

THE CASE AGAINST SONY

— Sony sold the PlayStation 3 as a general purpose computer, capable of running the GNU/Linux operating system, but running in a restrictive mode that didn't allow complete access to the powerful hardware.

— Sony stated, "It was fully intended that you, a PS3 owner, could play games, watch movies, view photos, listen to music, and run a full-featured operating system that transforms your PS3 into a home computer." In return, George Hotz (known in programming circles as geohot) announced his efforts to give PS3 owners complete access to their machine's powerful hardware.

— Sony then proceeded to betray their customers by removing the ability to run custom operating systems at all, "due to security concerns"

— In January 2011, Hotz released the cryptographic keys needed to reverse Sony's restrictions and run custom software on the PlayStation 3 and promptly faced legal action from Sony.

— Another PS3 hacker, Alexander Egorenkov (graf_chokolo) had his home raided by the police and is now being sued for €1 million — just recently, representatives of Sony went to his home again and confiscated his equipment.

The outcome of this? A pattern of harassment from Sony, attacking Hotz and other PS3 developers.

Our response? Hundreds of emails in support of Hotz and others to the CEO of Sony, Howard Stringer — who chose to shut off his own email account, rather than listen to customers.

We followed this with emails to Sony VP, Nicole Seligman: hundreds of them. This campaign was an important part of the overall public pressure put on Sony to back off.

And back off they did.

Sony ended up settling its lawsuit against Hotz — he has agreed to not use Sony devices in an ambiguous "unauthorized" fashion — in fact, he's boycotting Sony anyway — and the accusations brought up in the case by Sony remain unproven. While Hotz shouldn't have to endure even this, which amounts to a gag order, Sony was stopped well short of what it was hoping to get. Hotz is now free to move on, but Sony is stuck with a fresh batch of bad publicity and no money or legal precedent to show for it.

We need to continue to put pressure on Sony and their threats against users and developers like Egorenkov for making use of their freedoms on hardware they own.

Please join the fight and boycott Sony today.

STOP THE -LENCE

Join our boycott of Sony: defectivebydesign.org/sony

Email Nicole Seligman at Sony: nicole.seligman@am.sony.com