" can then work directly with these agencies in a face to face manner. The expense and difficulty that conventional police agencies would encounter for whatever limited improvements obtained are not worth it.

Unless there is an overhaul of the oversight and accountability of these private industry employees for their activities, I can see no reason to adopt this proposal at this time.

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Last Name: Johnson
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Country: United States
State or Province: CT
ZIP/Postal Code: 06790
Email Address: kent@comp2.com

Organization Name: Compatible Computers

Comment: If this we will be at the mercy of manufacturers for security. we will not be able to detect or correct or modify the internet security settings for devices we buy. we will be required by law to NOT use our own property as we see fit, to NOT modify or upgrade or add features we might want on our electronic devices. And for what? I don't see the up side.

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