

Dear FCC,

My name is Jonathan and I live in Hudson, WI.

The principles of user choice and control are vitally important for a vibrant wireless ecosystem. But as written, the NPRM threatens to undermine these ideals by limiting what users can do with their devices. That's a concern, because I want to be able to update my own wireless software?not rely on slow manufacturers shipping updates.

The draft rules could enable device manufacturers to forbid third-party software, which would keep me from using my custom wireless configuration.

regulating frequencies does not need to be detrimental to freedom of user choice. The DMCA's granting of an exemption for "jailbreaking" Apple iPhones in order to install custom software shows that the United States government recognizes the right of users to choose what to do with their devices. Under this proposal, there would be an effective ban of all third party firmware on wireless routers, and DD-WRT (a popular open-source router firmware for many models) would no longer be able to be used. DD-WRT is a legitimate project, and its use is not for violating any frequency regulations. The reason many people such as myself prefer DD-WRT or other open-source firmware over the stock firmware of most routers is because most consumer-grade (affordable) routers do not come with the ability to use as a regular router; they are instead only able to run as a gateway router with NAT. This prevents subnetting, until a third party firmware is installed. None of the features DD-WRT and similar projects are known and used for are going to affect frequencies or the actual wireless signal; instead, it changes what is done with the data that is received, and to which device that data is sent next, via dynamic routing protocols and/or custom static routes. As an IT: Network Specialist student, the ability to experiment with such concepts, which are common in large networks and are being taught in my classes, is greatly valuable to my education and training in the field of IT. However, although the necessary hardware exists to create these networks on a small scale with consumer-grade equipment, it is exceedingly rare for such capabilities to be accessible in stock firmware on equipment in a price range suitable for an individual (business/commercial grade routers generally cost several thousand dollars each). Again, nothing I have done with DD-WRT or any other router firmware has changed the frequencies outside of the legal channels already included in the stock firmware, and I have no intention of attempting to violate any frequencies. In a free country, we don't sacrifice functionality just in case a few people choose to break the law - we set serious consequences for those who break the law, but we make sure any regulation to prevent the crime does not infringe on any legitimate activity. Do not sacrifice the freedom of tens or even hundreds of thousands of DD-WRT, OpenWRT, Tomato, and other open-source firmware users in order to increase the difficulty of a violation exceedingly few people would even attempt.

Sincerely,

Jonathan