

In the Matter of Promoting Interoperability in the 700 MHz Commercial Band (12-69), Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz Bands (12-70) and Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1915-1920 MHz, 1995-2000 MHz, 2020-2025 ) MHz and 2175-2180 MHz Bands (04-356), Verizon SpectrumCo (12-4)

I strongly urge the FCC to deny Verizon SpectrumCo due to the massive amount of spectrum concentration likely to occur and concerns about the anti competitive marketing agreements resulting in Verizon & Big Cable dividing up the Internet. I also urge the FCC to implement and enforce rules requiring interoperability between wireless carriers using 700 MHz spectrum. I have previously written to the U.S. Copyright Office by the way about why I support a renewal of the DMCA jail-breaking exemption for smart-phones set to expire this year and an extension granting similar status to tablets. Such 700 MHz interoperability would make it easier to reduce or eliminate the handset exclusivity AT&T and Verizon can wield over devices like Apple's iPad tablets. Speaking of Apple this company is a prominent user of DRM or Digital Restrictions Management technology.

You aren't free to install the applications you want on your iPhone and iPod Touch. Apple is the final arbiters of which applications are allowed and which are not. Contrast this with your home computer, on which you can install any program you like. The iPhone won't play patent- and DRM-free formats like Ogg Vorbis and Theora, either.

Apple argues these measures are for "security." Security expert Bruce Schneier says that "With iPhone, 'Security' Is Code for 'Control'."

- Apple keeps a record of everywhere you go with your iPhone.
- [Apple is letting third-party applications access and store your entire address book without indication.](#)
- Apple is using DRM to [severely hamper third-party software on future versions of Mac OS X.](#)
- Apple uses DRM to prevent Macs from playing video on "unauthorized" displays.
- Apple sell DRM-laden movies and TV shows.
- Apple uses their control of both the iPod and iTunes software to unfairly block competition from competing music players, or competing applications.

Apple does not publish the set of conventions, or "API", through which the iPod and iTunes communicate. Rather, they change it constantly. In many cases the only goal of these changes is to force customers to only use Apple products with iTunes and vice versa.

When the Palm Pre (a smartphone that competes with the iPhone) included iTunes compatibility, Apple shot back with an automatic software update that broke the Palm Pre's iTunes compatibility. The update didn't tell users that it could break compatibility with their new phone; the only warning was buried in an Apple tech support page a few weeks earlier. When Palm fixed the problem, Apple broke it again. They made their own software less useful, hurting their own customers, just to enforce lock-in.

Apple abused the DMCA (legislation which makes it illegal for you to assert your basic rights by breaking DRM) to keep people from even discussing how to make other software players work with the iPhone. Apple tried to use the DMCA to force Bluwiki, a host of public wikis, to take down a public discussion of how to make other music player applications compatible with the iPod and iPhone. But iTunes compatibility isn't illegal under the DMCA, let alone merely hosting a site that discusses it. It took seven months (during which the page was effectively censored) and the threat of an EFF lawsuit to make Apple back down. Apple feels so entitled to the lock-in that DRM provides that they try to stretch DRM legislation to cover cases where it doesn't apply.

Not that interoperability would solve the real problem, since both of these pieces of software are proprietary. But this same tactic excludes free software users (and was used in the past to target free software users specifically).